

Audit Committee – 22nd July 2010

5. Update on Homelessness Service Action Plan

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to provide members with an update on the Homelessness Service Audit Action Plan (See appendix A, pages 3-5).

Recommendation

To note the progress made, and the need to extend the implementation date for action 8.1.

Background

Since the South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) carried out its review in March 2007, significant progress has been made within housing to ensure there are adequate controls in place and risks well managed.

During the final quarter of 2008/9, SWAP reviewed the homeless service and the overall outcome of the audit was that reasonable assurances could be given as most of the areas reviewed were found to be adequately controlled, and generally risks were well managed.

SWAP has recently completed an audit of the Homeless service. The draft report states “generally risks are well managed”. Of the risks identified none were considered to be high.

Progress Made on the Action Plan

Some progress has been made with the development of improved management information for aged debtors. Unfortunately the temp has left so the work is not complete. However, we are hoping to have a new temp in place and his key task will be to complete the work on managing outstanding debts.

All other finance work within the department is up-to-date.

Summary

Work has started on improving financial controls and procedures within Housing. During the next quarter we will have in place clear reporting for aged debtors to ensure maximised recovery. We now have the Finance Officer in place to give some stability to the team.

Financial Implications

None.

Background Papers: *Audit Committee Agenda and Minutes October 2009.*
District Executive Homeless Prevention Fund Review and Demonstration of Value for Money October 2009
Internal Audit Report of Homelessness Service June 2009
Audit Committee Agenda and Minutes December 2007
Internal Audit Report of Homelessness Service March 2007