

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL : THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 2003

BEST VALUE REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR LOOKED AFTER AND ACCOMMODATED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To gain approval for a Member / Officer Group to be formed to carry out a Best Value Review of Services for Looked After and Accommodated Children and Young People.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Under the requirements of Best Value, the Council is required to subject all areas of activity to a Best Value Review.
- 2.2 Social Work Committee at its meeting on 11 September 2003 (Item 16, Page 251 03/07) and Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 2 October 2003, (Item 10, Page 318, 03/07) agreed to recommend to the Council that a Best Value Review be conducted on Services for Looked After and Accommodated Children and Young People.
- 2.3 The Regulation of Care Act 2001 requires that residential services for young people, and fostering and adoption services are both registered and meet National Standards. These services will require to meet the same Standards as those services provided by both the voluntary sector and the private sector.

3. MEMBER / OFFICER GROUP REMIT

- 3.1 It is proposed that a Member / Officer Group be established to oversee the Best Value Review with the following Terms of Reference.
- To review the operation of the Council's Residential Units for children and young people and assess them against the National Care Standards
 - To review the operation of the Council's fostering and adoption services and assess them against the National Care Standards
 - To review fieldwork services to looked after and accommodated children and young people

- To consider the operation of the Councils services within the wider provision of care within the Council boundary and services which are purchased outwith East Ayrshire
- To involve staff / children and young people / carers in the Review
- To elicit staff / children and young people / carers views about current and future service requirements
- To make recommendations in light of the Review and propose the action required to ensure quality, registerable care services operated by the Council are delivered.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 It is recommended that the Council agree:-

- (i) To nominate 7 Members to be on the Officer / Member group - 5 from the Administration and 2 from the Opposition
- (ii) That the group present a report to Policy and Resources Committee in the spring of 2004 and
- (iii) Otherwise note the content of the report

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
BE/AGW
ENCL (0)
15 October 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information please contact Bill Eadie, Principal Officer, Children and Families and Criminal Justice Services, Council Offices, Civic Centre, Kilmarnock. (Tel 01563 576728).

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: BILL EADIE