

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 MAY 2004 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

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

ATTENDING: John Mulgrew, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; Jackie Donnelly, Executive Head of Social Work; David Mitchell, Acting Executive Director of Corporate Support; Graham Short, Head of Quality Improvement; Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support; Bill Eadie, Senior Manager (Operations); Eddie Fraser, Community Care Manager; Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager, Educational and Social Services; Andy MacDonald, Performance and Development Manager; and Melanie Anderson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre and William Menzies.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Jackson, Chair.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT – QUARTER 1 2004

1. There was submitted and noted a report dated 3 May 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on staff absence rates for Social Services, including Resource Support, for the quarterly period ending 31 March 2004.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 29 April 2004 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which provided, for information, details of a tender which had been accepted as follows:-

Contract	Successful Contractor	Amount
Proposed Children's Unit, Montgomery Place, Kilmarnock	Fullwood Holdings Ltd, Stewarton	£320,008.00* *A reductions exercise was carried out on the lowest offer received for the works which would not affect the overall objective and function of the finished scheme.

SECTION 10 GRANTS

3. There was submitted a report dated 26 April 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval regarding a proposal in relation to Section 10 Grants.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services review Section 10 funding arrangements; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

BEST VALUE REVIEW – SERVICES TO LOOKED AFTER AND ACCOMMODATED CHILDREN

4. There was submitted a report dated 28 April 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the outcome of the Best Value Review report on Services to Looked After and Accommodated Children and Young People and which sought approval for the implementation of the recommendations contained therein.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to accept the report, in principle, subject to detailed consideration by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services of the overall impact for the Council;
- (ii) to record the Committee's appreciation of the work undertaken by those involved in the Member/Officer Working Group: and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

BEST VALUE REVIEW – COMMUNITY MEALS SERVICE

5. There was submitted a report dated 17 May 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on potential options for the future service delivery of Community Meals arising from the Best Value Review process.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that it be remitted to the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to consider the implications of the proposals for in-house services;
- (ii) thereafter, that a procurement process be undergone for the future provision of Community Meals; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

DEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 20 April 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on the development on services for people with learning disabilities currently living in Local Authority residential resources, namely Carrick View, Auchinleck and Kerrmuir, Hurlford and which sought approval to progress plans for the modernisation of services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed developments outlined in section 4 of the report;
- (ii) to refer the staffing implications to the Corporate Governance Committee, for consideration; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

CARE AT HOME PERFORMANCE REPORT

7. There was submitted a report dated 20 April 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on progress made in meeting national and local objectives in Home Care services, the implications of this progress for the delivery of service and management action to address these implications.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the continued targeting of Care at Home services at those with the greatest need; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

UPDATE ON MOVING AND HANDLING ISSUES

8. There was submitted a report dated 20 April 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on operational matters in relation to moving and handling.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to refer the proposed re-grading of the Moving and Handling Advisor to the Corporate Governance Committee, for consideration; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

SERVICE REVIEW OF BRIDGE ADDICTION SERVICES

9. There was submitted a report dated 4 May 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on the outcomes of the 2003/04 Service Review of Bridge Addiction Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that a one year contract and service level agreement be issued to Bridge Addiction Services ;
- (ii) that the substance misuse (counselling and support) service be put out to tender within the current financial year, with a proposed start date of 1 April 2005 for a new contracted service; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

Councillor O'Neill left the meeting at this point.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR BILL – ELECTRONIC MONITORING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

10. There was submitted a report dated 28 April 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on a letter from the Scottish Executive which invited Local Authorities to bid to participate in a pilot project for the monitoring of young people by electronic tagging.

Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Murray moved:-

- (i) that it be remitted to the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to express an interest in participating in the pilot for electronic tagging, subject to sufficient resources being made available and agreement on the criteria for young people being made subject to an Order; and

- (ii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services produce a further report to the Social Work Committee once discussion with the Executive and partner organisations had been concluded, with a recommendation as to whether or not East Ayrshire should participate in the pilot programme.

Councillor Weir, seconded by Councillor Reid, moved as an amendment that:-

- (i) it be remitted to the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to submit a further report on electronic monitoring of young people to the Social Work Committee once the relevant legislation had been approved by the Scottish Parliament; and
- (ii) meantime, to note the content of the report.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by 13 votes to 5.

Councillors O'Neill and Kelly rejoined and left the meeting respectively at this point.

IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING TO BE LOOKED AFTER BY THIS COUNCIL

11. There was submitted a report dated 4 May 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on the scheme to be implemented in accordance with the regulations and guidance on "Services for Young People Seeking to be Looked After by Local Authorities".

It was agreed:-

- (i) to recommend to Council the approval of the policy document contained in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) to agree to adopt the scheme of payments outlined in the Rates of Payments detailed; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES

12. There was submitted a report dated 23 April 2004 (circulated) by the Executive 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 3.2 of the report;
- (ii) to refer the staffing proposed to the Corporate Governance Committee for further consideration;
- (iii) that it be remitted to the Director of Educational and Social Services to report back to the Social Work Committee on progress being made;
- (iv) that it be remitted to the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to circulate a briefing note to Members on programmes to support under 16 year-olds on Anti-Social Behaviour Orders; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

CHILD PROTECTION REFORM PROGRAMME – PROGRESS REPORT

13. There was submitted a report dated 28 April 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on the latest developments in the Scottish Executive's Child Protection Reform Programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that it be remitted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services and the Chairs of the Social Work and Education Committees, to finalise the statement of progress on Child Protection, subject to any necessary minor amendment and, thereafter, to submit the finalised document to the Scottish Executive;
- (ii) to note that the report would also be considered at the next meeting of the Education Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION WITH COLUMBA 1400 LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

14. There was submitted a report dated 23 April 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on an initiative by the Scottish Executive to enable young people from East Ayrshire to participate in the Columba 1400 Leadership Programme on the Isle of Skye.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to authorise participation in this initiative; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

VISION STATEMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

15. There was submitted a report dated 13 May 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on a proposed vision statement for the Department of Educational and Social Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the adoption of the proposal contained in paragraph 4.1 of the report;
- (ii) to note that the matter would also be considered at the next meeting of the Education Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

TRANSPORT PROVISION FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS

16. There was submitted a report dated 13 May 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on proposals to conduct a review of arrangements for the provision of transport to community and voluntary groups.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposal to review transport arrangements; and

- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

CONSULTATION SEMINAR ON REDUCING OFFENDING

- 17.** There was submitted a report dated 6 May 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on the Scottish Executive consultation on reducing offending which included the issue of whether or not a Single Agency for Offending should be established in Scotland.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support the view of those attending the consultation day on 4 May 2004 not to endorse the creation of a Single Agency;
- (ii) to endorse the view that the Criminal Justice Partnership in Ayrshire be further strengthened by increasing the number of agencies involved in the Partnership;
- (iii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services submit the view of the Partnership Group on reducing offending as representing the view of East Ayrshire Council; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1053 hours.