

# Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

**SJR(2)-17-06(p.3)**

**Date: Wednesday 6 December 2006**

**Time: 09.30am – 12.30pm**

**Venue: Senedd, Cardiff Bay**

**Paper from National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders on Youth Homelessness**

**Report prepared by Vin Murtagh Area Manager, Nacro (Housing), North Wales**

## **Introduction: Nacro Services**

Nacro provides a range of housing related services for young people across North Wales, mostly funded via the Welsh Assembly Governments 'Supporting People' initiative but three\* are funded via s180 grant funding (Prevention of Homelessness).

<b>Scheme type</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Local authority</b>	<b>Client group</b>	<b>Age range</b>
Supported tenancies	24	Anglesey (6), Gwynedd (6), Conwy (4), Denbighshire (4), Wrexham (4)	Ex-offender	16-64
Supported tenancies	6	Denbighshire (South)	Young people	16-21
Rhyl Nightshelter	8	Denbighshire	Single Homeless	18-64
Floating Support	13	Anglesey	Ex-offender	16+
Floating Support	4	Denbighshire	Ex-offender	16+
Floating Support	8	Denbighshire	Single Homeless/ Ex-offender	18+
YOT Floating Support	8	Denbighshire	Young offender	16-21
Advice and Resettlement*		Denbighshire	Single Homeless	16+
Bond Scheme*		Conwy & Denbighshire	General Homeless	16+

Heddfan 24 hr hostel (due to close)	4	Conwy	Young people	16-21
Youth Homelessness Prevention*	20	Conwy	Young people	16-21
'Doorstop' tenancy support	22	Anglesey (8), Gwynedd (8), Conwy (6)	Substance misusers	16+

## Local Authorities

We work across five of the six local authority areas and attend consultations on Supporting People, Homelessness, Community Safety, Substance Misuse and other key strategies.

Nacro's growth in services in recent years has been based on us responding to the needs identified by local authorities.

## Problems encountered

### Key problems are:

- a) The lack of suitable move on accommodation for people who no longer require support.
- b) The lack of suitable accommodation available to local authorities to exercise their duties under the homeless persons' legislation.
- c) The Single Person Rent restrictions which have proved a major impediment to young people (u 25s) attaining accommodation. This has particularly affected our YOT Floating support service which is currently running very high voids due to the lack of eligible referrals (ie young people with their own tenancies)
- d) Withdrawal of a local authority grant which has rendered the young peoples' 24 hr scheme in Llandudno financially unviable, forcing us to close the scheme. (The WAG tariffs are insufficient to manage small 24 hr services).

## Identification of Good Practice

### a) Opening up the private sector

In Denbighshire Nacro has recently been awarded two capital grants (both £35,000) which we hope will help young people to access supported accommodation in the private sector.

One grant is from the Supporting People team and one is from the Community Safety Partnership.

The basic model is for us to approach private landlords and offer to spend £3-4,000 on their property to furnish, decorate and do basic repairs on condition that we choose the tenants and support them from existing revenue (SPRG).

We are hopeful that this will be an attractive option for all parties although the Single Room rent restrictions could be an impediment.

## **b) Resettlement Support Planning**

Nacro has recently revised and updated its programme of individual support planning to help service users identify their needs and develop independent living skills. Feedback so far has been very positive.

## **c) Service user consultation**

We are developing a variety of tools to involve service users in the delivery of services and consult them over key aspects of management, on a scheme specific basis.

This year service users have been involved in producing newsletters, in meetings with stakeholders, in gardening projects as well as the formal and established tools of surveys and questionnaires.

At a recent meeting with stakeholders a 'Question Time' panel of service users took questions from an audience of staff and local authority personnel about the problems they encountered and the services they receive.

## **d) Homelessness Prevention**

The Section 180 schemes have different grant conditions to the Supporting People (SPRG) funded services. Because they are not restricted to tenancy sustainment we are able to meet a range of socially excluded individuals who may be in real housing need but do not hold tenancies. For example they may be in custody or lodging with family and friends and early interventions allow us to prevent homelessness occurring.

VM Nov 06