

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 27 JANUARY 2005

#### OLDER PEOPLES CONFERENCE 2004

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

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the outcome of the 2004 East Ayrshire Older Peoples Conference.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 For the past three years East Ayrshire Council has held a conference in partnership with older people under the Better Government for Older People and Joint Future Partnership arrangements. Representatives from Older People's Forums across East Ayrshire are involved in planning and attending the day.
- 2.2 The purpose of the Conference is to hear the views of older people particularly in relation to the types of social care supports they would like to see which would assist them in remaining safe and independent within their own communities.
- 2.3 The conference is also an opportunity to keep older people advised of changes and improvements across health and social care services in East Ayrshire.
- 2.4 The Conference is delivered in partnership with Health and Independent Sector providers.

#### 3. OLDER PEOPLE CONFERENCE 2004

- 3.1 This year's Conference was held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2004 at the Lochside House Hotel in New Cumnock. The two previous conferences have been held in the Park Hotel, Kilmarnock.

The focus of this years Conference was:

- Performance** – What progress have we made?
- Partnership** – How Agencies are working together to improve service delivery.
- Protection** – Older People's concerns about staying safe.

Various Agencies contributed to delivering the programme this included Social Work Services, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board, East Ayrshire Local Health Care Co-operative and Strathclyde Police.

- 3.2 A wide range of Council Departments and organisations attended and provided information over lunch. There were 20 stands representing a broad range of services. A list of participants is attached at appendix 1.
- 3.3 Older people found this aspect of the conference particularly useful as it provided them with additional information, either for themselves or for other people who they know are in need of support. In total 180 people attended the conference. The majority of attendees, 140, were older people and carers from a range of organisations. Participants included East Ayrshire's Older People's Forum and Service Users within residential, home care and day care settings, Trade Unions and the Carers Centre were also represented.
- 3.4 Councillor William Menzies as Champion for Older People within the Council opened the Conference and Councillor Eric Jackson, Chair of Social Work and Joint Future Partnership Group concluded the day with closing remarks.

#### **4. EVALUATION**

- 4.1 Feedback from the older people attending the conference indicated that they had found the day valuable. They were delighted with the facilities and organisational arrangements and found the programme to be informative. The question and answer session to conclude the day was lively and people openly expressed their views regarding current services. This included support for the integrated model of locality working between agencies currently practiced and continued to develop across East Ayrshire. There were also questions on how community social care services were to be developed in response to the proposed reduction in the number of continuing care hospital beds for older people.

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

- 5.1 The conference is resourced from recurring development funding for older people's services.

#### **6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Nil.

#### **7. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Nil.

#### **8. CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1 The evaluation of the day indicated that older people found the conference valuable and informative. Agencies on the day, particularly Health and Social Work, were able to demonstrate how they work together to improve services. The day proved to be a useful mechanism for consulting with older people and hearing their views which in turn will shape the future of services delivered to older people in East Ayrshire

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 Social Work Committee is asked to:

- (i) agree to continue to work in partnership with the East Ayrshire Older People's Forum and other organisations of older people to organise a similar event in 2005; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Director of Educational and Social Services**  
**6 January 2005**  
**Enc (1)**

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

For further information regarding this report please contact:  
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**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: JACKIE DONNELLY**

## Exhibitors

Community Safety Partnership, East Ayrshire, Development and Property Services, East Ayrshire, Energy Advice, East Ayrshire, Care and Repair Project, East Ayrshire, Leisure Development, East Ayrshire, East Ayrshire LHCC, Library Services, East Ayrshire, Library Services, East Ayrshire, Sensory Impairment, East Ayrshire Educational and Social Services, East Ayrshire Educational and Social Services, Home Care Manager, East Ayrshire Educational and Social Services, Glennie House, CC Care Ltd, Community Liaison Officer, Scottish Power, Alzheimers Scotland, Service Manager, Strathclyde Fire Brigade, Princess Royal Trust, East Ayrshire Carers Centre, East Ayrshire Advocacy Services Ltd, BT Age and Disability Action, East Ayrshire Citizens Advice Bureau, East Ayrshire Citizens Advice Bureau, The Pension Service, Strathclyde Police, Community Safety, Ayrshire and Arran NHS, Podiatry Services,	Ann Williams George Malone Sarah Farrell Charlie Murphy Louisa Carslaw Angela Sheveron Hugh McLean Anne Keohone Anne Bennett, Rita Daniels  Rosemary Robertson Kathleen Vallance, Sheila Monk and Derek Lavan Rosalind Carr Alan Robertson Christine O'Rourke Trixie Sheddon Sandra Keast Irene Clark, Karen McGlone Nigel Rudd Jackie Todd, Robert Graham Paul Yallop, Elderly Vol. Dawn Lynch Hugh Mitchell Jane Niven, Jessie Baillie
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