

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EAST AYRSHIRE WOMEN'S FORUM**

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17 JUNE 1999 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Macrae, Brian McNeil, Jane Darnbrough, Finlay MacLean, Eric Jackson, Julie Faulds and Elaine Dinwoodie.

**ATTENDING:** Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; John F Crawford, Head of Protective Services; June Peter, Finance Department; Susan MacGregor, Community Education; Elspeth Dale, Women's Guild; Carol Devoy, Senior Employee Relations Officer; Kate Moir, Development Services; Hugh Mitchell, Police Liaison Officer; Jane Douglas, Emergency Planning Officer; and Caroline Butcher; Hillsbank Nursery and Family Centre.

**APOLOGIES:** June Black, Scottish Women's Rural Institute; Marlene Campbell, Area Manager, Housing Department; Joan Wells, Women's Royal Voluntary Service; and Robert Leitch, Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce.

**CHAIR:** Councillor David Macrae, Chair.

#### **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. There was submitted and noted as a correct record the Minute of the meeting of 1 March 1999 (circulated).

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

2. The following matter arose from the Minute when the Head of Protective Services advised the meeting that he had written to East Ayrshire Zero Tolerance, Cumnock Women's Aid and Rape Counselling and Resource Centre inviting them to participate in the Women's Forum.

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF THE WOMEN'S FORUM**

3. There was submitted a report dated 7 June 1999 (circulated) by the Head of Protective Services advising the Women's Forum of the outcome of a recent workshop and inviting consideration of a revised procedure.

The Head of Protective Services outlined the report which advised of the composition and role of the Women's Forum and highlighted the need for ongoing informal dialogue amongst the representatives of the women's groups in East Ayrshire to deal with:-

- (i) debating and detailing issues highlighted by the core group;
- (ii) consulting with Council Officers and making recommendations to the core group;
- (iii) reporting back following discussion of highlighted issues; and
- (iv) identifying alternative sources of funding.

The report also highlighted the need for further detailed discussions at workshop level in respect of childcare, employment, healthcare, transport, poverty and isolation.

It is proposed that each of these workshops would take place on a six weekly basis and would then report back to a formal Women's Forum.

There then followed discussion regarding the possibility of obtaining funding, accommodation in respect of both the workshops and the Women's Forum meetings and provision of transport to enable representatives to attend meetings.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to accept the proposals set out and authorise their implementation;
- (ii) that the Women's Forum meet twice a year;
- (iii) that workshops be held at the "S" and the "R" Wing of the Grange Academy and Women's Forum meetings in the Main Meeting Room for the present while considering alternative venues throughout East Ayrshire;
- (iv) to compile a meetings schedule; and
- (v) to note the support of the Chief Executive;

#### **REPORT ON A CONFERENCE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SCOTLAND: SCOTTISH POLICE COLLEGE - 19 JUNE 1998**

4. There was submitted an excerpt (circulated) of a conference report on Domestic Violence in Scotland for consideration and information.

The Police Liaison Officer then advised the meeting that the Police had held a conference on Domestic Violence which had helped to raise awareness amongst the Police Officers regarding ways of dealing with victims of domestic violence.

The need for co-operation and information exchange between agencies involved in the provision of services to women experiencing domestic violence was seen as essential to ensure that women did not "fall between the gaps". The meeting acknowledged the appropriateness of exchanging confidential information between agencies when it was felt that a need to respect the feelings of individuals should be upheld at all times and therefore consultation required to take place with individuals prior to divulging any information to another agency.

The meeting heard that Zero Tolerance were currently carrying out an audit on domestic violence.

It was agreed to invite Zero Tolerance to submit a further report on implementation at a future meeting.

#### **COMMUNITY LEARNING SCOTLAND**

5. The Head of Protective Services advised that Community Learning Scotland - the National Community Education Agency were in the process of setting up a Scottish Women's Forum and had asked the Council to consider nominating one or two individuals to participate.

It was agreed that nominations for this Forum be submitted to either the Head of Protective Services or Susan MacGregor, Community Education.

The meeting terminated at 1035 hours.

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