

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 31 JANUARY 2002

EAST AYRSHIRE MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY 2001-2004

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek approval of the East Ayrshire Mental Health Strategy, which sets out a clear direction for improving and developing services for people with mental health difficulties.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The government's community care policy for people with severe and enduring mental health difficulties reflects a commitment to people being supported in an individualised way. This encourages personal choice, maximises independence and promotes social inclusion within communities. Individuals should be supported in their own homes or in a homely environment and hospital care should only be necessary where individuals have complex health care needs which cannot be properly supported within the community.

In addition, an emphasis is placed on the importance of mental health well being, encouraging agencies to work together to promote positive mental health.

- 2.2 At a national level, the "Framework for Mental Health Services in Scotland" was developed in 1997 to assist staff in social work, health and housing agencies to develop joint approaches to the planning, commissioning and provision of integrated mental health services. The Scottish Executive continues to monitor the effectiveness of implementation arrangements via the Mental Health and Well Being Support Group, which visits all NHS Board areas in Scotland and reports on progress.
- 2.3 Within Ayrshire, the Joint Ayrshire and Arran Mental Health Strategy 1999-2004 was developed to ensure that the national framework was implemented in a consistent way across all agencies.
- 2.4 Within East Ayrshire, the Joint Community Care Plan 2001-2004 outlines future plans for all community care groups, including mental health. The East Ayrshire Mental Health Strategy 2001-2004 details these future plans with a particular focus on:
- Improving and developing accommodation, support and health care arrangements for people with mental health difficulties.
 - Helping people to stay at home wherever possible, and supporting people to return to live in the community from institutional care.
 - Developing partnership approaches and joint working between agencies.

- Creating innovative and imaginative ways of promoting positive health within the communities of East Ayrshire.
- Providing awareness raising and training events which develop public knowledge of mental health issues.

3. CONSULTATION AND INVOLVEMENT

3.1 This strategy has been developed in partnership with a range of agencies, including:

- NHS Ayrshire and Arran Board
- NHS Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care Trust
- NHS Ayrshire and Arran Acute Trust
- East Ayrshire LHCC
- Carrick and Doon Valley LHCC
- East Ayrshire Carers Centre
- East Ayrshire Advocacy Services
- Morven Services (Church of Scotland)
- Richmond Fellowship

3.2 People who use services and their carers have also been involved in the development of this strategy, through participation in a planning group which informed the contents of the plan.

4. PROGRESS

4.1 In implementing the East Ayrshire Mental Health Strategy, progress will be achieved by:

- Reducing the number of people with mental health difficulties living in long stay hospitals by making appropriate health, housing and support arrangements available.
- Reducing the number of people being admitted to hospital by improving the range of flexible community based support services and opportunities.
- Increasing the knowledge and understanding of the public and professionals about mental health issues.
- Increasing the opportunities for service users, carers/families and other stakeholders to be involved in service improvement and service development opportunities.
- Identifying the individual needs of service users and their carers through the implementation of improved assessment and support planning arrangements.
- Improving opportunities for people with mental health difficulties in accessing employment, leisure, social, recreational and educational facilities with appropriate support as required.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The costs of community based accommodation with support for people being discharged from long term hospital care will be met by resource transfer funding from health services.
- 5.2 A range of service improvements and service developments will be progressed at no additional costs to the Council, but the costs of individualised accommodation with support arrangements for people currently living in vulnerable situations in the community will have financial implications for the Council. This requires to be costed in detail and will be reported to Committee at a later date and will include opportunities to maximise Transitional Housing Benefit through Supporting People.

6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Recommendations contained within the East Ayrshire Mental Health Strategy 2001-2004 are consistent with national and local policy objectives and take account of new mental health legislation currently being progressed through Parliament.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Nil.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that Social Work Committee approves the East Ayrshire Mental Health Strategy 2001-2004 as outlined in this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
18 December 2001
Enc (0)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. A Framework for Mental Health Services in Scotland (1997)
2. Joint Ayrshire and Arran Mental Health Strategy 1999-2004
3. East Ayrshire Joint Community Care Plan 2001-2004

FOR INFORMATION

A copy of the East Ayrshire Mental Health Strategy 2001 –2004 will be available at the Members Information Point.

If you require further information on this report please contact either Jackie Donnelly, Principal Officer Community Care, telephone 01563 576931 or Susan Taylor, Service Unit Manager Adults, telephone 01563 576935, Civic Centre South, John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock, KA1 1BY.

AGENDA

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: SUSAN TAYLOR