

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 3 NOVEMBER 2005**

#### **BEST VALUE REVIEW OF AYRSHIRE COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL**

##### **Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Social Work Committee of the recently completed Best Value Review of Ayrshire Council on Alcohol. A copy of the review is available in the Members' Information Point.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Ayrshire Council on Alcohol, a company limited by guarantee is commissioned to provide alcohol counselling services throughout Ayrshire by East, North and South Ayrshire Councils and NHS Ayrshire and Arran.
- 2.2 Ayrshire Council on Alcohol was founded in 1979 and was previously reviewed in 1997. They are currently commissioned by the funding partners to prioritise service delivery to young people, older people and women.
- 2.3 The majority of counselling interventions are provided via trained volunteer counsellors.
- 2.4 Funding partners agreed to conduct a further review in 2005 in order to develop a new monitoring and activity framework. Partners further agreed to East Ayrshire leading this review on their behalf.
- 2.5 The Review was conducted within a Best Value framework focusing on ensuring that the right services were being delivered to the right people in the right way as well as an examination of the best means of promoting continuous improvement.

#### **3. PROGRESS IN EAST AYRSHIRE**

- 3.1 Ayrshire Council on Alcohol provided 1565 hours of support in East Ayrshire in 2004/05
- 3.2 This support was delivered via 2 bases in Kilmarnock and Cumnock. The organisation currently operates a waiting list for services in East Ayrshire. This waiting list will be addressed within the agencies action plan

#### **4. OUTCOME OF REVIEW**

- 4.1 The Best Value review examined options for the development of innovative and creative ways of working that provides better value for money whilst retaining quality of service.

- 4.2 The review concluded with 19 key recommendations under 9 main headings.
- 4.3 The recommendations will commit Ayrshire Council on Alcohol to develop a clear strategic plan that recognises the need to work in partnership and target priority groups who are the most excluded in East Ayrshire's communities.
- 4.4 This strategic plan will also reflect the need to improve performance reporting systems in order that robust structures will be in place that will better identify gaps and blockages in service provision.
- 4.5 Ayrshire Council on Alcohol within this strategic plan will conduct a feasibility study examining ways of reducing costs without diminishing service provision.
- 4.6 Funding partners have established and agreed with Ayrshire Council on Alcohol an action plan.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Nil

## **6. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 East Ayrshire Council officers have the agreement of the other funding partners to assume lead responsibility for the implementation of the review.

## **7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The effective delivery of services to problematic alcohol users corresponds with the two key community planning themes of improving health and improving community safety. Alcohol continues to be a major contributor to poor health in East Ayrshire and was responsible for 1075 admissions to hospital in 2003/04.
- 7.2 Alcohol use in terms of binge drinking, intoxication and street disorder has a negative impact on the feeling of personal safety within local communities.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 Members of the Committee are invited to:-
  - (i) approve the Best Value review of Ayrshire Council on Alcohol; and
  - (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Executive Director Educational and Social Services**  
**24 October 2005**  
**Enc (0 )**

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Best Value Review of Ayrshire Council on Alcohol Volumes 1 and 2

For further information please contact: Sally Ann Kelly, Senior Manager Children and Families and Criminal Justice, telephone: 01563 576907

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: JACKIE DONNELLY**