

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 23 MARCH 2006

SUPPORT PACKAGES REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

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 costs of support packages currently provided to enable vulnerable people with identified community care needs to live in their own homes.
- 1.2 To propose revised reporting arrangements in respect of high value packages.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive have promoted the need to support people in their own homes through a range of policy and legislative directives.
- 2.2 In East Ayrshire, Older People, Adults and Young People affected by disability, chronic illness and mental health are supported to live in their own homes, in line with their aspirations, when it is safe and practical to do so.
- 2.3 As Care in the Community becomes more successful in supporting people at home there are significant resource implications to meet identified needs of individuals. Emerging factors in resource implications include:
 - the level of supports required to meet individual need;
 - safe moving and handling and,
 - minimising risks to both service users and the community.
- 2.4 Advances in health technologies and the resultant ageing population have increased the volume and complexities of supports required to maintain people in their own homes safely.
- 2.5 The Scheme of Delegation details that the Executive Head of Social Work is empowered to authorise support packages in line with individual care plans over £35,000 per year. Within the scheme of delegation there is no upper limit on the value of such care packages or requirement to report to Committee on such matters.

3. CURRENT CARE PACKAGE COSTS

3.1 At present over £29.5 million is spent to support people with community care needs to live in their own homes. This includes older people, adults subject to the hospital retraction programmes and adults who can no longer be cared for by family carers.

3.2 With respect to adults aged 16 – 65 there are currently:-

- 24 people in receipt of support packages costing £25,000 - £50,000;
- 41 people in receipt of packages costing £50,000 - £100,000; and
- 4 people in receipt of support packages costing in excess of £100,000.

3.3 In terms of older people aged 65 and above there are currently:-

- 15 people in receipt of support packages costing £25,000 - £50,000; and
- 11 people supported in Menzies Court (very Sheltered Housing) who have a diagnosis of dementia, at a unit cost of £800 per week, equally £40,000 per year.

4. FUTURE NEEDS

4.1 A recent audit of anticipated support needs identified 95 adults who will require support to live outwith their family homes during the next 3 years, many of whom will require complex packages of support.

4.2 The Council is obliged by the NHS and Community Care Act 1990, following appropriate assessment, to meet identified community care needs of individuals. How the Council continues to meet that need requires further consideration in light of demographic changes and rising costs.

4.3 In terms of individual care packages it is proposed that a system be adopted that anonymised information on support packages above £50,000 is reported to Committee twice per year.

4.4 The strategic direction of supported living arrangements is currently being addressed and will be reported to a future Committee.

5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 East Ayrshire Council currently commits over £29.5 million to support people with community care needs in their own homes. It is anticipated that resource demands will continue to increase to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in

the community. The tensions between rising expectations against a finite resource require further exploration and will be presented to future Committees through 2006/2007.

- 6.2 In the interim it is proposed that the Governance arrangements as outlined at 4.3 above should be adopted.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Supporting people to remain in their own homes addresses the Improving Opportunities and Eliminating Poverty Themes contained in the Community Plan.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Social Work Committee is asked to:-

- (i) Agree to the reporting arrangements as outlined at paragraph 4.3; and
- (ii) Otherwise note the content of this report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
AF/JB
1st March 2006
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (1) Same As You – Review Services for People Affected by Learning Disability – published 2000
- (2) Community Care: A Joint Future – November 2000
- (3) Fair Care for Older People – Care Development Group Report – September 2001
- (4) Community Care & Health (Scotland) Act 2002
- (5) Interim Report of Capacity Planning Services for Older People in East Ayrshire – July 2004

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