

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2003 AT  
1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,  
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Eric Jackson, Ray Murray, Jim O'Neill, Stephanie Young, Douglas Reid, Gordon Cree, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, Isabella Macrae, Harry Wilson, Iain Linton, Jim Raymond, Stuart Finlayson, Robert McDill, Neil McGhee, William Crawford, and Elaine Stewart.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services; Jackie Donnelly, Head of Social Work; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support; Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support; Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager; John Alexander, Principal Officer (Quality and Planning); Bill Eadie, Principal Officer (Children, Families and Criminal Justice); Eddie Fraser, Acting Principal Officer (Community Care); Caroline Gordon, Public Relations Assistant; and Melanie Anderson, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors John Knapp, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell and William Menzies.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Eric Jackson, Chair.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

1. The Chair welcomed Jackie Donnelly as the new Head of Social Work and, on behalf of the Committee, extended his congratulations and best wishes.

The Chair also welcomed Eddie Fraser, Acting Principal Officer (Community Care) to his first meeting of the Committee.

Finally, the Chair intimated that a short presentation on drugs issues would be held immediately following the Committee and extended an invitation to all Members to attend.

Councillors Reid, Weir and Linton joined the meeting during this item.

**BUDGETARY PROGRESS REPORT - SOCIAL WORK TO 21 JULY 2003  
(PERIOD 4)**

2. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 28 August 2003 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Educational and Social Services on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Social Work for the period ended 27 July 2003 (Period 4).

**AWARDING OF CONTRACTS**

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 6 August 2003 and Appendix issued on 9 September 2003 by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which provided, for information, details of three tenders which had been

accepted, the amounts shown being the actual costs of the contracts exclusive of professional fees (both circulated).

#### **SOCIAL WORK PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES 2003-2004**

4. There was submitted a report dated 4 September 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought endorsement of the Social Work Performance Objectives detailed in the operational policy statement "Social Work Performance Objectives 2003-2004".

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the Social Work Performance Objectives 2003-2004, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) to note that annual reviews of the operation and policy statement would be presented to the Committee in future years; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

Councillor McIntyre left the meeting during discussion of this item.

#### **HOSPITAL RETRACTION DEVELOPMENT**

5. There was submitted a report dated 26 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on developments in relation to the retraction of services at Arrol Park and Strathlea Resource Centres.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the financial commitment of £598,000 to date which would facilitate the continuation of the discharge process between 2003 and 2005;
- (ii) to note that a further report would be submitted to the Committee regarding the balance of £193,500 to be found by 2005/2006; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY ACTION PLAN (Item 3, Page 98, 03/07)**

6. There was submitted a report dated 22 July 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on proposals for a revised and updated Departmental Health and Safety Action Plan for 2003/2004 in relation to Social Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the recommended Departmental Health and Safety Action Plan 2003/2004 as detailed in the Appendix to the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services provide further reports on the Department's response to the Action Plan; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

#### **ABSENCE MANAGEMENT - QUARTERS 1 AND 2, 2003**

7. There was submitted a report dated 25 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on staff absence rates for Social Services, including

Resource Support and Support to Communities, for the quarterly periods ending 31 March and 30 June 2003.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director and Senior Officers continue to take appropriate action to ensure support mechanisms were available for staff to assist in the reduction of absence levels; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

#### **EAST AYRSHIRE RACE EQUALITY SCHEME (Item 9, Page 3189, 99/03)**

8. There was submitted a report dated 4 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the Race Equality Action Plan developed following an assessment of Social Work functions within the Department of Educational and Social Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Action Plan as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services return to Committee with an annual review of progress; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

#### **EXTENDING CARE SUPPORT SERVICES**

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 26 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the development of support services complementary to Social Work frontline services which would increase the opportunity for vulnerable people to stay in the community.

#### **ENHANCEMENT OF DAY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

10. There was submitted a report dated 26 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the proposed enhancement of day support services for older people.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the enhancement of the services outlined in section 4.1 of the report;
- (ii) to refer the staffing implications to the Corporate Governance Committee for consideration; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

#### **DIRECT PAYMENTS UPDATE (Item 7, Page 2604, 99/03)**

11. There was submitted a report dated 26 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the implementation of Direct Payments in East Ayrshire and which sought approval of an hourly payment rate for Direct Payments.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the hourly rate of £8.85 for Direct Payments; and

- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

**RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACTION PLAN 2002 -  
PROGRESS REPORT (Item 12, Page 2606, 99/03)**

- 12.** There was submitted a report dated 13 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on progress in respect of the implementation of the recruitment and retention action plan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the progress made to date with the action plan, as set out in section 3 of the report;
- (ii) to authorise Officers to continue to work towards the achievement of the identified target outcomes;
- (iii) that a further progress report be presented to Committee at a future date, as appropriate; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the content of the report.

**UPLIFT IN GRANTS FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

- 13.** There was submitted a report dated 30 July 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the proposed uplift in grants for voluntary organisations providing services for children and families and which received funding from mainline budgets.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the grant increase detailed within Section 2.2 of the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services make the necessary arrangements for the grant to be paid; and
- (iii) otherwise note the content of the report.

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN'S UNIT AT MONTGOMERY PLACE,  
KILMARNOCK (Item 7, Page 2493, 99/03)**

- 14.** There was submitted a report dated 25 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and social Services on the proposed development of a new intensive support children's unit at Montgomery Place, Kilmarnock.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the site at Montgomery Place as the agreed location for the new intensive support unit, subject to the transfer of the land in question;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services seek the appropriate consents regarding the transfer of land to the Department of Educational and Social Services; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

**THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME (Item 11, Page 3025, 99/03)**

- 15.** There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 8 August 2003 (circulated) by the Directors of Homes and Technical Services and of Educational and Social Services

on the implementation of the Scottish Executive initiative, Supporting People, and its operation in East Ayrshire Council since April 2003.

### **SERVICES FOR LOOKED AFTER AND ACCOMMODATED YOUNG PEOPLE**

16. There was submitted a report dated 29 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on a proposed Best Value review of services for looked after and accommodated young people.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support the recommendation for the Best Value review on services for looked after and accommodated young people;
- (ii) to refer the matter to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

17. The Committee resolved that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraph of Schedule 7A of the Act, as shown against each item.

### **AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR AUCHINLECK CARE HOME (PARAGRAPH 9)**

18. There was submitted a report dated 18 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought endorsement of the award of a contract to an independent sector care provider to build, operate and manage the Auchinleck Care Home project.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the commissioning team's recommendation as outlined within the report;
- (ii) that the Legal Section enter into a contract with the provider in question;
- (iii) that a presentation be made to the next meeting of the Committee on plans for the building; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the content of the report.

### **BEST VALUE SERVICE REVIEW OF OLDER PEOPLE'S RESIDENTIAL SERVICES (PARA 2) (Item 2, Page 1956, 99/03)**

19. There was submitted a report dated 21 August 2003 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the outcome of the consultation exercise regarding the future of the four residential homes for older people operated by the Council.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the findings of the Best Value Service Review Group as contained within the report;

- (ii) to refer the matter to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration;  
and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1037 hours.