

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 9 APRIL 2002

WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN SERVICES – PROGRESS REPORT

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the Committee of progress in achieving the initial targets set for joint working within the Department of Educational and Social Services and to propose further targets on joint working for action by the Department in the next 12 months.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In September 2000, Social Work and Education Committees approved a report, "Working Together to Strengthen Services", by the Director of Educational and Social Services on initial management arrangements for the newly merged Department of Educational and Social Services and proposed key targets for the new Department in its early years of operation.
- 2.2 In approving the report, both Committees invited the Director to present progress reports on achieving targets for action to appropriate committees.
- 2.3 This report presents progress on achieving the initial targets for joint working and sets out proposed further targets for the next 12 months.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3.1 Progress on achieving the initial targets for the Department is summarised in the table attached as Appendix 1 to the report.
- 3.2 Committee will note that considerable progress has been made in working together. The vision to draw together the resources of Education and Social Work is proving successful. Increasingly, initiatives developed and taken forward for action by the Scottish Executive and Committees of the Council are based on coherent joint plans, involving support from Education and Social Work. Amongst the initiatives being implemented are:
 - better social and educational outcomes for looked after and accommodated children;
 - anti-drugs initiatives;

- roll out of New Community Schools;
- integrated children's services;
- initiatives to tackle youth crime.

3.3 While it is necessary to have an action plan and targets to focus on the progress to be made, there is clear evidence that there is already a significant shift in attitudes and increased joint planning and delivery of services.

4. FUTURE TARGETS

4.1 In order to achieve further progress, a number of priorities for action have been identified for attention over the forthcoming 12 months. The priorities fall within the same broad aims as set out in the initial action plan but focus on specific targets relevant to current local and national development objectives.

4.2 The targets are underpinned by a common set of principles, which require them to be:

- focused on better outcomes for service users;
- consistent with existing strategic and service priorities;
- challenging but achievable;
- inclusive.

4.3 The proposed future targets for joint working are summarised in the table attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

5. POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no policy, financial or legal implications for the Council arising from this report.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Committee is requested to:

- a) note the achievements made with the initial joint working targets set for the Department, as contained in Appendix 1;
- b) approve the proposed future targets, as contained in Appendix 2;
- c) ask the Director of Educational and Social Services to circulate this information widely;
- d) invite the Director of Educational and Social Services to present progress reports on achieving the new targets for action to appropriate committees; and

e) otherwise, note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
28 March 2002

For further information, please contact John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services - Tel. (01563) 576017

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APPENDIX 1

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN SERVICES

PROGRESS WITH INITIAL TARGETS

AIM	TARGET	STATUS	COMMENT
Setting the policy agenda	Work in close partnership with the Council's service committees to establish the policies that will help focus the services we deliver	ACHIEVED	Education and Social Work Committees set policies on an ongoing basis in each cycle of the Council. Corporate issues are dealt with at Policy and Resources Committee, e.g. Children's Service Plan.

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PROGRESS WITH INITIAL TARGETS

Partnership with outside organisations	Establish strong links with the wide range of public, private and voluntary organisations with which the department is linked	ACHIEVED	Inter-agency working is the norm both in education and social work. The main partners with whom joint working takes place include NHS Ayrshire and Arran, HATS, Children's Reporter, private and voluntary providers, SIP, the police, the Scottish Executive and local communities.
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PROGRESS WITH INITIAL TARGETS

Working with young people	Adopt new social work and education child protection procedures	ACHIEVED	Committee approval – Sep 01
	Develop the New Community Schools initiative in the Cumnock area	ACHIEVED	Committee approval – Nov 00. Further roll out NCS being sought – Apr 02
	Ensure all accommodated and looked after children and young people have a full time educational placement based on their individual personal learning plan	ACHIEVED	Addressed in response to the Scottish Executive “Learning with Care” initiative. Committee approval – Nov 01
	Devise an action plan to improve access to childcare qualification	ACHIEVED	In Strategic Training Plan - Committee approval – Nov 01
	Provide targeted family support through the Sure Start Initiative	ACHIEVED	Ongoing activity in context of implementing the Children’s Service Plan 2001-2004
	Revise the Children’s Service Plan for 2001-2004	ACHIEVED	Committee approval – June 01

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PROGRESS WITH INITIAL TARGETS

Improving services for people and learners with disabilities	Review services for people with learning disabilities	ACHIEVED	Committee approval for Learning Disability PIPs – Sep 01 Specific service reviews reported on ongoing basis
	Revise the Future Needs Assessment process to ensure seamless transition from children's to adult services	IN PROGRESS	Joint work being undertaken by education and social work officers, in consultation with health colleagues. Report to Committee in 2002.
	Use community learning plans to target adults with a learning disability	IN PROGRESS	Review of day services addresses access to educational opportunities. Phase 1 in implementation, Phase 2 in 2002-2003
	Improve the integration of sensory impairment services	IN PROGRESS	Review of services ongoing. Report to Committee in 2002.

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PROGRESS WITH INITIAL TARGETS

Strengthening support for our communities	Integrate community education and community development	ACHIEVED	
	Promote active citizenship across all age groups	IN PROGRESS	Ongoing activity detailed in Council Plan review – Policy and Resources Committee approval in Nov 01
	Empower communities to develop lifelong learning	ACHIEVED	Community learning pilots completed – Mar 01. Rollout ongoing Community Learning Strategy completed
	Increase support for women offenders	ACHIEVED	Included in Ayrshire Criminal Justice Strategy.
	Review approach to addiction issues	ACHIEVED	Appointment of specialist drugs workers (3) using Children’s Change Fund and re-deployment of existing posts. Committee approval – Sep 01
	Develop an anti-drugs initiative	ACHIEVED	

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PROGRESS WITH INITIAL TARGETS

Strengthening support for our communities (cont.)	Revise joint planning arrangements with NHS Ayrshire and Arran	IN PROGRESS	Re-focused work plan for the JDRG approved by committee- Jan 02
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PROGRESS WITH INITIAL TARGETS

Improving systems	Integrate ICT systems and any associated management arrangements	IN PROGRESS	Implementation of new social work information system (SWIMS) on course for Mar 02. Enhancement of SEEMIS planned
	Expand delegation of resources (DSM/DMR) arrangements	IN PROGRESS	Social work addressing in implementation of Joint Future agenda. Committee approval – Jan 02

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PROGRESS WITH INITIAL TARGETS

Performance review and Best Value	Develop systems to ensure a consistent approach to performance monitoring and planning	ACHIEVED	Social Work Quality and Planning team fully staffed and work plan in progress.
	Meet the requirements of the Social Work Services Inspectorate and Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools	ACHIEVED	Officers in ongoing contact with Inspectorates.

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FUTURE TARGETS – 2002-2003

AIM	TARGETS
Setting the policy agenda	Identify common areas for policy and procedures, based on operational experience of where joint policies and procedures would most improve outcomes for service users; Include within reports to Social Work and Education Committees standard reference to contribution to be made to achievement of objectives by educational or social work resources.

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FUTURE TARGETS – 2002-2003

AIM	TARGET
Partnership with outside organisations	Review existing partnership arrangements and enhance with educational or social work inputs where that would enable better outcomes for service users;

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FUTURE TARGETS – 2002-2003

AIM	TARGETS
Working with young people	<p>Review Local Improvement Objectives within education and involve social work resources where that would improve outcomes for pupils;</p> <p>Roll out New Community Schools approach across the authority, with emphasis on multi-disciplinary planning and delivery of services (NB Separate report before Committee in present meeting);</p> <p>Utilise Children's Change Fund monies to develop early intervention in order to: support homeless families; expand home/school link workers; integrate disabled children and young people; integrate services for children and young people affected by drug and alcohol misuse;</p> <p>Pilot "wrap around" care services on a 52 week basis in areas with Better Neighbourhood Services funding, complemented by appointment of home/nursery link workers;</p> <p>Develop a Family Centre in the Cumnock area, on a multi-disciplinary basis.</p>

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FUTURE TARGETS – 2002-2003

AIM	TARGET
Improving services for disabled adults and older people	Develop the contribution of adult learning initiatives to enhancing the quality of life of disabled adults and older people living in care homes or using day services within the authority.

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FUTURE TARGETS – 2002-2003

AIM	TARGETS
Strengthening support for our communities	<p>Implement the Adult Literacy and Numeracy Plan, with emphasis on: family learning through schools; homeless people; adults with a learning disability.</p> <p>Further develop active citizenship among young people through student councils and youth forums, with particular emphasis on enabling the participation of children and young people with additional needs;</p> <p>Expand outreach youth work in socially disadvantaged areas.</p>

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FUTURE TARGETS – 2002-2003

AIM	TARGETS
Improving systems	<p>Prepare an implementation plan for joint training and staff development based on the needs of staff in front line services;</p> <p>Implement a commissioning and contracting framework for purchased educational and social care services;</p> <p>Further enhance the functionality of the SEEMIS information system in education and explore the potential for linkage between SEEMIS and the SWIMS information system in social work.</p>

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FUTURE TARGETS – 2002-2003

AIM	TARGETS
Performance Review and Best Value	Develop a common approach to quality assurance and performance review across educational and social work services, based on existing discrete systems; Prepare a standard format for reporting on performance to the public; Finalise an amended Best Value service review programme, reflecting the statutory requirements about to be placed on local authorities.

AGENDA