

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 7 JUNE 2006**

#### **SAFER FAMILIES SEMINAR**

##### **Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

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

- 1.1. To advise Forum members of the Safer Families Seminar that took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2006 at the Park Hotel, Kilmarnock.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In accordance with the Improving Community Safety theme within the Community Plan - Aim 6: "To Improve Safety in Neighbourhoods and Homes", a decision was taken to hold a seminar in partnership with the Working for Families team that would highlight the services available throughout East Ayrshire, especially to those most vulnerable in the community, with regard to home safety and security.
- 2.2 A Working Group was formed to progress the seminar. The group was chaired by Ann Williams, Community Safety Co-ordinator and included representatives from Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Shire Housing – Care and Repair Team, Community Health Partnership, Social Work and Working for Families.
- 2.3 The seminar was aimed at practitioners who already worked in the community to make them aware of the services that were available to their client group.

### **3. CORE SECTION**

- 3.1 The seminar was attended by 58 practitioners from various agencies including NHS Ayrshire and Arran, East Ayrshire Council; Strathclyde Police; Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and the Voluntary Sector.  
Fiona Lees welcomed everyone.  
Councillor Jim O'Neill chaired the seminar.

#### **3.2 Presentations**

- 3.2.1 Sandra Marshall – Working for Families in East Ayrshire  
Sandra gave an outline of the project including funding, partners, areas covered and developments including Teen care, sitter services, promoting employment in childcare and helping with childminder start up costs,

supporting people to move into work, enabling a shift from part time to full time work, enhancing income, volunteering and helping people to move forward in their lives.

3.2.2 Lillas Dunlop, Director at Shire Housing

Lillas spoke about the role of the Care and Repair team in East Ayrshire; the work done with the elderly and vulnerable to enhance their quality of life by carrying out repair work in the homes of owner occupiers. Referrals to the team could be made by the clients themselves and agencies including those present at the seminar. Care and repair are funded by East Ayrshire Council and have had 539 cases referred this year.

3.2.3 Jim Scott, Station Manager, Strathclyde Fire & Rescue

Jim presented an overall view of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue. He provided an outline of the effects of fire, and the proactive approaches made to prevent it, including local and national campaigns, sustained programmes including the Vulnerable Persons Policy and Home Fire Safety Visits. How the fire service were keen to engage with people at a local level, making fire stations more accessible and continuing to work in partnership with other agencies.

3.2.4 The Fire and Rescue team gave a Chip Pan Fire Demonstration in the car park.

3.2.5 Charles Mallon, Team manager – Control, Community Alarms.

Charles provided an overall view of the service and the objectives giving an explanation of the different types of alarms and their purpose. Who should have them and how people were referred to the service. How the advances in technology have made a difference to the way people lead their lives and how it has helped in the way that they are supported in their homes. He also spoke about the new risk management centre and how this will affect the service. He outlined the links to other frontline services and the key role played by the team in both community alarms and the council helpline service.

3.2.6 Susan Wilson, Public Health Practitioner, Community Health Partnership

Susan concentrated her presentation on unintentional injuries suffered by children and the elderly. She provided statistics on hospital admissions and the causes of unintentional injuries and made reference to current initiatives including the provision of home safety packs to families with young children and initiatives being undertaken at East Ayrshire Community Hospital.

3.2.7 PC Stuart Rodger, Strathclyde Police Community Safety Unit.

Stuart began his presentation with a light hearted look at bogus callers using a video clip from the popular television programme 'Still Game'. He

followed this by giving an overall view of his role as a Crime Prevention Officer and how the police work with communities to enhance the quality of life and make people feel safer in their own homes; how the police could help with information on crime prevention and the role of community police officers in East Ayrshire.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. The Seminar was joint funded by East Ayrshire Community Safety Partnership and Working for Families

#### **5. LEGAL/AUTHORITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. Nil

#### **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Nil

#### **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1. There was a common thread running through each of the presentations that provided information on the services available to the people of East Ayrshire, how they were provided and what practitioners could do to access these services. An evaluation is attached to this report.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1. The Forum is invited to note the contents of this report.

W Stafford  
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/AW

17<sup>th</sup> May 2006

#### LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

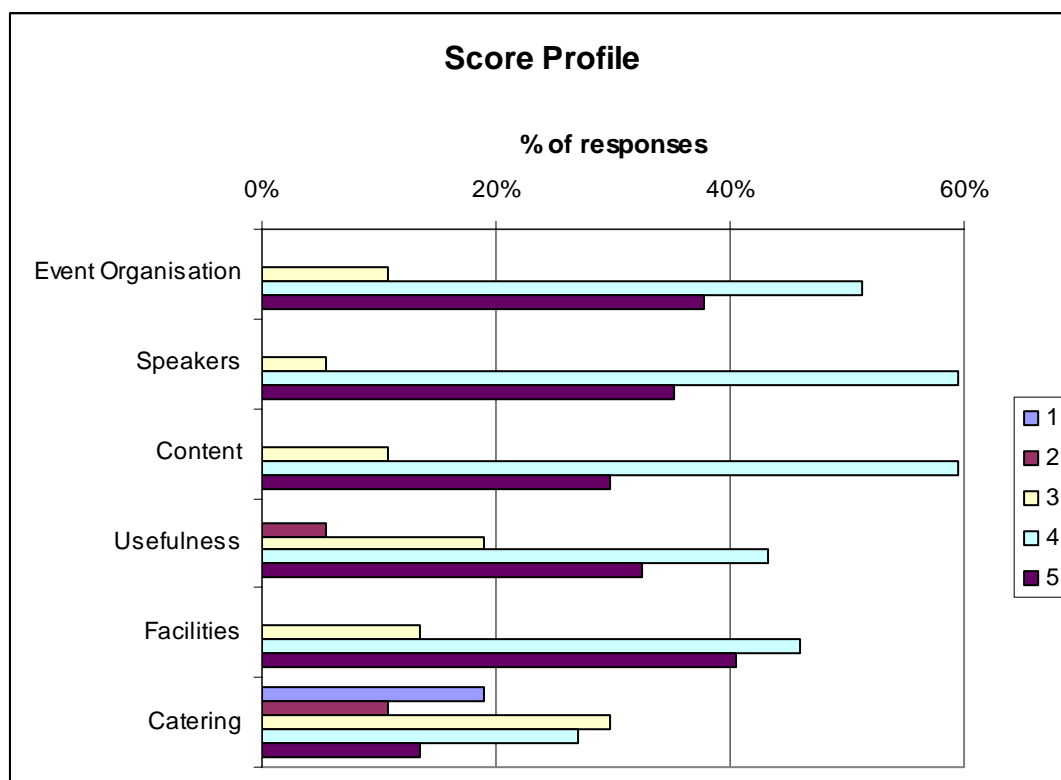
1. For further information please contact John Crawford, Head of Protective Services on 01563 576111 or email: [john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)
2. Implementation Officer: Ann Williams

## Safer Families Seminar – 22 February 2006 - Evaluation

Delegates were asked to rate 6 aspects of the event on a 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) scale and to comment on what they liked and disliked as well as giving ideas for future events. 37 of the 58 delegates (64%) completed an evaluation form.

### Score Breakdown (%) and Average Score for each aspect

	Poor		Excellent			Average
	1	2	3	4	5	
Event Organisation	0%	0%	11%	51%	38%	4.3
Speakers	0%	0%	5%	59%	35%	4.3
Content	0%	0%	11%	59%	30%	4.2
Usefulness	0%	5%	19%	43%	32%	4.0
Facilities	0%	0%	14%	46%	41%	4.3
Catering	19%	11%	30%	27%	14%	3.1



Most aspects of the event scored high, but catering attracted a mix of responses and the overall usefulness of the event scored low for some.

Delegates liked the organisation and content of the event, the quality of speakers and presentations and the opportunity the event gave to network with others in the home safety field.

Some delegates disliked the catering and the performance of the public address system - the system was adjusted later in the seminar.

Ideas for future events included involving other organisations and the public as well as the opportunity to find out more about the responsibilities of the various agencies involved in home safety.

## **Detail on comments**

### **Liked**

Finding out what other organisations are doing  
Informative & held my attention  
Very well run & informative  
Information given  
Presentations very informative, good links to safety  
Child safety  
Good speakers, good chance to network  
All of equal quality & very beneficial to my job in EAC  
Presentations Excellent, interesting provided relevant information  
Joint working, meeting other agencies, awareness of roles, presentations  
Seeing what other professionals do, getting a whole picture  
Most speakers very informative esp care & repair, relevant to my job  
Multi disciplinary, relevant to community plan, good mix of informative & practical strategies  
Chance to hear in depth about other organisations  
All the topics  
Very informative presentations  
The opportunity to meet other partner agencies  
Finding out what other services can offer  
Chip pan fire demo  
Presentation of fire safety, all presentations informative & useful  
Fire presentation  
Partnership working, networking  
Opportunity to meet other organisations  
Susan Wilson's presentation  
Networking with agencies, not previously come into contact with  
Working for families presentation  
Networking  
The mix of presentations but linking to the theme of the day

### **Disliked**

Lunch (5 comments)  
Sandwiches (2 comments)  
More info on display formats  
Lack of pastries  
The sandwiches  
Poor PA system  
Acoustics poor, difficult at times to hear speakers  
Difficulties hearing some presentations  
Lunch was poor  
Food & coffee

### **Future**

Princess Royal Trust  
Advice for careers in services for protection, supported tenancies for homeless  
More about anti social behaviour - Community wardens  
Info on Job description & duties for others working with families  
Just the same  
Voluntary Agencies  
Copy of the slides  
Include public in information days/community safety events, ideally with child protection issues