

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2006 AT
1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Jackson, Stephanie Young, Helen Coffey, Gordon Cree, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, Harry Wilson, Iain Linton, Ray Murray, Stuart Finlayson, Robert McDill, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, William Menzies, 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 Jennifer Morrison, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Jim O'Neill, Isabella Macrae, John Knapp, James Raymond and Neil McGhee.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Jackson, Chair.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT -
SOCIAL WORK TO 23 JULY 2006 (PERIOD 4)**

1. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 21 August 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 the projected out-turn for the year for Social Work for the period ending 23 July 2006 (Period 4).

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT - QUARTER 2, 2006

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 6 May 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised the Committee of staff absence rates for Social Work Services, including Resource Support (Social Work) for the quarterly period 1 April 2006 ending 30 June 2006.

GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD

3. There was submitted a report dated 16 August 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which advised the Committee of the "Getting it Right for Every Child" (GIRFEC) Policy Developments; and (ii) which advised the Committee of certain specific proposals which would result in a significant change for Children's Services across Scotland.

It was agreed:

- (i) to invite the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to provide regular updates to Committee on the progress nationally of the GIRFEC proposals whilst noting the Executive Head of Social Work's update report that an Integrated Children's Services and Children's Hearing Bill to implement the

GIRFEC proposals was now expected to be introduced to the Scottish Parliament later this year and not in the Autumn as detailed in the report;

- (ii) to note that these updates would include relevant information in relation to any issues from the Child Protection Agenda, the Integrated Children's Services Agenda and the development of a National Integrated Assessment Framework;
- (iii) to request that the Executive Director prepare a strategic response from East Ayrshire Council to the GIRFEC implementation plan;
- (iv) to note that this report would also be presented to the Education Committee on 12 September 2006; and
- (v) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

JOINT PERFORMANCE INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK 2005/06

4. There was submitted a report dated August 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed Members of the Annual East Ayrshire Joint Future Partnership submission to the Scottish Executive in relation to the Joint Performance Information and Assessment Framework 2005/06.

It was agreed:

- (i) to invite the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to congratulate staff on the excellent work in delivering positive outcomes as outlined in the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

FREE PERSONAL CARE - PREPARATION OF FOOD

5. There was submitted a report dated 4 August 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which advised of revised guidance from the Scottish Executive on Free Personal Care (FPC) Policy in relation to the preparation of food; and (ii) which detailed the current position in relation to Free Personal Care in East Ayrshire and the implications of new guidance.

Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Murray, moved:

- (i) to approve the proposal for a revision to the current charging policy and determine not to backdate reimbursements as detailed in Section 4.5 of the report;
- (ii) to ensure that the Policy and Resources Committee was aware of the financial implications of the change to ensure that the budget process was appropriately informed; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Weir, seconded by Councillor Wilson, moved as an amendment that the Committee:

- (i) agree to refund all monies charged to the elderly for food preparation under the Free Personal Care Elderly Scheme since its inception;

- (ii) to stop charging for food preparation in accordance with the Scottish Executive's latest guidance with immediate effect;
- (iii) to ensure that the Policy and Resources Committee was aware of the financial implications to ensure that the budget process was appropriately informed; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

On a division by a show of hands the motion defeated the amendment by 10 votes to 6.

SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY INSPECTION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

6. There was submitted a report dated 2 August 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the work being undertaken by Criminal Justice Social Work Services within East Ayrshire in relation to the Continuous Improvement Agenda and in preparation for the inspection of Criminal Justice Social Work Services in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:

- (i) to request that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services produce a report to Committee on the outcome of Inspection of Criminal Justice Social Work Services; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

MANAGEMENT OF OFFENDERS ETC (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005

7. There was submitted a report dated 2 August 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which updated the Committee of progress in the implementation of the Management of Offenders Etc (Scotland) Act 2005.

It was agreed:

- (i) to invite the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to produce a report to a future Committee on developments arising from the Management of Offenders Act and, in particular, any resource implications;
- (ii) to invite the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services to produce a report to a future Committee on the details of the Southwest Scotland Community Justice Authority Area Plan; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

REDUCING RE-OFFENDING - NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF OFFENDERS

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 2 August 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised the Committee of the progress of the development of a National Strategy for the Management of Offenders and the implications for East Ayrshire Council.

DELAYED HOSPITAL DISCHARGES

9. There was submitted a report dated 3 August 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services (i) which informed of performance in East Ayrshire in meeting the national targets in respect of delayed hospital discharges; and (ii) which advised of the Scottish Executive's revised targets for people awaiting discharge from hospital and of changes in arrangements for the collection and presentation of data as of 1 May 2006.

It was agreed:

- (i) to acknowledge the positive performance of the East Ayrshire Partnership in continuing to achieve national targets; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

JOINT EQUIPMENT RESOURCE

10. There was submitted and noted a report dated 7 September 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which provided information regarding the development of a Joint Equipment Store for aids to daily living in East Ayrshire.

The meeting terminated at 1040 hrs.