



EA CHP Forum

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| Date of meeting | 22 June 2011 |
| Subject | Carers Forum Update |
| Purpose | To update the CHP Forum on the activities of the Carers Forum. |
| Recommendation | The CHP Forum is asked to note the contents of the report. |

1. Meetings

- 1.1 The Forum is now meeting monthly and at the last meeting on the 2 June 2011 a number of guest speakers attended the meeting to gather input on and discuss various issues affecting Carers in East Ayrshire. At this meeting the Forum discussed the Integrated Resource Framework, Carers being involved in training for new Social Services staff and the Oxfam Humankind Index.

2. Integrated Resource Framework

- 2.1 Dominic Jarret, Research and Information Officer, Learning Disability Service, NHS Ayrshire & Arran and Jacqui Kerr, Service Officer (Commissioning and Review), East Ayrshire Council attended to discuss the Integrated Resource Framework which had been circulated to members of the Forum before the meeting. After a brief explanation from Dominic and Jacqui regarding the background to the Framework a good discussion took place on the implications of the Framework for Carers in East Ayrshire with members of the Forum making positive comments on how best to implement it.

3. East Ayrshire Carers Strategy 2011 - 2015

- 3.1 A sub group of the Forum have been working on updating the East Ayrshire Carers Strategy. A draft will be completed by the end of June and then it will be circulated to various stakeholders for comment and feedback. The intention is to then collate the responses, update the strategy and present it to the CHP Forum for comment at a future meeting hopefully, August 2011.
- 3.2 Once the Strategy has been agreed the Carers Forum intends to hold an event to publicise and promote it.

4. Training for New Social Services Staff

- 4.1 Alison Findlay, Senior Manager, Educational & Social Services, East Ayrshire also attended the Carers Forum Meeting on the 2nd June 2011 to discuss Carers being involved in the training for new members of Social Services. A positive discussion took place on how Carers could be involved in induction training for new Social Services staff and this will be developed further.

5. Inspiring Breaks

- 5.1 The Carers Forum had helped publicise the Inspiring Breaks event led by Shared Care Scotland in the Carers Cottage, Howard Park, and Kilmarnock on the 12th May 2011. The event was attended by a number of the Forum Members and Shared Care Scotland will feedback to the Forum on the outcome of the event.

6. Oxfam – Humankind Index

- 6.1 Oxfam are constructing an Index, known as the Humankind Index, to assess Scotland's prosperity, not just in terms of the economy, but in terms of resilience, assets and sustainability. Current measures of prosperity focus on economic growth and wealth creation, and rely on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as the means of evaluation. This, in turn, determines resource allocation and prioritises policy areas that maximise economic growth.
- 6.2 The Charity was keen to have input from Carers when constructing the index and asked if the Forum would act as a Focus group. It was important that the Index included the things that really mattered to Carers and at the focus group, members were able to contribute to the discussion of what is important to Carers in terms of social relations, health and skills and their physical environment.

Brenda Emmerson
Chair of the East Ayrshire Carers Forum
10th June 2011