

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 20 MAY 2004

VISION STATEMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek approval for a vision statement for the Department of Educational and Social Services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It has become accepted practice for organisations to develop key statements that give direction to their work. These statements are given various titles – “mission statements”, “statements of commitment”, “vision statements”, or in their oldest form simply “mottos”. In terms of quality assurance, such statements have come to be seen as fundamental. Evaluations by external organisations give prominent consideration to the establishment and communication of such statements.

3. PRESENT POSITION

- 3.1 Since the Department of Educational and Social Services was created there have been a number of key documents produced that are aimed at unifying the work of the services that were brought together in 2000. The most notable of these was “Working Together to Strengthen Services”, the progress against which has been reported to Committee on a number of occasions. While separate services have developed their own mission statements there has not been a single unifying statement.
- 3.2 It is however true that for the future development of effective services there is need for staff to have both a clarity of purpose and an understanding that individual services cannot be delivered in isolation. This is reflected in matters such as Community Planning, the Joint Future Agenda and the new Additional Support Needs legislation. A shared vision provides the basis of effective joint and integrated working and subsequent evaluation of progress.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 This matter has been considered by the Director and Heads of Service and consultation has taken place with staff within the Department. As a

result, the following statement is proposed as being compatible with the Council's core values:

“East Ayrshire Council's Department of Educational and Social Services: committed to providing choice, maximising opportunity for all, developing the potential of individuals and meeting needs through inclusion.”

- 4.2** This statement would cover all aspects of the Department's work including community learning and development, educational services, onsite services and social work services. The statement is sufficiently broad to allow individual services to continue with, or develop, their own service-specific statements. However, it is also sufficiently clear on key aspects of provision to allow the identification of shared values, ways of working and therefore common approaches. Some managers, in consultation with staff and service users, may wish to use the statement to develop, evaluate or refine their own vision statements.
- 4.3** If this proposal is approved, a published version will be given wide circulation to all services and establishments within the Department. The statement will be used within all relevant departmental documentation including any strategic or improvement plans and leaflets prepared in appropriate formats for the general public.

5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** This matter will also require to be considered by the Education Committee.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Dissemination of this revised statement will be undertaken within the existing publicity budget.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Social Work Committee:-

- (i) approve the adoption of the proposal in para 4.1;
- (ii) note that this matter also requires to be considered by the Education Committee for its approval; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

18 May 2004

For further information please contact Graham Short, Head of Service: Quality Improvement, (01563-576089), Jackie Donnelly, Head of Social Work (01563-576920).

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. "Working Together to Strengthen Services" Education and Social Work Committees, 2000

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: GRAHAM SHORT