

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 22 MARCH 2007

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with information about additional resources which were received into the Council on a non recurring basis for children's services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On the 22 November 2006 the Scottish Executive wrote to local authorities providing additional one off funding for residential units and residential schools. In this respect East Ayrshire was allocated £44, 910 for the three residential units.
- 2.2 The purpose of the additional funding is to improve the physical environment of residential units and to provide an educationally rich environment for the young people who live there.
- 2.3 In correspondence dated 22 December 2006 and subsequently 12 January 2007 the Scottish Executive allocated £328,000 of non recurring revenue to the Council. The funding, to be used to support children's services, requires to be spent by 31 March 2007.
- 2.4 The resources are to be used to support children and young people, with an emphasis on the undernoted:
- Small scale play and other equipment for providers of pre-school education including, independent sector providers and out of school care services
 - To support outcomes for children who are looked after and accommodated
 - Small scale equipment for foster/kinship carers
 - Staff training
- 2.5 The above is illustrative only of some of the uses to which the money should be put.

3. PROPOSED ALLOCATION

- 3.1 In relation to residential units the funding has been used to improve the units to ensure a more educationally rich environment both internally and externally.
- 3.2 Funding in respect of the £328,000 has been allocated across children and family services, early education and childcare and children with additional support needs in line with the guidance issued by the Scottish Executive.

4. LEGAL FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The additional revenue expenditure of £328,000 has been fully supported by Scottish Executive grant.

5. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This financial resource will assist the Council in meeting the following aspects of the Community Plan:

- Improving opportunities;
- Promoting community learning;
- Eliminating poverty

6. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that Members of the Social Work Committee:

- (i) note the proposed allocation and use of the Scottish Executive's additional revenue; and
- (ii) note that the same report is also being presented to Education Committee; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
GRS/KG/SR
26 February 2007
Encl (0)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scottish Executive correspondence dated 22 November 2006; 22 December 2006 and 12 January 2007.

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104 or Sally Ann Kelly, Senior Manager, Children & Families and Criminal Justice, Tel: (01563) 576845

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR