

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 8 NOVEMBER 2005**

### **INFORMATION SHARING PROTOCOL**

#### **Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek the approval of Education Committee for a Joint Information Sharing Protocol between NHS Ayrshire and Arran, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Councils.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The publication of the report, 'For Scotland's Children – Better Integrated Children's Services' and other significant national enquiry reports has highlighted the need for development of this Information Sharing Protocol to support effective integrated working across a range of children's services.
- 2.3 The Protocol has also been approved by East Ayrshire Multi-Agency Child Protection Committee which has representation from a range of partner agencies including Local Authority, Health, Police and Scottish Children's Reporters Administration.
- 2.4 The key agencies involved in this Information Sharing Protocol are the Local Authority and Health Services.

#### **3. CONTENT OF THE INFORMATION SHARING PROTOCOL**

- 3.1 The protocol is to ensure the exchange of information that is necessary to enable multi-agency and multi-disciplinary work. It also highlights that this exchange of information must be controlled, transparent and compliant with the relevant legal and ethical requirements. Workers must be aware that only relevant personal information should be shared on a 'need to know' basis.
- 3.2 The protocol clearly states that if a child has or is likely to suffer significant harm then information should be shared with the relevant statutory agencies. In such circumstances consent to share information is not necessary but where safe to do so should be sought.

#### **4. PERSONNEL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Nil.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Nil.

## **6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The introduction of the protocol supports the community planning process in respect of multi-agency working.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 Members of the Education Committee are invited to:

- (i) endorse the introduction of the protocol in children's services
- (ii) note that this report was considered at the Social Work Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2005, and
- (iii) otherwise note the content of this report

**John Mulgrew**  
**Executive Director of Educational & Social Services**  
**6 October 2005**  
**Enc (1)**

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. For Scotland's Children – Better Integrated Children's Services – Scottish Executive 2001.

For further information on this report please contact: Sally Ann Kelly,  
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**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: JACKIE DONNELLY**