

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2006 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Jackson, Jim O'Neill, Stephanie Young, Gordon Cree, Drew McIntyre, Isabella Macrae, Harry Wilson, Iain Linton, Ray Murray, Jim Raymond, Stuart Finlayson, Robert McDill, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, Neil McGhee, William Crawford and Elaine Stewart.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Helen Coffey; John Weir, John Knapp and William Menzies.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Jackson, Chair.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - SOCIAL WORK TO 17 SEPTEMBER 2006 (PERIOD 6)

1. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 12 October 2006 (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 projected out-turn for the year for Social Work for the period ended 17 September 2006 (Period 6).

ADOPTION ALLOWANCES 2006/2007

2. There was submitted a report dated 24 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought to increase the adoption allowances paid to Adoptive Parents who care for East Ayrshire Children and Young People.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to increase adoption allowances as detailed in section 3.3 of the report;
- (ii) to back date payment of these increased allowances as noted in section 3.3 of the report;
- (iii) that future changes to adoption allowances be reported within the Social Work Charging Paper presented to the Committee in or around March each year as part of the budget setting process; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EXTRAORDINARY LIVES - CREATING A POSITIVE FUTURE FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND

3. There was submitted a report dated 6 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised on the publication and implications of the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) report "Extraordinary Lives - Creating a Positive Future for Looked After Children and Young People in Scotland 2006".

It was agreed:-

- (i) to request the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to undertake an analysis of the suggestions in Extraordinary Lives, with particular reference to paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 of the report, and to report on the outcome of this in due course;
- (ii) to note that the report would also be presented to the Education Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

OUTWITH PLACEMENTS (PAGE 2217, ITEM 9, 03/07)

4. There was submitted a report dated 26 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which provided a summary of the Department of Educational and Social Services use of outwith placements up to 30 September 2006. It was noted that the report was not intended to consider the specific cases of secure placements made in relation to the Criminal Justice System, nor the cases of children educated outwith the Authority as a result of foster care arrangements. Both of these were administered under different arrangements.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to request the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to provide further reports at six monthly intervals on this aspect of secure provision;
- (ii) to request the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to take whatever action was necessary to ensure that available resources were matched to established needs;
- (iii) to note that the report would also be considered by the Education Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY AREA PLAN

5. There was submitted a report dated 4 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised on the detail of the South West Scotland Community Justice Authority (SWCJA) Area Plan which was compiled by SWCJA Chief Officer in consultation with the three Local Authorities in Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Prison Services and other parties; and on the submission of the plan to the Scottish Executive.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the area plan;

- (ii) that the Chair investigate the possibility of organising a seminar for members of the Social Work Committee prior to the launch of the Area Plan in April 2007; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Raymond left the meeting during consideration of, but prior to determination of the above item.

MENTAL WELFARE COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND CONSULTATION ON FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

6. There was submitted a report dated 9 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised on the current consultation by the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland with respect to their five year strategic plan; and which sought endorsement of a draft response from East Ayrshire Council.

It was agreed:-

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

REVIEW OF INDEPENDENT SECTOR CARE AT HOME CONTRACTS (PAGE 1930, ITEM 7, 03/07)

7. There was submitted a report dated 25 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the outcomes of the review of external purchasing arrangements for Care at Home provision.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to request the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to submit a further report detailing the outcomes of the tender process; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

RACE EQUALITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

8. There was submitted a report dated 6 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on progress in implementing the Race Equality Action Plan; and which sought approval of the Plan up to 2008.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve priorities set until 2008;
- (ii) to note progress in achieving the priorities set until 2005/2006;
- (iii) to request the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to report back to the Committee on an annual basis; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

CHANGING LIVES SELF ASSESSMENT RETURN (PAGE 2092, ITEM 4, 03/07)

9. There was submitted a report dated 5 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the requirement to

undertake a self assessment in response to the Scottish Executive's Changing Lives Implementation Plan; and which sought approval for the submission of the draft East Ayrshire Changing Lives Self Assessment Return to the Scottish Executive.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the draft self assessment return and authorise the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to submit the return to the Scottish Executive; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2005/2006 (PAGE 2301, ITEM 11, 03/07)

- 10.** There was submitted a report dated 10 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which provided a comparison between 2005/06 Statutory Performance Indicators produced this year and those submitted for 2004/05.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the positive trends in performance; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

OLDER PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE

- 11.** There was submitted a report dated 10 October 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the annual Older People's Conference held on Wednesday 27 September 2006.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the feedback from the annual Older People's Conference;
- (ii) to note the level of satisfaction with the event;
- (iii) that a similar Conference be organised next year once again on a partnership basis; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1045 hours.