

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE: 2 NOVEMBER 2006

#### OLDER PEOPLES' CONFERENCE

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

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Committee of the outcome and overall performance of the annual Older Peoples Conference held on Wednesday 27 September 2006.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Each year a conference is held in East Ayrshire for older people. The Conference is organised through Social Work Services in partnership with East Ayrshire Community Health Partnership and East Ayrshire Older Peoples Forum. The purpose of the Conference is to provide the opportunity for a range of older people's organisations across East Ayrshire to come together with Social Work and Health, to give their views on current and future service provision.

### 3. THE EVENT

- 3.1 A range of speakers addressed the conference and the programme is attached at appendix 1. This year it was agreed that the theme of the conference would be partnership and this was strongly reflected in all aspects of the day as well as in the information shared by the key speakers
- 3.2 Elected member representation included Cllr. Menzies who Chaired the event and Cllr. Jackson who provided the closing address.
- 3.3 Fiona Lees, Chief Executive addressed the Conference and gave an update on the recent resident survey on how this would influence Council Policy in the future. This was well received and key aspects which older people emphasised included Community Safety and a clean and tidy environment.
- 3.4 Charles Gray, CoSLA spokesperson for older people addressed the conference to advise older people of the progress being made with *Scotland a Strategy for an ageing population*. He advised that the consultation phase was now concluded and work had begun to produce the strategy. He predicted that the strategy should be made public around January 2007. He emphasised that discussion was continuing in relation to potential resources attached to the implementation of the strategy.
- (i) the strategy would be wide in its considerations of what it meant for Scotland as a whole to have this particular demographic profile.
  - (ii) the strategy will be extremely useful in focussing on the needs, aspirations and contribution which older people make to society.
- 3.5 There was a broad range of information stands providing information and advice particularly pertinent to older people. See exhibitor's list appendix 2.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 An integral objective of the conference is to consult with older people about social policies and services that are relevant to them. Consultation focused on: the Strategic Direction of Services to Older People, Partnership Working and provision of Information. Consultation was undertaken on the basis of electronic voting system.
- 4.2 The conference strongly supported the objectives of the Strategic Direction of Older Peoples Services, in supporting people to stay at home when it is safe and practical to do so. Older people indicated that even if they had high levels of physical support needs they would prefer to stay in their own home. When asked about their preference for accommodation even where they were experiencing memory loss, older people continued to indicate overwhelmingly that they wished to live in the community either at home or in supported accommodation such as sheltered housing.
- 4.3 In relation to Partnership working the conference indicated that East Ayrshire Council and Health should prioritise joint working in both frontline and planning activities. There continued to be concern expressed from older people about information sharing between agencies in respect of individuals through the Single Shared Assessment process.
- 4.4 The conference clearly indicated that Information about services both in relation to Social Work and Community Health Services should be made more easily available.

## **5. RESPONSE TO THE CONFERENCE**

- 5.1 The Conference received a very positive response. Direct feedback has indicated that delegates enjoyed the day and appreciated the high level of participation.
- 5.2 The evaluation indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the venue and the hospitality on offer. The key speakers were rated highly and their contribution was seen as very relevant to the issues facing older people.
- 5.3 The exhibition stands were highly rated and many people welcomed taking home something for themselves and for the groups they represent.

## **6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Older People's Conference supports requirements through Joint Future Agenda for consultation with service users and communities on community, social care and health issues.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 East Ayrshire Council and Community Planning partners provide practical and financial support for the older people's conference from partnership funding.

## **8. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Provision of effective community social care and health services supports directly the Improving Health, Improving Opportunities and Eliminating Poverty themes of the Community Plan

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Social Work Committee is asked to

- (i) note the feedback from the Annual Older Peoples Conference;
- (ii) note the level of satisfaction with the event;
- (iii) agree that a similar conference should be organised next year once again on a partnership basis; and
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of this report

**Graham Short**  
**Executive Director of Educational and Social Services**  
**10 October 2006**  
**Encl (2)**

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Joint Future Report, November 2000
2. Capacity Planning For Older People, July 2004
3. East Ayrshire Council Community Planning Resident's Survey, 2005

For further information on this report please contact:-  
Eddie Fraser, Senior Manager, Community Care, telephone: 01563 554825

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: JACKIE DONNELLY**

**EAST AYRSHIRE OLDER PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE 2006**

**WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER  
LOCHSIDE HOUSE HOTEL**

<b>9.30 am – 10.00 am</b>	<b>Registration Tea &amp; Coffee</b>
<b>10.00 am – 10.10 am</b>	<b>Opening Remarks Councillor William Menzies Older People's Champion, East Ayrshire Council</b>
<b>10.10 am – 10.40 am</b>	<b>Scotland's Strategy for an Ageing Population Charles Gray, Spokesperson for Older People, COSLA</b>
<b>10.40 am – 11.10 am</b>	<b>Partnership Working – Have your say Eddie Fraser, Senior Manager, Community Care</b>
<b>11.10 am – 11.40 am</b>	<b>Tea and Coffee Break</b>
<b>11.40 am – 12.15 pm</b>	<b>What Community Health partnerships can do for older people - Professor Gordon Wilson, Chair of East Ayrshire CHP</b>
<b>12.15 pm – 2.00 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
	<b>Information Stands</b>
	<b>Theatre Production – One Foot In The Door</b>
<b>2.00 pm – 2.40 pm</b>	<b>Residents' Survey Fiona Lees, Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council</b>
<b>2.40 pm – 3.00 pm</b>	<b>Partnership – East Ayrshire Older People's Forum Jessie Graham, Forum Member</b>
<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Closing Remarks Councillor Eric Jackson Chair of Social Work Committee, East Ayrshire Council</b>

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**OLDER PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE 2006**

**EXHIBITORS LIST**

Age Concern Scotland	Marie Montgomery
Alzheimer Scotland	Christine O'Rourke
Apetito Ltd	Brian La Combre
BT	Nigel Rudd
Community Mental Health Team Older People	Janice McAlister
EAC Care & Repair Project, Shire Housing Assoc Ltd	Charles Murphy
EAC Community Safety Partnership	Bill Petherick
EAC Energy Advice	Sarah Farrell
EAC Leisure Development, C.H.I.P. Project	Louisa Carslaw
EAC Libraries & Registration	Dianne McGregor
EAC: Home Care, Day Care, Com Alarms, OT, Sens. Impair.	Ruth Gray/Charlie Mallon/Claire Mills
East Ayrshire Advocacy Services Ltd.	Karen McGlone
East Ayrshire Citizens Advice Bureau	Alison Livingstone
East Ayrshire Elderly Forum	Maurice Ashbridge
NHS A&A Podiatry Dept	Isabel Carroll
Princess Royal Trust, EA Carers Centre	Fiona Pirrie
Scottish Power	Allan Robertson
Strathclyde Fire & Rescue	Eamonn D. Lyons
The Pension Service (DWP) /EAC Promote Benefit Uptake	Dawn Lynch/Trish McLean (EAC)