

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2006 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, Isabella Macrae, Harry Wilson, Iain Linton, John Knapp, Stuart Finlayson, Robert McDill, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, William Menzies, and Neil McGhee.

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; Eddie Fraser, Senior Community Care Manager; Sally Ann Kelly, Senior Manager, Children and Families and Criminal Justice; Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager and Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Eric Jackson (Chair), Jim Raymond and Elaine Stewart.

CHAIR: Councillor Ray Murray, Vice Chair.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - SOCIAL WORK TO 11 DECEMBER 2005 (PERIOD 9)

1. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 11 January 2006 (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 11 December 2005 (Period 9).

THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME

2. There was submitted a joint report dated 20 December 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the operation of this national initiative by East Ayrshire Council.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the service review guidance and funding arrangements as outlined in the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

QUALITY FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD PROTECTION

3. There was submitted a report dated 9 January 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the development of a national document which described a process of self evaluation in the area of child protection.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve a self evaluation exercise which was based on the national indicators;
- (ii) to note the development of national inspections in this area of provision;
- (iii) to note that this report would also be considered by the Education Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

4. There was submitted a report dated 19 January 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the publication of a Standards and Quality Report which covered the provision of Social Work Services for 2005.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the publication of the Standards and Quality Report for 2005;
- (ii) to note that a report which dealt with the specific elements of standards and quality reporting which related to Educational Services would be considered by the Education Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

CHILD PROTECTION REFORM PROGRAMME UPDATE

5. There was submitted a report dated 9 January 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which updated the Committee on progress in the Child Protection Reform Programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made with regard to the Child Protection Reform Programme;
- (ii) to note that this report would be considered also by the Education Committee;
- (iii) to invite the Chief Social Work Officer to provide a further update on the Child Protection Reform Programme at the meeting of the Committee in September 2006; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

PROPOSED SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY INSPECTIONS OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

6. There was submitted a report dated 9 January 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed the Social Work Committee of the proposals for the inspection of Learning Disability Services and Criminal Justice Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the proposals for inspection of Learning Disability and Criminal Justice Services in 2006;

- (ii) to request the Chief Social Work Officer to update the Committee in March 2006 with detailed information regarding the progress of planning for these inspections; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

INDEPENDENT SECTOR CARE AT HOME CONTRACTS

7. There was submitted a report dated 9 January 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised Members of the current position in relation to contracts with external providers for Care at Home Services and which sought approval for an extension of existing arrangements within the context of the Council's Standing Orders.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposal to conduct a review of homecare purchasing arrangements;
- (ii) to approve the proposal to extend existing purchasing arrangements for a further year, subject to budgetary considerations; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: 2004 - 2005 AUDIT SCOTLAND PROFILE

8. There was submitted a report dated 9 January 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised Members of the Council's performance in comparison with other Councils as detailed in the Audit Scotland Profiles for Adult Social Work and Children's Services (Social Work) published (web publication) 8 December 2005.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse action proposed to further improve performance; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Following a point, raised, the Chief Executive advised that future performance reports to all Committees of the Council would, where appropriate, be measured against the same "family" of Local Authorities namely North Ayrshire, Inverclyde and Clackmannanshire Councils.

CONSULTATION PAPER - REGULATION OF ADULT PLACEMENT SERVICES BY THE CARE COMMISSION

9. There was submitted a report dated 19 January 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought endorsement of an East Ayrshire response to a Scottish Executive Consultation on the Regulation of Adult Placement Services by the Care Commission.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the consultation response to the Regulation of Adult Placement Services by the Care Commission as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report

**SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT SEXUAL OFFENCES
ACT 2003 (NOTICE OF RELEASE OR TRANSFER) (SCOTLAND)
REGULATION 2006**

10. There was submitted a report dated 9 January 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which referred to the Scottish Executive issue of a consultation document with regard to the above Act which addressed the responsibility of Prison Governors and Chief Executives of Health Services in respect of the release or transfer of sex offenders who were in prison or in hospital.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to invite the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to submit the proposed formal response to this consultation on behalf of East Ayrshire Council;
- (ii) that reference should be made in the response to the discussion of these matters at East Ayrshire Council Social Work Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

OUTCOMES FOR SEX OFFENDERS' AUDIT - EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

11. There was submitted a report dated 19 January 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised the Committee of the analysis of information from the audit of sex offenders which was conducted by East Ayrshire Council staff in conjunction with Strathclyde Police Offender Assessment Unit in August 2005.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to invite the Chief Social Work Officer to return to the Social Work Committee with the outcome of the audit conducted by the Scottish Prison Service and Strathclyde Police; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY REPORT: INSPECTION INTO THE
CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN EILEAN SIAR**

12. There was submitted a report dated 10 January 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which provided further information in relation to the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) report on the care and protection of children in Eilean Siar, (ii) which detailed the position in East Ayrshire in relation to that report's recommendations and (iii) which highlighted the main areas of work which needed to be completed in 2006 to satisfy all the recommendations.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note and agree the response to the recommendations from the Eilean Siar report;
- (ii) to note that this report would be considered also by the Education Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

AWARDING OF CONTRACT

13. There was submitted a report dated 16 January 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided, for information, details of a tender which had been accepted as follows:-

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Successful Contractor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
IT Based Educational Support for Looked after Children Service	Learning Curve Software Limited, Edinburgh	£142,000

The meeting terminated at 1035 hours.