

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 31 JANUARY 2002

JOB COACHING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND/ OR MENTAL HEALTH DIFFICULTIES

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the success of a European Social Fund bid, which will develop a job coaching scheme across Ayrshire for people with disabilities and/or mental health difficulties, in partnership with Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire, South Ayrshire Council and North Ayr Partnership.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The East Ayrshire Joint Community Care Plan 2001-2004 outlines the need to develop a range of supported employment opportunities for people with disabilities and/or mental health difficulties, including people with a learning disability, physical disability, sensory impairment or brain injury.
- 2.2 In June 2001, Council staff worked jointly with other stakeholders to host a seminar on supported employment, involving service users and their families/carers.
- 2.3 In addition, people with learning disabilities participated in a series of "Choices Days", which identified their views about their lifestyles and hopes for the future. **Supported employment was the preferred choice of 59% of the participants as opposed to formal day services.** This reflects a desire to develop new skills, friends and opportunities to help people to feel valued as citizens in their local community.

3. AYRSHIRE JOB COACHING 2002

- 3.1 A steering group was subsequently formed to explore opportunities for developing supported employment initiatives within East Ayrshire. The group worked in partnership with Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire, South Ayrshire Council and North Ayrshire Partnership to secure European Social Fund monies for an Ayrshire Job Coaching Scheme.
- 3.2 European Social Fund monies must be matched by funds from other sources, is available on a year to year basis and seeks to develop employment, social and economic initiatives.

- 3.3 The Ayrshire Job Coaching Scheme will be provided by the Wise Group, which aims to provide unemployed people with a route to employment through vocational training programmes linked to real work experience. The scheme will operate from January – December 2002. Job coaches will work with people to determine their job preferences and support requirements. They will also help the person to identify their skills and experience, and will match this with the work available in the employment market. Job coaches will then support the person to learn the tasks of the job as required by the employer. The aim of the scheme will be to help the person become as independent at work as possible, and to gradually reduce the support provided.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Table 1 outlines the costs of the scheme for each of the partners:-

FUNDING PARTNER	AMOUNT
Training for Work / New Deal	£ 39,520
European Social Fund	£ 74,198
South Ayrshire Council	£ 24,000
Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire	£ 60,000
East Ayrshire Council	£ 25,000
North Ayr Partnership	£ 30,000
TOTAL	£252,718

- 4.2 The cost to East Ayrshire Council is £25,000 which will be met by a combination of Health Funding and Change Fund monies. As new partners we have agreed to invest £5,000 per job coach (total therefore = 5 x £5,000 = £25,000).

5. LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This development is consistent with Section 11 of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984, which imposes a duty on the local authority to provide suitable training and occupation for persons suffering from learning disabilities and the local needs identified in the Joint Community Care Plan 2001-2004.
- 5.2 This development also reflects national and local policy objectives in developing services for people with disabilities and/or mental health difficulties.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) Social Work Committee notes the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
18 December 2001
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. East Ayrshire Joint Community Care Plan 2001-2004.

For 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.

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AGENDA