

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 23 MARCH 2006**

### **BEST VALUE REVIEW - RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES**

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

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

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the outcome of a Best Value Review of residential accommodation for adults with Learning Disabilities.
- 1.2 To seek Committee endorsement of the Service Improvement Plan arising from the review findings.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 There are two in-house residential units for adults with Learning Disabilities operated by East Ayrshire Council. Kerrmuir in Hurlford and Carrick View in Auchinleck, both with the capacity to provide residential accommodation to ten residents.
- 2.2 The Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 places a duty on Councils to demonstrate Best Value. A key requirement is to carry out Reviews on all their services to secure continuous improvement in service while maintaining an appropriate balance between quality and cost.
- 2.3 The Review was conducted by officers in accord with the principles set out in the Council's Guide to carrying out a Best Value Review and constitutes a part of the Department of Educational & Social Services Best Value Review Programme.
- 2.4 The process involved extensive consultation with stakeholders including service users, carers and staff and partner agencies, internal and external to the Council. A benchmarking exercise was also undertaken within East Ayrshire's "benchmarking family" of authorities.

#### **3. SUMMARY OF REVIEW PROCESS**

##### **3.1 Current Situation**

- 3.1.1 "The Same As You" review of services for people with learning disabilities published in 2000 stated "people want a full range of housing options in which they may live in groups or on their own with support".
- 3.1.2 It has previously been reported to Social Work Committee (May 2004) that our existing residential units no longer meet the needs of residents in terms of privacy, independence or access. Consequently an extensive evaluation and

consultation process has since taken place to consider options for existing and future residents.

3.1.3 The Social Work Capital Programme includes resources designated to facilitate the redesign of services currently provided in Kerrmuir and Carrick View.

### 3.2 Consultation

3.2.1 The consultation element of the review process identified the following:-

- Service users wished to stay together or in close proximity as a group, have en-suite bedrooms, remain in the same geographical areas as they currently live.
- Family carers wished the new accommodation to be as close to existing facilities as possible, their relatives to stay together as a group with people they know, the current standard of care to continue.
- Existing staff stated individual needs and choices should be a high priority and 24 hour support should continue for the existing client group.

### 3.3 Comparison

3.3.1 Benchmarking within our “family” of Councils, identified that there were a range of ways of providing services none of which could be identified as a definitive or preferred model.

## 4. **BEST VALUE REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 It is recommended within the review that Carrick View in Auchinleck move to purpose built accommodation in the same locality. There are three potentially suitable sites in Auchinleck. This would meet the aspirations of existing residents to continue living together in a building to meet their needs and provide appropriate accommodation for service users in the future.

4.2 With respect to Kerrmuir, the review recommends two, three bedded small group living facilities with an additional four single tenancies which can access communal facilities. This accommodation should be in Hurlford or Kilmarnock.

4.3 Initial discussions with housing colleagues indicate the potential to develop such a support model is likely to attract funding from Communities Scotland.

4.4 A Service Improvement Plan is attached as appendix 1 to this report for consideration by Committee.

## 5. **POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Progressing these developments will meet the requirements of the “Same As You” Review of Services for people with a Learning Disability, which indicates a need to provide a range of housing options.

5.2 The proposed developments will support the Council in meeting the requirements of Care Commission Standards for residential units and also our duties under the Disability Discrimination Act, 1995.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Capital monies of £600,000 are already identified to meet the costs of building a new unit in Auchinleck, with work taking place to finalise costs.

6.2 Current revenue cost of Carrick View and Kerrmuir combined is £846,000. The preferred options have no additional revenue cost implications.

## **7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 These developments will directly contribute towards the Improving Opportunities, Improving Health and Eliminating Poverty themes of the Community Plan.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 Social Work Committee is asked to:-

- (i) Agree the recommendations as outlined in section 4;
- (ii) Endorse the Service Improvement Action Plan at Appendix 1;
- (ii) Otherwise note the contents of this report.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Executive Director of Educational and Social Services**  
**Enc (1)**  
**6<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- (1) Same As You Scottish Executive Review of Services for People with Learning Disabilities 2000
- (2) Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- (3) The Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001
- (4) The Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003

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

## SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

### LOCAL AUTHORITY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

Issue	Improvement	Time-scales	By Whom
<p>Meeting National Standards and Disability Discrimination Act</p> <p>Meeting Care Commission standards.</p>	<p>Construct a ten-bedded group living Care Home registered with the Care Commission.</p> <p>Secure two x three bedded units and four single tenancies with access to communal areas</p>	<p>End 2007</p> <p>By 2009</p>	<p>Social work</p> <p>Partnership approach with Community Scotland, housing and social work</p>
<p>Draft Design Brief for new construction</p>	<p>Draft design brief for new build to replace Carrick View has been completed Technical services to support with costings.</p>	<p>May 2006</p>	<p>Social Work Services/Technical Services.</p>
<p>Develop supported accommodation models.</p>	<p>Arrange supported accommodation which provides appropriate balance of independent and communal living.</p>	<p>By 2009</p>	<p>Partnership approach with Community Scotland, housing and social work</p>
<p>Meeting Scottish Social Services registration requirements</p>	<p>Planned programme of training ongoing using experienced staff as workplace assessors</p> <p>60% of staff already meet or working towards qualification requirements.</p>	<p>By 2009</p>	<p>Team Manager/Unit Manager</p> <p>Unit Managers</p>
<p>Consultation with users of the service, carers and staff.</p>	<p>Ongoing regular meetings.</p>	<p>3 monthly meetings</p>	<p>Unit Manager</p>

