

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL - 26 JUNE 2008

THE ROLE OF THE PROVOST'S OFFICE - SUPPORT TO VARIOUS TRUSTS/CHARITIES

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the intention of the Provost to establish a protocol whereby the Provost of the Council supports a particular trust/charity within the area and, for this year, to focus on East Ayrshire Carers Centre.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Provost has intimated her intention to continue to support various trusts/charities within the area but to select each year one trust/charity for particular recognition. The support intended would be to promote and recognise the services which the particular charity/trust carries out in order to raise the profile and ultimately gain wider support.
- 2.2 The Provost has also intimated that for this year she would like to focus on the East Ayrshire Carers Centre and, in particular, the development work within the Dalmellington area.

3. EAST AYRSHIRE CARERS CENTRE - BACKGROUND

- 3.1 East Ayrshire Carers Centre opened in 1996 with three members of staff and a budget of approximately £75,000 per annum funded by NHS Ayrshire and Arran, East Ayrshire Council and The Princess Royal Trust for Carers. The Centre has developed significantly and now supports over 5,000 plus adult carers and 600 plus young carers; utilises a budget of approximately £600,000 plus per annum; employs 17 members of staff and 14 sessional workers; operates from three premises (Kilmarnock Office, Cumnock and Carers Cottage, Howard Park, Kilmarnock); delivers 10 hidden carers initiatives i.e. a young carers initiative, a carers in employment initiative, a learning disability initiative, a family drugs initiative, a GP initiative, a volunteering initiative, counselling services, an eliminating poverty initiative, hospital initiative and a mental health initiative.
- 3.2 The Centre's key aims are to provide information, advice, training, leisure, social activities and support to people who have a responsibility for looking after someone who is ill, frail or disabled.

4. DALMELLINGTON HOUSE PROJECT

- 4.1 Premises in Dalmellington were purchased in October 2007 and it is envisaged that a Carers Centre and respite facility will be operational by July 2008.

- 4.2** The key objectives of the new facility will be to expand East Ayrshire Carers Centre work in the Doon Valley area by opening a Carers Centre to support adult and young carers and to provide information, advice, training, leisure and social activities to carers of all ages to enable them to care for a relative or friend who through illness or disability are unable to care for themselves.
- 4.3** The project should also increase the number of young carers entering employment, education or training by providing training, further education, employment opportunities and careers advice and support.
- 4.4** The project will also establish a social enterprise project to enable the Carers Centre to become more economically independent by providing a respite/conference/training facilities to Carers Centres, private, statutory and voluntary sector organisations.

5. SUPPORT FROM THE PROVOST'S OFFICE

- 5.1** The Provost has intimated her intention to continue to use the Provost's Office to support as far as possible local charities and trusts. In particular, however, the Provost would wish to focus specifically on the East Ayrshire Carers Centre this year and provide any assistance to support the aims and objectives of the project through her role as Provost.
- 5.2** Any support which the Provost gives to local charities/trusts will not substitute the support which the Council already gives to such organisations through the various Council Departments but is intended to enhance the profile and promote the services which these local charities/trusts provide.

6. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS - Nil.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** The support given to the East Ayrshire Carers Centre supports the aims of the Community Plan in terms of improving opportunities and eliminating poverty.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** Council is asked to recognise and endorse the approach being taken by the Provost in respect of support to local charities/trusts and, in particular, East Ayrshire Carers Centre this year.

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Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

5 June 2008
JMcG/SC

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - Nil

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services on Tel No (01563) 576135.

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