

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 9 NOVEMBER 2000

DISBURSEMENT OF GRANTS TO OLDER PEOPLE'S GROUPS 2001/2002

Joint Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To provide an update of progress regarding the work remitted to officers following the Cumnock Area Local Committee held on 25 May 2000 and to propose a way forward for dealing with grants to older people's groups next financial year.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Cumnock Area Local Committee at its meeting on 20 January 2000 agreed, amongst other things, to set a closing date for grant applications for the financial year 2000/2001.
- 2.2** At the Special Cumnock Area Local Committee meeting on 10 May 2000 the Committee dealt with the applications which had been received from local organisations but continued consideration to a future meeting on applications for grant submitted by older people's group (including Old Folk's Welfare Associations /Age Concern Organisations and other groups) pending submission of a further report on options available to the Committee on this matter, a sum being set aside to consider these grant awards.
- 2.3** The Cumnock Area Local Committee on 25 May 2000 agreed that money be expended on a per capita basis at a rate of £3.75 per person to the Old Folk's Welfare Association and Age Concern Organisations, and further grants were made to other older people's groups who had made applications.
- 2.4** The Committee also agreed that work be carried out by appropriate officers with older people's groups over the year 2000/2001 to assist groups with submitting grant applications based on need rather than a calculation per capita; and that a report by the officers be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee to enable consideration to be given as to how grant applications from Older People's groups might be dealt with in future.

3. PROGRESS TO DATE

- 3.1** Over the summer period discussion has taken place regarding the best means of working with older people's groups, within the resources available to the Council.
- 3.2** The East Ayrshire Elderly Forum Liaison Group held a conference on 3 October 2000 to which a number of representative older people organisations in the Cumnock area were invited.

- 3.3 Following this conference, East Ayrshire Elderly Forum, with support from Community Development Officers will convene a meeting in November 2000 of representatives from appropriate groups and other interested parties to propose the development of a Cumnock Elderly Forum.
- 3.4 This Forum will form the basis for ongoing discussions with older people in Cumnock and their representative organisations to gain their views on a range of issues affecting them and will include the grants administration and the needs of older people. The existing Muirkirk Elderly Forum will also inform the Council in this respect.
- 3.5 Officers will support both Forums in their development and in particular the outcome of the views received by these Forums are intended to assist the Cumnock Area Local Committee in determining its future method of allocating available grant monies to local groups and organisations.

4. THE WAY FORWARD

- 4.1 The key to providing effective feedback on the needs of the older people in the community is to build up the membership and role of these Forums, with Officer support, in order that they make a meaningful contribution. ~
- 4.2 These views may then be taken into account by Committee to assist in making an informed decision on the needs of older people in the area.
- 4.3 The summer period is a particularly busy time for older people's organisations making formal meetings difficult. Accordingly, a programme of work has now been agreed and officers will support the further development of a forum in Cumnock thus enabling it to be involved in assessing the need for services or activities to be funded through Community Grants.
- 4.4 The Committee will wish to continue to treat every application on its individual merits and will wish to ensure an appropriate allocation of resources. The Committee will also wish to have regard to the independence of individuals and their right to exercise choice whilst at the same time members will wish to avoid any possible duplication of resources and activity.
- 4.5 It is therefore proposed for next financial year in order to meet the concerns of the Local Committee regarding duplication in relation to groups applying for Summer and Christmas activities, Officers will work with groups to inform them of these concerns. It is also proposed that a condition be attached to any grants given to older people's groups that they should confirm in writing that there will be no duplication.
- 4.6 The general premis should still apply that applications should be dealt with on their individual merit. Independence, choice and dignity of individuals must be recognised and the choice of individuals as to where they go and who they go with should be preserved.
- 4.7 Officers are still supportive of the view that any applications submitted by older people's groups are considered on a needs basis instead of the current practice of a per capita allocation.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS - None arising directly from this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS - NIL

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Any discussions with older people's groups are carried out under the principles contained within the "Better Government for Older People" initiative in that older people's choices, independence and views will be acknowledged.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee are asked that for next financial year:

- (i) Officers work with groups to inform them of the concerns of the Committee regarding duplication of Summer and Christmas activities;
- (ii) that a condition be attached to any grants made to older people's groups that they should confirm in writing that there will be no duplication;
- (iii) each application shall continue to be assessed on its own merits and funding levels for the organisations shall be determined when the budget for 2001/02 has been determined;
- (iv) to note that the Forums will provide feedback in respect of the grant administration; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/
Director of Corporate Resources

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational &
Social Services

27 October 2000
JA/LR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Council's Corporate Plan
2. Better Government for Older People Programme
3. East Ayrshire Joint Community Care Plan 1998-2001

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, on telephone number (01563) 576104. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager on telephone number (01563) 576135.

AGENDA