

Appendix 2

'CJ Supporting Accommodation'

Summary of Proposed Service Specification

Introduction

Research indicates, in general terms, a relationship between stable, secure accommodation and reduced risk of re-offending. In accordance with NCJA principles, offenders should have access to mainstream housing wherever possible. It is the role of housing providers to provide or source the accommodation. The role of Criminal Justice Social Work is to provide support, where required, to access and sustain suitable accommodation - as part of an overall Supervision Action Plan.

Objectives

The service shall work with people with a varying level and variety of needs to provide support that is appropriate to individual needs and aspirations. The service culture shall include an assertive approach to engagement with clients and towards other organisations that may be difficult to access for the client group.

The service objectives shall be met by supporting clients to enable social inclusion, independence, choice and control over their lives with a particular, but not exclusive, focus on supporting clients to secure and sustain accommodation and providing ongoing support.

Clarification will be sought as to whether registration is required in terms of the Regulation of Care (Act) Scotland 2001 but in any event the service will be delivered in line with the principles of:

- Dignity
- Privacy
- Choice
- Safety
- Realising potential; and
- Equality and diversity

Eligibility

The service will be open to individuals who are:

- subject to statutory social work supervision e.g. probation, parole/non parole licence, supervised release order etc

or

- entitled to 'voluntary aftercare' having been released from a custodial sentence within the last 12 months

and

- have a demonstrable need for housing related support to help enable access to housing and to set up, maintain or prevent loss of their accommodation and independence
- assessed as medium or high risk of re-offending using the Scottish Government Risk Assessment Guidance Framework

There will be no 'blanket' exclusions from the service in terms of type of offences or risk level. More complex cases will be subject to more detailed assessment and planning.

Priority groups identified are:

- Women who offend
- Young people who offend (< 25s)
- Those who have added vulnerability e.g. learning difficulties, mental health problems

Referral routes

Referral routes will be:

- Criminal Justice Social Workers
- Prison Based Social Workers
- Housing/Homelessness teams
- MAPPA Meetings

Key tasks (not intended to be exhaustive)

Assist clients secure suitable accommodation through advocacy, advice and support;

Help with arranging removals, furniture and equipment, transfer of benefits, rent payments, utilities, local services and amenities;

Provide advice and assistance to enable a Client to maintain their accommodation;

Maximise income e.g. through dealing with Housing Benefit issues and other welfare benefits issues and referral to specialist advice or debt agencies, where necessary;

Provide crisis intervention support, which will include responding to problems that pose an immediate risk e.g. eviction notices, harassment/ASB, loss of amenities etc.;

Support access to, and sustainment of, services for problematic alcohol or drug use;

Assist Clients to access a range of specialist and general health services, counselling, education and employment opportunities, legal advice, leisure and cultural services;

Encourage rebuilding or sustainment of positive social and familial relationships;

Promote self-belief and encourage steps towards aspiration and ambition amongst clients;

Advise and assist Clients in relation to the safety and security of their accommodation;

Assist Clients to work with other organisations, support groups or focus groups to address housing needs;

Liaise with other agencies to ensure that Clients receive the services necessary to maintain their independence.

Budget

The NCJA Grant Allocation for 2010/11 is £373,285 , reducing to £292,288 in 2011/12 based on current assumptions. After allowing 8 % for management fee this leaves £268,905.

CJSW requires to contribute 10% towards the costs of Intensive Support/Monitoring services for the 'critical few'. This can be difficult to predict but is estimated at £25,000.

The available budget for the services is therefore calculated at **£243,905**.

Staffing

The staffing structure is envisaged as a Team Leader/Senior Support Worker plus Support Workers. The following is an estimate of gradings/costings based on posts that appear comparable from elsewhere in the service. Final

outcomes will be subject to tailored Job Descriptions undergoing Job Evaluation. It is envisaged that approximately 150 hours per week will be available for direct support to clients.

Post	Estimated Grade	Estimated Cost (at top of scale + including add ons)
Team Leader/Senior Support Worker	G14	£48,281
Support Workers x 5	G10	£145,065 (£29,013 x 5)
Premises Administration Transport		£50,559

Outcomes and Evaluation

The service will develop and implement a consistent system for quality assurance, ensuring that the information gleaned is used to improve services.

This will include use of a structured tool e.g. Homes Matrix or 'Rickter Scale' to measure a range of quality of life indicators, including reduced re-offending.

In addition quantitative measures shall be reported on quarterly alongside existing internal and statutory performance indicators. This will include e.g. number of referrals, type of order, gender, age grouping, level of risk etc. Monitoring such data will ensure the service is being targeted effectively.