

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 23 APRIL 2008

## POST SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

### Report by Executive Director of Educational & Social Services

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform members of Cabinet of the continued allocation of funding to the local authority to support post school Psychological Services and to endorse the approach taken.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At the Education Committee of 12 September 2006 a report was presented setting out information in respect of funding available for post school Psychological Services.
- 2.2 Due to the support from the Education Committee, East Ayrshire was one of the first authorities in Scotland to have a fully recruited Psychological Service. This team works directly with children, parents and schools to support all children, but particularly those who have additional support needs as defined by the Education (Additional Support for Learning) Act, 2004. The statutory basis for the service is given in the Education (Scotland) Act, 1980.
- 2.3 Of necessity, the work of psychologists tends to focus on the younger age groups where the bulk of the need in terms of assessment and early intervention rests.
- 2.4 The focus of this strategy is to support improved outcomes for all vulnerable young people at the point of transition from school and beyond.

#### **3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 In working with and on behalf of these groups, the main targets have been:

- those aged between 14 and 19 years of age;
- looked after children (including those who are accommodated);
- children who have additional support needs;
- children and young people known to criminal justice services; and
- other children and young people who are assessed as potentially benefiting from such a service.

- 3.2 These groups have meant that it is important for this work to be conducted in association with the schools, social services, local colleges, Careers Scotland and the community learning and development service.

### **3.3** The current funding has been used to support:

- additional work in relation to transition under the additional support needs legislation;
- strategic and operational work with Kilmarnock College to better meet the needs of youngsters moving on from school settings
- strategic and operational work with local training providers (eg: Rathbone; Protocol Skills; EASY Project) to better match the needs of vulnerable young people with more appropriate training options
- strategic work with Careers Scotland to help them better target their advice and support to vulnerable young school leavers
- training of staff in College in order to ensure a better understanding of the needs of vulnerable youngsters coming onto their courses.
- supporting young people who lack confidence and self esteem;
- advice on interviews and aspects of recruitment;
- development of life and counselling skills; and
- development of assessment and individual action planning schemes to support young people.

### **3.4** Correspondence has now been received from the Scottish Government regarding the continued allocation of funding to the local authority to support this work for 2008/9 to 2010/11.

## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1** £27,198 has been allocated to the local authority in financial year 2008/9; £27,815 in 2009/10; and £28,423 in 2010/11.

## **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1** There are no direct policy implications arising from this.

## **6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1** Nil.

## **7. RISK ASSESSMENT**

### **7.1** None arising from this report.

## **8. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

### **8.1** The allocation of funding to support post school Psychological Services will support the key objectives in relation to More Choices, More Chances as set out in the Improving Opportunities Theme and the Promoting Community Learning Theme of the Community Plan.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **9.1** Cabinet are asked to:

- (i) note the allocation to East Ayrshire Council for the continuation of the work streams in relation to post school Psychological Services; and
- (ii) otherwise note the content of the report.

Graham Short  
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

19/3/08  
KG/SR

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Letter from the Scottish Government: Post School Psychological Services 11 March 2008.
2. "More Choices, More Chances", Scottish Executive 2006

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Service: Community Support, Tel: 01563 576104 or Tom Williams, Principal Psychologist, Tel: (01563) 555640.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR**