

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19 MAY 2005 AT 1000 HOURS IN
THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

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

ATTENDING: John Mulgrew, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; Jackie Donnelly, Executive Head of Social Work; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Martin Rose, Head of Personnel; Graham Short, Head of Service, Quality Improvement; Bill Eadie, Senior Manager (Operations); Eddie Fraser, Community Care Manager; and Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Gordon Cree, Iain Linton, Jim Raymond, and Elaine Stewart.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Jackson, Chair.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT - QUARTER 4 2004 AND QUARTER 1 2005

1. There was submitted a report dated 10 May 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of staff absence rates for Social Services, including Resource Support (Social Work) for the quarterly periods 1 October 2004 ending 31 December 2004, and 1 January 2005 ending 31 March 2005, and which sought endorsement of an outline action plan within Social Work to address absence.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the outline action plan to address absence within Social Work as outlined in Appendix 3 to the report;
- (ii) that Members would wish to see comparative data from other Local Authority areas included in future reports; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT (EFQM)
ASSESSMENT**

2. There was submitted a report dated 26 April 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the results of a self evaluation exercise using the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) Model, and which sought endorsement of an Improvement Action Plan arising from the evaluation.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the Improvement Action Plan which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME

3. There was submitted a joint report dated 14 April 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Directors of Neighbourhood Services and of Educational and Social Services which advised of continuing funding arrangements in respect of The Supporting People Programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the continuation of all 2004/2005 contractual values into 2005/2006 with the specific additional commitment to East Ayrshire Women's Aid; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

4. There was submitted a report dated 3 May 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought Committee endorsement for an eligibility criteria framework for the provision of community care services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the eligibility criteria framework as outlined in Section 3 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

CARE SERVICE PERFORMANCE 2004/05

5. There was submitted a report dated 10 May 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which informed of the Council's latest analysis of Social Work performance for period 2004-2005 in relation to a range of direct care services and (ii) which sought Committee approval to commission a qualitative survey to seek views on Social Work performance from service users, carers, staff and other stakeholders.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to commission a qualitative survey of care service as outlined in Section 4 of the report;
- (ii) to note that the Council had performed well in respect of the majority of the reported performance indicators;
- (iii) to note that with regard to Best Value, officers would pursue continuous improvement in all aspects of Social Work performance; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

FUNDING TO IMPROVE FOSTERING SERVICES

6. There was submitted a report dated 5 May 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the allocation of money from the Scottish Executive for the purposes of improving fostering services in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to the proposal for the use of the money for the improvement of fostering services as outlined in Section 3 of the report; and

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

TRANSITION INTO SUPPORTIVE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

7. There was submitted a report dated 27 April 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of a joint initiative with the DARE Foundation to assist young people with a disability to make the transition to the world of work.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the report was being considered also by the Education Committee; and
(ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

8. There was submitted a report dated 10 May 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the publication of the Annual Standards and Quality report for the Department of Educational and Social Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the report would be considered also by the Education Committee; and
(ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 26 April 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted as follows:

Contract	Successful Contractor	Amount
Supply and Delivery of a Meals at Home Service	Apetito Ltd, Wiltshire	Schedule of Rates
Taxi Hire Service (Lots 1 & 2)	B & G Contracts Ltd, Kilmarnock	Schedule of Rates
Supply of Wheelchair Accessible Single Entry Bus (Phases 9) (2 Vehicles)	The Verve Ltd, Glasgow	£58,530.00 each – Total £117,060.00

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

10. The Committee resolved that under 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.

SERVICES TO VULNERABLE ADULTS (PARAS 1 & 11)

11. There was submitted a report dated 3 May 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought development of the Social Work establishment to meet requirements of new legislation and Scottish Executive policy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to the proposals as detailed in Section 3 of the report;
- (ii) to refer the personnel implication to the Corporate Governance Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Arising from discussion of this report concerns were expressed about the physical condition of some wards in Ailsa Hospital. The Committee were advised that a business case was being made to the Scottish Executive for more resources and the Committee agreed to receive a report on this matter in due course.

STRENGTHENING FRONTLINE SERVICES (PARAS 1 & 11)

12. There was submitted a report dated 4 May 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which advised of outcomes of service reviews of Social Work training and community youth support functions; (ii) which advised of recommendations for consolidation of arrangements of management support services to frontline operations; and (iii) which sought agreement to implement recommendations which arose from the above reviews/proposals.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the practice proposals as outlined in Sections 3, 4, and 5 of the report;
- (ii) to refer the staffing implications to the Corporate Governance Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

JOINT MANAGER - SUBSTANCE MISUSE (PARA 1)

13. There was submitted a report dated 20 April 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of and sought approval for proposals to create a temporary Joint Manager post (Substance Misuse). The post would develop and implement an East Ayrshire Substance Misuse Strategy in partnership with other Departments of the Council, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, Local Voluntary Organisations and Strathclyde Police.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support the creation of the post of Joint Manager (Substance Misuse);
- (ii) to refer this post to Corporate Governance Committee for approval; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1050 hours.