

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CENTRAL LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING FORUM : 28 AUGUST 2007

MULTI-AGENCY INSPECTION OF LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Local Forum of the outcome of the Multi-Agency Inspection of Learning Disability Services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2005, East Ayrshire Council agreed to be part of a pilot Multi-Agency Inspection of Learning Disability Services across Ayrshire and Arran. This was previously reported to Social Work Committee on 26th January and 23rd March 2006.
- 2.2 The inspection, led by the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) also included representation from a number of other agencies including HM Inspectorate of Education, Carers Scotland, People First (an advocacy organization), NHS Quality Improvement Scotland and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary.
- 2.3 The inspection aimed to consider the quality and availability of a wide range of services to people within Ayrshire and Arran who have a learning disability. This included social care, education, health and general community facilities.
- 2.4 The process of Inspection focused on the East, South and North Ayrshire partnership areas with a separate section for Ayrshire wide specialized, health learning disability services. East Ayrshire recommended that 3 partnership arrangements should have been inspected.
- 2.5 The inspection which took place during 2006 involved carers, staff and provider agencies being issued with questionnaires and the submission of a self evaluation document and supporting documents. In addition, in East Ayrshire, eighty two social work files were sampled and twenty six service users were interviewed with both files and service users being selected by the Social Work Inspection Agency.
- 2.6 During June 2006, twenty five inspectors visited Ayrshire & Arran over a two week period, meeting various carers, service users, council officers, elected members, independent providers and visiting services in the area.
- 2.7 The resultant report was published on 12 March 2007 and presented to Social Work Committee on 22nd March 07. Committee recommended the report be presented to Local Forums in due course.

3. REPORT

3.1 Overall the report is very positive for East Ayrshire There were a range of examples of good practice noted within the report including:-

- interagency working to protect vulnerable people
- leadership and direction
- the use of person centred planning,
- the Transition team,
- the Partnership in Practice Agreement,
- staff training,
- work to meet staff needs.

3.2 The report is divided into ten themes with each theme being scored as:-

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Adequate
- Weak
- Unsatisfactory

3.3 East Ayrshire evaluations for each of the ten themes was as follows:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Enabling and Sustaining Independence - | very good |
| • Promoting Inclusion - | good |
| • Safety and Protection - | good |
| • Record Keeping and Communication - | good |
| • Meeting staff needs - | very good |
| • Developing partnership working - | good |
| • Leadership and Direction - | good |
| • Financial resource and information management - | good |
| • Lifelong learning - | good |
| • Capacity for improvement - | very good |

3.4 There are 10 recommendations for all partners including the three councils and NHS Ayrshire and Arran. In addition there are specific recommendations for individual partners, East Ayrshire partnership have 5 recommendations while South Ayrshire partnership have 6, North Ayrshire partnership have 8 and NHS Ayrshire and Arran centralised services have 6.

3.5 The specific recommendations for East Ayrshire include:

- The need to develop employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities.
- The need to increase the number of people on direct payment.
- The need to roll out local area co-ordination across East Ayrshire.
- The need to develop access for wheelchair users to public toilets.

3.6 Recommendations across Ayrshire and Arran include:

- Further development of joint commissioning.
- Review of centralised NHS Ayrshire and Arran Learning Disability Management model.
- Improvement in Advocacy Services for young people.
- Improvement in case recording.
- Review of the Pan Ayrshire Vulnerable Adult Procedure to improve communication with the police.

3.7 An action plan has been developed to address the recommendations contained within this report.

4. POLICY AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The provision of effective services to people with learning disability is central to both local and national policy agendas on inclusion. Specifically it addresses requirements of “The Same As You?”

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The contents of the report relate to the Improving Opportunities, Improving Health and Eliminating Poverty Themes of the Community Plan.

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Failure to provide effective community social care services for adults with learning disabilities could result in breakdown in care arrangements with significant consequences for individuals, families and statutory services.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Local Forum is asked to:
- (i) note the contents of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
AF/EF
7 August 2007
Encl (0)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Report of Multi-Agency Inspection of Learning Disability Services.
2. Same As You Scottish Executive Review of Services for People with Learning Disabilities 2000.

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