

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2006

2005-2006 ANNUAL REVIEW OF EAST AYRSHIRE'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PLAN 2005-2008

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval from Policy and Resources Committee for the 2005-2006 Annual Review of the East Ayrshire Children and Young People's Services Plan 2005-2008.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Section 19 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 requires each local authority to prepare, publish and review 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 current plan is the third full Children and Young People's Services Plan published within East Ayrshire and this is the first annual review of the current plan.

3. THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Scottish Executive published guidance to local authorities on the development of the Children and Young People's Services Plan for 2005-2008 in November 2004. The guidance set out the overall aim of children's services planning taken from "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 the bureaucracy, simplify funding and ensure services are focused on the needs of children and young people"

- 3.2 The guidance sets out seven key outcomes for children and young people, namely:

- Safe
- Nurtured
- Healthy
- Achieving
- Active
- Respected and Responsible
- Included

3.3 Scottish Executive Departments will, in future, use the Integrated Plans as the core documents for considering local activity and performance in delivering services.

3.4 The annual review would normally be considered by Committee earlier in the year. However, the Scottish Executive indicated that new guidance for local authorities in relation to the annual review process would be issued. The guidance has not yet been received by local authorities.

3.5 Given the strategic importance of the Children and Young People's Services Plan, Committee is asked to approve the review which has been carried out on the basis of the current guidance. This will enable the Council, along with partner services to continue with the preparation for the next review. It also provides Members with a current position in relation to progress.

4. THE EAST AYRSHIRE PLAN AND THE ANNUAL REVIEW

4.1 Throughout the year young people's views are sought to influence planning. Some of the methods used include:

- Annual Youth Conference
- What's Important to You Seminars
- Dialogue Youth
- Student Councils
- Local Youth Forums
- Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament
- Residential Care Forum

4.2 The other key partners to the East Ayrshire Children and Young People's Services 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)
 - Parents/Carers
- 4.3** To ensure that the Plan is aligned with East Ayrshire Community Planning arrangements, the Plan adopts the vision and principles of the Community Plan.
- 4.4** Action plans outlined in the East Ayrshire Children and Young People'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
- 4.5** The themes of Eliminating Poverty and Improving the Environment are integrated into all actions.
- 4.6** All 2005-2006 targets have been progressed with 92% fully achieved.
- 4.7** The under noted sets out key achievements under each theme in 2005-2006:

Improving Community Safety

- 40% of primary 1s are trained in kerbcraft (road safety), which will be extended;
- New Child Protection Committee has completed a Business Plan to meet child protection reform requirements ;
- Information Sharing Protocol agreed by Child Protection Committee;
- 7.9% drop in exclusion incidents and 6.3% drop in days lost ;
- 179 Night League sessions delivered that included 3660 young people;
- 276 diversionary sports activity sessions delivered;
- 31 referrals of young people to Ayrshire Council on Alcohol by police, as part of diversion programme, no re-referrals;
- 25 Community Police Officers have undertaken restorative justice training;
- 69 letters of concern were sent to parents of young people involved in anti-social behaviour-only 4 required further action;
- 30 Acceptable Behaviour Contacts were issued, none were breached;
- There has been a 50% drop in reported youth disorder as a result of Anti-Social Behaviour and diversion initiatives;

Improving Health

- 51 schools have applied to become accredited as health promoting establishments and a local accreditation scheme has been approved by the national Health Promoting Schools Unit which will allow all establishments to meet the accreditation standards by 2007;
- A Child Health Co-ordinator has been appointed to the Community Health Partnership to address organisational boundaries to effective partnership working;
- 656 attendances at leisure activity sessions organised for 6 special establishments/units;
- Saturday Kids Club/After School sessions/Library Health Development Sessions attended by 9,263 children and young people;
- From April to December 2005 10,061 children/young people attended New Sporting Futures initiatives-girls football, rugby, badminton and athletics;
- Community Regeneration Fund enabling breakfast clubs to operate full school year in 21 schools in 0-15% most deprived communities in East Ayrshire;
- Primary immunisation up to 93.7% from 90.4%;
- Tobacco Team established to promote prevention and smoking cessation amongst pregnant women;
- Training needs analysis of staff delivering alcohol/drugs prevention and a mapping of addiction services for children/young people is being co-ordinated through Alcohol and Drug Action Team which will result in a development plan for improved service delivery;

Promoting Community Learning

- All schools in all sectors have access and/or participate in out of school hours learning initiatives;
- How to Drug Proof Your Kids training delivered to parents in 4 Learning Partnerships-part of extensive family learning initiatives;
- Funding secured from Scottish Executive to improve educational outcomes in Maths and English for looked after and accommodated young people using new software packages;
- Comprehensive training and development undertaken on Education (Additional Support for Learning)(Scotland) Act;
- Detached Youth Work targeting areas of need;
- Profile for children 0-36 months developed and implemented in all community nurseries;
- All secondary establishments have vocational/college courses as part of curriculum with most using XL Programme to improve self esteem, discipline and employability;
- 55 local adults attended Gaelic Cultural Events in 'Uisge Beatha';

- Standard Circular 76 was revised to ensure as many young people as possible have their needs assessed and met in their community whenever possible. This is based on a staged intervention model;
- Numbers in Youth Strategy, central alternative education base, have reduced by 15% outreach provision in Learning Partnerships has increased by 200% thus allowing more young people to be maintained in mainstream education ;

Improving Opportunities

- 26 primary schools are involved in 'Closing the Gap' which is the provision of structured play to improve learning outcomes, including literacy and numeracy and to ensure the best possible start in primary school;
- Education and Social Services Parent Support Strategy agreed by Committee;
- 18 out of school services offer 398 before school places, 645 after school places and 752 holiday places. All providers accessed Leisure Development services training on positive play;
- Intensive support unit operational which allows 4 vulnerable young people to stay in East Ayrshire rather than access external placement;
- All pupils have experienced enterprise and entrepreneurial activities;
- Working for Families Fund used to develop 942 sitter service hours and 2448 out of school care hours being offered to 471 families;
- All families in contact with Children and Families Service are given income maximisation service;
- East Ayrshire Council funds an independent advocacy service for looked after and accommodated young people.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Financial implications relating to specific developments are subject to Service Committee approval, ` as appropriate.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The statutory requirements, to publish and review the Children's Services Plan are contained within Section 19 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The proposals sit within the strategic context of East Ayrshire's Community Plan.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that Members of the Policy and Resources Committee:

- (i) approve East Ayrshire's 2005-2006 Annual Review of the 2005-2008 Children and Young People's Services Plan; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/KG/SR
11 October 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. East Ayrshire's Children and Young People's Services Plan 2005-2008
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 Services, Tel: (01563) 578126

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COPIES OF THE FULL ANNUAL REVIEW ARE AVAILABLE IN THE MEMBERS LOUNGE