

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MEMBER'S SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE: 21 MARCH 2007

ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL WORK (ADSW) ANNUAL CONFERENCE: 16 - 18 MAY 2007

“Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie...”

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To propose to Committee that East Ayrshire Council is represented at the ADSW Annual Conference, to be held at the Crieff Hydro Hotel, Perthshire from 16-18 May 2007.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Annual Conference is being organised by the Association of Directors of Social Work.
- 2.2 The programme for this year's conference will focus on exploring the contribution social work services can make to help communities of interest, faith and geography maximise their impact on local need.
- 2.3 The proposed programme includes keynote addresses by speakers from a range of disciplines and backgrounds including:
- Bernadette Docherty (Vice President and President Designate of ADSW);
 - Professor Kathleen Marshall (Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland);
 - David Mannion (Chief Executive, Age Concern);
 - Jack Law (Chief Executive, Alcohol Focus);
 - Alexis Jay (Chief Social Work Inspector);
 - Bob Holman (Community Activist);
 - Susan Deacon (MSP);
 - Professor Bryan Williams (Scottish Institute for Excellence in Social Work Education);
 - Annie Gunner (Community Care Providers Scotland);
 - Reverend Eugene Rivers (black American community and political activist); and
 - Michael Portillo (former Secretary of State for Defence).

- 2.4 There will be the opportunity to participate in workshops including:

- Supporting people with addiction problems;
- Safeguarding children;
- Maximising the contribution of communities and the independent sector;
- Independence and quality of life for older people.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost for a full residential conference delegate is £560 exclusive of VAT.

4. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Conference provides an important opportunity to both be briefed on and influence emerging social work issues.

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The provision of effective social work services directly supports the Improving Health, Improving Opportunities and Eliminating Poverty themes of the Community Plan.

5.2 The annual ADSW is a key national event and attendance is important for those involved in both debating and determining the national Social Work policy agenda.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) The Committee authorise member representation at this conference,
- (ii) Otherwise note the content of this report.

GRAHAM SHORT
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES
AMacD/DN
23 February 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Conference leaflet and draft programme.

A copy of the background paper can be obtained from Jackie Donnelly, Executive Head of Social Work, telephone 01563 576917