

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 22 MARCH 2007 AT 1000 HOURS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Jackson, Jim O'Neill, Gordon Cree, John Weir, Isabella Macrae, Iain Linton, Ray Murray, John Knapp, Jim Raymond, Stuart Finlayson, Robert McDill, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, William Menzies, Neil McGhee, William Crawford and Elaine Stewart.

ATTENDING: Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; Jackie Donnelly, Executive Head of Social Work; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Eddie Fraser, Senior Community Care Manager; Sally Ann Kelly, Senior Manager, Children and Families and Criminal Justice; Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager; and Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Helen Coffey, Drew McIntyre and Harry Wilson.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Jackson, Chair.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - SOCIAL WORK TO 4
FEBRUARY 2007 (PERIOD 11)**

1. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 28 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services and the Executive Head of Finance which advised on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Social Work for the period ended 4 February 2007 (Period 11).

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT - QUARTERS 3 AND 4, 2006

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 2 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of staff absence rates for Social Work Services, including Resource Support (Social Work) for the quarterly periods 1 July 2006 ending 30 September 2006 and 1 October 2006 ending 31 December 2006.

BUDGET PROPOSALS

3. There was submitted a report dated 15 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval of the budget proposals contained in the report following the Council's Budget Settlement for 2007/2008.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the budget proposals as outlined in section 4.1 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

4. There was submitted a report dated 26 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which provided information about additional resources which were received into the Council on a non recurring basis for Children's Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the proposed allocation and use of the Scottish Executive's additional revenue;
- (ii) to note that the report had been considered by Education Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

LINK CARERS SCHEME

5. There was submitted a report dated 5 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which provided details of the outcome of the review of the Council's Link Carers arrangements, and (ii) which advised of interim proposals for revising existing payments and the financial implications of these proposals.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcome of the Link Carers Review;
- (ii) to approve the proposals to increase payments to Link Carers in line with the rates noted in section 5 of the report;
- (iii) to note the information in relation to the National Consultation on Kinship Care;
- (iv) to invite the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to present a report on the outcome of this Consultation to a future meeting; and
- (v) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

SOCIAL WORK APPROVED RATES AND CHARGES – 2007/2008

6. There was submitted a report dated 1 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for alterations to approved rates and charges to Social Work Services for financial year 2007/2008.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the revised charges as detailed in section 3 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

STRATEGIC SELF ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE AND EFQM – PROGRESS REPORT

7. There was submitted a report dated 5 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which updated on progress made by the Social Work Service in addressing areas for improvement identified during the Strategic Self Assessment of performance and the outcomes of the recent round of EFQM assessments.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the good progress made by the Social Work Service in responding to the areas for improvement identified in the Strategic Self Assessment of performance;
- (ii) to agree that any outstanding action points be incorporated into relevant service improvement/ work plans as appropriate; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

“LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: WE CAN AND MUST DO BETTER”

8. There was submitted a report dated 15 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the contents of the National report “Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better” and which sought approval of an action plan to address the main issues identified in this document.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the action plan appended to the report;
- (ii) to note that the report had been considered also by the Education Committee;
- (iii) to note the importance of this issue at this stage; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES

9. There was submitted a report dated 5 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which advised of the progress in relation to the co-location of Youth Services within the Social Work Services and (ii) which advised of the performance of East Ayrshire Youth Services in relation to the National Performance data within the quarterly Youth Justice reporting Framework.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the service developments within Social Work Youth Services noted in the report;
- (ii) to note the positive trends in relation to performance in managing persistent young offenders within East Ayrshire outlined in section 3 of the report;
- (iii) to request that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services present annual reports on performance for youth justice services to future meetings; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

MULTI-AGENCY INSPECTION OF LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES

10. There was submitted a report dated 7 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the outcome of the Multi-Agency Inspection of Learning Disability Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to commend all the staff involved for their professionalism, and to record thanks to the service users and families for their input;
- (ii) that a further report be presented to a future meeting with an action plan in respect of the report recommendations;
- (iii) that this report be submitted to future meetings of the Disability Forum and the Local Committees for their respective interests; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

CARE HOMES – CONTINGENCY PLANNING

- 11.** There was submitted a report dated 5 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the arrangements which had been developed around a structured approach to contingency planning in the event of an emergency necessitating the evacuation of a care home in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the partnership approach which was being taken towards contingency planning; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2007/08

- 12.** There was submitted a report dated 14 January 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of progress made in the 2006/2007 Health and Safety Action Plan and which sought approval for the 2007/2008 Action Plan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the recommended 2007/2008 Service Health and Safety Action Plan as appended to the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME

- 13.** There was submitted a joint report dated 21 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the continuing changes to the Supporting People Programme and the numbers of service users that benefit from Supporting People Funding.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the revised arrangements for the administration of service charges;
- (ii) to note the report had also been considered by the Housing Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

STEWARTON SOCIAL WORK OFFICE, 24 HIGH STREET, STEWARTON

14. There was submitted a report dated 5 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which requested that the Committee declare surplus to requirements the property at 24 High Street, Stewarton and to make recommendations accordingly.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Social Work property at 24 High Street, Stewarton be declared surplus to the requirements of the Department of Educational and Social Services;
- (ii) that the property be referred to the Acting Executive Director of Development and Property Services for disposal or reallocation in accordance with Council Policy; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

A GUIDE TO EVALUATING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE USING QUALITY INDICATORS

15. There was submitted a report dated 27 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of approaches to evaluating services for children and young people presently in place and planned for the future in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the approaches to evaluation of services for children and young people;
- (ii) to note that this report had also been considered by the Education Committee;
- (iii) to invite the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to report on progress in due course; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

ADULT RESIDENTIAL UNITS

16. There was submitted a report dated 23 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for proposals to amend the staffing structure within the two East Ayrshire Residential Units for adults with learning disabilities; Carrick View, Auchinleck and Kerrmuir, Hurlford.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to refer the staffing implications contained in the report to the Corporate Governance Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

17. There was submitted and noted a report dated 27 February 2007 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/ Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided, for information, details of tenders that had been accepted as set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

18. The Committee resolved that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraph of schedule 7A of the Act as shown against each item.

COMMUNITY NETWORKS DAY SERVICES (PARAS 1 AND 11)

19. There was submitted a report dated 26 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which advised of the content and recommendations of a Review of East Ayrshire Day Services for Adults with a Learning Disability – known as Community Networks, and (ii) which sought agreement for implementation of an action plan to address the recommendations of the review.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the review recommendations as outlined in section 5 of the report;
- (ii) to refer the staffing implications to the Corporate Governance Committee for consideration; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

CHANGING CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND (PARA 1)

20. There was submitted a report dated 23 February 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for amendments to the staffing structure within the Social Work Service.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the staffing proposals as contained in paragraph 3 of the report subject to Trade Union consultation;
- (ii) to refer the staffing implications to the Corporate Governance Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

SUPERVISED ATTENDANCE ORDER SCHEME (PARA 1)

21. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which advised of the Scottish Executive's decision to "roll out" the Supervised Attendance Order Scheme across all Courts in Scotland and (ii) which sought approval for amendments to the Social Work Service staffing structure to support the National roll out of this initiative.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support the proposal to substantiate the two posts associated with the Supervised Attendance Order Scheme;
- (ii) to refer the staffing implications to the Corporate Governance Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1027 hours.

APPENDIX

<u>CONTRACT</u>	<u>SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Demolition of former Rosebank Elderly Care Home, London Road, Kilmarnock	Reigart Contracts Ltd, Coatbridge	£63,736.05
*Care at Home Services	Constance Care Limited, Kilmarnock – Lots 1** and 2** HRM Homecare Services, Prestwick – Lots 3**, 4** and 7** Home Concern (Scotland) Ltd, Ayr – Lots 5** and 6**	Schedule of Rates
Demolition of former Cessnock Gardens Elderly Care Home, Cessnock Gardens, Hurlford	W H McClounie, New Cumnock	£79,655.52
Proposed Children's Unit, Hillside Crescent Auchinleck	Fullwood Holdings Ltd, Stewarton	£679,148.93
Proposed New Care Home for Adults, Barbieston Road/ Backrogerton Crescent, Auchinleck	Fleming Buildings Ltd, Glasgow	£1,104,599.87

* This tender was subject to an evaluation process, the award criteria being:- Price – 30%; holistic approach proposals – 20%; staff management and retention proposals – 20%; transitional arrangements proposals – 20% and business continuity proposals – 10%.

** Lot 1 – Northern Area, including Stewarton

** Lot 2 – Kilmarnock North and environs

** Lot 3 – Kilmarnock South and environs

** Lot 4 – Irvine Valley Area including Galston

** Lot 5 – Mauchline, Muirkirk and environs area

** Lot 6 – Cumnock and southern area including Auchinleck etc

** Lot 7 – Council wide – surplus to capacity Service