

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET - 27 AUGUST 2008

EAST AYRSHIRE CHILDREN'S PANEL - CONCURRENT MEMBERSHIP SCHEME WITH NORTH AYRSHIRE CHILDREN'S PANEL

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To seek approval, following a request by North Ayrshire Children's Panel Advisory Committee (CPAC), for the establishment of a Concurrent Membership Scheme with East Ayrshire Children's Panel in order for a North Ayrshire Panel Member to transfer temporarily to East Ayrshire Children's Panel.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** East Ayrshire CPAC has been approached by North Ayrshire CPAC to agree to a temporary transfer of a newly appointed North Ayrshire Panel Member, who is currently employed as a Force Support Officer with Strathclyde Police, based at Irvine Police Office. The Panel Member in question had intimated at her interview with North Ayrshire CPAC, that she would retire from her post prior to commencement of her appointment with North Ayrshire Children's Panel. However, the individual has received an extension to her period of employment and will therefore not retire prior to commencement of her appointment as a Panel Member, and as such, is unable to sit on North Ayrshire Children's Panel Hearings due to a conflict of interest caused by her employment as determined by North Ayrshire CPAC.
- 2.2** North Ayrshire CPAC approached East Ayrshire CPAC for assistance with the appointment of the individual, and suggested the possibility of a temporary transfer to East Ayrshire Children's Panel until the individual retired from her current employment.
- 2.3** The Scottish Executive advised that to enable a temporary transfer to occur, a Concurrent Membership Scheme would require to be established between the two Children's Panels. A Concurrent Membership Scheme between North Ayrshire and East Ayrshire Children's Panel has previously been established and was successful.
- 2.4** In line with Scottish Executive Procedures, the two participating Local Authorities, Chairs of the Children's Panels, participating Panel Members and CPAC's, require to agree to the establishment of the Concurrent Membership Scheme, before Scottish Ministers approval is sought. Accordingly, approval to commence the process of establishing a Concurrent Membership Scheme is sought from Cabinet.

- 2.5** Following an interview with the North Ayrshire Panel Member, East Ayrshire CPAC, at their meeting held on 24 June 2008, agreed to recommend to the Scottish Executive the temporary transfer of the individual to East Ayrshire Children's Panel under a Concurrent Membership Scheme, for the period up to, and including, 31 May 2009.

3. POLICY/LEGAL/COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1** East Ayrshire Council has responsibility for maintaining a Children's Panel in terms of the Children's (Scotland) Act 1995.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** Schedule 1 of the Children's Scotland Act 1995 indicates that the Local Authority may pay the expenses of Children's Panel Members.

- 4.2** East Ayrshire Council provides financial provision to meet the work of the Children's Panel and the introduction of a Concurrent Membership Scheme may see an increase in expenses as a result of the Panel Member from another Local Authority area travelling to Hearings within East Ayrshire. It is anticipated that there will not be a significant increase as the Concurrent Membership Scheme is for one individual. Further, the establishment of a Concurrent Membership Scheme will be for a total period of not more than one year.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1** Cabinet is asked to:-

- (i) agree to the establishment of a Concurrent Membership Scheme with North Ayrshire Children's Panel for the temporary transfer of a North Ayrshire Panel Member, for the period up to and including 31 May 2009; and
- (ii) to remit authority to the Head of Democratic Services, in his capacity as Clerk to the CPAC, to carry out the necessary consultation arrangements to obtain approval from the requisite organisations and Scottish Ministers.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

27 June 2008
LY/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Correspondence from North Ayrshire CPAC.

2. Scottish Executive's Circular No: SEED2002.05.
3. Minutes of East Ayrshire CPAC Meeting of 24 June 2008.
4. Note of Interview with North Ayrshire Panel Member.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Lynn Young, Administrative Officer on Tel No (01563) 576283. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services on Tel No (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Lynn Young, Administrative Officer.