

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2005 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Eric Jackson, Jim O'Neill, Douglas Reid, Gordon Cree, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, Isabella Macrae, Harry Wilson, Jim Raymond, Stuart Finlayson, Robert McDill, Tommy Farrell, Neil McGhee and William Crawford.

**ATTENDING:** Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; Jackie Donnelly, Executive Head of Social Work; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; Eddie Fraser, Senior Community Care Manager; Sally Ann Kelly, Senior Manager, Children and Families and Criminal Justice; Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager and Ross Hammond, Senior Accountant, Educational and Social Services; and Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Stephanie Young, Iain Linton, Ray Murray, John Knapp, Jimmy Kelly, William Menzies and Elaine Stewart.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Eric Jackson, Chair.

**CHAIR'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

1. The Chair welcomed Fallon Spencer, a pupil from Loudoun Academy, currently on work experience placement with Legal Services.

The Chair advised that he had attended the opening of Glennie House, with the Provost and Local Members. The Home had intimated that they would organise a further visit for other Members who wished to attend and in this regard Members should advise the Executive Head of Social Work.

The Chair then reported that he had been unable to attend the East Ayrshire Employee Recognition Event but was pleased to congratulate social work staff at Springhill Gardens who had won a Customer Service Excellence Award.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - SOCIAL WORK TO 18 SEPTEMBER 2005 (PERIOD 6)**

2. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 11 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance and the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised Members of the current budgetary control position and projected out-turn for the year for Social Work for the period ended 18 September 2005 (Period 6).

**ABSENCE MANAGEMENT - QUARTER 2 2005 AND QUARTER 3 2005**

3. There was submitted a report dated 12 October 2005 (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 April 2005 - 30 June 2005 and 1 July 2005 - 30 September 2005.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note an amendment to Table 1, Appendix 2 in the report where the Criminal Justice figures should show an increase, rather than a decrease; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Macrae joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

#### **INFORMATION-SHARING PROTOCOL**

- 4. There was submitted a report dated 6 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for a Joint Information-Sharing Protocol between NHS Ayrshire and Arran, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Councils.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the introduction of the Information-Sharing Protocol to support effective integrated working across a range of children's services; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **DISPUTE RESOLUTION ARRANGEMENTS**

- 5. There was submitted a report dated 18 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for a dispute resolution process for matters related to children and young people with additional support needs.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the dispute resolution arrangements as outlined in the report;
- (ii) to note that the report would be considered also by the Education Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **RACE EQUALITY ACTION PLANS**

- 6. There was submitted a report dated 6 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed the Committee of progress in implementing the Race Equality Action Plan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the progress made in relation to Race Equality Action Plans;
- (ii) to receive further reports on this issue by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on an annual basis; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT**

- 7. There was submitted a report dated 11 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which informed the Committee of new resources from the Scottish Executive for the treatment of problematic alcohol and drug use; and (ii) which advised of tendering arrangements for both a new

community based alcohol rehabilitation service and a new community based drugs rehabilitation service for Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the allocation of money from the Scottish Executive for the treatment of problematic alcohol and drug use;
- (ii) to note the arrangements with regard to the tendering and commissioning process being led by South Ayrshire Council; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **BEST VALUE REVIEW OF AYRSHIRE COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL**

8. There was submitted a report dated 24 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the recently completed Best Value Review of Ayrshire Council on Alcohol.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Best Value Review of the Ayrshire Council on Alcohol;
- (ii) to receive at a future meeting the Ayrshire Council on Alcohol Action Plan which had been agreed following this Best Value Review; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE REPORT - THE FUTURE OF UNPAID CARE IN SCOTLAND**

9. There was submitted a report dated 9 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised Members of the outcome of a research project into the future of unpaid care in Scotland as published in the above report.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services submit a further report to a future meeting when any implications for the Council had been identified by the Scottish Executive; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

#### **ORDINARY RESIDENCE CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT 1968 - FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN RESPECT OF PLACED PERSONS**

10. There was submitted a report dated 10 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which advised of implications of "Ordinary Residence" for East Ayrshire; and (ii) which sought endorsement of an East Ayrshire response to a Scottish Executive consultation on Ordinary Residence.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the consultation response as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **ENHANCEMENT OF OLDER PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

11. There was submitted a report dated 6 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of proposals to develop the delivery of services to older people including Care at Home and Day Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals as outlined in paragraph 5 of the report;
- (ii) to refer the personnel implications in Section 6 of the report to the Corporate Governance Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUPPORTED CARERS SERVICE**

12. There was submitted a report dated 10 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of a proposal to establish a supportive service principally for young adults who were in transition from the care of this Authority to living independently in the community.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to the recruitment of two carers as an initial objective towards establishing and developing a "Fit for Purpose" supportive resource for care leavers; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY CARE - EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTATIONS**

13. There was submitted and noted a report dated 11 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of additional one-off allocation of monies from the Scottish Executive to Local Authorities to support improvements in the equipment and adaptations service.

### **REPORT ON SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY REPORT - AN INSPECTION INTO THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN EILEAN SIAR**

14. There was submitted a report dated 26 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which informed of the publication of the Social Work Inspection Agency report on the care and protection of children in Eilean Siar; (ii) which summarised the main findings and recommendations from the report; and (iii) which provided the Committee with information regarding the initial response from Educational and Social Services within East Ayrshire to the Eilean Siar report.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the response to the recommendations from the Eilean Siar report as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) that a detailed report in respect of the work currently being undertaken by social services in terms of the consideration and implementation of those recommendations within East Ayrshire be presented to a future meeting of East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee and to the January meetings of Social Work and Education Committees; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**ADULTS WITH INCAPACITY (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000 “IMPROVING WITH EXPERIENCE” - EAST AYRSHIRE CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

15. There was submitted a report dated 10 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought Social Work Committee endorsement of the East Ayrshire response to a Scottish Executive consultation on proposed changes to the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the consultation response as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN’S UNIT IN AUCHINLECK**

16. There was submitted a report dated 24 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the development of a new six-bedded Children’s Unit at Stoner Crescent/Hillside Crescent, Auchinleck.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the site at Stoner Crescent/Hillside Crescent, Auchinleck as the agreed location for a new six-bedded Children’s Unit;
- (ii) to instruct the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to seek the appropriate consents with regard to the transfer of land to the Department of Educational and Social Services;
- (iii) to note that proposals with regard to the provision of a second Unit would be submitted to a future meeting; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

17. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 5 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

**DEATH OF A LOOKED AFTER CHILD**

18. There was submitted and noted a report dated 10 October 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed the Committee of the death of a Looked After Child, in line with Scottish Executive guidance on these matters.

The meeting terminated at 1040 hours.