

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE : 13 JANUARY 2005

## EAST AYRSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSON'S SERVICE PLAN 2005-2008

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

#### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the Northern Area Local Committee about the development of the East Ayrshire Children and Young Person's Service Plan 2005-2008 and to seek comments from Northern Area Local Committee regarding the proposed priorities.

#### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Section 19 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 requires each local authority to prepare and publish a plan for the provision of relevant services in respect of children in their area, in partnership with key service providers.
- 2.2 In addition, the plan requires to evidence consultation with and involvement of children and young people and their parents/carers.
- 2.3 The new East Ayrshire Children and Young Person's Service Plan is due to be published in April 2005. This is the third full Children and Young Person's Service Plan published within East Ayrshire, with a one-year plan developed for 2004-05 in order to realign with new Scottish Executive guidance.

#### **3 THE NATIONAL CONTEXT**

- 3.1. The Scottish Executive published final guidance to local authorities on the development of the Children and Young Person's Service Plan for 2005-2008 in November 2004. The guidance sets out the overall aim of children's services planning taken from the "Partnership for a Better Scotland: A Partnership Agreement":

*"Our aim is for world-class services for our children. That means a commitment not just to invest but also to reform – to cut through bureaucracy, simplify funding and ensure services are focused on the needs of children and young people"*

- 3.2. The Scottish Executive outlined a vision for the plan and recommended that this be adopted by all local authorities. This vision is based on the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The guidance sets out seven key outcomes for children and young people, namely:
- Safe
  - Nurtured
  - Healthy
  - Achieving

- Active
  - Respected & Responsible
  - Included
- 3.3. The guidance also sets out that Children and Young Person's Service Plans will bring together other key planning documents in relation to children's services.
- 3.4. The guidance states that Integrated Children's Services Plans should be active drivers for improvement in the delivery of services and outcomes for children and young people in each area. They should describe local objectives and strategies, across agency boundaries, for improving services and outcomes for children and young people, focusing activity on the delivery of effective child-centred services. They should:
- assess local needs
  - identify priorities and objectives
  - agree implementation strategies and resources to deliver these
  - engage staff, service users and the public in these decisions
  - ensure arrangements for monitoring progress
- 3.5. Planning Partners should also continue to ensure that the needs and aspirations of those children who are disadvantaged; socially excluded or vulnerable continue to be clearly addressed within the plan; including outlining arrangements for early intervention and support within universal services and targeted additional support where required.
- 3.6. Scottish Executive Departments will therefore, in future, use the Integrated Plans as the core documents for considering local activity and performance in delivering services, existing national priority frameworks and other commitments for children and young people, before any additional information and returns are requested.
- 3.7. The guidance places Children's Services Plans within the context of Community Planning and there must therefore be evidence linking Community Planning priorities and other relevant planning processes and strategy documents relevant to children and young people.

#### **4. THE EAST AYRSHIRE PLAN**

- 4.1. The key partners to the East Ayrshire Children and Young Person's Service Plan are:
- East Ayrshire Council
  - NHS Ayrshire and Arran
  - Strathclyde Police
  - East Ayrshire Childcare Partnership
  - Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
  - Council for Voluntary Organisations (East Ayrshire)

- 4.2. To ensure that the Children and Young Person's Service Plan in East Ayrshire is aligned with East Ayrshire Community Planning arrangements it is proposed that the Plan adopt the vision and principles of the Community Plan.
- 4.3. Action plans outlined in the East Ayrshire Children and Young Person's Service Plan are grouped into priority themes based on those of the Community Plan, namely:
- Improving Community Safety
  - Improving Health
  - Improving Opportunities
  - Promoting Community Learning
- 4.4. It is proposed that the themes of Eliminating Poverty and Improving the Environment integrated into all actions.
- 4.5. The undernoted sets out proposed broad priorities for the Plan.

#### **Improving Community Safety**

- Promotion of improved road safety and reduction in household accidents
- Further development of a corporate approach to child protection
- Development of programmes to improve self-discipline, awareness and self-reliance among young people
- Development of effective joint youth justice and anti-social behaviour strategies prioritising early intervention to prevent young people becoming involved in the youth justice system and increasing public confidence in the system of youth justice in East Ayrshire

#### **Improving Health**

- Working to reduce risk factors of ill health among young people, including addressing lifestyles issue such as poor diet, smoking, drug misuse and exercise
- Addressing issues of health inequalities among young people
- Ensuring that young people are able to access appropriate health and well being services
- Enabling young people to have their voice heard in the development of services
- Addressing the health needs of children with disabilities and those with other additional support needs including addressing key issues such as suicide and self harm, mental ill health among young people and the needs of young carers.

### **Promoting Community Learning**

- Improving school based educational standards, both overall and for target groups currently achieving below potential, such as looked after, vulnerable and at risk children, addressing gender issues and challenging the more able children
- Addressing the needs of children with additional support needs.
- Increasing the participation of children and young people in community based learning, active citizenship and social skills
- Further development of early years services and out of school services

### **Improving Opportunities**

- Provision of out of school care services and wraparound services to support parents to return to education, training or employment
- Promotion of employment and training opportunities for parents and young people
- Further development of Enterprise activities in schools
- Further develop school/college links

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. All developments within the Plan will be fully costed.

## **6. LEGAL AND POLICY AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. The statutory requirement to publish Children's Service Plans is contained within Section 19 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.
- 6.2. Other legislative and national policy that determines or influences the development and content of the plan is also outlined within the plan.
- 6.3. The proposals sit within the strategic context of East Ayrshire's Community Plan.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1. It is recommended that members of the Northern Area Local Committee:
- (i) comment on the outline priorities to be contained within the East Ayrshire Children and Young Person's Service Plan 2005-2008; and
  - (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)**

**7 December 2004**

**HC/SR**

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. East Ayrshire Children and Young Person's Service Plan 2001 – 2004/05
2. Integrated Children and Young Person's Service Planning 2005-2008 Guidance Scottish Executive 11 November 2004.
3. For Scotland's Children Better Integrated Children's Services Scottish Executive 2001

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104 or Hugh Carswell, Integration Manager, Children's Service, Tel: (01563) 578126.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR**