

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET: 16 DECEMBER 2009

EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09 AND BUSINESS PLAN (2008/11) – INCORPORATING THE ACTION PLAN FOR 2008/10

Report by Executive Director of Educational & Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise of the development of the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee Annual Report (2008/09) and Business Plan (2008/2011), which also incorporates the action plan for 2009/10.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is a multi agency forum with responsibility for strategic planning, public information and improvement activity in respect of child protection. It includes representation from Police, Health, Social Work, Education, Housing and the Reporter to the Children's Hearing. The Committee reports to the East Ayrshire Chief Officers Group.
- 2.2 As part of the National Child Protection Reform Programme, Child Protection Committees were asked to complete annual reports and business plans, detailing their activity and setting out future actions.
- 2.3 The East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee planning cycle works in conjunction with the East Ayrshire Children's Services Planning Cycle, with both plans covering the period 2008-2011.
- 2.4 Work has taken place during 2009 to revise the constitution, membership and operation of the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee, with planning sessions taking place twice in the year.

3. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3.1 The annual report summarises activity in 2008/2009 and sets out achievements which includes the: -
- implementation of the Getting It Right for Every Child Group which is a multi agency group with responsibility for information sharing and identification of a lead agency to follow up on concerns identified about a child or young person.
 - implementation of a risk assessment training programme for social work staff, which has since been incorporated into the training calendar.

- success of the Child Protection Conference (February 2009) which adopted the theme of corporate parenting.
- hosting of a statistical seminar on a multi agency basis to interrogate information and to develop improved understanding of the needs of children and young people in East Ayrshire. This has led to independent research being commissioned.
- creation of the initial response team in social work which ensure that children/young people referred are receiving an appropriate and freely response.
- the implementation of the Solihull Approach to parenting, aiming to build the capacity of individuals, families and communities to secure better outcomes for children.

4. FUTURE PLANS

- 4.1 The business plan covers 2008-2011, which includes a specific action plan for 2009/10. This includes work relating to;
- Further improving public information.
 - Developing policies, procedures and protocols.
 - Further improving management information.
 - Further developing our quality assurance and self evaluation processes.
 - Engaging with children, young people and other members of the community about awareness of Child Protection.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications relating to the development and implementation of the report.

6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The development of the annual report ensures that the national guidance on fulfilling the functions of the Child protection Committee is implemented.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This is a multi agency annual report and business plan, with involvement of key partner agencies, all of whom contribute to community planning in East Ayrshire.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The business plan sets out key activities for the Child Protection Committee until 2011. These actions aim to improve child protection practice across East

Ayrshire, thereby managing risk effectively and contributing to improved outcomes for children.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- i) endorse the work taking place within the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
3 December 2009

BACKGROUND PAPER:

East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2008/09 and Business Plan
2008/11

Members requiring further information should contact Susan Taylor, Head of Service:
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