

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 2 OCTOBER 2003**

### **OUTWITH AREA PLACEMENTS – FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek Policy and Resources Committee approval for the reallocation of resources, currently held within contingency, to the Education Services budget to fund the cost of placements in establishments which are outwith mainstream provision.

#### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1** During the budget setting exercise for 2003/04 the Council established a sum of £100,000 to be held within contingency, which was to be accessed by Education Services should the cost of outwith placements follow the trends becoming evident in previous years.
- 2.2** The placement of young people into establishments which are outside the mainstream education system is aimed at providing additional support to individuals with challenging behaviour issues. Each young person placed in such establishments will previously have been given the maximum support available through Council procedures and it is only when their needs cannot be met internally that the Department will seek an outwith placement.

#### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1** As reported to both the Budget Scrutiny Group and the Education Committee at its meeting of 16 September 2003 the costs of outwith placements are currently projected to out-turn £538,000 above budget. This expenditure reflects the increasing costs of outwith placements and the level of demand for such services.
- 3.2** In recognition of this anticipated expenditure on outwith placements the Education Committee agreed to the recommendation to request the sum of £100,000 currently held in contingency.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**4.1** It is recommended that Policy and Resources Committee: -

- (i) agree to reallocate £100,000 held in contingency to Education Services;
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services

EC/JBS  
17 September 2003

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL

Any person who wishes any further information on this report should contact  
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