

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE – 21 MARCH 2001

A FRAMEWORK FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SCOTLAND: PROGRESS REPORT ON JOINT MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGIES

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To update Local Committee of the progress made in implementing the Mental Health Strategy for Adults and the Strategy for People with Dementia and Older People with Mental Health difficulties, both covering the period 1999-2004.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Community Care Sub-Committee of 24 October 1997 (Item 2, Page 2687), was advised that the Scottish Office had published "The Framework for Mental Health Services in Scotland". This was produced to assist staff in Health, Social Work and Housing Agencies, including Scottish Homes, to develop a joint approach to the planning, commissioning and provision of integrated Mental Health Services.
- 2.2** Two separate project boards were established in November 1997, one of which was responsible for developing the strategy for adults with mental health difficulties, and the other with responsibility for developing the strategy for people with dementia and older people with mental health difficulties. The membership consisted of user and carer representation, health and representatives from the 3 Local Authorities in Ayrshire.
- 2.3** Following a lengthy consultation period, the documents were approved by Ayrshire and Arran Health Board on 28th January 1999 and by Social Work Committee on 16th March 1999 (Item 5, page 4377).

3. UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

- 3.1** The underlying principles for the future development of mental health services include:
- (i) a commitment to supporting people at home rather than in long-term institutional hospital care
 - (ii) a commitment to rehabilitation and resettlement of people currently in hospital
 - (iii) a strengthening of primary care
 - (iv) ensuring that mental health services are local, accessible and responsive.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 The Mental Health Strategy for Adults made 56 recommendations, which included a significant number of service developments as follows:

- (i) a further seventy people being resettled in the community.
- (ii) the redevelopment from Ailsa Hospital of rehabilitation services to three sites in local authority areas.
- (iii) the creation of home option teams providing intensive support.
- (iv) the strengthening of social work links with primary care, particularly relating to early prevention interventions.
- (v) a wider range of accommodation with support.
- (vi) a range of locally accessible day services including independent sector provision and services operating from mainstream community centres, as well as specialist centres. The aim is to make day supports available in every locality.
- (vii) quality standards for the provision of "out of office hours" services including the statutory mental health duties of Mental Health Officers.
- (viii) an effective joint training strategy which promotes collaborative working.
- (ix) wide availability of advocacy services in hospital as well as community and primary care settings.

4.2 The strategy for Older People with Dementia and also Older People with mental health difficulties proposed 18 recommendations designed to ensure effective joint working between Local Authorities and Health Agencies including :

- (i) the commissioning of a contact person service to facilitate the provision of a consistent first contact point for individuals and their families.
- (ii) the provision of comprehensive community services.
- (iii) the expansion of intensive home support.
- (iv) the expansion of day care.
- (v) the further development of advocacy services.
- (vi) the further development of respite provision.
- (vii) the expansion of services for young people with dementia.

4.3 The recommendations contained within each strategy were costed by Ayrshire and Arran Health Board, with the involvement of the members of the Project Boards.

4.4 Ayrshire and Arran Health Board planned to invest in the region of £4 million to support the recommendations contained within these two strategies, and the Strategy for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Difficulties.

4.5 While Ayrshire and Arran Health Board continues to be committed to the implementation of all of the recommendations, the phasing of implementation has required to change as a result of difficulties which have emerged in allocating resources within year 2 of the strategy (2000/01).

- 4.6** The new services which have been established within Local Authorities for people with mental health difficulties have been funded via resource transfer monies from Ayrshire and Arran Health Board following the closure of continuing care beds in hospitals.

5. PROGRESS OF STRATEGY

- 5.1** The following progress has been achieved in the strategy for adults with mental health difficulties:

- (i) two people who originate from East Ayrshire have been resettled to more appropriate care in the community from continuing care beds in Ailsa Hospital
- (ii) a home option team has been created, providing people with intensive support at home.
- (iii) community guides are now in place to assist people to access local support facilities.
- (iv) a one year part-time post has been created for the year 2000/01 to help empower users by contributing to the planning and evaluation of mental health services.
- (v) a joint mental health awareness training strategy has been agreed with all partners.
- (vi) additional investment had been made in East Ayrshire Advocacy Services.

- 5.2** The following progress has been achieved in the Strategy for people with Dementia and Older People with Mental Health Difficulties:

- (i) Within the 1st year of the implementation of the strategy, additional home based services were made available with £50,000 part year money (£100,000 full year). This enabled individuals to remain in their own homes and avoided admissions to either hospital based services or institutional care.
- (ii) A new out of hours crisis home based respite service was introduced which enabled carers and other agencies to access home care services out of hours. This service avoided inappropriate hospital admissions due to a carers illness or other crisis in a persons home which occurred out of normal operational hours.
- (iii) The new information and advice service called WISDOM (Working to Inform and Support people with Dementia or Other Mental Health difficulties) has been commissioned in South Ayrshire, with the intention of expanding this further into both North and East Ayrshire.

6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Further developments in local authority services for people with mental health difficulties will be funded via resource transfer monies made available by Ayrshire and Arran Health Board following the closure of continuing care beds.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that local committee members note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational & Social Services

JM/ST
9 January 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. A Framework for Mental Health Services in Scotland.
2. Ayrshire and Arran Draft Mental Health Strategy (Adults) (1999-2004)
3. Ayrshire and Arran Strategy for People with Dementia and Older People with Mental Health Disabilities (1999-2004).

The above papers are available from the office of the Director of Educational & Social Services, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock.

For further information on this report please contact Susan Taylor, Service Unit Manager (Adults), Pamela Noonan, Manager, Mental Health or Martin Clark, Service Unit Manager, Older People's Services.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: SUSAN TAYLOR

AGENDA