

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 23 MAY 2006

REGISTRATION OF EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE WORKERS AND ADULT RESIDENTIAL CARE CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED REGISTRATION FEE LEVELS AND POST REGISTRATION TRAINING AND LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members of the Education Committee for the response to the Scottish Social Services Council Consultative document. This deals with the proposed registration fee levels and post registration training and learning requirements for Early Education and Childcare Workers.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Scottish Social Service Council (SSSC) was established through the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001. It is responsible for the registration and regulation of key groups in the social service workforce.
- 2.2** The Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 requires the SSSC to be assured of the “good character, conduct and competence of all applicants for registration”. With this in mind it was determined by Scottish Ministers that the SSSC should establish and maintain a qualifications-based register. In practical terms this means that there are certain qualification requirements placed on the workforce as part of their eligibility criteria for registration. The setting of qualifications is seen as an important means of ensuring that workers who care for children and vulnerable adults have the appropriate skills and knowledge to carry out their complex responsibilities.
- 2.3** It is also recognised that staff require to ensure that their competence is maintained and for that reason the SSSC sets post registration training and learning requirements (PRTL) for all registered workers.
- 2.4** The purpose of the consultation is to seek views on the proposed annual registration fees together with the post registration training and learning requirements for early education and childcare workers and adult residential care workers.
- 2.5** A response set out in this report relates solely to early education and childcare workers. A copy of the consultative document is available at the Member’s Information Point.

3. THE RESPONSE

- 3.1** In general terms there is support for the fee levels of both groups of staff, recognising that the fee level has been set taking account of the working patterns and salary levels of these workers.
- 3.2** The consultation document suggests that ten days or sixty hours of training within each five year registration period should be undertaken. The PRTL may be spread across the five years in whatever combination is most suitable.
- 3.3** Staff delivering preschool education and care in a local authority, voluntary or private sector partner provider are currently expected to undertake five days PRTL in any one academic year. In the view of officers, to fall below this current standard, could potentially diminish the quality of services provided. It is, however, recognised that staff delivering out-of-school care services are not necessarily in a position to be able to take part in five days PRTL in any one year.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** There are no financial implications associated with this report as the registration fee is paid by the individual.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Nil

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** One of the objectives of the Improving Opportunities Theme of the Community Plan is to increase the level of childcare available in East Ayrshire. The registration of the early education and childcare workforce aims to ensure that the quality of provision is of the highest standard. The proposed level of registration fee is not viewed to be in itself a barrier to recruitment and therefore the ability to further develop childcare.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** Members of Education Committee are asked to:
- (i) approve the response to the consultation document; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

29 March 2006
KG/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Registration of Early Education and Childcare Workers and Adult Residential Care Workers

Consultation on proposed Registration Fee Levels and Post Registration Training and Learning Requirements

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR