

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY SUB - COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 28 SEPTEMBER 2000

THE PRINCESS ROYAL TRUST - EAST AYSHIRE CARERS CENTRE "CARERS IN EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION PACK"

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise the Sub-Committee of the launch of the Princess Royal Trust East Ayrshire Carers Centre "Carers in Employment Information Pack" and the Council's subsequent action in supporting and promoting this initiative to all employees.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1** The Princess Royal Trust East Ayrshire Carers Centre, based in Kilmarnock is jointly funded by East Ayrshire Council Social Work Department, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board and The Princess Royal Trust for Carers. The Carers Centre has been open for three years and offers information, support, social events and training opportunities to all carers throughout East Ayrshire.
- 2.2** A carer is someone who looks after a member of their family, relative, friend or neighbour in the community who cannot manage without help because of sickness age or disability. There are an estimated 15, 000 carers in East Ayrshire and the Carers Centre currently has over 800 carers registered with them and is constantly striving to identify and support the "hidden carers" - those carers who are carrying out their caring role with little or no support.
- 2.3** Around 15 % of the working population in the United Kingdom combine their employment with a caring role. Applying this ratio to East Ayrshire we can estimate some 6,000 carers in our community and 900 in the Council's employ. In an endeavour to raise awareness amongst local working carers of the support available to them, the East Ayrshire Carers Centre, commissioned by East Ayrshire Council Social Work Department, developed a range of information material for carers in employment.
- 2.4** Provost Boyd, along with Councillor Darnbrough, Chair of the Social Work Committee helped launch the "Carers in Employment" scheme in East Ayrshire on 31 May 2000.
- 2.5** The information material which was produced in conjunction with the Council's Personnel Department, is in the form of posters, leaflets, cards and booklets which will be used by employers throughout East Ayrshire to highlight the support the Carers Centre can offer working carers. The Carers Centre although located in Kilmarnock, operates fortnightly outreach surgeries in Cumnock, Muirkirk, Dalmellington, Newmilns, Stewarton and Crosshouse.

- 2.6** The Council has promoted the Carers in Employment Initiative by including information on the Carers Centre to all employees in August payslips. In addition, a member of the Carers Centre attended a meeting with all Personnel Officers in the Council to raise awareness of the services they can offer to the "hidden carers." Information on the Carers Centre has been E - mailed to all computer users and is included in the Council's Intranet Site.
- 2.7** The Council has also been liaising with the Carers Centre to set up an information site on the Public Intranet Site to publicise the range of services and support they can provide to carers. This public site will be available in September 2000.

3. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1** The promotion of the East Ayrshire Carers Centre to employees supports the Council's general welfare policies.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** East Ayrshire Council jointly funds the Carers Centre to develop initiatives that raises awareness amongst the East Ayrshire communities. The promotional materials were provided by the Carers Centre.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1** The Sub – Committee is asked to note:
- a) the Council's role in assisting the East Ayrshire Carers Centre develop their "Carers in Employment Initiative" ; and
 - b) the subsequent promotion of the Carers Centre to the Council's workforce.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources
4 September 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Members can obtain copies of the East Ayrshire Carers Centre promotional material via Kathy Logan, Employee Relations Officer on 01563 576062.

AGENDA