

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2004 AT 1000 HOURS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Jackson, Jim O'Neill, Stephanie Young, Douglas Reid, Gordon Cree, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, Harry Wilson, Ray Murray, John Knapp, Stuart Finlayson, Robert McDill, Tommy Farrell, William Menzies, Neil McGhee and William Crawford.

ATTENDING: John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services; Jackie Donnelly, Head of Social Work; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Graham Short, Head of Quality Improvement; Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support; Bill Eadie, Principal Officer (Children, Families and Criminal Justice); Eddie Fraser, Acting Principal Officer (Community Care); Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager, Educational and Social Services; Ross Hammond, Senior Accountant; and Melanie Anderson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Isabella Macrae, Iain Linton, Jim Raymond, Jimmy Kelly and Elaine Stewart.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Jackson, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair welcomed Ross Hammond, Senior Accountant, to the meeting as a new member of the Department of Educational and Social Services.

**BUDGETARY PROGRESS REPORT – SOCIAL WORK TO 8 FEBRUARY 2004
(PERIOD 11)**

2. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 9 March 2004 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Educational and Social Services on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Social Work for the period ended 8 February 2004 (Period 11).

SOCIAL WORK CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2004-2005 (Item 2, Page 567, 03/07)

3. There was submitted a report dated 5 March 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on proposals for expenditure in the capital programme for 2004/05 and which sought approval to progress with the programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed capital programme for 2004 – 2005;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services continue to monitor closely the capital programme throughout the year, reporting periodically to the Social Work Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT – QUARTER 4 2003

4. There was submitted a report dated 3 March 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on staff absence rates for Social Services, including Resource Support and Support to Communities, for the quarterly period ending 31 December 2003.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director and Senior Officers continue to take appropriate action to ensure support mechanisms were available for staff to assist in the reduction of absence levels;
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

PROGRESS WITH COMPLEXITY – CHIEF SOCIAL WORK INSPECTOR'S THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

5. There was submitted a report dated 5 March 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the content of the "Progress with Complexity" report, with particular reference to the reported performance of East Ayrshire Council Social Work services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the considerable progress made in the delivery of Social Work services in East Ayrshire as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report;
- (ii) to approve the actions set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report to address areas requiring further attention; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

DELAYED HOSPITAL DISCHARGES (Item 12, Page 4295, 99/03)

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 1 March 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on progress made in addressing delays in hospital discharge for residents in East Ayrshire.

DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILD PROTECTION – PROGRESS REPORT (Item 8, Page 3189, 99/03)

7. There was submitted a report dated 8 March 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on developments in child protection, including progress with the Scottish Executive-led Child Protection Reform programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the current developments in child protection set out in section 3 of the report;
- (ii) to note that the report would also be considered by the Education Committee at its meeting on 23 March 2004;
- (iii) that it be remitted to the Director of Educational and Social Services to submit further reports to the Social Work Committee on the outcome of the Child Protection Reform programme and on the draft joint statement of assurance on child protection, before submission to Scottish Ministers; and

- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE APPROACH TO QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT WITHIN EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES (Item 7, Page 386 03/07)

8. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on developments towards a common approach to quality assurance and performance management within the Department of Educational and Social Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the developments in the approach to quality improvement and performance management as set out within the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services report annually to the Committee on performance in respect of quality improvement activity within Social Work services; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

SOCIAL WORK CHARGES 2004/2005

9. There was submitted a report dated 1 March 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on proposed alterations to charges for Social Work services for the financial year 2004/2005.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the revised charges as detailed in Section 3 and within the Appendix to the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS

10.1 PROGRESS REPORT

There was submitted a report dated 23 February 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on information regarding an evaluation of the first year of Learning Partnerships.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the considerable progress of multi-disciplinary working within Learning Partnerships;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit a progress report to the Social Work Committee on an annual basis, in addition to providing updates as required in the interim;
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

10.2 SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

There was submitted a report dated 24 February 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the proposed appointment of a Support

Assistant to each Learning Partnership and which sought approval for recommendations regarding this development.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals for Learning Partnership development set out in Section 3 of the report;
- (ii) that the staffing implications within the report be referred to the Corporate Governance Committee for consideration;
- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit a progress report to a future meeting of the Social Work Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the content of the report.

YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES (Item 5, Page 2895 99/03)

11. There was submitted a report dated 25 February 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on additional funds being made available to further develop Youth Justice services in East Ayrshire and which sought approval for the action intended.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve, in principle, the proposed staffing increase referred to at paragraph 3.4 of the report;
- (ii) to refer the staffing proposals to the Corporate Governance Committee for further consideration;
- (iii) that it be remitted to the Director of Educational and Social Services to submit a progress report to a future meeting of the Social Work Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the content of the report.

AUDIT SCOTLAND PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT: (COMPARING THE PERFORMANCE OF SCOTTISH COUNCILS' SOCIAL WORK SERVICES 2002/2003)

12. There was submitted a report dated 24 February 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the Council's performance in 2002/2003 against Social Work statutory performance indicators audited by the Accounts Commission.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Council had performed well in respect of most of the reported performance indicators;
- (ii) to note that, in terms of Best Value, officers would pursue continuous improvement in all aspects of Social Work provision; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1034 hours.