

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 18 APRIL 2002

ANNUAL REVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSON'S SERVICE PLAN 2001-2004

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To seek Committee approval for the Annual Review of the Children and Young Person's Service Plan 2001-2004, incorporating the proposals for the Changing Children's Service Fund.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Local authorities are required to develop and publish Children's Service Plans under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. The Children and Young Person's Service Plan 2001-2004, "Inspiring Young People" was approved by the Policy & Resources Committee on 14 June 2001.
- 2.2** In December 2001 local authorities received notification of the Changing Children's Service Fund and associated guidance in relation to aims, outcomes and performance measures for children's service planning.
- 2.3** The allocation to the East Ayrshire area for the Changing Children's Service Fund is £675,000 in 2002/03 and £913,000 in 2003/04. Proposals for the use of this money requires to be agreed by the local authority, the health service and the local Council for Voluntary Organisations.

3. ANNUAL REVIEW 2001/02

- 3.1** The annual review seeks to:

- report on the progress of implementing the objectives outlined for 2001/02
- set out national and local changes which will influence future progress
- identify those tasks within the Plan which have to be completed in 2002/03

- 3.2** In continuing to meet these aims partners continue to:

- work to better integrate services
- improve ways of involving children and young people in decision making
- promote an ethos of community and neighbourhood involvement
- concentrate on the delivery and deployment of front line services
- focus on increasing efficiency, effectiveness and value for money
- maintain an emphasis on quality assurance
- promote the increased use of information technology
- highlight the ongoing commitment to social justice and social inclusion

3.3 Good progress has been made in working towards the aims set out in the Children and Young Person's Service Plan, across all the themes of:

- Children's Rights and Responsibilities
- A Good Start in Life
- Health & Wellbeing
- Learning & Development
- Children with Additional Needs
- Children's Safety

3.4 Out of the 28 action points agreed for 2001 just under 75% have been achieved. The remaining 25% are on target to be achieved in 2002/03.

3.5 The Annual Review is available in the members library and the information bulletin board.

4. CHANGING CHILDREN'S SERVICE FUND

4.1 Local authorities and their partners in the statutory and voluntary sector require to agree proposals for the use of the Changing Children's Service Fund which will meet the priority objectives of:

- the expansion of integrated early years services for vulnerable young children in deprived communities
- advice and support for parents of vulnerable children in deprived communities, including home/school links
- support packages for children with disabilities or special physical, emotional, mental health or educational needs
- developing targeted education, prevention and rehabilitation services for children and young people involved in or affected by drug, alcohol or substance misuse
- support packages for vulnerable children and young people at key transition points, including access to psychological and psychiatric services
- ensuring universal services reach all children (example children who are homeless)

4.2 The overall aim of the fund is to assist planning partners better integrate children's services.

4.3 Proposals in relation to the Changing Children Service Fund are set out in Section 12 and Appendix 2 of the Annual Review of Children and Young Person's Service Plan.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The financial implications arising from the Children and Young Person's Service Plan, incorporating the Changing Children's Service Fund can be met

from either existing resources or the dedicated funding attached to the Changing Children's Service Fund.

5.2 Specific proposals will be progressed through relevant service committees.

6. POLICY & LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The development of the Children and Young Person's Service Plan is part of the statutory obligations set by the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) approve the Children and Young Person's Service Plan Annual Review; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

KG/SB
28 March 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Children and Young Person's Service Plan 2001-2004 - Policy & Resources Committee 14 June 2001
2. Guidance on Changing Children's Service Fund - December 2001

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR

AGENDA