

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE : 4 SEPTEMBER 2002**

### **RESPIRE FOR CARERS**

#### **Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is

- (i) To inform the Committee of respite available to carers.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 Following a discussion of Ayrshire Mental Health Strategy at Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2002 the Director of Educational and Social Services was asked to bring a report to a future Committee on the availability of respite for carers.

2.2 The Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995 gives carers entitlement to an assessment (on request) when a local authority carries out a Community Care Assessment (or Review) of the person being cared for.

A carer is defined as a person who provides "a substantial amount of care on a regular basis".

In East Ayrshire, as a matter of good practice, assessors should offer carers an assessment when completing a Community Care Assessment rather than wait for a specific request from the carer.

2.3 The Scottish Executive Strategy for Carers in Scotland (1999) gives further direction to Local Authorities on the types of support to be provided to Carers, including respite.

#### **3. CURRENT SUPPORTS FOR CARERS**

3.1 East Ayrshire Council provides support for carers both by the direct provision of services and indirect through funding of organisations including, Princess Royal Carers Centre, Advocacy Service, Citizen's Advice and Alzheimers Scotland.

3.2 Respite services to carers are provided following an assessment of need by 3 principal methods.

- (i) Providing supports to the person being cared for in their own home:- this service can be provided either directly by East Ayrshire Homecare service or through a commissioned partner such as Crossroads Short Breaks. Home based respite is usually provided for a few hours to allow carers to go out, however, where appropriate, extended services can be provided to facilitate a carers holiday.

- (ii) Providing supports to the person being cared for outwith their home:- often carers request some time alone or with other family members at home. In this circumstance, arrangements can be made through Homecare supports to take the person being cared for out or to arrange regular attendance at day services.
- (iii) Accessing residential supports for the person being cared for:- services are either provided directly e.g. through East Ayrshire Residential Homes for older people or through commissioned partners e.g. The Elms for Adults with a Learning Disability or Lisalanna For children with special needs.

3.3 Assessments for all of the above services are accessed for people living in Northern Area, through contacting Social Work, Reception Services Team at 9 Balmoral Road, Kilmarnock, telephone 01563 528011.

#### **4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no financial/legal implications to this report.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 It is recommended that Committee note the content of this report.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Director of Educational and Social Services**  
**14 August 2002**  
**Enc (0)**  
**EF/LM**

For further information on this report please contact:  
Eddie Fraser, Service Unit Manager Home Care, Community Care: 01563 554825

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: EDDIE FRASER**

**AGENDA**