

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 JANUARY 2005 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

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

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; 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; and Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Eric Jackson (Chair); Isabella Macrae and John Knapp.

CHAIR: Councillor Ray Murray, Vice Chair.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT – SOCIAL WORK TO 12 DECEMBER 2004 (PERIOD 9)

1. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 13 January 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services and the Executive Head of Finance on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Social Work for the period ended 12 December 2004 (Period 9).

SOCIAL WORK CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/06

2. There was submitted a report dated 10 January 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on proposals for expenditure in the Capital Programme for 2005/06 and which sought approval to progress with the programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed Capital Programme for 2005/06;
- (ii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services continue to monitor closely the Capital Programme throughout the year, reporting periodically to the Social Work Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT GILLIESKNOWE, DALMELLINGTON

3. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval to declare surplus to requirements ground and buildings at Gilliesknowe, Dalmellington, as identified in the plan attached to the report, and which sought authorisation for the Executive Director of Development and Property Services to lease or dispose of the subjects on

a negotiated basis to local community groups, failing which to dispose of the subjects on the open market in accordance with Council procedures.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to declare the buildings and land detailed in the plan attached to the report surplus to operational requirements;
- (ii) to authorise the Executive Director of Development and Property Services to commence negotiations with local community groups with a view to disposing of or leasing to them the subjects on a negotiated basis, and that the Executive Director of Development and Property Services submit a report on the outcome of these negotiations for consideration by the Social Work Committee prior to their consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee if appropriate; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT – QUARTER 3 - 2004

- 4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 7 January 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of staff absence rates for Social Services, including Resource Support, for the quarterly period which ended 30 September 2004.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2005/2006

- 5. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which updated the Committee on progress made in achieving the 2004/05 Health and Safety Action Plan and which sought approval for the 2005/06 Action Plan for Social Work Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made in achieving the 2004/05 Action Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) to approve the recommended Service Health and Safety Action Plan 2005/06 as appended to the report;
- (iii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services provide further reports on the Department's response to the 2005/06 Action Plan; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

REFURBISHMENT OF ROSS COURT, GALSTON

- 6. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which updated the Committee on the progress of the Best Value Service Review of Older Peoples' Residential Homes operated by the Council in particular, Ross Court, Galston.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the reported delay in the building work and refurbishment of Ross Court, Galston due to the company contracted to undertake the work having gone into receivership and to note the subsequent appointment of a second (replacement) contractor;

- (ii) to note the financial and personnel implications following the above developments, as detailed in the report; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

OLDER PEOPLES CONFERENCE 2004

7. There was submitted a report dated 6 January 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the outcome of the 2004 East Ayrshire Older People's Conference.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to continue to work in partnership with the East Ayrshire Older People's Forum and other organisations representing older people to organise a similar event in 2005; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

DIRECT PAYMENTS

8. There was submitted a report dated 5 January 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which updated the Committee on the implementation of Direct Payments in East Ayrshire and which sought approval for an uplift in the hourly payment rate for Direct Payments.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the hourly rate be increased from £8.85 to £9.10 for Direct Payments with immediate effect;
- (ii) to update advice to service users as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report, that all personal carers employed through East Ayrshire Council funding would be subject to Enhanced Disclosure Checks; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

MONEY ADVICE PROVISION

9. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which advised members of new monies that had been made available to the Council by the Scottish Executive to enhance partnership working with the voluntary sector for the provision of Money Advice services and (ii) which sought approval to negotiate an extension to the existing service level agreement for the provision of additional anti-poverty services with the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to the implementation of the proposal to negotiate an extension to the existing service level agreement for the provision of additional anti-poverty Services;
- (ii) to enter into negotiations solely with the East Ayrshire Citizens' Advice Bureau in respect of the extension of money advice provision;
- (iii) to refer the proposal to create an additional administrative post to the Corporate Governance Committee;

- (iv) to receive regular reports updating the Committee on progress with this new arrangement with the Citizens' Advice Bureau;
- (v) that the Executive Head of Social Work consider how to best publicise this enhanced partnership working; and
- (vi) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME

- 10.** There was submitted a joint report dated 6 January 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Directors of Neighbourhood Services and of Educational and Social Services which advised of future funding arrangements in respect of the Supporting People Programme and which sought approval for changes in the roles and remits of the Commissioning and Purchasing and Core Co-ordination Groups.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the Supporting People Grant awards for 2005/06 to 2007/08;
- (ii) to approve, in respect of this Committee's interest, the revised role and remit of both the Core Co-ordination Group and Commissioning and Purchasing Groups;
- (iii) that the Executive Directors of Neighbourhood Services and of Educational and Social Services would ensure that future reports on the Supporting People Programme would include information on the practical service outcomes delivered by the Programme; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McIntyre left the meeting during discussion of this item.

DRAFT GUIDANCE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTABILITY IN RELATION TO THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ACT 2004

- 11.** There was submitted a report dated 23 December 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the draft response submitted to the Scottish Executive in terms of draft guidance issued in relation to Local Authority accountability as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2004.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the response sent by the Authority to the Scottish Executive in terms of the draft guidance, and as detailed in paragraph 2.5, and also Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) to receive a further report from the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services when the final guidance was issued;
- (iii) that the Executive Head of Social Work would take note of the points raised by Councillor O'Neill on the draft guidance, and take account of these in any response by the Authority following future guidance issued by the Scottish Executive; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor McIntyre re-joined and Councillor Kelly left the meeting during discussion of this item.

SCOTLAND'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLAN

12. There was submitted a report dated 5 January 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised on the report of the Scottish Executive "Scotland's Criminal Justice Plan" and of the continued progress of the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Partnership in addressing the issues which arose from the consultation on offending, and the proposal for a single agency.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the proposals in the Scottish Executive report for the future management arrangements of Criminal Justice Services which had been made available to Members;
- (ii) to note that the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Partnership had conducted a review of its structure and that a revised partnership agreement would be submitted to Committee in March for approval; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

13. There was submitted a report dated 23 December 2004 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the continuing success of East Ayrshire Council employees in gaining the Diploma in Social Work.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to acknowledge the success of the candidates who had gained a Diploma in Social Work; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Kelly re-joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS UPDATE

14. There was submitted a report dated 12 January 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of changes in the arrangements for children with additional support needs and which sought approval for a reconfiguration of services to meet these changes.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals outlined in the report for the implementation of the additional support needs legislation;
- (ii) to note that the report had been agreed already by the Education Committee in respect of that Committee's interest;
- (iii) to note that the proposed staff appointments, other than teachers, would be remitted to the Corporate Governance Committee;
- (iv) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services provide future reports on aspects of the implementation of the additional support needs legislation as they arose; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1045 hours.