

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 19 NOVEMBER 2008

“SHARING THE CHALLENGE” EAST AYRSHIRE’S PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE AGREEMENT 2007-2010

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the progress of the “Sharing the Challenge” Partnership in Practice Agreement 2007-2010

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Same As You? A Review of Services for People with a Learning Disability (2000) is the main Government policy initiative setting out the future direction of services for people with learning disabilities. It emphasises the need for agencies to work together to address the need for children and young people with learning disabilities, and those with Autistic Spectrum Disorders, to lead ordinary lives. It made a number of recommendations aimed at assisting the shift to greater choice, independence, and social inclusion.
- 2.2 One of these recommendations was that the local partners produce a Partnership in Practice Agreement covering services for children and adults. This three year plan, jointly agreed between NHS Ayrshire & Arran, East Ayrshire Council and other key partners lays out what needs to be done to improve and develop services for people with learning disabilities living in East Ayrshire. East Ayrshire’s Partnership in Practice Agreement also supports the aims of the East Ayrshire Community Plan and links to other community care, children’s and health planning processes.
- 2.3 The Community Plan is taken forward under six thematic headings which form the structure of the Partnership in Practice Agreement.
- 2.4 Individuals with learning disabilities, autistic spectrum disorders, their family carers and other key partners have been instrumental in starting to develop a Learning Disability Partnership known as VIP Partners which has been tasked with driving many of the main agenda items forward. Individuals with learning disabilities, autistic spectrum disorders and their family carers highlighted the following priorities which have been included in the agreement:
- to be listened to and be more involved in decision making;
 - more social activities and to make more friends;
 - more control over your money;
 - real jobs with real wages;
 - more adult changing areas in your community;
 - more respite choices.

2.5 The Agreement has also been influenced by the findings from the SWIA (Social Work Inspection Agency) Multi Agency Inspection of Learning Disability services across Ayrshire between February and June 2006 adding four more priorities;

- Improve services for older people with learning disabilities;
- There should be better services for people with autism;
- Need to update East Ayrshire's Vulnerable Adults Procedures;
- A better service from health services

2.6 The 2007-2010 Partnership in Practice Agreement accompanies this report.

3. PROGRESS TO DATE

3.1 A VIP Partners Committee made up of people with learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disorders will be voted in at the inaugural AGM early in January 2009. This Committee will be supported by a range of non voting partners from across East Ayrshire, including family carers and professionals. It is hoped that the Committee will drive the needs and wishes of people with learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disorders forward.

3.2 Feedback from user/carer groups has formed an essential part of the consultation surrounding the Health Improvement Strategy and service users and carers have been involved in the tendering process for new supported living providers. The need to address the changing needs of adults with a learning disability as they get older are highlighted within the Health Improvement Strategy, and has been raised by participants in the consultation process.

3.3 There is now a variety of social groups operating regularly across East Ayrshire offering a wide range of activities for people with learning disabilities.

3.4 Individuals with learning disability now take part in the Disability Equality Forum and Application forms for the health service Public Partnership Forum have been sent out to all current VIP Partners, many of whom have signed up and receive regular information.

3.5 There has been an increase in the use of East Ayrshire Independent Advocacy Services, as a result of increased awareness of the role of advocacy services.

3.6 Protected Time for GP Practices has been used to deliver Learning Disability Awareness Training. The Community Learning Disability Service has been collaborating with the Keep Well project in planning the delivery of preventative health checks related to coronary vascular disease to adults with a learning disability aged 45-64 in East Ayrshire.

3.7 Merge, a new social firm led by people with learning disabilities in East Ayrshire, has been in discussion with NHS Ayrshire & Arran re future training opportunities for Primary and Acute staff. Discussions are also underway regarding the use of community learning disability nursing staff to provide Health training to Providers. A large scale training event for service providers is planned for early 2009.

3.8 East Ayrshire's Vulnerable Adults Procedures have been updated and distributed.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Whilst there may be potential future financial implications with respect to developments of future services in particular respite, older people with learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disorders, much of the ongoing work highlighted within the agreement can be achieved within existing resources and by effective partnership working through the VIP Partners themselves.

5. POLICY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Same As You? A Review of Services for People with a Learning Disability (2000), The Scottish Government's National Overview and Next Steps document, which reviewed the 2004-07 Partnership in Practice Agreements and the Protection of Vulnerable Adults Procedures link in to and inform much of the work highlighted within the Agreement.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are many strong links to the six Community Planning Themes under which the Agreement is structured, including;

- Developing a range of employment initiatives
- Encouraging access to learning opportunities
- Promoting active citizenship
- Promoting financial inclusion
- Improving access to appropriate Health services
- Protection from abuse

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no risk implications

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Members of the Cabinet are asked to:

- i) Note the contents of this report

Graham R Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
10 November 2008

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. PIP Delivery Plan

Members requiring further information should contact Marlene Harkis, Acting Senior Manager (Community Care) on 01563 – 576927.

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