

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

24 FEBRUARY 2015

**DEVELOPMENT OF A SPECIALIST SUPPORTED HOUSING PROVISION IN BRECHIN FOR
ADULTS WITH AUTISM AND LEARNING DISABILITY**

1. BACKGROUND

In Scotland, the total number of people with learning disability known to local authorities has increased by an average of 3.4% since 2010; this equates to 6 citizens per 1000 population. In Angus, the figure is 5.6 citizens per 1000 of the Angus population with just over one third of these citizens living with family carers. The national average of people living in Scotland known to local authorities as being on the autistic spectrum is 13%. Often the needs of individuals with an autism spectrum disorder are complex and lead to costly packages of support. 15.6% of the learning disability population in Angus currently have autism, which ranks 8th highest nationally.

The number of children known to have an autism spectrum disorder is increasing and as these children have become adults this has had an impact on the demand for accommodation and housing support for these individuals.

2. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

Gowrie Care has been working with Angus Council to develop a new specialist autism service at River Street in Brechin. Gowrie Care already provides supported housing to 7 people with a learning disability at River Street. The new development will be called 'Riverview' and is situated next to the River Street development sharing the same common access. This allows for economies of scale utilising the existing management structure and sleepover/waking night arrangement. Gowrie Care has agreed to contract for this service on an individual service agreement model implementing the principles of self directed support. Angus Council will only incur costs for the care and support of the residents and funding for this has been identified from the existing revenue budget.

The property is owned by Hillcrest Housing Association who agreed to fund the refurbishment of the property to modernise it and develop autism-friendly environments throughout the property. The property will provide individual tenancies with support for 3 people with autism/learning disability currently residing in Angus and includes staff sleepover and office facilities. The needs of these young men are very complex and challenging. This new project offers a welcome innovation in providing care and supervision for this client group and increases capacity within Angus.

The service will be accredited with the National Autistic Society and staff will receive specialist autism training from Gowrie Care via their learning and development autism specific pathway. Full refurbishment work commenced on the property on 05 January 2015. It is envisaged that the property will be ready for handover by the end of February 2015 with the first resident moving in March 2015.

3. REPORT AUTHOR

This report has been compiled by George Bowie, Head of Service, Adult Services who can be contacted by emailing PEOPLE@angus.gov.uk.