

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 20 MAY 2004

BEST VALUE REVIEW – SERVICES TO LOOKED AFTER AND ACCOMMODATED CHILDREN

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of the outcome of the Best Value Review Report on services to Looked After and Accommodated Children.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Social Work Committee of 11 September 2003 approved the establishment of a Member/Officer Working Group to conduct a Best Value Review of services to Looked After and Accommodated Children.

- 2.2 The scope of the Review was agreed as:

- Residential Care provision
- Foster Care services
- Adoption services
- Throughcare and Aftercare services
- Fieldwork services (where they impact upon the above)

- 2.3 At its final meeting on May 5 2004, the Member/Officer Working group approved the Best Value Review Report.

3. THE BEST VALUE REVIEW

- 3.1 The Review was conducted in accord with the Council's guide to carrying out a Best Value Review.

- 3.2 As such the process was structured around the "4 Cs" of Best Value:

- Challenge
- Consult
- Compare
- Consider

- 3.3 The Member/Officer Working Group identified the challenges that are currently being faced by existing services.

- 3.4 The process included extensive consultation with stakeholders.

3.5 A benchmarking exercise was undertaken with a range of partners.

3.6 A thorough Option Appraisal process was undertaken.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM REVIEW REPORT

4.1 A full copy of the report is attached at Appendix 1.

5. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Review recognised the Council's statutory obligations in respect of Looked After and Accommodated Children and the recommendations reflect the requirement to improve services to meet national standards.

6. PERSONNEL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The report presents a number of detailed issues for consideration. Consequently the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services will require to consider the document in detail and offer advice on how to address the report's recommendations.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members of the Social Work Committee are invited to:-

- (i) consider the content of the Member/Officer Group report;
- (ii) accept the report, in principle, subject to detailed consideration by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services of the overall impact for the Council; and
- (iii) otherwise note the content of this report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
28-April-04

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. The Best Value Review Report

For further information on this report please contact:

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