

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 9 APRIL 2002

CARERS SATELLITE SERVICE, CUMNOCK

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the opening of the Carers Satellite Service in Cumnock, which will be part of the existing Princess Royal Trust for Carers, East Ayrshire Carers Centre (based in Kilmarnock).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 1997, the East Ayrshire Carers Centre was opened in Kilmarnock to provide information, advice and support to people who have a responsibility for looking after someone unable to take care of themselves.
- 2.2 In 1999, the Scottish Executive launched a national strategy for carers "Caring about Carers". The strategy had a strong focus on information, support and care, and additional monies were made available to local authorities to support the implementation of the strategy.

3. CURRENT SERVICES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3.1 The East Ayrshire Carers Centre was initially established under the management of a local community organisation and employed 2.5 staff. Over the last five years, the service has expanded significantly and now employs nine staff. The centre has established an independent management committee, which is in the process of changing status to become a company limited by guarantee.
- 3.2 The development of the service has been facilitated by successful funding bids, and the centre currently receives financial support from a range of sources including East Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Social Inclusion Partnership, Princess Royal Trust for Carers, TSB Lloyd Foundation, Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board and Primary Care Trust, Local Health Care Co-operatives and a variety of funding Trusts.

3.3 Significant achievements:

- A range of approaches has led to 2000 carers in East Ayrshire being supported eg via respite, advice/information and training.
- Innovative ways of identifying carers have been successful.
- Employment Initiative (raising awareness of employers).
- GP initiative (awareness raising with GP surgery staff).
- Hospital initiative (supporting carers at point of discharge from hospital).
- 150 young carers and their families have been supported.
- Young people looking after someone in their family with drug/ alcohol misuse problems.

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- 4.1 The existing service has supported carers living in rural and isolated locations through the creation of an outreach service in the Coalfield area, which has contact with 500 carers.
- 4.2 This work highlighted the need for a base in the south of the authority where carers can drop in for advice and information at the times they need it. For this reason, accommodation has been secured in Lugar Street, Cumnock.
- 4.3 This new base will be known as the East Ayrshire Carers Centre, Cumnock Satellite Service. It will identify and support carers in rural areas, work with local agencies, provide training, create a drop in service and encourage carer involvement in a range of developmental opportunities.
- 4.4 The Cumnock Satellite Service was officially opened on 28th March 2002 by Provost James Boyd and Cllr Jane Darnbrough. It was subsequently opened to the public on 8th April 2002.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The recurring costs of the Cumnock Satellite Service will be met by additional funding being made available to the East Ayrshire Carers Centre by East Ayrshire Council (£24,000) and the East Ayrshire Social Inclusion Partnership (£24,000). The Council contribution will be met through the Carers Development budget.

6. PERSONNEL

6.1 Nil

7. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The recommendations contained within this report will assist the Council in meeting its statutory duties in meeting the needs of carers, and takes into account the proposed legislative changes. It is also consistent with national and local policy objectives.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Social Work Committee is asked to note :

- (i) the positive achievements of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, East Ayrshire Carers Centre
- (ii) the opening of the Cumnock Satellite Service

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
18 March 2002
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LIST OF BACKGROUND REPORTS

1. Caring about Carers : A National Strategy for Carers (Scottish Executive, 1999)
2. The Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002

For further information please contact:
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AGENDA