

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2007 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Ray Murray, Jim O'Neill, Stephanie Young, Helen Coffey, Gordon Cree, Harry Wilson, Iain Linton, John Knapp, Stuart Finlayson, Robert McDill, William Menzies, Neil McGhee, William Crawford and Elaine Stewart.

ATTENDING: Graham Short, 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 Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Eric Jackson, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, Isabella Macrae, Jim Raymond, Jimmy Kelly and Tommy Farrell.

CHAIR: Councillor Ray Murray, Vice-Chair.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - SOCIAL WORK TO 10 DECEMBER 2006 (PERIOD 9)

1. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 21 December 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services and the Executive Head of Finance which advised of the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Social Work for the period ended 10 December 2006 (Period 9).

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

2. There was submitted a report dated 6 January 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which provided a progress report on the implementation of the Best Value Review of Services to Looked After and Accommodated Children; (ii) which advised of patterns and trends emerging in Children and Families Social Work Services since endorsement of the above report; and (iii) which sought agreement to enhance support to Children and Families Social Work Services to meet the increased demands detailed in this report.

Having noted that the last line in Paragraph 3.2.3 of the report should read "1817 in 2005/06", it was agreed:-

- (i) to note the issues highlighted within the report in relation to the Children and Families Social Work Services and the consequent impact on resources;
- (ii) to note that the outcome of the review of the Link Carers Scheme would be reported to the Committee in March 2007;
- (iii) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services would present an updated report on Children and Families staffing to the Committee in March 2007; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SERVICE REVIEW – SENSORY IMPAIRMENT SERVICES

3. There was submitted a report dated 11 January 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which advised of the outcome of a service review of Sensory Impairment Services and (ii) which sought endorsement of the Service Improvement Plan which arose from the review findings.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations outlined in the Service Improvement Plan;
- (ii) to refer the Personnel Implications in Section 5 of the report to the Corporate Governance Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

MULTI AGENCY PUBLIC PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS

4. There was submitted a report dated 3 January 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which advised of the introduction on 2 April 2007 of the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in Scotland and which highlighted the progress made towards implementation in East Ayrshire and (ii) which advised Committee regarding the installation of the Violent Offender and Sex Offender Register (VISOR) in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the developments in relation to the implementation of MAPPA and the introduction of the VISOR system; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SOCIAL WORK COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

5. There was submitted a report dated January 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which advised of the development of a communications strategy for the Social Work Service and (ii) which sought agreement for implementation of the Strategy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the draft strategy; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

DISABILITY EQUALITY ACTION PLAN

6. There was submitted a report dated 12 December 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval for the Social Work Disability Equality Action Plan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Disability Equality Action Plan 2007-2010;
- (ii) to note that a similar report was being presented to the Education Committee with regards to Educational Services;

- (iii) to note that the Social Work Services Action Plan and Educational Services Action Plan together would form the Disability Action Plan for the Department of Educational and Social Services; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

TELECARE SUBMISSION

7. There was submitted a report dated 16 January 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of a submission for funding for Telecare Services for older people in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to remit to the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to investigate the possibility of developing a protocol with phone service providers to ensure that no vulnerable person was left without a phone line; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EAST AYRSHIRE JOINT FUTURE PARTNERSHIP - JOINT MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

8. There was submitted a report dated 16 January 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which advised on progress in Partnership Working in East Ayrshire within the Joint Future Agenda; and (ii) which sought endorsement for the next steps in developing partnership arrangements.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the positive achievements of the partnership in relationship to Partnership Working;
- (ii) that suitable models of Joint Management be explored with proposals presented to a future meeting; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

9. It was agreed 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 Paragraph 5 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

CHILD PROTECTION SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REVIEW

10. There was submitted a report dated 22 January 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which advised of a significant child protection incident within East Ayrshire Council and the subsequent review of the case which took place and (ii) which highlighted the main findings from the review of the case and the action required to further strengthen child protection practice in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the recommendations of the significant incident reviews outlined in Section 3 of the report;
- (ii) to note the financial implications at Section 7 of the report;
- (iii) to note that this report would be referred to both the Education and Housing Committees in respect of their interest; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

DEATH OF A LOOKED AFTER CHILD

- 11.** There was submitted a report dated 3 January 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the death of a Looked After Child

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services provide an update to a future meeting following consideration of the report by the Social Work Inspection Agency; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1053 hours.