

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DOON VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE - 11 SEPTEMBER 2001

CHILDREN'S SERVICE PLAN 2001 – 2004

Report by Director of Education and Social Services

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Local Committee members of the completion, content and implementation of East Ayrshire Council's second children's services plan, 'Inspiring Young People'.
- 1.2 To seek the participation of Committee representatives in the plan's review process.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 placed a duty on local authorities to prepare, consult upon and publish a strategic plan outlining services to children, young people and families every three years. 'Our Children' the authority's first service plan was published in 1998. 'Inspiring Young People' is more diverse than its predecessor, focusing on universal services but clearly targetting the most vulnerable children and young people.
- 2.2 'Inspiring Young People' was approved by the authority's Policy and Resources Committee on 14 June 2001

3.0 THE PLAN

- 3.1 'Inspiring Young people' covers 6 central themes:-

- Children & Young Peoples Rights
- A Good Start in Life
- Health & Wellbeing
- Learning and Development
- Children & Young People with Additional Needs
- Children & Young People Safety

And has 4 overall aims:

- to ensure children and young people increasingly have a voice in the issues which affect them
- to ensure children and young people receive appropriate support, education and services to enable them to achieve their potential, particularly those who are most vulnerable
- to promote children and young people's positive health
- to promote children and young people's safety and wellbeing

4.0 CHILD AND YOUNG PERSON'S CHARTER OF RIGHTS

4.1 East Ayrshire Council's Child and Young Person's Charter of Rights – (based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) has been incorporated into the plan. This is a vital component in the authority's drive to promote active citizenship among its young people. The Charter seeks to balance awareness and application of rights with acknowledgement of responsibilities. Local Committee consultation concerning the Charter was undertaken in 2001.

5.0 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

5.1 A number of workshop forums were initiated, enabling community representatives to participate in shaping the Plan:

- The Community Representative Forum included, Elected Members; Local Committee Members; Ayrshire & Arran Health Council; School Board and East Ayrshire Childcare Partnership representation;
- A Youth Forum involving 17 young people aged 14 to 17 years;
- A voluntary sector local Service Providers Forum, involving representatives from 23 agencies;
- Children and young people from the Chinese community;
- A website questionnaire completed by 500 children and young people;
- Nursery involvement through Circle Time and questionnaire.

6.0 CHILDREN'S SERVICE PLAN IMPACT ON LOCAL COMMITTEE AREA

6.1 'Inspiring Young People' aims to provide the following benefits across East Ayrshire, some of which are subject to available resources and partnership funding.

- A commitment to promoting active citizenship with East Ayrshire's children and young people, in particular considering the establishment of Youth Councils;
- Emphasis on ensuring that children have a good start in life, by expanding childcare services
- Closer collaboration between all agencies, including the voluntary sector, particularly in relation to drugs misuse;
- Promotion of National Standards in Fostering and Adoption;
- Recruitment of additional Children's Carers;
- Enhancement and development of adoption services

6.2 Geographically specific targets include:

- Increasing the number of Day Carers in Doon Valley;
- Introduction of Home Start provision;
- Employment of a Family Support Worker in Bellsbank Family Centre, with responsibility for home visiting, establishing parents groups and individual support.

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION

- 7.1 Six multi-disciplinary groups have responsibility for implementing the plan. Each focuses on a particular area of 'Inspiring Young People' reporting to an authority led multi-agency steering group, which monitors the overall implementation of the plan
- 7.2 'Inspiring Young People' will be subject to review as an essential part of the service plan's implementation and monitoring process. It is hoped that the Community Representative Forum, comprising local committee representation will meet at least annually to review progress.

8.0 POLICY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Nil

9.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Financial details are outlined within the 6 thematic action plan sectors of the service plan.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Committee is requested to:
- i) endorse local committee representation on the Community Representative Forum as part of the Plans review process; and
 - ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director Of Education And Social Services

31 July 2001
KG/JB/SB

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. East Ayrshire Council's Child and Young Person's Charter of Rights
2. 'Inspiring Young People', East Ayrshire Council's Children Service Plan 2001 – 2004
3. 'Our Children', East Ayrshire Council's Children's Service Plan 1998 – 2001
4. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104 or John Butler, Service Officer (Quality & Planning), Tel: (01563) 574891.

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AGENDA