

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 14 JUNE 2001

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL'S CHILDREN'S SERVICE PLAN 2001-2004

Report by Director of Educational & Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To seek Elected Members approval for 'Inspiring Children and Young People', East Ayrshire Council's Children's Service Plan 2001-2004.
- 1.2** To seek Elected Members approval for the associated Child and Young Person's Charter of Rights.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Children (Scotland) Act 1995, places a duty on Local Authorities to prepare and publish a Service Plan every three years relating to children's services. This should be prepared in partnership with agencies, particularly the local Health Board, Primary Care NHS Trust and Strathclyde Police.
- 2.2** 'Inspiring Children and Young People' outlines the agreed strategic direction of children's services for the period 2001 – 2004. It has been developed by:
 - East Ayrshire Council
 - Ayrshire and Arran Health Board
 - Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care NHS Trust
 - Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
 - Strathclyde Police
- 2.3** It builds on the strategic direction set out in the first Children's Service Plan, "Our Children", which covered the period 1998-2001 by extending the scope of children's service planning to address the needs of all children in East Ayrshire while targeting resources on the needs of those children known to be most vulnerable.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1** The proposals set out in the Plan reflect the outcome of consultation through:
 - young persons forum
 - community representative forum
 - providers forum
 - Internet questionnaire
 - nursery children.

3.2 A number of common issues arose from consultation with those groups and from discussions in thematic groups led by officers. The issues fall under the following headings:

- the need to develop universal children's services while at the same time targeting resources on the most vulnerable children
- services should have the 'child at the centre'
- children should be given the best start in life
- children and young people who are particularly vulnerable should be supported by service providers working together
- children and young people have fundamental rights and should influence policy and strategy
- learning should be child centred and fun – it should build self esteem and confidence
- where appropriate, alternatives to the curriculum should be available
- there should be more leisure and recreation facilities
- health is critical, particularly to avoid substance misuse, teenage pregnancy and mental health problems
- services should work together to support children and young people with special educational needs
- children and young people should be protected from harm.

4. SUMMARY OF THE PLAN

4.1 The Plan has four overall aims:

- to ensure children and young people increasingly have a voice in the issues which affect them
- to ensure children and young people receive appropriate support, education and services to enable them to achieve to their ability, particularly those who are most vulnerable
- to promote children and young peoples positive health
- to promote children and young peoples safety and wellbeing.

4.2 The Plan has six themes, namely:

- children and young people's rights
- a good start in life
- health and wellbeing
- children with additional needs
- safety
- learning and development

4.3 The Plan is in three parts:

- volume 1, outlines the main areas for progress including proposed actions for 2001-2004. Anticipated costings have been set out for Year 1.
- volume 2, sets out the issues raised during consultation.
- volume 3, is a factfile of relevant demographic needs and performance information.

Volume 1 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Volume 2 and 3 are in the process of being finalised.

4.4 Specific actions outlined in 'Inspiring Young People' include:

- proposals for the promotion of active citizenship among children and young people
- the further development of services providing children with a good start in life, in particular a greater focus on integration, with specific proposals regarding family centred services for the most vulnerable
- a review of the services provided to disabled children and young people and their families
- further development in relation to the promotion of healthy lifestyles with a particular emphasis on prevention of drug misuse, teenage pregnancy and mental ill health
- promotion of children and young people's safety, including home and community safety
- improved health and wellbeing through positive play and physical activity
- reduction in the number of looked after and accommodated young people
- improved support services for previously looked after and accommodated young people

- development of the Council's adoption services in accordance with Draft National Adoption Standards
- further planning and delivery of services at a very local level based on the experience of New Community Schools

5. CHILD AND YOUNG PERSON'S CHARTER OF RIGHTS

- 5.1** A primary aim of the Plan is to contribute positively to promoting a socially inclusive society and encourage an ethos of citizenship in East Ayrshire's children and young people. To facilitate this the Plan introduces a Child and Young Person's Charter of Rights, based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, building on work which began in the lifetime of "Our Children", the Children's Service Plan for 1998-2001.
- 5.2** The Charter has been developed in large part by East Ayrshire's young people themselves. Consultation was undertaken with Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care NHS Trust and community consultation included East Ayrshire's Childcare Partnership, the Ethnic Minority Forum and the seven Local Committees.
- 5.3** A copy of the Charter is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

6. POLICY/LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** The policy, legal and financial implications of implementing the Plan are identified within the document itself. Specific issues arising from the implementation of the Plan will be the subject of separate reports to the appropriate Service Committees.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** It is recommended that elected members:
- (i) approve East Ayrshire Council's Children's Service Plan 2001-2004;
 - (ii) approve the Child and Young Person's Charter; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational & Social Services Department

22 May 2001
JB/KG/SB

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

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

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR

CHARTER OF RIGHTS

This Charter outlines **East Ayrshire Council's** commitment to safeguarding and working in partnership with its young citizens. East Ayrshire's future is closely linked with that of our children and young people.

In 1991, the government agreed to meet most of the requirements of the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**. "Our Children", the Council's Children's Service Plan 1998 - 2001, promised wide consultation on the development of a Children and Young Person's Charter of Rights. This has involved listening to the views of just under 1000 young people over the last three years.

The Charter is based on the main Articles of the United Nations Convention. It also seeks to safeguard personal and citizenship rights guaranteed by the **Children (Scotland) Act 1995, Human Rights Act 1998 and European Convention on Human Rights**.

WHY DO WE HAVE A CHARTER ?

East Ayrshire Council's vision has developed from our discussion with young people. The vision is of a socially inclusive community, where each child and young person:

- ◆ Is free from harm, abuse and exploitation.
- ◆ Lives in good quality housing, enjoys a good standard of basic care and grows up in a healthy environment;

- ◆ Has the opportunity to reach their full potential, with no child, young person, or family excluded, for reasons of race, religion, language or disability;
- ◆ Has access to good health care;
- ◆ Is offered school education as a basic right, if of school age. This education should be directed to helping them achieve their full potential, regarding personality, talents, mental and physical abilities;
- ◆ Has their education, training, employment and social needs advanced, with a view to achieving the greatest possible level of independence.
- ◆ Is assisted to balance rights with responsibilities and become a productive member of their community.

This Charter is an important step in working towards these goals.

PLEDGES

The council undertakes to :

- ◆ Treat children and young people with respect;
- ◆ Ensure that children and young people are consulted when planning services.

- ◆ Empower young people to use East Ayrshire's suggestion and complaints procedures where appropriate.
- ◆ Encourage active citizenship and respect for others.
- ◆ Work in partnership with our young citizens.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of The Child

(The following summary of the Articles on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was written by young people in East Ayrshire)

Each child and young person living in East Ayrshire, or looked after by East Ayrshire Council, has the right to :

- ◆ Feel safe and protected from harm; (Article 19)
- ◆ Have their religion, culture and language respected; (Articles 14 and 30)
- ◆ Be cared for and have an adequate standard of living; (Article 27)
- ◆ Grow up in an environment that is supportive, encouraging and does not discriminate; (Article 2)

- ◆ Receive the proper support and encouragement to allow them to thrive and develop as an individual; (Article 8)
- ◆ Be placed at the centre of any decisions that are made on their behalf, with the young person's best interests always placed first; (Article 3)
- ◆ Live with their parents in their own community unless this is not possible; (Article 9)
- ◆ If separated from either or both parents, be supported in maintaining contact when appropriate; (Article 9)
- ◆ Express an opinion on matters that affect them and have their opinion listened to and taken into account; (Article 12)
- ◆ Be able to access information which will allow them to form and express opinions; (Articles 13 and 17)
- ◆ Stay at home with their family whenever this is possible. East Ayrshire Council should provide support to families to allow this to happen; (Article 18)
- ◆ Be properly looked after and feel safe in another family or suitable place, if it is not possible to live with their own parents; (Article 20)

- ◆ Leisure rest and play, having opportunities to participate in a varied range of recreational pursuits; (Article 31)

Children's Service Plan

East Ayrshire Council's Children's Service Plan, is the driving force shaping children and families services in the 21st century.

Implementation of the Service Plan, including regular progress checks, will be carried out in partnership with children, young people and their families.

If you wish to obtain further information concerning the Children's Service Plan, or any of the topics contained within this Charter please telephone or write to:

**John D Butler
Service Officer (Planning)
Educational and Social Services
Children and Families
Civic Centre
John Dickie Street
Kilmarnock
KA1 1BY**

Telephone: 01563 554891



East Ayrshire Council



**CHILD & YOUNG PERSONS
CHARTER**



EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

INSPIRING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Working in Partnership : 2001-2004

LOGOS

'A joint plan of services for children and young people'

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Child and Young Person's Charter of Rights

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

- 1.0** The Children (Scotland) Act 1995, places a duty on each local authority in Scotland to complete a strategic plan, every 3 years, concerning services to children, young people and families. Services should be planned and delivered on a multi-agency basis.

The partners who participated in the development of the plan are:

- Ayrshire and Arran Health Board
- Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care NHS Trust
- Carrick and Doon Valley and East Ayrshire Local Health Care Co-operatives
- East Ayrshire Children's Panel
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- Strathclyde Police

The plan has been shaped by wide ranging consultation and understanding of need, including:

- a Young Persons Forum
- a group of young Chinese people
- a Community Representative Forum, comprising Elected Members, Local Committee Members; Local Health Council representatives and representatives of the East Ayrshire School Board Steering Group
- a Providers Forum.

1.1 Consultation Issues

A full consultation record is outlined in the 'Partnership, Participation and Consultation' document, which complements this service plan. The consultation process had 3 elements:

- Stakeholder consultation with external partner agencies such as East Ayrshire's Children's Panel and inter-disciplinary bodies such as East Ayrshire's Adoption and Fostering Panel and multi-agency Child Protection Committee
 - Community consultation with the forums outlined above
 - Consultation with children and young people. This was based on quality circle time to consult with pre-five nursery school children and internet consultation with children and young people aged 4-18. This was facilitated by schools, Yip.World.Com. and Kilmarnock North West Youth Information Project.

The primary issues raised by Stakeholder Consultation included:

- Further improvements in the joint delivery of services for children with special needs
- The importance of permanence to children when considering long term fostering and adoption
- The importance of post adoption support to the adopted child, adoptive family and natural parent(s).

Community and young peoples consultation highlighted:

- The need to ensure a balance between children and young people's rights and responsibilities, which is proportionate to age and stage of development
- The importance of respect and self esteem to children and young people
- The need to approach each child and young person as an individual – this may mean school curriculum alternatives
- The particular needs of children and young people who are disabled
- The importance of play to children's lives
- Health needs including sexual health

Areas of mutual concern:

- Alcohol and drugs
- The effect of alcohol and drugs on parents' abilities to care for their families
- The need to give young children the best start in life
- The need for children and young people to be safe in their own home
- The importance of family learning
- Learning needs to be fun
- People who deliver services need to listen

The quality circle time/internet consultation with children and young people indicated:

- Attending nursery is fun and a place to learn
- General approval of school experience
- A positive attitude towards teachers
- There was variation in perception of crime in areas
- A number of older children and young people reported feeling unsafe walking alone at night after dark

‘Inspiring Children And Young People’ has been developed to take account of the needs of all children and young people, but seeks to target resources which meet the needs of the most vulnerable. Central to the plan are 6 themes:

- Children and young people’s rights
- A good start in life
- Health and wellbeing
- Learning and development
- Children and young peoples safety
- Children and young people with additional needs

1.2 Aims 2001-2004

This plan builds on, and further develops the work initiated in ‘Our Children,’ the authority’s first children’s services plan. The 2001-2004 plan has 4 overall aims:

- To ensure children and young people increasingly have a voice in the issues which affect them
- To ensure children and young people receive appropriate support, education and services to enable them to achieve their potential, particularly those who are most vulnerable
- To promote children and young people’s positive health
- To promote children and young people’s safety and wellbeing

SECTION 2 – POLICY CONTEXT

2.0 Current Influences

The Scottish Executive places high importance on children and young people. In its publication 'Social Justice; A Scotland Where Everyone Matters,' 6 out of the 10 long term targets relate to children, young people and families. Other developments which are influencing the shape of children and young people's services are:

- Sure Start Scotland – focused on supporting families with young children 0-3 years, through health, education and social work working seamlessly
- Childcare Strategy – aimed at developing quality, flexible childcare services to meet the needs of parents and children (0-14 years)
- Children's Service Development Fund – seeks to continue the development of services to children looked after by the local authority
- Children's Innovation Fund – primarily targetted at the health service
- Youth Crime Initiative – seeks to respond to the problems posed and faced by young people who offend in a manner that is imaginative, co-operative and effective in reducing offending behaviour and the fear of crime
- Educational National Priorities – defines educational objectives priorities for school education
- Excellence Fund – targeted at increasing attainment in schools
- New Community Schools – aimed at raising achievement through health, education and social work working in an integrated way, through the school setting
- Scottish Health Plan – sets out action for the health service and its partners to improve health
- Children's Health Services Template – a framework of what should be included in the planning and commissioning of a child health service
- Health Improvement Fund – focused on promoting positive health and preventing ill health in children and young people
- Social Inclusion Initiatives – aimed at combating social exclusion whilst promoting equality of opportunity for children and young people
- "The Same As You" – A review of services for people with learning disabilities.

The partners involved in the preparation of the 'Inspiring Young People,' seek to plan and provide services within a Best Value framework.

2.1 Future Influences

In the lifetime of this Plan, the Scottish Executive will issue guidance in relation to integrated children's services, with a Changing Children's Services Fund established to support progress.

The Regulation of Care Bill, which will become law this calendar year, will introduce The Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care which will have responsibility for the regulation of children's services including local authority services. In addition, the regulation of all staff working with children will be the responsibility of the Scottish Social Services Council.

The current consultation document 'A Plan for Action on Alcohol' asks a number of key questions in relation to current concerns about drinking; what needs to be done and what organisations can contribute to an agreed Plan for Action. The implications arising from this national review will impact over the lifetime of this Plan.

The 'Modernising Government' initiative aims to ensure that the delivery of public services is improved through new technology. A target has been set for all local authorities to deliver appropriate services electronically.

East Ayrshire Council has been allocated £6.5 million over the period 2001 – 2004 from the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund to tackle the disadvantage in North West Kilmarnock and Shortlees/Riccarton. This is in addition to the monies allocated to the Social Inclusion Partnership.

2.2 Local Influences

The multi-agency planning for children's services in East Ayrshire increasingly has as its basis community planning. It is likely that, in the course of the next 3 years, community planning will exert a greater influence on this and other statutory plans. Other publications which complement this Plan include:

- East Ayrshire Council Plan
- Ayrshire and Arran Health Plan
- Local Health Care Co-operatives Business Plans
- East Ayrshire Leisure Strategy
- East Ayrshire Joint Community Care Plan
- East Ayrshire E Government Strategy
- East Ayrshire Community Learning Strategy

Social Inclusion

The Council receives Social Inclusion Funding from the Scottish Executive. This funding seeks to tackle social exclusion and promote social inclusion. Formal Scottish Executive funding covers only the Cumnock and Doon Valley area. However, as part of the Council and its partners commitment to addressing the impact of social exclusion across the authority a Partnership Board has also been established in the north of the authority. The principle of social inclusion is central to 'Inspiring Children And Young People.'

SECTION 3 – A PROFILE OF EAST AYRSHIRE

3.1 East Ayrshire has a population of approximately 120,000 people living within a geographic area of 190 square miles. It consists of both urban and rural areas with the population concentrated in Galston, Kilmarnock and Stewarton in the north of the authority and Auchinleck, Cumnock and Dalmellington in the south. It is anticipated that there will be a reduction in the overall East Ayrshire population in 10 years, bringing with it greater challenges for agencies and the community to work together.

Public health information reported by Ayrshire and Arran Health Board in 1999 identified East Ayrshire as scoring higher than the Scottish average, in 4 out of 7 deprivation categories. Parts of Auchinleck, Cumnock, Gilfoot, Hurlford, Crookedholm and Kilmarnock were cited among the worst 10% in Scotland in terms of disadvantage.

Poverty and other forms of deprivation and disadvantage are inter-related. National Children's Homes (Scotland) highlights that poverty and social exclusion go hand in hand. Children growing up in family poverty are also more likely to be involved in accidents, particularly road accidents. Low income is also a determinant of poor health. Lone parenthood, the number of children under five, receipt of Income Support, school meals, footwear and clothing grants are regarded as likely indicators of poverty and disadvantage.

Table I

Demographic Information By Area

By Committee Area/Council	Kilmarnock and Loudoun	Cumnock and Doon Valley	East Ayrshire
Population			
100% Adjusted Total	80706	42562	123268
Ethnic*	436	181	1234
%Ethnic*	1.06	0.42	1.01
0-15	15178	8570	23748
16-64	50657	26048	76705
% Under 5	10.3	5.5	5.3
%5-15	28.9	15.5	14.8
%Children in Lone Parent HH	11.3	6.5	6

Households

% HH with No Cars*	40	42	42.1
% Owner Occ Housing**	54.8	46	51.5
% Rented Housing**	44.7	54	48.5

Unemployment

% Unemployed (16+)***	16.4	8.9	8.6
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Crime

Crimes against the person	305	130	435
Crimes of dishonesty	2049	612	2661
Malicious Damage	843	434	1277
Misuse of Drugs	442	221	663
Misc Offences	1834	1107	2941

PLEASE NOTE

* only as at 1991 therefore expressed as a % of 1991 Census Population figures

** extracted from Housing Plan based on 1996 Ward Data

*** small areas are 'residence based' figures (Feb 2000) for internal comparisons

ie. not comparable with ONS published figures at UK, Scotland and Authority level

Sources – Voluntary Population Survey 1998 – AJVB/Planning & Building Control Division, Census 1991 – General Register for Scotland
Police Beat Records Jan 2000 – Strathclyde Police,
Unemployment Statistics Feb 2000 – SLIMS

Table II

Children and Young People By Local Committee Area As At 31st March 2001

Local Committee Area	Northern	Irvine Valley	North Kilmarnock	Central Kilmarnock	South Kilmarnock	Cumnock	Doon Valley
0-15	3,032	3,794	3,119	2,648	2,585	6,096	2,474
% Under 5	5.2	5.4	5.5	4.2	5.6	5.5	5.5
% in Lone Parent Households	3.7	5.5	9.1	3.1	9.1	6.2	7.2

Table III

Income Support Statistics As At 1st April 2001

Children 0-15 in Families on Income Support	23%
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Table IV

Free School Meals and Footwear and Clothing Grants As At 2000/2001

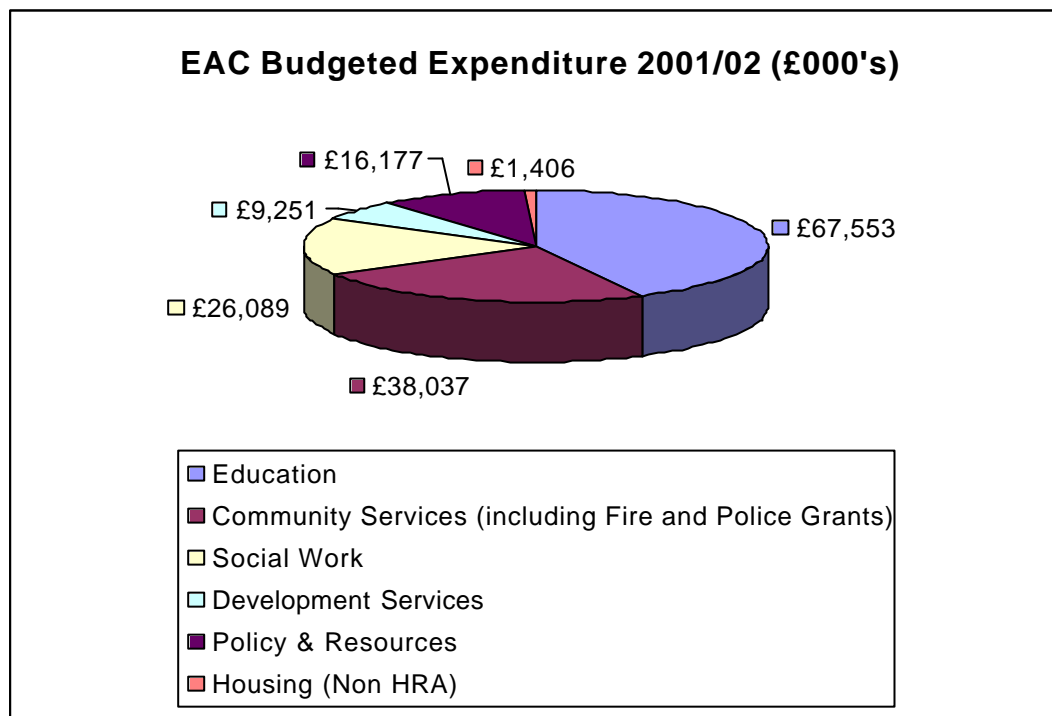
Sector	Meals %	Footwear and Clothing %
Primary School	25	40
Secondary School	18	33
Special School	22	37

Take up of free school meals and footwear and clothing grants varies from 5% and 14%, Annanhill Primary School to 74% and 94% Hillhead Primary School. Stewarton Academy has 10% and 20% and 36% and 56% Doon Academy. Uptake in special schools varies from 15% and 35% Woodstock Special School and 58% and 66% Park School.

SECTION 4 – FINANCIAL CONTEXT

4.0 East Ayrshire Council – Revenue Expenditure 2001/02

The Council's net expenditure for 2001/02 is £158.513 million. The diagram below details the budgeted revenue expenditure split into service allocations.



4.1 Educational and Social Work – Services to Children and Young People

In July 2000 East Ayrshire Council merged its Education and Social Work departments. One of the principal objectives of this merger was to establish an integrated approach in service delivery.

The new department is structured into 4 divisions: -

Schools;
Social Work;
Community Support; and
Resource Support.

A detailed breakdown of the budgeted expenditure for 2001/02 for Educational and Social Services, relating to children and young people, is highlighted in the table below.

Table: Breakdown of Educational and Social Services Expenditure

Expenditure Heading	2001/02 Budget (£000's)
Work and Families	1,844
Children with Disabilities	614
Children in Trouble	793
Fostering and Adoption	1,100
Residential Care	2,036
Community Groups	401
Mainstream Education	56,124
Special Education Needs Provision	5,535
Early Years	4,023
Highland / Gaelic Education	248
Community Schools	400
Expenditure	73,118

Note: Figures include commissioned services and allocations under Sure Start; Childcare Strategy; Children's Services Development Fund

Since 1996 Council and departmental strategies have increasingly focused on funding community based care initiatives and integrating young people with special needs into mainstream services. This can be evidenced by the following examples.

- Spending on fostering and adoption has risen from £691,000 in 1997/98 to £1,070,000 in 2000/01. This represents an increase of 54.85% in 4 years.
- Significant increases in spending have also taken place in providing Social Work support for Children with disabilities, rising from £196,000 in 1998/99 to £598,000 in 2001/02. Within Education Services provision for Special Education Needs Auxiliaries budget has increased by £280,000 since 1998/99.
- Spending for the Support for Children in Trouble initiatives has increased from £143,000 in 1997/98 to £693,000 in 2000/01. Projects such as the Youth Strategy scheme demonstrates close working between various schools, psychological and social work agencies. The programme aims to help young people with behaviour difficulties stay within the mainstream education system and Youth Strategy spending has risen from £177,000 in 1999/2000 to £282,000 in 2000/01.

Childcare Strategy and Sure Start national allocations from the Scottish Executive have also risen from £270,000 and £370,000 in 1999/2000 to £364,000 and £474,000 in 2001/02. These allocations have been utilised for a number of initiatives such as partnership working and developments for 0 – 3 year olds.

Scottish Executive funding for the provision of a New Community School in the Kilmarnock area has been in place since 1999/2000. This three-year initiative of £200,000 (per annum) has resulted in integrated approach by Education, Social Work and Health Board colleagues.

Within the Kilmarnock Academy cluster of schools, social workers and health workers deal with health issues and additional teaching staff have been employed to raise educational standards. Other developments include breakfast clubs and Easter and summer schools. Just under £70,000 of additional funding has been attracted through New Opportunities Funding, Social Inclusion Partnership and Health Improvement funding for New Community Schools.

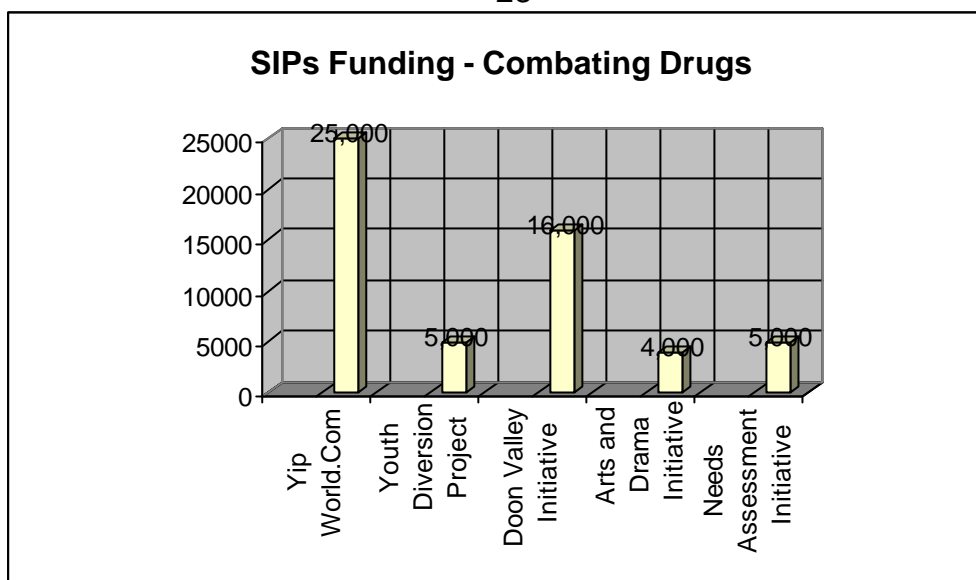
In 2001/02 East Ayrshire received an additional £200,000 per annum for 3 years to implement a New Community School initiative for the Cumnock area.

4.2 Social Inclusion Partnerships (SIPs)

SIPs funding has been allocated for a number of projects specifically aimed at children and young people and others which have children and young people as part of their focus. These projects and budgeted expenditure for 2001/02 are detailed below: -

• East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth (EASY)	£ 36,962
• YiP World.Com	£166,581
• Recreation Partnership	£ 99,551
• Young Carers Initiative	£ 13,759
• East Ayrshire Works	£ 50,000
• Alternatives to Addiction	£ 39,522
• Community Learning Opportunities	£ 57,505
• Community Food Initiatives	£ 20,000
• Healthy Living Initiatives	£ 40,000
• Children's Holiday Project	£ 3,100

Included in the SIPs funding for 2001/02 are a number of anti-drugs initiatives, which are highlighted in the chart below.



These projects involve multi-agency working with partners including the voluntary/private sector and Ayrshire and Arran Health Board.

4.3 Health Improvement Funds

In March 2001 a number of awards were made under this programme for the period 2001 to 2004. These projects involve partnership working between Ayrshire and Arran Health Board and the local authorities in Ayrshire. Categories of awards are detailed below: -

All Ayrshire	£2,336,000
East Ayrshire	£ 308,000
Joint Working (East and North Ayrshire)	£ 174,000

The All Ayrshire projects include breakfast clubs, health initiatives, and provision for play equipment for children with special needs.

Within the East Ayrshire programme is a breakfast club, recreation projects and community kitchens.

The Joint Working project between the Health Board and East and North Ayrshire is aimed at promoting sexual health amongst teenagers in the area.

New Opportunities Funding increasingly supports the further development of community based services and the undernoted table sets out funding as at 31 March 2001.

Successful New Opportunities Fund Applications As At 31st March 2001

Bellsbank Adventure Playground	£20,742	72 childcare places
Crosshouse After School Care	£35,200	24 childcare places
Dunlop Out Of School Care	£9,004	14 childcare places
Ideal Start Nursery	£48,008	60 childcare places
PALS After School Service	£26,889	48 childcare places
PEACE Consortium	£196,606	522 childcare places
• Ayrshire North and East Chinese Community	£63,962	112 childcare places
Kilmarnock Academy Breakfast Club	£34,000	
Park School After School Activities	£43,000	
Park School Summer Activities	£8,400	
Hillside School Lunch Tutors	£33,000	
EA Strategic Arts	£79,637	
Hillhead New Community School	£11,719	
Total:	£610,167	852 places

4.4 Summary

The Council's objectives of increasing community based care for children and young people has been matched through increasing expenditure in the appropriate areas over the period from 1997/98 to 2000/01. For example increases in fostering and adoption expenditure and the increased Special Education Needs Auxiliary provision.

Increasingly resources are maximised through external funding.

East Ayrshire is committed to multi agency working, both inter departmental and inter agency with outside bodies, including the Health Board and the private/voluntary sectors. This can be demonstrated in the partnership working with the health board for addiction initiatives.

The Scottish Executive require local authorities to set out costed proposals for additional childcare strategy funding in 2001/2002.

Additional funding of £92,680 has been allocated to East Ayrshire for financial year 2001/2002, to progress the objectives of the Childcare Strategy in relation to the development of childcare services and the implementation of the action plan for the training and development of staff in early education, childcare and playwork.

The proposals for the allocation of this funding are as follows:

Infrastructure £51,250

A questionnaire was sent to all early education and childcare services in East Ayrshire to establish the demand for places, unmet need and priorities for development.

The funding will support the development and expansion of existing services to provide extended day care, wrap around care and additional places.

Workforce Development and Training £41,430

This funding will continue to support the implementation of SVQ Level 3 in Early Education and Childcare and SVQ Level 2 and 3 in Playwork as detailed below:

• SVQ Co-ordinator	
• Candidates Registration Costs	
• Library Resources	
• Travel Costs for Assessors	
• Meeting/Training Costs	£32,500
• Early Years Conference	£ 1,000
• SVQ Level 2/3 Playwork	£ 7,930
TOTAL	£41,430

Thematic Priorities

The action points and associated costs contained in each of the thematic priorities are set out in Section 5 – 10 of the Plan. Costs are detailed for financial year 2001/2002 dependant on available resources.

SECTION 5 - THEMATIC PRIORITIES: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES RIGHTS

5.1 This section of the plan takes each theme in turn, sets out the progress we wish to make, the main things we need to develop and an Action Plan to move things forward.

Critical to the successful implementation of the Plan is staff development and training. This is relevant to the implementation of all themes but in particular to further developing an integrated approach to services. Multi-agency training in relation to child protection has been specifically set out due to its critical importance.

The establishment of the Scottish Institute for Residential Care will play a key role in the development of residential staff.

Strategic developments in relation to the Social Services Council will have an impact on all staff working with children.

5.2 Children and Young People's Rights

WHAT PROGRESS WILL LOOK LIKE

- Better understanding by young people of their rights
- Evidence of the promotion of active citizenship through a variety of mechanisms
- Young people more directly influencing services
- Provision of independent advocacy services
- Better understanding by adults of the rights of children and young people

5.3 Understanding Rights

"Partners shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his other own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child".

(Article 12, United National Convention on The Rights of The Child).

The United Nations Convention On The Rights Of The Child was endorsed to promote the rights of young people 0-18 years. Scotland's Parliament also takes the Convention into account when passing legislation affecting children, young people and families. The United Nations Convention underpins the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, which identifies young people's individual and family rights, recognising growing maturity, at different ages.

Local authorities are also expected to demonstrate commitment to the Convention. East Ayrshire Council has published a Child and Young Person's Charter based on the United Nations Convention.

Other legislative provision relevant to children's rights includes the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000, Human Rights Act 1998 and Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act.

5.4 Active Citizenship

Active citizenship involves:

- Being informed and having an awareness of individual and personal rights
- Respecting the rights of others
- Perceiving oneself as a stakeholder in the community
- Being empowered to make a positive contribution to the community.

Young people's current involvement in active citizenship in East Ayrshire includes:

- 3 young people representing East Ayrshire, as Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament
- Young people's participation in the Council's Local Committees
- Youth Forums throughout East Ayrshire
- Annual Youth Conference organised and led by young people
- Quality Circle time in nurseries and schools and the development of School Councils
- Peer education initiatives.

5.5 Influencing Services

Children and young people shape services in a number of ways, including:

- Completion of questionnaires following leisure and recreation programmes to ascertain children and young people's views
- Young people's inclusion on the Yip World.Com Board of Directors
- The community safety section holds an annual speech making competition, where children and young people raise issues on safety. They are also invited to take part in 'Safer Group' meetings in their local areas

- Collaboration with Who Cares? (Scotland) with looked after and accommodated children and young people to seek their views about services
- Young people are involved in interviews for Social Work and more recently Community Education staff.

5.6 Advocacy

All children and young people require support to express their views through advocacy support at different times in their life. Self-advocacy is encouraged whenever possible. Parents, family members and carers usually take on the advocate, however certain children and young people, may require additional support from someone who is independent.

5.7 WHAT NEEDS TO BE DEVELOPED:

- a co-ordinated approach to raising awareness about children's rights
- co-ordinated approach to involving children and young people in influencing policy and strategy.
- information available in different languages and different formats
- information about rights and services for travelling families
- comprehensive approach to promoting active citizenship

ACTION PLAN 2001 – 2004

DEVELOPMENT	TIMESCALE	LEAD SERVICE	FUNDING
Explore the feasibility of establishing a local elected member as a child and young person's champion	2001	Educational & Social Services (Community Support)	Existing resources
Identify a local authority lead officer to raise public awareness, regarding children and young people's rights	2001	Educational & Social Services (Community Support)	Existing resources
Distribution of East Ayrshire Council's child and young person's charter of rights, accompanied by a public education programme targeting children, young people, schools and community	2001 onwards	Educational & Social Services (Community Support)	£1,000 for first year
Review the support required by travelling families	2002	Corporate Development and Communication	Existing resources
Progressively develop the use of circle time in nursery, primary and secondary schools	2001 onwards	Educational & Social Services (Schools)	Existing resources
Increase the number of trained quality circle time trainers from 20 to 50	2003	Educational & Social Services (Schools)	£24,000
Progressively develop peer group education in Kilmarnock and surrounding areas	2002-2004	Educational & Social Services (Community Support)	£45,000
Support the Chinese community and Islamic Education and Cultural Society to establish community centres	2001 onwards	Educational & Social Services (Community Support)	External funding application

Establish a policy on the development of Child Impact Statements	2002	Corporate Development and Communication	Existing resources
Support and encourage the development of student councils in every school to feed into a local youth Council	2003	Educational & Social Services (Community Support Services and Schools)	Costing to be finalised
Further develop the use of the Internet as a means of consultation and providing information	2002	Educational & Social Services)	Existing resources
Determine the need for development of independent advocacy services	2002	Educational & Social Services (Community Support Services)	Community and external funding application
Determine the feasibility of establishing a budget managed by young people for young people	2002	Corporate Development and Communication	£10000

SECTION 6 - GOOD START IN LIFE

6.1 *“A huge amount has been achieved for childcare in Scotland over the last two years, spurred on by the plans prepared by the Childcare Partnerships and the local authorities that support them. ”(Early Education And Childcare Plans)*

6.2 What Progress Will Look Like

- Improved integrated services for vulnerable very young children and their families
- Provision of nursery places for all 3 –4 year olds
- Increase in the number of Out of School Care places
- Improved partnership working with local companies regarding childcare
- Further meet the needs of working parents, and those returning to education and/or training

6.3 Support To Families With Very Young Children

A UK Cross-Departmental Review of Provision for Young Children identified the benefits of co-ordinated services to support families with young children. It highlighted the importance of support at the earliest stages to help children fulfil their potential and be able to take up opportunities such as pre-school education. The initiative developed, known as SURE START, is aimed overall at promoting social inclusion through the provision of community, family focused resources through integrated support from health, education and social work.

The investment to date through SURE START has allowed a number of services to be developed and others enhanced:

- East Ayrshire Family Day Care Service
- Training for Day Carers
- Expansion to Bellsbank Family Centre
- Expansion to Hillbank Nursery and Family Centre
- Expansion to Hillbank Outreach Crèches
- Support to two Voluntary Sector Crèches

6.4 Expansion of East Ayrshire Family Daycare Service

The service aimed at supporting vulnerable young children, primarily aged 0-3 years was established in November 1999. To date, 34 registered Childminders have accessed Day Carer induction training. 14 Childminders have been approved as Day Carers through further assessment undertaken

by Social Workers. A total of 88 children have been placed with Day Carers between 1 December 1999 and 31 March 2001.

A rolling programme of training and development for Day Carers has been established. This has included first aid and drugs awareness training.

6.5 Family Centre Provision

Additional places have been established for children aged 0-3 years. Five full-time equivalent places in Hillhead Nursery and Family Centre and 16 full time equivalent places in Bellsbank Family Centre. Outreach crèches have been expanded in North West Kilmarnock

6.6 Health Improvement Fund

A joint initiative, Fit Ayrshire Babies (FAB), funded through the Health Improvement Fund, will promote the benefits and importance of exercise and physical play for very young children and their carers within the area covered by the Ayrshire and Arran Health Board.

6.7 Planning Early Education And Childcare (0-14 Years)

The document entitled "A Childcare Strategy for Scotland," May 1998, set out the government's desire to see good quality, affordable childcare for children up to 14 years. In addition, the target to provide universal pre-school education by 2002 was set.

East Ayrshire Childcare Partnership was established in December 1988. Over the last two years, the Partnership has played a key role in the development of pre-school education for children aged 3 to 5 years and Out of School Childcare for children 5 to 14 years.

The Partnership has produced 2 Early Education and Childcare Plans in April 1999 and April 2000. Progress in relation to these plans is now incorporated in the Children's Service Plan.

Investment to date:

- East Ayrshire Childcare Partnership and Partnership Officer
- SVQ Co-ordinator (Early Education and Childcare, Playwork)
- Ayrshire Childcare Information Service
- Project Support (0-14 Years) to out of school care and other projects
- Continuous Professional Development
- East Ayrshire Toy Library
- Scottish Out of School Care Network commissioned to assist in the development of out of school care
- New Opportunities Fund Workshops for community and voluntary groups
- Scottish Childminding Association Scheme of Excellence

6.8 Progress Against Targets

Pre-School Education – Expansion of places for 3 year olds

Since the autumn term of 1998, East Ayrshire has provided Pre-School Education to all children in their Pre-School year, whose parents wished a place. Provision for 3 year olds has reached 70% in partnership with voluntary and private sector HMI registered providers of Pre-School Education. By August 2002, there will be 100% Pre-School education provision for 3 year olds.

6.9 Improving Quality in the Delivery of Pre-School Education

The Quality Development Team has examined quality issues across the sector through the monitoring and evaluation of the annual development plans and HMI action plans.

Partner providers have received advice and guidance with curricular issues, development planning, in-service training and pre and post HMI inspection support through the establishment of a dedicated partner provider post. Voluntary sector committees have also had access to support and guidance with their roles and responsibilities, employment issues and policy development.

6.10 Development of Wrap Around Care

A pilot project was established in Shortlees Nursery School in April 2000. The original assessment of need for this service was not reflected in the uptake of the service. However, a needs assessment has established that a maximum of 10 full time places within the nursery would support children who have been identified as being in need.

6.11 Development of Out of School Childcare

In collaboration with the Childcare Partnership, the Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN), produced a report which set out a strategy for the development of Out of School Care in East Ayrshire.

The information collated from the Out of School Care audit identified where parents and schools were keen to develop such services. New Opportunities Fund workshops were facilitated by the Partnership and SOSCN for those identified groups who wished to make applications to the Fund.

A local network of Out of School Care services was formed in August 2000. The East Ayrshire Out of School Care Network will play a key role in the support and development of existing and new Out of School Care projects.

To date, 8 applications, supported by the Childcare Partnership, have been made to the New Opportunities Fund for Out of School Childcare of which seven have been successful:

In order to meet the needs of parents who are employed outwith the normal working day, funding has been secured from the Action Team for Jobs to pilot a Sitter Service during evenings and weekends as an extension to an already existing Out of School hours Childcare Service.

The task of consulting with parents and children in East Ayrshire continues to provide evidence that further development of Out of School Care is required.

Children who attend Out of School Care Services have provided information about activities they enjoy and those, which they would wish to access in Out of School Care. The survey results have been collated and can be found in the fact file.

6.12 Development of East Ayrshire Childcare Partnership

The Childcare Partnership is subject to ongoing review. Six themed sub groups have been established to take forward priority issues within the Childcare Partnership Development Plan:

- Training
- New Opportunities Fund
- Finance
- Rural Issues
- Parents
- Childcare Information Service

The members have participated in 2 training days to address the issues of team building and effective partnership working.

6.13 Development of Ayrshire Childcare Information Service

The Ayrshire Childcare Information Service (ACIS) has been in existence since November 1999 and provides information about all registered childcare in East Ayrshire. The Ayrshire Childcare Information Service is unique in Scotland in that East Ayrshire works with the Childcare Partnerships of North and South Ayrshire Councils.

Parents can obtain information directly from the website, either through their home or community based internet services. or by calling at the office. Searches can be carried out in a variety of ways including Town, Postal Towns, Postcode Area & Electoral Wards. Information on childcare is available in leaflet form and enquirers can discuss concerns with staff directly. In response to requests from parents, details of Parent & Toddler Groups are also available from the service.

Awareness of the Ayrshire Childcare Information Service has been increased through publicity material being placed in Doctors' surgeries, Libraries, Community Centres, Sports Hall, Local Offices and Supermarkets. Links with Health Visitors and Job Centres have proved very successful particularly for

parents who are starting work through New Deal and women returning to work after maternity leave.

6.14 Training and Development of the Childcare Workforce

The training and qualifications audit undertaken by the Childcare Partnership in 1999 was updated in January 2001.

- Out of 279 early education and childcare workers – 73 are unqualified, largely in the voluntary and private sector
- 64 qualified and 49 unqualified Out of School hours childcare workers in the private and voluntary sector
- From this assessment of need, priority has been given to the promotion of SVQ level 3 in Early Education and Childcare. Thereafter, candidates will be targeted for SVQ level 2 Early education and childcare and SVQ level 2 and 3 in Playwork

The local authority has appointed an SVQ Co-ordinator to take forward the objectives of the Scottish Executive Action Plan, which includes the recruitment, retention, and training of the childcare workforce. Kilmarnock College in collaboration with East Ayrshire and the Childcare Partnership will provide the delivery of underpinning knowledge.

6.15 Review Support to Families

A multi-disciplinary working group was established in November 2000 to:

- identify current services available to support children 0-8 years and their families and gaps in service
- develop ways to provide a co-ordinated approach in the delivery of services to support families with children 0-8 years, placing emphasis on the 0-3 years age group

The findings of the group have informed the key targets for the development of Sure Start 2001-2004.

6.16 WHAT NEEDS TO BE DEVELOPED:

Family Day Care Service

East Ayrshire Wide

- Increase in the number of Day Carers
- Group support for Day Carers
- Further training and development, including access to the Scottish Childminders Scheme of Excellence
- Volunteer home visitors particularly targeting rural communities

Cumnock Area

- Early Education and Childcare provision 0-8 years
- Outreach Family Support Services and drop in facilities for parents
- Greater integration with health

Northern Area

- Early Education and Childcare provision 0-8 years
- Outreach Family Support Services and drop in facilities for parents
- Greater integration with health

The Development Of Out Of School Childcare

The areas where existing gaps exist are Central and North West Kilmarnock and Cumnock Area.

Ayrshire Childcare Information Service

To use the information contained in the database to plan and assess provision, a Geographical Information System (GIS) is being put in place.

Use of website features such as the Bulletin Board and The Local Information pages will continue to grow allowing services and activities aimed at children and those who work with children to receive wider publicity. The introduction of Hyperlinks will increase the level of information surfers can access whilst on-line by linking in directly to other relevant sites.

Improved Partnership With Local Companies

Larger local employers require to be targetted through the workplace. With changing patterns of work it is becoming more important to be able to access information on childcare provision quickly.

Consultation With Children And Young People (3 to 14 Years)

The Childcare Partnership has endorsed the principle of ongoing consultation with children and young people who use early years education and childcare . This need s to be achieved through the use of questionnaires, the Council Intranet and through the implementation of Circle Time.

Meeting The Needs Of Working Parents

The Childcare Partnership, in conjunction with the Ayrshire Childcare Information Service, will identify the expressed need for integrated and flexible early education and childcare provision to meet the requirements of working parents. It is recognised also, that parents returning to education and or training will require the provision of a similar service.

Wrap around care will continue to be piloted in early years provision in geographical areas where there is a clearly identified need.

ACTION PLAN 2001 – 2004

DEVELOPMENT	TIMESCALE	LEAD SERVICE	FUNDING
Increase the number of day carers from 15 to 25 particularly in the Irvine and Doon Valley	2003	Educational Social Services (Community Support)	Existing resources
Facilitate day carers access to the Scottish Childminders Scheme of Excellence in Training provision	2001 onwards	Educational Social Services (Community Support)	£2,000 (1 st year)
Maximise funding sources to introduce new Family Centre provision in the south of the authority and consider the feasibility in the Kilmaurs/Stewarton area	2003	Educational Social Services (Community Support)	Costing to be finalised
The existing Family Centre provision in Kilmarnock will be improved through maximising the opportunities arising from the newly merged Educational and Social Services Department	2003	Educational Social Services (Community Support)	Costing to be finalised
Establish a Family Support Worker post in Bellsbank Family Centre, with responsibility for home visiting, establishing parents groups and individual support	2001	Educational Social Services (Community Support)	£20,000
Further integrate early years provision with New Community Schools	2002	Educational Social Services (Community Support)	Existing resources
Work in partnership with health to maximise the role of Health visitors and Public Health nurses	2003	Ayrshire & Arran Primary Care NHS Trust	Existing resources
Introduce Home Start provision in Irvine and Doon Valleys	2002	Educational Social Services (Community Support)	£100,000

Develop wrap around care further and introduce full day care places in nurseries where a need has been identified	2002	Educational Social Services (Community Support)	Costing to be finalised
Further involve the Local Enterprise Company in the Childcare Partnership	2001	East Ayrshire Childcare Partnership	Existing resources
15 candidates will be presented for SVQ level 3 in Early Education and Childcare	2001	Educational Social Services (Community Support)	£53,030 (1 st year)
Review the effectiveness of the temporary SVQ Co-ordinator post with a view to rendering it permanent	2002	Educational Social Services (Community Support)	£29,778
Further develop a partnership approach with parents in the development of East Ayrshire's Out of School Network	2001 onwards	East Ayrshire Childcare Partnership	Existing resources
Depending on the outcome of the pilot sitter service in Shortlees, Kilmarnock, submit an application to the New Opportunities Fund	2002	East Ayrshire Childcare Partnership	New Opportunities Fund application

SECTION 7 - HEALTH AND WELLBEING

7.1 *“In 1998, the Health Department of the Scottish Executive commissioned 12 research projects into inequalities in health and young people’s access to health services. A conference in April 2000 brought together young people, researchers, practitioners and policy makers to consider the implications of this research. There was a consensus, led by the young people, that there was a clearly identified need to develop appropriate and accessible services for young people.” (Walk The Talk*

“Many people stressed the lifelong impact of ill health and health damaging lifestyles, citing evidence of improvements in pre-school child health and wellbeing through targeted interventions – particularly for low income groups. There is also evidence that improved child health can reduce future delinquency. The government accept this challenge with enthusiasm and now add child health to our list of priority topics.” (Towards A Healthier Scotland)

To this end the White Paper towards A Healthier Scotland identifies specific priorities and targets for improvements in children and young peoples health set against lifestyle, life circumstances and health topic backdrops. Our National Health, A Plan for Action sets out the strategic direction for children and young people and reinforces the need for partnership planning and decision making.

7.2 What Progress Will Look Like

- Greater recognition of the importance of child health within agencies and the community
- Increased resources to promote healthy lifestyles with a particular emphasis on preventing drugs misuse; teenage pregnancy and promoting positive mental health
- Improved health and well being through the promotion of positive play and physical activity
- Further develop partnership working across services, agencies and the community

7.3 Recognising the Importance of Child Health

Ayrshire and Arran Health Board have identified children and young peoples health as a major priority and its intentions are set out in the Local Health Plan.

7.4 Community Health Development

In partnership with a variety of groups and organisations, East Ayrshire Council is currently implementing a new health initiative based on the idea of a mobile

healthy living centre. The custom built “CHIP Van” (Community Health Improvement Partnership) will target seventeen areas within East Ayrshire with a range of health promotion programmes based on the expressed needs of each local community.

The project will link directly with the Recreation Partnership Project to enhance the health and well-being of children and young people. The project is funded until December 2006 by the National Lottery New Opportunities Fund, East Ayrshire Coalfield Area Social Inclusion Partnership and East Ayrshire Council. The long term aim of the project is to establish a network of self constituted, community led local health forums.

7.5 Health And Fitness Through Physical Recreation

Recreation Partnership Project

The East Ayrshire Kids Club Network was launched in April 1999 and provides a wide variety of activities including arts & crafts, new games and sports throughout the year for children aged 5 to 12 years. At present 15 clubs run on a Saturday and a wide variety of sessions are offered on an after school basis and during holiday periods.

An Activity Motivator pilot project took place over a three month period, which targeted 24 primary schools within East Ayrshire. These schools were offered sample Kids Club sessions, for Primary 3, 4 and 5. Each session consisted of games, and Healthy Eating activities. Twenty schools (approximately 1,600 children) - took part in the activities, with each child receiving an Activity Motivator fun pack, including free vouchers. To date 150 vouchers have been returned, with the numbers attending Kids Clubs having increased considerably.

This successful pilot forms the basis of a 3 years initiative funded through the Health Improvement Fund and East Ayrshire Social Inclusion Partnership which aims to:

- To deliver active recreation sessions, to a minimum of 38 primary schools per year including teacher in-service training. Sessions to incorporate fun based play and sport, healthy lifestyles awareness raising and promotion of existing opportunities
- To work with 3 schools per annum to develop the creative design of school playgrounds to encourage greater active use .

7.6 Nutrition

“What we eat has a profound effect on our health. A balanced and nutritious diet supports fitness and health. A poor diet can lead eventually to serious illness.” (Eating For Health : A Diet Action Plan For Scotland).

In addition to the promotion of positive health through physical exercise, healthy eating has been identified as a priority.

'Health In Scotland' reports that many Scottish children are nutritionally disadvantaged from birth. Many are not breast fed, receive solid food too early in life and establish a pattern of eating that is too high in fat, refined extrinsic sugars and in sodium. A recently announced British survey by the Doctor-Patient Partnership (DPP), intimates that more than 1,000,000 children – (double that of 20 years ago) – are classed as obese owing to bad diet.

Ayrshire and Arran Health Board have developed a multi-agency Breastfeeding Strategy to address Ayrshire's poor breast feeding rates. A pilot initiative to improve the cultural acceptance of breast feeding is underway in East Ayrshire.

The Ayrshire and Arran Health Board Health Promotion Service is seeking to promote healthy diet within East Ayrshire, with the local authority facilitating this process through 'healthy tuckshops' in schools. Breakfast club provision has also been introduced in some schools.

Social Inclusion's Community Food Initiative works with local community based food initiatives, community dieticians, health promotion staff and the private sector to address issues of food poverty by increasing awareness of the topic and range of food choices. Through links with the Kids Club Network, it provides healthy snacks to children aged 5-12 years

7.7 Addiction

"The age of young people's first drugs use has been decreasing in recent years." (Health In Scotland). *"It is clear that a radical rethink is required by all service planners, to change these patterns and trends. The needs of young drug users today and in particular the under sixteen group are often different from those of adult drug users. Services should reflect these differences in the planning and delivery of their services and in the skills mix and training of staff."* (Health In Scotland)

Ayrshire and Arran Alcohol and Drug Action Team, is the main alcohol and drugs planning forum within Ayrshire. The undernoted initiatives are targeted at young people in relation to substance misuse:

- B Wise Drongan (Peer Education)
- 'On-Line' – Advice and Information for Young People. This project, hosted by Yip World.Com will use information technology to tackle the problem of drug misuse among young people
- Young People's Diversion Scheme, Ayrshire Council On Alcohol and Bridge Project
- Alternatives to Addiction Scheme, Bridge Project

- A new post has been created within the local authority's Young People Who Offend Team, for a worker to address drugs issues
- Research has been commissioned to undertake a needs assessment and young people's involvement with drugs. This initiative is focusing on the social inclusion areas across Ayrshire
- 'Right Here, Right Now' raises awareness of the issues surrounding the dangers of drug misuse amongst 12-18 year olds via drama and music

Liaison with East Ayrshire's Children's Panel, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and Police, suggests that alcohol is as serious, if not a greater problem than drugs. In a number of instances alcohol and drug misuse complement each other.

7.8 Child and Young People's Mental Health

"It is calculated that, at any one time, 20% of children and adolescents experience psychological problems." (Bright Futures, The Mental Health Foundation). "Surveys suggest that the prevalence of mental health problems in school age children is between 13% and 26%. However between 80% and 90% of these children receive no specialist help." (Health in Scotland 1999).

Current service developments in East Ayrshire include:

- Social Worker post established in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Team in East Ayrshire
- Jointly funded Social Worker post (3 local authorities) to the Pan Ayrshire Child and Adolescent Mental health Services
- Funding for 3 years from 2001 across Ayrshire to address the needs of children and young people with attachment disorders. This is particularly relevant to the needs of a number of looked and accommodated young people as well as adopted children

7.9 Sexual Health

"Scotland's high rate of unwanted teenage pregnancy remains a matter of immense concern. High proportions of these pregnancies occur in the most deprived areas. Many teenage mothers keep their babies, already socially and educationally disadvantaged they may find themselves excluded from further education and employment opportunities. Unfortunately, the teenage pregnancy rate in East Ayrshire remains comparatively high in terms of national comparison." (Towards A Healthier Scotland).

Ayrshire and Arran Health Board's Sex Education Strategy, notes the correlation between teenage pregnancy and deprivation. Rates of teenage pregnancy in East Ayrshire are comparatively high:

Rates of Teenage Pregnancy

Department of Public Health 1997

Rates per 1,000	13-15	13-19
Scotland	8.9	42.9
Ayrshire and Arran	11.3	48.3
North Ayrshire	10.6	46.2
South Ayrshire	9.4	49.1
East Ayrshire	13.9	49.6

(From Ayrshire and Arran Health Board Sex Education Strategy 2000-2004)

Support is offered to most pregnant teenagers during the time they attend school. This is tailored to the individual student's needs, mostly centering around advice from Guidance Staff and the School Nurse. Home tuition is available where appropriate. Schools provide courses on sex-education for pupils, either through Sex Education Classes or through their Personal and Social Education programmes. Some schools also incorporate parenting classes into these programmes.

Recent developments include:

- The development of a multi-agency Ayrshire and Arran Sex Education Strategy
- Appointment of a Consultant for Child Health in the Primary Care NHS Trust
- Establishment of a drop in health clinic for young people at the Cumnock Community Hospital which will link into the Cumnock New Community School
- Young Parents Project and Peer Education Project in Cumnock and Doon Valley incorporating a Virtual Baby initiative

7.10 What Needs to be Developed:

- Increased School holiday programmes
- Provision of Kids Clubs across more communities including healthy snacks
- The need to provide information about services in a format and location which young people can easily access
- Improved co-ordination in relation to child and adolescent mental health services

- More initiatives developed by young people for young people
- Opportunities for play and recreation across all main communities, with particular attention placed on access for children and young people with special needs
- A comprehensive approach to healthy eating
- Expansion of diversionary schemes to combat alcohol, drugs and substance misuse
- Specialist alcohol and drug counselling support services to children and young people
- Services targeted at the children of drug misusing parents
- Focus on the drug education and support needs of looked after and accommodated young people
- Training in child and family dynamics for alcohol and drugs workers
- Multi agency training for professionals working with children and young people involved with drugs
- Greater involvement of parents in a partnership role in sex education
- Development of a general programme with the health agencies and voluntary sector, adaptable to local need, which focuses on self esteem and well being, which contributes to the reduction of unwanted teenage pregnancy
- Enhanced domiciliary, mainstream and befriending support services for teenage mothers with no family support

ACTION PLAN 2001 – 2004

DEVELOPMENT	TIMESCALE	LEAD SERVICE	FUNDING
Review current referral mechanisms across agencies when a young person is transferring from adolescent to adult mental health services	2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ayrshire & Arran Primary Care NHS Trust, Child & Adolescent Mental health Services • Educational and Social Services (Social Work) 	Existing resources
Develop a directory of child and young person's health information in an accessible format	2002-2003	Ayrshire & Arran Health Board	Costing to be finalised
Establish a one stop shop (OSS) 'drop in' facility in Kilmarnock New Community Schools offering health advice and information	2001	Educational & Social Services (Community Support)	Costing to be finalised
Implement Ayrshire wide child health planning arrangements	2001	Educational & Social Services (year 1)	Existing resources
Establish full time health advisors in Kilmarnock and Cumnock Academy New Community Schools	2001	Ayrshire & Arran Primary Health Care Trust	30,000
Extend Kids Clubs – to at least 10 new areas over a 3 years period	2001	Community Services (Leisure Services)	Partnership Funding
Increase the number of community volunteers to work with	2001-2004	Community Services	Partnership

children to improve health through fitness and play		(Leisure Services)	Funding
Deliver active recreation sessions for up to 38 primary schools per year	2001-2004	Community Services (Leisure Services)	Partnership Funding
Work with 3 schools per annum to develop the creative design of school playgrounds to encouraging greater active use	2001-2004	Community Services (Leisure Services)	Partnership Funding
Initiate multi-agency training programmes for professionals working with children and young people involved with drugs	2002-2004	Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Action Team (ADAT)	Costing to be finalised
Targeted programmes to prevent substance misuse by looked after and accommodated children and young people	2002 onwards	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	Costing to be finalised
Exploration of the possibility of providing specialist alcohol and drug counselling support services to children and young people	2002 onwards	Ayrshire & Arran Drug Action Team (ADAT)	Costing to be finalised
Establish services to meet the needs of children of drug misusing parents	2001 onwards	Educational & Social Services	£20,000 - further application for £20,000 external grant application made
Expand the Virtual Baby Project to other areas of the authority, as part of a teenage pregnancy reduction strategy	2003	Educational & Social Services (Community Support Services)	£30,000 (phase 1 of expansion)

Enhance the support offered to teenage mothers with no family support	2002	Educational & Social Services (Community Support Services)	Costing to be finalised

SECTION 8 - LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

8.1 *“Individuals learn in different ways, at different paces and benefit from different kinds of support.” (Principles Of The Post 16 Curriculum).*

8.2 What Progress Will Look Like

- Reduction in the number of young people excluded from school
- Improved services to meet the educational needs of children and young people who are looked after and accommodated
- Further development of early intervention and support for children and young people with additional learning needs
- Increase in the number of children with special educational needs supported through mainstream schools
- Enhancement of information communication technology related learning
- Development of alternative curriculum's for young people where it is assessed to be in their best interests
- Increased support to parents through family learning and the further development of community use of schools
- Further development of integrated services

8.3 Learning And Development

“The value of a school does not depend on its prestige or its ability to train students to face up to the necessities of life, but rather on the degree of enjoyment of lifelong learning it can transmit.” (Flow: The Psychology Of Happiness).

The Education Service publishes its own Strategic Improvement Action Plan. The interface between this plan and the improvement action plan is highlighted in the national educational priorities:

- Achievement and attainment
- Framework for learning
- Inclusion and equality
- Values and citizenship (see Children and Young People's Rights)
- Learning for life

While the structure of early years, primary and secondary education, provides a framework for considering the key features of learning and development, there are nevertheless overlapping elements applying to each of these stages:

- A climate for learning linked to an ethos of achievement
- Parental involvement in the learning process
- Support for learning
- Community Learning

8.4 Early Years Educational Provision

East Ayrshire Council's nursery schools, nursery classes – (and those of partner providers) – operate a policy of social inclusion and are currently implementing, the 3 to 5, educational curriculum guidelines. A wide range of staff development and in-service training has taken place to support this. Recent developments include:

- Modern foreign languages are taught in some nursery establishments
- A programme of drama workshops was initiated with the Borderline Theatre Company
- Enhanced use of information technology in pre-school learning

8.5 Services provided to vulnerable children and young people include the:

- Pre-School Community Assessment Team (PRESCAT) designed to ensure the early detection and assessment of the most vulnerable children and young people
- School Assessment Team/Community Assessment Team Meetings to plan individual support and learning plans for vulnerable children and young people
- Youth Strategy

8.6 Reduction In The Number Of Young People Excluded From School

Youth Strategy referral can relieve the pressure on mainstream resources, if a child or young person, is in danger of being formally excluded from school, or becoming accommodated by the local authority, because of their behaviour, or personal situation. The project's intervention may provide off-site tuition, a part-time timetable, access to groupwork, or outdoor education.

A review of the overall support required for children and young people has recently concluded areas for improvement:

- improved integrated approach across services
- development of alternatives to the curriculum
- the need for stronger home/school links.

8.7 Looked After And Accommodated Children And Young People

Children and young people living away from home in local authority care are recognised as both vulnerable and at risk of being educationally disadvantaged. Following the publication of 'Learning With Care' – The Education Of Children Looked After Away From Home By Local Authorities,' in March 2001, a number of key recommendations were made regarding:

- The need for an integral policy involving social work and education
- Joint training and professional development
- Equal opportunities and social inclusion
- Exclusion from school
- Information exchange and issues of confidentiality
- Identification of key support staff in schools
- Curricular and vocational guidance.

East Ayrshire Council introduced a specialist approach to meeting the educational needs of accommodated children and young people in 2000, with the employment of a School-Home Link Teacher, with responsibility in this area.

A draft paper is completed which sets out the Council's Action Plan for supporting looked after/accommodated children and young people in their education.

8.8 Early Intervention

Since 1997, significant resources have provided for the training of staff in the pre five to primary three area of education. Considerable improvements have been made in the educational attainment levels of the children receiving the Early Intervention Service. This initiative promotes equality of opportunity for young children who would otherwise be in danger of being left behind academically by their peers

8.9 Support For Children With Special Educational Needs

East Ayrshire Council provides a range of support services and specialist facilities for children and young people with learning difficulties and special educational needs. These include a Support for Learning Team, with an allocation in all primary schools, which works collaboratively with Class Teachers and other agencies, in supporting a range of needs from general learning difficulties to specific difficulties, pupils with short-term difficulties and more able pupils.

The Language Unit provides part-time unit provision and outreach support for children with speech and communication disorders, while the Communication Base at Crosshouse Primary School, supports pupils with autistic spectrum disorders. These are Visual and Hearing Impairment Services which offer specialist base as well as outreach provision. The Hospital Education Service supports children and young people who are unable to attend school due to

prolonged ill health, - (in a hospital setting) - and the Bilingual Support Service supports pupils for whom English is a second language through part-time provision at the Bilingual Unit and support in their own schools.

Educational support for the learning and development needs of pupils from travelling families is based on the council's policy on Supporting Travelling Families. The key to supporting students from travelling families is through the flexible approach designed to meet individual needs and by the use of Information Communication Technologies and drop-in facilities where appropriate.

8.10 More Able Pupils

To further enhance the identification of, learning and development of more able pupils, a range of strategies are required at authority, cluster and school level.

8.11 Development Of Alternative Curriculum

There is a case for the development of a flexible alternative curriculum for both children and young people with special educational needs and more able pupils. This would be reinforced by the existing mechanisms of the Support Learning Team, Homework Clubs, Summer School and Personal Learning Plan provision.

8.12 Enhancement Of Information and Communication Technology

"Preparing For The Information Age," a report produced for the government in 1997, offered positive evidence on the benefits of learning through Information and Communication Technology (ICT). These benefits included improved motivation and attitudes to learning, improved self-esteem, social development, enhancement of independent learning and research skills, improved subject learning and improved vocational training.

This document led to the establishment of the National Grid for Learning initiatives, which in conjunction with East Ayrshire's policy on Information and Communication Technology in education, resulted in a massive increase in access to this technology for school students within the authority.

8.13 Family And Community Learning

The authority's libraries service provides a number of community learning opportunities beginning with early years children. The Books For Babies Scheme was launched in October 1999, by the Council and Ayrshire and Arran Health Board. This encourages the appreciation of books and constructive usage of community libraries, by children, parents and carers at the earliest possible time.

The East Ayrshire Learning Registration and Information Services links with primary schools, and involved community library staff undertaking a variety of events with class groups.

Every community library has a separate section for teenagers/young adults. The increased Information and Communication Technology provision is helping to maintain teenagers as library users e.g. through Community Learning Centres at Drongan, Dalmellington and Cumnock libraries and the Dick Institute in Kilmarnock.

A mini-library at yipworld.com in Cumnock, organised by local young people is available.

- Family learning is promoted by the Community Education Service e.g. parents of children in Barshare Primary School are supported as their children move from Primary 7 to secondary school
- Three primary schools, a nursery and secondary school have support from a home/ community/link worker
- School based staff are central to the development of community learning plans
- A community based ICT Suite has been developed in Darvel Primary School supported by the Community Education Service

A recent New Opportunities Fund application has been submitted for a North West Kilmarnock Community Learning Centre and recent funding has been awarded through the New Opportunities Fund for a community learning centre in Shortlees

8.14 New Community Schools

The New Community Schools initiative is in its second year of operation in East Ayrshire. It is based in Hillhead Primary School and Kilmarnock Academy, with Scottish Executive funding received to introduce the initiative to Cumnock Secondary School.

A holistic approach to student attainment is facilitated by the New Community Schools leading the phased introduction of Personal Learning Plans to East Ayrshire's schools. Social inclusion is promoted through integration of services within the medium of the schools particularly involving education, health and social work.

A Community Development Officer is a recent addition to the New Community School Team, with the aim of greater community involvement in the New Community Schools.

8.15 What Needs to be Developed:

- Staff development and training to support children and young people with additional needs
- Alternatives to the curriculum where this is best suited to meet young people's needs
- Fuller development of integrated health, education and social work services to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children and young people
- Improved home/school/community links
- Material to meet the different learning needs of boys
- Further development of social inclusion approaches
- Supporting the progression of modern languages in nursery school
- The involvement of Early Intervention Nursery Nurses within private and voluntary sector establishments
- Up to date traveller education information
- The need to improve the transfer of information between schools
- Improve the range of information in ethnic minority languages
- Support for children whose parents and carers have a sensory impairment
- A mentoring system for more able pupils
- Support for out of hours learning
- Access to community learning centres across the council area
- Further joint working between the community education service and schools through community learning planning
- Further expansion of ICT into community facilities
- Meet the wider areas of social inclusion and active citizenship through the medium of New Community Schools

ACTION PLAN 2001 – 2004

DEVELOPMENT	TIMESCALE	LEAD SERVICE	FUNDING
Appoint peripatetic nursery staff to support children with special needs in nurseries	2001	Educational & Social Services (Community Support)	£83,500
Modern foreign language assistants to be routinely used in nurseries	2001-2004	Educational & Social Services (Community Support)	Costings to be finalised
Early Intervention Nursery Nurses to work with partner nursery establishments in the independent sector	2002	Educational & Social Services (Community Support Services)	£30,000 for two Nursery Nurses, subject to resources
Consider the staffing requirements to support the Books For Babies Scheme	2002-2004	Community Services (Libraries)	Costing to be finalised
Purchase 1,000 'Books For Babies' bags per year	2002–2004	Community Services (Libraries)	Resources to be identified
Implement the recommendations of the Youth Strategy Review	2002	Educational & Social Services (Within existing resources
Develop integrated services within a cluster group school service model	2002	Educational & Social Services	Existing resources

Develop specific targets on the educational needs of looked after and accommodated children and young people	2001	Educational & Social Services	Existing resources
Roll out the New Community School approach across East Ayrshire	2001-2004	Educational & Social Services	Existing resources
Consider the employment of a second Home Visiting Teacher	2002	Educational & Social Services	Costing to be finalised
Promote independent activities to challenge all children, including the more able	2002 onwards	Educational & Social services	Costings to be finalised
Increase the number of support staff with specialist training in a range of special educational needs	2002-2004	Educational & Social Services (Schools)	Costing to be finalised
Consideration of employment of a Bilingual Assistant or Teacher	2002	Educational & Social Services (Schools)	Costing to be finalised
Expansion of support for pupils with autistic spectrum disorders	2002	Educational & Social Services (Schools)	Costing to be finalised
Adopt the school transfer card approach to facilitate transfer of information and educational records between schools for travelling families	2002	Educational & Social Services (Schools)	Costing to be finalised
Develop a policy and complementary guideline for schools and parents on supporting more able pupils	2002	Educational & Social Services (Schools)	Existing resources
Pupils will have access to educational and learning programmes which develop self-confidence and self-esteem	2002-2004	Educational & Social Services (Schools)	Costing to be finalised
Consider an East Ayrshire Council book award scheme to encourage upper primary school children to continue reading	April 2002 onwards	Educational & Social Services (Schools)	Existing

			resources
Implement the proposals for a North West Kilmarnock learning centre	2001-2002	Educational & Social Services (Community Support Services)	£339,000 Partnership Bid
Support and develop additional learning centres in the Northern Area and Irvine Valley	2002 onwards	Educational & Social Services (Community Support Services)	Costing to be finalised
Support and develop a learning centre in Kilmarnock specifically targetted at young people	2002	Educational & Social Services (Community Support Services)	Costing to be finalised

SECTION 9 - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

9.1 *“A local authority shall safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area who are in need.” (Children (Scotland) Act 1995).*

9.2 What Progress Will Look Like:

- Further development of an integrated approach to supporting children and young people with additional needs
- Improved services within East Ayrshire for disabled children and young people
- Enhancement of community support and supervision services
- Reduction in the number of children and young people who are looked after and accommodated
- Reduction in the number of children and young people who are accommodated in placements outwith East Ayrshire
- Further development of Throughcare and Aftercare Services available to young people who have been accommodated by the authority
- Improved Services within the community, for young people engaged in offending behaviour

9.3 Children With Disability

Integration of services for disabled children and young people have improved markedly since the publication of ‘Our Children’ in 1998, through the introduction of a dedicated Special Needs Team.

Whenever possible disabled children and young people requiring specialist services should be able to obtain them within their own community in East Ayrshire. In particular the authority will explore the service requirements of children and young people affected by hearing and visual impairment. Additionally, the needs of disabled young people situated in residential placements outwith East Ayrshire will be reviewed.

Current service provision within East Ayrshire includes:

- Domiciliary service by Crossroads Care addressing the needs of 10 young service users
- Hansel Community Supports supports 14 young people

- Respite in a carer household, provided by Shared Carers offering Shared Care of Shared Care Plus. Twelve children and young people are currently receiving this service
- Residential respite in Lisalanna Respite Unit, Cumnock. Forty-two children and young people benefit from this service
- The recent appointment in the Primary Care Trust of a Co-ordinator for children with special needs aimed at enhancing partnership working

9.4 Young Carers

Carers issues are set out within East Ayrshire Council's Community Care Plan and East Ayrshire Carers Strategy 2001-2004. The 1999, National Carers Strategy highlights the need to develop services for young carers.

East Ayrshire's Princess Royal Trust Carers Centre supports young carers groups in Kilmarnock and Cumnock. The Carers Centre has identified in excess of one hundred young carers in East Ayrshire. Recent developments include:

- The Princess Royal Trust Carers Centre, Young Carers Project involvement with 7 Secondary Schools in East Ayrshire as part of the Personal Social and Education curriculum
- The Young Carers Project involvement in a pilot project in Logan Primary School, which both promotes information about being a Young Carer and helps with the identification of Young Carers
- The Trust's Young Carers Project – (with the aid of independent sector funding) – will facilitate Young Carers in East Ayrshire obtain respite breaks in 2001 in Devon, Hampshire and Aviemore

9.5 Community Support and Supervision

A range of individual and family support services is provided to children, young people, parents and carers, by social work staff. Where viable children and families experiencing difficulties, receive assistance which negates the necessity of referral to the Reporter to the Children's Panel. The Community Youth Support Team provides groupwork, crisis intervention individual and family support. It also provides befriending assistance with its Befriending Project to be further developed.

Where Referral to the Reporter to the Children's Panel takes place services are focused on sustaining children and young people at home with their families. Many will be subject to 'Home Supervision Requirement' orders by the Children's Panel. A cornerstone of sustaining children and young people at home is the implementation of effective supervision procedures to support children and families:

- One hundred and forty two children (55.7% of those on Supervision Requirements), became the subject of home supervision from 1st April 2000 – 31st March 2001. This compares with 69.49% and 55.68% for the comparable periods in 1996-1997 and 1998-1999
- Seventy four children (29%) of those on Supervision Requirements, were resident with Children's Carers/Foster Carers between 1st April 2000 – 31st March 2001. This compares with 14.24% and 33.1% for the comparable periods in 1996-1997 and 1998-1999
- Thirty nine children (15.30%)of those on Supervision Requirements, were looked after and accommodated residentially between 1st April 2000 – 31st March 2001. This compares with 16.27% and 11.3% for the comparable periods in 1996-1997 and 1998-1999

9.6 Looked After And Accommodated Children And Young People

A number of children and young people require to live away from home and are looked after in accommodation arranged by the local authority. They may live with Children's Carers/Foster Carers in the community, residential children's units, or residential schools or secure accommodation outwith East Ayrshire:

- Thirty two children (0-7 years), 18 children (8-12 years) and 26 children (13+), were placed with Children's Carers/Foster Carers in the community in 2001. This compares with 7 children (0-7 years), 11 children (8-12 years) and 24 children (13+) in 1997
- Seventeen children were accommodated in the authority's children's units in 2001, compared to 34 children in 1997
- Twenty two children were accommodated in external residential accommodation in 2001. This compares with nineteen in 1997.

The council works on a continuous basis to improve the quality of services provided to children and young people, who are looked after and accommodated. This involves:

- Seeking to ensure that no children under 12 are placed in children's units, apart from reasons of keeping sibling groups together
- Development of SVQ training for Children's Carers
- Development of a revised Fostering Strategy based, on the National Standards for Foster Care, COSLA's Foster Care Document 2000 and the Code of Practice in England and Wales
- Development of external residential service specifications for the independent sector, in conjunction with the other local authorities

- The publication of the National Standards in Residential Care will have a major influence on policy and practice over the next 3 years

9.7 Throughcare and Aftercare

The authority has a designated Throughcare Team, designed to meet the transition and aftercare needs of young people who have been looked after and accommodated by the authority. A primary goal of this service is to help these young people make a successful entry into adult life. This involves provision of direct support to the young person and liaison with the Careers, Employment Services and Homes and Technical Services in partnership with the young person, where appropriate.

9.8 Children Requiring Adoption Services

The Department of Health, Draft National Adoption Standards for England, Scotland and Wales, stresses that adoption should meet the needs of children, including their welfare and safety.

East Ayrshire Council is keen to develop its adoptive practice in accordance with the Draft National Standards.

- Ensuring that work effected with external agencies meets the quality required by the Draft National Standards
- Training for staff in accordance with the Draft National Standards

9.9 Services for Young People Who Offend

In addition to the previous establishment of a Young People Who Offend Team recent developments include:

- a Social Worker post and a Social Work Assistant post, have been secured through Youth Crime Initiative funding and situated in the authority's Young People who Offend Team. One worker will address addiction and the other exclusion issues
- a partnership with North and South Ayrshire and SACRO has been agreed, for the development of an Ayrshire-wide Reparation and Mediation Scheme, targeting twelve to seventeen year olds. The scheme will offer a diversion service, principally to the Reporter to the Children's Panel and in time to the Procurator Fiscal, for those engaged in first time offending. It will deal with up to forty young people from East Ayrshire annually
- part funding of a Social Worker post for adolescents with a mental disorder, has been agreed, on an Ayrshire-wide initiative
- a bail and supervision service will be offered to Sheriff Courts, to prevent inappropriate remand to custody for young people

The development of an integrated approach between Criminal Justice Services and Children and Families regarding practice issues concerning child and adolescent sex offenders is critical.

9.10 What Needs to be Developed:

- Review of services for disabled children and young people, to ensure an integrated approach to services
- Exploration of joint assessment opportunities involving education, health social work
- Improving the transition arrangements for disabled young people moving from children's to adult services
- Exploration of the possible requirement of a Rehabilitation Mobility Officer for visually impaired children and young people
- Consideration of the need for braille classes for the parents of visually impaired children
- Exploration of the needs – (particularly education and homework needs) – of hearing and sighted children and young people, whose parents and carers are hearing or visually impaired
- Review of the authority's home supervision procedures
- Employment of a full time co-ordinator for the Community Youth Support Team Befriending Project
- Further recruitment, assessment and development of Children's Carers
- Employment of an additional Family Placement Supervisor to facilitate Children's Carer recruitment, assessment and support
- Training for management and residential staff concerning the National Standards in Residential Care
- Review of adoption process
- Recruitment of potential adopters able to meet the needs of family groups
- Ensuring the work effected with partner agencies meets the quality required by the Draft National Adoption Standards
- Training for staff in accordance with the Draft National Standards
- Initiation of an East Ayrshire multi-agency Youth Crime Forum

ACTION PLAN 2001 – 2004

DEVELOPMENT	TIMESCALE	LEAD SERVICE	FUNDING
Revise the authority's future needs assessment materials to improve joint co-ordination of services regarding disabled young people, moving towards transition from children's to adult services	2002	Educational & Social Services	Existing resources
Exploration of joint assessment and service integration by education, health and social work	2002	Educational and Social Services	Costing to be finalised
Consider the need for the creation of a Rehabilitation Mobility Officer Post	2001-2002	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	£20,397
Consider the introduction of braille classes for the parents of visually impaired children	2002-2004	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	Costing to be finalised
Revise East Ayrshire Council's Fostering Strategy in accordance with the National Standards on Fostering	2002	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	Costing to be finalised
Recruitment of 8 new Children's Carers offering 16 additional children and young people's placements	2002	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	Costing to be finalised
Employment of a 4 th Family Placement Supervisor to assist with children's carer recruitment, assessment, development and support	2002	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	£25,770
Ensure that the National Standards in Residential Care are implemented	2001-2004	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	Existing resources

Project usage of residential placements outwith East Ayrshire for children and young people looked after and accommodated away from home on an annual basis	2001	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	£465,734 residential placements £134,827 secure accommodation
Enhancement of the Supported Carers Scheme for previously looked after and accommodated young people	2001-2004	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	£24,000 (1 st year)
Development of a 'Drop In' Service for previously looked after young people	2003	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	Costing to be finalised
Explore the implications of the Housing (Scotland) Bill 2000, with regard to meeting the needs of previously accommodated young people	2001 onwards	Homes & Technical Services	Existing resources
Explore the service needs of previously accommodated young people 18-21, under the Supporting People initiative	2001-2004	Homes & Technical Services	Existing resources
Promote and develop East Ayrshire Council's Adoption Services in accordance with the Draft National Adoption Standards	2002-2004	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	Costing to be finalised
Recruit 3 adoptive carers prioritising the recruitment of adopters for siblings	2002	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	Costing to be finalised
Undertake joint evaluation with partner agencies to ensure that the Draft National Adoption Standards are adhered to	2002-2004	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	Within existing resources

Track the child, adoptive parent(s) and natural parents needs following adoption	2002-2004	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	Costing to be finalised
Facilitate the implementation of counselling, or arrangement of contact, where appropriate, as part of post adoption support services	2002-2004	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	Costing to be finalised
Initiate joint training initiatives and practice exchanges to develop co-working between the Criminal Justice and Children and Families services, in connection with child and adolescent sex offenders	2001	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	Existing resources
Develop and implement East Ayrshire's Youth Crime Strategy, following the introduction of a Multi-Agency Youth Crime Forum	2001	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	<u>Young People Who Offend Team</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £26,394 (100% Criminal Justice Grant) • £26,791 mainline budget • £56,800 Children's Services Development Fund <u>Reparation and Mediation Scheme (Ayrshire wide)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £32,000 Children's Services Development Fund. Contribution to partnership <u>Young People with Mental Health Problems</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £8,830 Children's

			Services Development Fund
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SECTION 10 – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES SAFETY

10.1 *“Community Safety has different meanings to different people at different stages of their lives. From protecting children, keeping teenagers out of crime, protecting property, to addressing fears in older years – Community safety is an essential element.....This embraces a range of issues from crime prevention, domestic abuse, drug abuse, road safety, fire safety, accident prevention etc.”.*
(Threads of Success).

10.2 What Will Progress Look Like:

- Promote children and young people’s protection from harm and abuse
- Play areas will meet appropriate safety standards
- Raised awareness of safety in the home
- Raise children’s and young people’s awareness of personal safety
- Promotion of personal safety on the internet
- Increased awareness of children and young people of road safety

10.3 East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum

The East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum was set up to provide a formal channel of communication between the Council and interested individuals, community groups and organisations on community safety issues. It also allows issues raised at local level to be discussed in a wider forum.

The Forum acts as a co-ordinating body, to assist the establishment of a common policy on the conduct of local community safety activities. It encourages the education of the public in all aspects of community safety.

Membership of the Forum includes elected members as well as officers from across the Council, other agencies and community and voluntary organisations.

10.4 CHILD PROTECTION

The protection of children from harm and abuse is everyone’s responsibility.

- Forty-five children were referred for child protection reasons in the 12 months up to 31st March 2001. This compares to 37 for the same period in 1996-1997 with a peak of 60 children referred in 1998-1999
- Twenty-two children’s names appeared on the Child Protection register at some point in the 12 months period up to 31st March 2001. This compares with 11 in 1996-1997, with a peak of 37 children’s names appearing on the register between 1999-2000

- Ten children are on the Child Protection Register on 31st March 2001. This compares with 6 in 1997, with a peak of 15 in 2000

East Ayrshire Council's Child Protection Committee recently decided to enhance its multi-agency membership, by addition of East Ayrshire Children's Panel and local voluntary sector representatives.

The authority has updated its Social Work Child Protection Procedures and training for staff has commenced, with multi-agency training planned.

Partner providers who deliver early years services have recently undertaken awareness raising training.

The authority's Family Support Team has an expertise in the field of sexual abuse. A primary goal for 2001 to 2004, is to consolidate functioning of the Family Support Team and develop practice with the Scottish Executive and local authority's modernising agenda.

An East Ayrshire Domestic Abuse Forum has recently been established to ensure resources are maximised and agencies work in a co-ordinated way to best support women who are abused and their children. A domestic abuse training officer post was established in 2000 managed by Kilmarnock Women's Aid.

The development of a good practice policy for all Council departments, to ensure a consistent and thorough approach is required concerning the appropriateness of those individuals who come into regular contact with children through employment within the authority or provision of purchased services.

10.5 Personal Safety on the Internet

Communication via the Internet and interaction through the 'World Wide Web', presents teachers and pupils, with new unexpected challenges. In order to ensure personal safety, when using the Internet, schools are widely promoting the use of the 'Clickthinking Package'. Most schools require pupils to sign contracts which outline rules for 'on-line' safety, encouraging the pupils to be aware of the risks of using the Internet.

In order to further protect pupils from risk, many primary schools use protected environments such as 'Think Com'. This has been developed by the Oracle Corporation.

10.6 Safe Play Areas

Play provides children the opportunities for children to develop their self-identity and self-esteem. Play provision helps to reduce the involvement of children and young people in anti-social behaviour and promotes positive social interaction. It supports families by providing informal networks and

allows children the autonomy to play whilst in a safe, stimulating and learning environment. Good play provision can provide a medium for tackling social exclusion where children can meet on a more equal basis in a welcoming environment.

During the consultation process with community representatives, council officers, external agencies and young people, the need for 'safe play areas' has been a recurring theme. 'Best Play – What Play Provision Should Do For Children' argues that low-level supervision can add to a sense of security for both children and their families. This is particularly so in the case of young children.

East Ayrshire Council inherited a wide range of play areas and has sought to maintain the areas in a safe condition. However limitations on funding, combined with high levels of vandalism and wear and tear in some areas, have produced a position whereby the general standard of provision needs to be improved.

10.7 Home Safety

Accidental injuries are a major health problem throughout the United Kingdom. The very young and older people are particularly vulnerable. Every year over one million children under the age of fifteen suffer accidents in or around the home, for which they require to be taken to hospital Accident & Emergency Departments.

Those most at risk of domestic accidents are children in the 0-4 age group. Falls account for the majority of non-fatal accidents, with fire the cause of the highest number of deaths. According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, most of these accidents are preventable.

Childhood injuries is one of the few health difficulties which has not reduced in years.

Ayrshire & Arran Health Board have established that within Ayrshire & Arran:

- Out of all hospital admissions due to accidental falls, 48% occurred in the home
- Out of all hospital admissions due to smoke, fires and flames, 77% took place in the home
- Out of all hospital admissions due to heat and hot substances, 85% occurred in the home, 62% of these were children
- Out of all hospital admissions due to poisoning, 84% were home based, 63% of these were children
- hospital admissions of children 0-14 in East Ayrshire, due to accidents in the home, are higher than the average for Ayrshire and Arran.

Accidents peak at the 2 to 4 year age range and again in the 10 to 14 age group. Research demonstrates that children over 10, tend to have greater awareness of their surroundings. Consequently the 'Danger Detectives' initiative is targetted at primary 6 children.

'Danger Detectives' is an experiential learning event held in September each year involving a number of agencies. The children spend half a day at this interactive event, participating in each safety scenario for ten minutes. Every child receives a certificate and a 'Passport to Safety' booklet.

10.8 Personal Safety

Everyone is entitled to feel free and safe in his or her own home or in the community as they go about their daily lives.

The issue of personal safety may be broken down into distinct areas:

- accident prevention or
- crime prevention

Accident prevention has been covered. Preventing victimisation from crime is everyone's responsibility. This topic can again be broken up into two distinct activities:

- the actions undertaken by the statutory authorities
- actions by individual members of the community.

The Council is responsible for street lighting and environmental issues, such as footpaths, undergrowth, parks and public safety. One of the issues identified in consultation with young people is their fear of going out at night.

Strathclyde Police implement the 'Safety Training and Education for Primary Schools (STEPS)', programme within East Ayrshire's primary schools which ranges from initial awareness raising in Primary 1 to the introduction of personal safety in Primary 7. They are currently developing a suitable programme for secondary schools.

10.9 Road Safety

East Ayrshire Council and its partners have a 5 year, Road Safety Plan 1998 to 2003, which has detailed priorities and actions mapped out. Road safety is considered a vitally important topic because:

- Just under half of all pedestrian accidents result in death or serious injury. Child pedestrians are the most vulnerable, with the 5 - 11 and 12 - 15 age ranges, 7.7 and 6.7 times more at risk of a road accident, than adults within the 25 to 64 age ranges

- There are approximately 80 child casualties within East Ayrshire in the 0 – 15 age range each year, representing one fifth of the total annual number
- Car drivers contribute the majority of casualties in the driver/rider category, which includes cyclists, motor cyclists, bus and lorry drivers. Young drivers in the 16 – 24 age range are more than twice as likely to be injured in an accident than individuals of 25 – 64

As outlined in East Ayrshire Council's Road Safety Plan, a substantial programme of road safety education, training and publicity is undertaken.

Examples include:

- The Children's Traffic Club in Scotland is made available to children aged 3 – 5 years
- Resources and advice are made available to nursery schools and playgroups throughout East Ayrshire. Lectures for Nursery Nurses are provided in Kilmarnock College
- Traffic trails involving a study of the local traffic environment are promoted
- Educational visits from theatre groups are arranged at primary school level
- Cycle training is carried out in many schools
- Various resources are available to secondary schools including a pre-driving course for senior pupils

'Safer Routes to School' is a recent initiative, aiming to promote cycling and walking to school, rather than travelling by car. The benefits are increased safety, less congestion and health lifestyles ethos.

Travel surveys are conducted to determine children and young people's travel patterns, mode of transport and locations where they feel at risk. After consultation with relevant community partners, School Travel Plan is drawn up.

10.10 What Needs to be Developed:

- Inter-agency child protection training based on new social work procedures, involving social work, education, health and Strathclyde Police
- Training for partners in the voluntary and private sector as part of a continuous programme
- Modern refuge accommodation for women fleeing domestic abuse
- Improved co-operation and co-ordination across agencies in relation to child protection and domestic abuse

- Promotion of road safety
- Review of actions in the Road Safety Action Plan in relation to relevant provision for children
- A strategy for future development and maintenance of existing play areas and the development of new play areas
- Adequate provision for teenagers e.g. youth shelters, multi-sport walls and multi-sport areas
- Provision of some level of supervised play areas
- Parental and carer awareness raising in terms of accident avoidance for children in the 0-5 age range
- Exploration of possible assistance concerning parents and carers in low income households regarding home safety equipment, such as fireguards and stair gates
- Education of children, young people, parents and carers, concerning the personal advantages and safety issues concerning the internet

ACTION PLAN 2001 – 2004

DEVELOPMENT	TIMESCALE	LEAD SERVICE	FUNDING
Enhance the working of East Ayrshire's Child Protection Committee	2001	East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee	Existing resources
Revise and customise the new Child Protection Procedures in accordance with East Ayrshire needs and requirements	2001	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	Existing resources
Bring social work and educational Child Protection Procedures closer together and ensure all educational establishments have staff appropriately trained in the procedures	2002	Educational & Social Services (Schools and Social Work)	Existing resources
Initiation of Joint Child Protection Training involving social work, education, East Ayrshire's Children's Panel, Health, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and Strathclyde Police	2002	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	£2,500
Provide appropriate Child Protection advice, guidance and training to the voluntary sector	2002	Educational & Social Services (Social Work)	£1,800
Raise awareness of the effects of domestic violence and provide training for staff	2001 onwards	Multi-agency Domestic Abuse Forum	Existing resources – 2001; funding to continue the post required
Establish 2 new purpose built women's aid refuges (subject to funding)	2002-2004	Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Forum	Application made for Scottish Executive Challenge Funding – outcome awaited
Introduce monitoring – in partnership with Women's	2002	Educational & Social	Existing resources

Aid of the link between domestic violence and child protection		Services (Social Work)	
Improve co-ordination between services for dealing with domestic abuse	2002	Multi-agency Domestic Abuse Forum	25,000
Improve the exchange of information between groups and forums regarding issues relating to children and young people's safety	2001 onwards	East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum	Existing resources
Develop a Fixed Play Area Strategy	2002	Community Services (Leisure Services)	Existing resources
Aim to undertake the refurbishment of further identified play areas	2001-2003	Community Services (Leisure Services)	Resources to be identified
Aim to progress a Re-Development Plan for further identified play areas,	2002-2004	Community Services (Leisure Services)	Subject to resources being available
Identify and aim to develop fixed provision for teenagers in consultation with young people's groups	2002 onwards	Community Services (Leisure Services)	Costing to be finalised
develop an initiative to include a level of supervised playtime within a designated number of play areas	2003-2004	Community Services (Leisure Services)	Costing to be finalised
Increase play area inspections to one inspection per site per week	2001-2002	Community Services (Leisure Services)	Existing resources
Produce home safety awareness material targeted at the parents and carers of children 0-5 years.	2001-2002	Community Services (Protective Services)	£3,000
Develop a loan service of resource material for	2001-2002	Community Services	£1,500

nurseries and pre-school groups		(Protective Services)	
Identify home safety resource materials for East Ayrshire Council schools, primarily focusing on children aged 7-13 years	2002-2003	Community Services (Protective Services)	£500
Include children's safety as a priority of East Ayrshire's Community Safety Forum and work in partnership with Ayrshire and Arran Health Board on the development of their Home Accident Prevention Strategy	2001-2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum • Ayrshire and Arran Health Board 	Existing resources
Consider the recruitment of a Community Safety Officer with specific responsibility for home safety	2002-2003	Community Services (Protective Services)	Costing to be finalised
Investigate the feasibility of establishing a Home Safety Equipment Loan/Distribution Service	2002-2003	Community Services	£750
Clarify the potential risks of using the internet and , to use the internet in a safe and informed way	2002	Educational & Social Services (Schools)	Existing resources
Promote the use of the 'Clickthinking' Resource Pack for schools and families by ensuring that appropriate individuals have knowledge of the material and its potential use	2001-2004	Educational & Social Services (Schools)	Existing resources
Consider means of ensuring safety at night through consultation	2001 onwards	Community Services (Protective Services)	Existing resources
Ensure that appropriate and sufficient personal safety advice is readily accessible in East Ayrshire, through the dissemination of materials via youth	2001-2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Services (Leisure Services and Protective Services) 	£2,000 over 3 years

clubs and the Kids Club Network		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Support Services 	
Investigate the feasibility of introducing a suitably amended version of the STEPS Programme to East Ayrshire secondary schools	2002-2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational & Social Services (Schools) Strathclyde Police 	Existing resources
Promote the revised Children's Traffic Club in Scotland materials, with parents and nursery school/playgroups	2001-2004	Development Services (Roads and Transportation)	£500 annually
Continue the implementation of the Safer Routes to School Programme commenced in 2001 – continuous process	2001-2004	Development Services (Roads and Transportation)	Subject to the availability of resources
Conduct travel surveys in selected schools, preparing travel plans for these schools after consultation	2001 onwards	Development Services (Roads and Transportation)	Existing resources
Consider a pilot cycle training course for adults and children aged 12 years and over	2001-2004	Development Services (Roads and Transportation)	£500 annually
Review actions in road safety plan in relation to relevant provision for children	2001 onwards	Development Services (Roads and Transportation)	Existing resources

SECTION 11 - IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

11.1 Integrating and Improving Performance

A number of actions set out in this Plan will not be achieved without all services working together. A Strategic Framework for children's services is being developed nationally which will set out performance indicators for education, social work and health.

New Community Schools operate within the philosophy of integration and locally a joint education, social work and health performance framework has been included.

Health improvement targets will be set through both the Health Improvement Plan and associated community health improvement initiatives.

Key performance measures in relation to the Plan include:

- 100% nursery provision for three and four year olds by 2002
- 30% reduction in school exclusions over the next 3 years
- Reduction in children who are accommodated over 3 years
- 10% rise in attainment for children who are looked after or accommodated.
- A reduction in the number of accidents in the home and on the roads

Integration of services is a shared objective across council departments and partner agencies.

11.2 Implementation

The existing children's service plan Multi-Agency Steering Group will oversee the strategic and operational implementation of 'Inspiring Young People.' This will be effected through the implementation of the service plan Action Points through an Implementation Plan.

11.3 Monitoring

Day to day monitoring of the service plan Action Point tasks will be undertaken by the Service and Operational Managers responsible for service delivery.

11.4 Review

'Inspiring Children And Young People' will be subject to regular evaluation and review to ensure that goals are met timeously and/or identify when they require to be replaced by more appropriate goals.

APPENDIX

Child and Young Person's Charter of Rights (Information Leaflet).

CHARTER OF RIGHTS

This Charter outlines **East Ayrshire Council's** commitment to safeguarding and working in partnership with its young citizens. East Ayrshire's future is closely linked with that of our children and young people.

In 1991, the government agreed to meet most of the requirements of the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**. "Our Children", the Council's Children's Service Plan 1998 - 2001, promised wide consultation on the development of a Children and Young Person's Charter of Rights. This has involved listening to the views of just under 1000 young people over the last three years.

The Charter is based on the main Articles of the United Nations Convention. It also seeks to safeguard personal and citizenship rights guaranteed by the **Children (Scotland) Act 1995, Human Rights Act 1998 and European Convention on Human Rights**.

WHY DO WE HAVE A CHARTER ?

East Ayrshire Council's vision has developed from our discussion with young people. The vision is of a socially inclusive community, where each child and young person:

- ◆ Is free from Harm, Abuse and Exploitation.
- ◆ Lives in good quality housing, enjoys a good standard of basic care and grows up in a healthy environment;
- ◆ Has the opportunity to reach their full potential, with no child, young person, or family excluded, for reasons of race, religion, language or disability;
- ◆ Has access to good health care;
- ◆ Is offered school education as a basic right, if of school age. This education should be directed to helping them achieve their full potential, regarding personality, talents, mental and physical abilities;
- ◆ Has their education, training, employment and social needs advanced, with a view to achieving the greatest possible level of independence.

- ◆ Is assisted to balance rights with responsibilities and become a productive member of their community.

This Charter is an important step in working towards these goals.

PLEDGES

The council undertakes to :

- ◆ Treat children and young people with respect;
- ◆ Ensure that children and young people are consulted when planning services.
- ◆ Empower young people to use East Ayrshire's suggestion and complaints procedures where appropriate.
- ◆ Encourage active citizenship and respect for others.
- ◆ Work in partnership with our young citizens.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of The Child

(The following summary of the Articles on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was written by young people in East Ayrshire)

Each child and young person living in East Ayrshire, or looked after by East Ayrshire Council, has the right to :

- ◆ Feel safe and protected from harm; (Article 19)
- ◆ Have their religion, culture and language respected; (Articles 14 and 30)
- ◆ Be cared for and have an adequate standard of living; (Article 27)
- ◆ Grow up in an environment that is supportive, encouraging and does not discriminate; (Article 2)
- ◆ Receive the proper support and encouragement to allow them to thrive and develop as an individual; (Article 8)
- ◆ Be placed at the centre of any decisions that are made on their behalf, with the young person's best interests always placed first; (Article 3)
- ◆ Live with their parents in their own community unless this is not possible; (Article 9)
- ◆ If separated from either or both parents, be supported in maintaining contact when appropriate; (Article 9)

- ◆ Express an opinion on matters that affect them and have their opinion listened to and taken into account; (Article 12)
- ◆ Be able to access information which will allow them to form and express opinions; (Articles 13 and 17)
- ◆ Stay at home with their family whenever this is possible. East Ayrshire Council should provide support to families to allow this to happen; (Article 18)
- ◆ Be properly looked after and feel safe in another family or suitable place, if it is not possible to live with their own parents; (Article 20)
- ◆ Leisure rest and play, having opportunities to participate in a varied range of recreational pursuits; (Article 31)

Children's Service Plan

East Ayrshire Council's Children's Service Plan, is the driving force shaping children and families services in the 21st century.

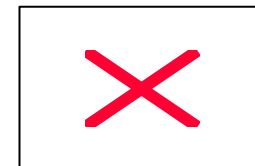
Implementation of the Service Plan, including regular progress checks, will be carried out in

partnership with children, young people and their families.

If you wish to obtain further information concerning the Children's Service Plan, or any of the topics contained within this Charter please telephone or write to:

John D Butler
Service Officer (Planning)
Educational and Social Services
Children and Families
Civic Centre
John Dickie Street
Kilmarnock
KA1 1BY

Telephone: 01563 554891



AGENDA