

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE – 22 JANUARY 2003

2003 ANNUAL REVIEW OF 'INSPIRING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'

Report by Director of Educational & Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the annual review of 'Inspiring Children and Young People', East Ayrshire Council's Children and Young Person's Service Plan and to seek comments from the Local Committee which might inform the process.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 places a duty on Councils to develop and review statutory 'Children's Service Plans' in conjunction with planning partners. These plans are corporate in nature, requiring to be developed in partnership with key agencies such as NHS Ayrshire & Arran, Strathclyde Police and the local voluntary sector.
- 2.2 'Inspiring Children and Young People' is East Ayrshire Council's second statutory Children's Service Plan.

3. PROGRESS IN 2002

- 3.1 Progress in implementing 'Inspiring Children and Young People' includes:
- Representatives from secondary and special schools student Councils meet with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Education Committee to discuss issues on a quarterly basis;
 - East Ayrshire Council's Day Carer service, supporting the most vulnerable young children and their families has expanded its number of day carers from 15 to 26;
 - Community Services Kids Club provision has been expanded to include Fenwick;
 - Five Substance Misuse Workers posts have been created within Social Work Children & Families Teams;
 - A Drugs Officer (Social Work) and School Drugs Education Advisor (Education) have been appointed to work with a focus on schools;

- A specialist Addiction Worker has been established within East Ayrshire Carer's Centre;
- Improved co-ordination of Domestic Abuse services is being targeted through the East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Forum.

4. YOUTH FORUMS AND ANNUAL REVIEW CONSULTATION SEMINAR

4.1 These consultation events held respectively on 4th and 5th December 2002 identified the need to:

- Include children & young people more directly in writing and designing the Children's Service Plan and its review documents;
- Enhance partnership with the voluntary sector involving them more fully in planning;
- Continue to involve the community through appropriate consultation and provision of information.

Next years annual review process will be informing the next three year Children and Young Person's Service Plan and the Local Committee is asked in particular for it's view on the best way to continue it's involvement in the process.

5. PRIORITIES FOR 2003 – 2004

5.1 The Scottish Executive publications: 'An Action Plan for Scotland's Children' and 'Planning for Children's Services, Aims, Outcomes and Performance Measures' reinforce Children's Service Plan priorities identified for 2003 – 2004. These include:

- Ensuring via the Children and Young Person's Champion that children are properly consulted and that the views of young people are fully taken into account;
- Promoting continued integration of service provision between education, health and social work through the nine Learning Partnerships;
- Improving the educational attainment of children accommodated away from home;
- Improving quality standards.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council is obliged to review the Children's Service Plan under the terms of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. Local Committee consultation is a significant part of this process.

7. FINANCIAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 NIL

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Members are requested to:

- (i) offer comments and suggestions which will help shape the implementation of 'Inspiring Children and Young People'; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational & Social Services

16 December 2002
KG/JB

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. An Action Plan for Scotland's Children
2. Inspiring Children and Young People (Initial Plan)
3. Inspiring Children and Young People (2001-02) Review Report
4. Planning for Children's Services, Aims, Outcomes and Performance Measures

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support. Tel: (01563) 576104 or John D Butler, Service Officer, Quality Assurance, Planning and Review, Tel (01563) 554891.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER – KAY GILMOUR.