

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2001 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Jane Darnbrough, Alex Walsh, Kathleen Hall, Stephanie Young, Daniel Coffey, Lilian MacLean, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, David Macrae, Iain Linton, Jim Raymond, Findlay MacLean, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, Julie Faulds, William Menzies and Jimmy Carmichael.

**ATTENDING:** John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Stephen Moore, Head of Social Work; Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager; Jackie Donnelly, Principal Officer (Community Care), Euan Couperwhite, Finance Manager; John Alexander, Principal Officer (Quality and Planning); Jim Hazlett, Principal Officer (Children and Families and Criminal Justice); and Gillian Hamilton, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Eric Jackson, Douglas Reid and Robert Taylor.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Jane Darnbrough, Chair.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

1. The Chair intimated the death of Kathleen Finalyson, who was employed within the Department, and that the Committee's thoughts were with her family at this time.

**BUDGETARY PROGRESS REPORT: SOCIAL WORK TO 23 SEPTEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 6)**

2. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 25 October 2001 (circulated) by the Directors of Educational and Social Services and of Finance on the current budgetary position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Social Work Section of the Educational and Social Services Department for the period ended 23 September 2001 (Period 6).

**STRENGTHENING FRONT-LINE SOCIAL WORK SERVICES**

3. There was submitted a report dated 18 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the proposed implementation of a range of measures to strengthen the delivery of front-line Social Work services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the measures proposed for re-configuring staff as set out in Section 3 of the report;
- (ii) to approve the measures proposed for the recruitment and retention of staff as set out in Section 4 of the report;
- (iii) to refer the report to the Corporate Sub-committee of the Policy and Resources Committee for its consideration;

- (iv) to note that a further report on external recruitment measures would be presented to a future meeting of the Social Work Committee; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

#### **STRATEGIC TRAINING PLAN 2001-2004**

4. There was submitted a report dated 19 October 2001 (copy enclosed) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the proposed implementation of the Educational and Social Services Strategic Training Plan 2001-2004.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the implementation of the Strategic Training Plan 2001-2004 as related to Social Work Training matters;
- (ii) to note that interim progress reports on implementation would be presented to Committee annually; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

#### **CARE DEVELOPMENT GROUP REPORT - "FAIR CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE"**

5. There was submitted a report dated 17 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the recommendations contained within the Care Development Group's report "Fair Care for Older People" which detailed proposed changes to the current funding arrangement for the care of older people.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Director of Educational and Social Services report to a future Committee on the costs associated with the proposals and on East Ayrshire's allocation;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services advise Committee of the full implications for policy, personnel and finance once the Executive has published its response; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

#### **ADAPTATION SERVICE: PROGRESS REPORT**

6. There was submitted a joint report dated 17 October 2001 (circulated) by the Directors of Educational and Social Services and of Homes and Technical Services on progress to date in relation to the consolidated Adaptation Service and which advised of the current position.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Directors of Educational and Social Services and of Homes and Technical Services submit a joint report on eligibility criteria and revised policy by May 2002; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

#### **ISD QUARTERLY CENSUS ON DELAYED DISCHARGES**

7. There was submitted a report dated 17 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the outcome of the National Quarterly Census

which was undertaken on 15 July 2001 and published in October 2001 by the Information and Statistics Division (ISD) of the Scottish Executive.

It was agreed:

- (i) to endorse the action plan outlined in Section 9 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

#### **LEARNING WITH CARE: THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AWAY FROM HOME BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

8. There was submitted a report dated 29 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the main findings and recommendations of the Scottish Executive report "Learning with Care"; the position in East Ayrshire and the terms of the response by the Council to the Minister; and proposals for the implementation of "Learning with Care" within East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the main findings and recommendations of "Learning with Care";
- (ii) to note the response made on behalf of the Council;
- (iii) to endorse the proposals to implement "Learning with Care" in East Ayrshire;
- (iv) that the additional funds allocated by the Scottish Executive be spent in the way described in paragraph 5.6 of the report; and
- (v) otherwise to note the content of the report.

#### **PROCEDURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS**

9. There was submitted a report dated 17 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the proposed introduction of Interim Protection Procedures for Vulnerable Adults.

It was agreed:

- (i) to endorse the introduction of the Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults to East Ayrshire Council employees;
- (ii) that there be further explanation with key partners towards the development of Protection Guidelines for Vulnerable Adults across East Ayrshire; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

#### **REDUCING THE RISK: IMPROVING THE RESPONSE TO SEX OFFENDING**

10. There was submitted a report dated 22 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the report "Reducing the Risk: Improving the Response to Sex Offending" and the East Ayrshire Council response to the recommendations contained therein.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the response to the report of the Expert Panel on Sex Offending; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

**REVIEW OF DAY SERVICES - ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY -  
STAGE ONE**

11. There was submitted an amended report dated 4 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the findings of East Ayrshire's review of day services and which sought agreement regarding the future shape of the service and revised management structure.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the proposed direction and redesign of future care and support services for people with learning disabilities as outlined in the report "Review of Day Services for Adults with a Learning Disability (East Ayrshire)";
- (ii) to approve in principle the further development of the review recommendations, including the refocusing of Hansel Community Supports service specification; consistent application of the Council's Charging Policy; and discontinuation of the weekly attendance allowance "payment" (£1 per week) to explore more innovative use of these funds;
- (iv) to refer the proposed management structure to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration; and
- (v) otherwise to note the content of the report.

**REGULATION OF CARE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2001 - IMPLICATIONS FOR THE  
LOCAL AUTHORITY**

12. There was submitted a report dated 16 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the implications of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 and, in particular, the transitional and residual issues arising for the Local Authority.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit further reports to the Social Work Committee on any appropriate financial, legal, policy or personnel implications arising from this matter; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

**TRANSFER OF PRESERVED RIGHTS AND RESIDENTIAL ALLOWANCE FUNDS**

13. There was submitted a report dated 17 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the transfer of responsibility from 1 April 2002 of individuals currently funded by the DSS (now known as the Department of Works and Pensions [DWP]) under the Preserved Rights Scheme to the Local Authority, as well as the transfer of the Residential Allowance funding from the DWP to the Local Authority.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the implications for the Social Work budget in 2002/2003 of the full allocation from the Scottish Executive for Preserved Rights expenditure and for the residential allowance;

- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services put in place a process to monitor expenditure and provide an audit trail of both the preserved rights and residential allowance elements of the budget; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

**AYRSHIRE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK PARTNERSHIP: MINUTE OF AGREEMENT AND STRATEGIC PLAN 2002-2005**

- 14.** There was submitted a report dated 5 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the key features of the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership's Strategic Plan for the period 2002-05; sought approval to submit the Strategic Plan to the Scottish Executive; and sought approval in relation to the Minute of Agreement.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the Minute of Agreement;
- (ii) to approve the submission of the Strategic Plan to the Scottish Executive; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

**PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING AUDIT 2000/2001 - HOME CARE SERVICES**

- 15.** There was submitted a report dated 5 October 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the outcome of the 2000/2001 Performance Management and Planning (PMP) Audit of the Council's Home Care Service, carried out by Audit Scotland on behalf of the Accounts Commission.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the generally positive outcome of the 2000/2001 PMP Audit of the Home Care Service and the implementation of an improvement action plan to address issues identified through the audit; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1100 hrs.

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