

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE GROUP**

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 2005 AT 1405 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors William Menzies; Jessie Graham (Irvine Valley Elderly Forum); Winnie Campbell, May Fraser and Agnes Gallagher (Kilmarnock South Elderly Forum); George Gillan and Jim Murray (Cumnock Area Elderly Forum); Maurice Ashbridge (North West Kilmarnock Elderly Forum); William Cooke and Alex Currie (Muirkirk Elderly Forum); Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support (Educational & Social Services); Alex Fraser, Transport Manager (Educational & Social Services); Isabel Marr, Patient Services Manager (Ayrshire & Arran Health Board); Sergeant Allan Morley (Strathclyde Police); and Marlene Harkis, Service Manager - Older People (Educational & Social Services).

**ATTENDING:** Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Cathy Brown MBE (Irvine Valley Elderly Forum); Sarah Roy and Jean Aird (North West Kilmarnock Elderly Forum); Carol Robertson, Service Co-ordinator (Ayrshire & Arran Health Board); Joe Cassidy, Policy Manager (Neighbourhood Services); and Karen Darling, Health Service Commissioner (Ayrshire & Arran Health Board).

**CHAIR:** Councillor William Menzies, Chair.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

##### **1.1 APPROVAL AS A CORRECT RECORD**

There were submitted (circulated) and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Better Government for Older People Group held on 22 September 2004.

##### **1.2 MATTERS ARISING**

###### **1.2.1 Podiatry Services in East Ayrshire**

Arising from discussion during which Elderly Forum representatives expressed dissatisfaction at the delivery of podiatry services within the local area, particularly in respect of waiting times, it was noted that arrangements were being made for John McConway, Podiatry Manager with Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care NHS Trust to attend the next meeting of the group with a view to responding to concerns of group members relative to this service.

###### **1.2.2 Older People's Residential Care Services: Glennie House, Auchinleck**

On the matter being raised by Jim Murray, Marlene Harkis advised that some difficulties had been encountered relative to electricity and gas supplies to Glennie House, Auchinleck which had meant that the opening of this facility had been delayed beyond the initial target date of Spring 2005, but that it was now anticipated that the facility would open in May/June 2005 and that at more or less the same time the facility at Affleck House would close.

### **1.2.3 Neighbourhood Wardens**

On a matter being raised by Jim Murray it was noted:-

- (a) that arrangements for reporting and liaising with the local community in respect of the Neighbourhood Wardens Services which were operational within the Barshare area of Cumnock, would be the subject of consideration at a future meeting of the Housing Committee being the relevant Service Committee of the Council, and that further information on the precise mechanisms could be provided to this Group thereafter; and
- (b) that arrangements were being made for a presentation on the Neighbourhood Wardens Service to be made, by an appropriate Officer, at the next meeting of this Group.

### **HOSPITAL REPROVISIONING: CONTINUING CARE BEDS**

2. The Group received a presentation by Isabel Marr, Patient Services Manager, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board on issues relating to proposals for the future provision of continuing care beds within Ayrshire.

During the presentation Isabel confirmed the following points, namely:-

- currently, there are 363 NHS continuing care beds in the Ayrshire and Arran area of which approximately one third are occupied by patients requiring the service; one third are vacant; and one third are occupied by individuals not specifically requiring the continuing care service but who are awaiting discharge to appropriate accommodation;
- in terms of the future Strategy it is envisaged that the total number of continuing care beds will be reduced to 148 within Ayrshire and Arran, to be provided to a similar standard as that which currently exists at the East Ayrshire Community Hospital (ie providing for single en-suite accommodation), although in the light of comments received during the consultation process, there will in some instances be a mix of single and double accommodation;
- the future Strategy will mean the closure of Holmhead Hospital, Cumnock, Brooksby Hospital, Largs and Kirklandside Hospital in Kilmarnock. There are as yet no firm dates for the proposed closures and consultation is taking place with families of the individuals affected and with staff regarding the transition;
- any individual who currently receives, and requires, continuing care services will be provided with this service in future; and
- in recognition of the refocusing of the delivery of services as a result of the future Strategy, a current annual sum of £3.8M will be transferred from the Health Board to Local Authorities to meet additional cost of community care services.

Isabel Marr then responded to questions asked by members of the Group.

The Chair thanked Isabel for the presentation which had provided much in the way of useful up-to-date information.

Isabel Marr then left the meeting.

### **BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE CONFERENCE 2004**

3. Marlene Harkis reported on the Better Government for Older People Conference 2004 which took place on Wednesday 1 December 2004 at Lochside House Hotel, New Cumnock.

Marlene advised that feedback from those who had attended the Conference was very positive and that comments and suggestions made in the evaluation forms submitted to her Section would be taken into account and would inform preparations for future Conferences.

Following discussion initiated and facilitated by Marlene Harkis, it was agreed as follows, namely:--

- that the next Annual Conference would take place in April 2006 with an interim event to take place in September 2005;
- that the venue should again be Lochside House Hotel, providing that suitable transport arrangements can be made for those attending, it being felt that this had been a most suitable venue for last year's event; and
- that Marlene Harkis would liaise with the Elderly Forums in the usual way nearer the time in respect of the detailed format, content etc of the event.

### **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL AND BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE/ROLE OF OLDER PEOPLES' CHAMPION**

4. In response to a request from the East Ayrshire Elderly Forum, the Chair outlined, in broad terms, the nature of his role as Older Peoples' Champion; and reported on a meeting he had attended in December of last year which had been chaired by Charles Gray, CoSLA's Older Peoples' Champion. The meeting had focused in particular on Better Government for Older People in relation to Local Authorities' Community Planning processes and it was anticipated that the initiatives discussed would assist in promoting good and best practice across Local Authorities to contribute towards the effective implementation of Better Government for Older People within the Community Planning framework.

It was agreed to note the information provided by the Chair.

### **AFFILIATION BY EAST AYRSHIRE ELDERLY FORUM TO WEST OF SCOTLAND SENIORS' FORUM**

5. Marlene Harkis outlined two options which would facilitate affiliation by the East Ayrshire Elderly Forum to the West of Scotland Seniors' Forum, namely:-
- (a) in order to regularise the relationship between East Ayrshire Council and the Elderly Forum, formal arrangements could be introduced under which a service level agreement would be put in place by the Educational and Social Services Department relating to the Elderly Forum. This would be a significant development in partnership working between the Council and the Elderly Forum in terms of which the Council would anticipate formalising and extending the nature of consultation with the Elderly Forum on relevant issues. It would be for the Elderly Forum and the Council to determine the scope of the agreement. The cost of affiliation to the West of Scotland Seniors' Forum could be met from this source; or

- (b) the Elderly Forum could request that, the annual cost be met directly by East Ayrshire Council, on the basis that affiliation would assist the Forum in undertaking its role as representing the interests of older people in East Ayrshire.

After discussion, the Elderly Forum Representatives expressed the wish to progress on the basis of Option (b) above and, accordingly, it was agreed that Marlene Harkis, in consultation with Maurice Ashbridge, Secretary to the East Ayrshire Elderly Forum would progress the matter appropriately.

### **BOGUS CALLERS**

6. The Group received a presentation by Sergeant Allan Morley, Strathclyde Police, who highlighted certain initiatives aimed at addressing problems presented by bogus callers, including the Nominated Neighbour Scheme, the work of the East Ayrshire Community Safety Implementation Group; and the ongoing work of Strathclyde Police in the provision of advice and support to older people in relation to crime prevention and community safety.

Sergeant Morley responded to questions and issues raised by members of the Group.

The Chair thanked Sergeant Morley for the presentation which had been most interesting and informative.

### **EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY ALARM SERVICE**

7. Marlene Harkis provided clarification in respect of the eligibility criteria and the charging policy currently applied in respect of the East Ayrshire Community Alarm Service.

During discussion, the Elderly Forum Representatives strongly expressed their disapproval of a charge being levied, currently £5.20 per week, on those who are provided with the Service and in this connection it was noted that the Chair would pursue the concerns expressed with the Chair of East Ayrshire Council's Social Work Committee. Information was provided regarding the new charging arrangements recently approved by Social Work Committee which had reduced the charge for community alarm service to £3.50 per week.

It was otherwise agreed to note the information provided by Marlene Harkis.

### **REVIEW OF EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

8. The Group received a verbal report by Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support and Alex Fraser, Transport Manager, within East Ayrshire Council's Department of Educational and Social Services on the outcome of the Council's review of its transport service for community and voluntary organisations. It was explained that the consequence of the review would be that with effect from 1 April 2005, while the Council would continue to make available buses for hire for use by organisations, the hirer would require to provide their own drivers and meet the cost of same.

In response to enquiries from Elderly Forum Representatives, Euan Couperwhite and Alex Fraser explained that difficulties which organisations may experience with

regard to availability of buses for hire may be due to a range of factors including maintenance issues and suitability of vehicles for the purpose required.

The Group noted the information provided by Euan Couperwhite and Alex Fraser.

#### **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETING**

9. The Group agreed:-
- (i) to note, as previously discussed during the meeting, that presentations would be arranged for the next meeting on the Neighbourhood Wardens Service and Podiatry Services;
  - (ii) to request that a further presentation be made to the Group on the Care and Repair Scheme which has been rolled out to the whole of East Ayrshire; and
  - (iii) otherwise, to note that the Elderly Forums would have the opportunity to feedback to Officers of the Council on any other issues which they feel would be appropriate for consideration at a future meeting.

#### **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET 2005/2006**

10. The Chair responded to concerns raised by Jim Murray regarding service delivery implications resulting from the Council's budget proposals for 2005/2006.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

11. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Group should take place on Wednesday 1 June 2005 commencing at 1400 hours in the Meeting Room, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock.

The meeting terminated at 1614 hours.