

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 20 MAY 2004

SECTION 10 GRANTS

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the approval of elected members regarding proposals in relation to Section 10 Grants.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, as amended, allows local authorities to make a financial contribution, by way of grant or loan, to any voluntary organisation whose purpose is the promotion of social welfare.
- 2.2 Section 10 funding is only one of a number of Council funding streams for the voluntary sector, including payments for services provided under contract and local grants. In addition, there are a number of funding streams external to the Council which are available to voluntary organisations and advice and support to access such funds is provided by the Council.
- 2.3 On 23 May 2002, Committee decided to transfer to mainstream funding the previous Section 10 budget and instructed officers to re-create a modest Section 10 budget from a re-alignment of existing budgets.

3. 2003 – 04 POSITION

- 3.1 Awards in 2003/04 were low. Assessment of grant applications against the criteria for award resulted in few awards being made reflecting the position in which the funding of a number of organisations had been consolidated into mainstream budgets.

4. REVIEW OF SECTION 10 ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 The existence of Section 10 funding arrangements results in a number of unsolicited applications for funding each year which require to be assessed in accordance with agreed criteria.
- 4.2 This is neither an effective use of officer time nor a cost effective means of providing financial support to voluntary organisations. It is therefore proposed that Section 10 funding arrangements be reviewed with a view to:
 - (i) discontinuing Section 10 funding arrangements

- (ii) defining revised eligibility criteria for the continued financial support to voluntary organisations utilising alternative funding sources which:
- support core social work functions
 - support the Council in the implementation of local and national policy initiatives

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 10 grants allocated last year amounted to £18,017 (see report to Social Work Committee 6th November 2003).

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The award of Section 10 Grants is not a statutory obligation upon the Council and therefore has no legal implications.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Nil

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that Social Work Committee:-
- (i) agree to a review of Section 10 funding arrangements; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
AM
26th April 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

For further information please contact:
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