

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 10 JUNE 2004

EAST AYRSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE FORUM

Report by Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the first annual report produced by the East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Forum 2003/4.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Members of the Policy and Resources Committee will be aware that the East Ayrshire Domestic Forum was established in early 2002. The Forum was primarily established to take forward the national strategy to address domestic abuse.

The Forum comprises representatives from across the statutory and voluntary sector.

3 ANNUAL REPORT

- 3.1** The East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Strategy was approved at the Policy and Resources Committee on 3 October 2002. The overall objectives of the Strategy are to:

- provide a consistent, coordinated response to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse in East Ayrshire
- raise community awareness of domestic abuse
- promote good practice within and between agencies
- ensure that the needs of women, children and young people are identified and met on an ongoing basis

- 3.2** Good progress has been met in achieving the objectives set out in the Strategy. This has included:

- Funding secured from the Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund to appoint a temporary Strategy Implementation Officer with match funding from East Ayrshire Council and the Local Health Care Co-operative.
- Funding secured initially from the Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund and supported through East Ayrshire Council for the appointment of a Domestic Abuse Training Officer. This post is now subsumed in East Ayrshire Women's Aid staffing.
- The Domestic Abuse Strategy has been integrated into the East Ayrshire Community Plan, the Children's Service Plan, Community Safety Strategy and the Local Homelessness Strategy.

- A number of events have been organised and prepared through grant funding to support the raising of community awareness of domestic abuse.
- Training has been provided to a range of services delivered by East Ayrshire Council, and NHS Ayrshire and Arran.
- Funding has been secured for a new purpose built, barrier free refuge facility in Kilmarnock.
- Funding has been secured through the Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund for the provision of outreach services to women, children and young people in Cumnock and Doon Valley area.

3.3 The Forum has recently been notified that funding has been secured through the Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund to continue with its preventative work and a two year public awareness campaign which will target both the general population as well as specific groups. This is £15,300 over the next two years.

3.4 In addition, a funding application has been made to the NHS Change and Innovation Fund for a link nurse initiative which will address mental health needs of women who have experienced domestic abuse.

3.5 In order to improve inter-agency working, a good practice handbook incorporating service standards is in the final stages of being produced.

3.6 Domestic Abuse: A National Training Strategy was recently published which sets out the Scottish Executive's expectations of agencies in relation to training. The report recognises the need for generic training for staff as well as sector specific training. It is expected that each agency will produce its own training strategy as well as a multi-agency training strategy the local Domestic Abuse Forums.

A separate report will be brought to Committee which will deal specifically with the implications of the National Training Strategy.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no additional financial implications associated with this report

6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members of Policy and Resources Committee are asked to:

- (i) note the East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Forum Annual Report 2003/4
- (ii) ask the Executive Director (Educational and Social Services) to return to Committee with a report on the National Training Strategy.
- (iii) ask the Executive Director (Educational and Social Services) to bring forward a report on an annual basis for members consideration and;
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)

14 May 2004
KG/JW

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. National Strategy to address Domestic Abuse in Scotland (2000)
2. East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2002- 2005
3. Domestic Abuse National Training Strategy: 2004

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

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR