

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 14 JUNE 2000

LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED UNDER SECTIONS OF SOCIAL WORK LEGISLATION & COST OF CHARGES TO SERVICE USERS WAIVED OR ABATED IN 1999/2000

Report by the Director of Social Work

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report to Committee on the levels of assistance provided under Section 12, Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and Section 22, Children (Scotland) Act 1995 during 1999/2000 and the cost of Charges to Service Users for Community Care services which have been waived or abated in 1999/2000, per the Council's Scheme of Delegation [Committee / Officers], 19 December 1999.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council's Scheme of Delegation [Committee / Officers], 19 December 1999, permits the Director of Social Work to make payments under specific parts of Social Work legislation on the condition that an analysis of the monthly payments made is reported to the Social Work Committee, on an annual basis.

2.2 The Council's Scheme of Delegation [Committee / Officers], 19 December 1999, permits a number of Officers [Principal Officers / Service Unit Managers] to abate or waive charges for community care services to avoid hardship, on the condition that a half yearly report is made to the Social Work Committee.

2.3 Payments are made under Section 12 "to promote social welfare", where to do so would avoid the local authority being caused greater expense and, in respect of a child, would promote the upbringing of a child in need by their family.

3. LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN

3.1 The total level of assistance given by the Department, under Section 12, Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and Section 22, Children (Scotland) Act 1995 for each month during financial year 1999/2000, is given in the tables below, amounts noted by issuing Service. Members should note that the specific amount allocated for Reception Services is understated in the months to October 1999, due to start-up issues, but the total paid in these months is accurate.

1999/2000	Children and Families	Community Care	Reception Services	Criminal Justice	Total
April	2,235.63	78.00	16.00	15.00	2,344.63
May	1,651.40	30.00			1,681.40
June	1,865.26	82.60	40.00		1,987.86
July	1,277.36	437.00	27.00		1,741.36
August	1,155.80	10.00	60.00		1,225.80
September	749.13	3.00	40.00	10.00	8,02.13
October	1,729.48		105.00	45.00	1,879.48
November	3,082.34	804.98	168.75	30.00	4,086.07
December	1,940.98	274.30	86.00		2,301.28
January	2,022.42	15.00	100.00	34.44	2,171.86
February	1,960.60	65.20	142.00		2,167.80
March	1,998.46	65.50	155.00	29.45	2,248.41
	21,668.86	1,865.58	939.75	163.89	24,638.08

3.2 As part of specific terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation [Committee / Officers], 19 December 1999 it is reported that no payments in excess of £1,500 were paid to any one family in any one month throughout the year.

4 CHARGES ABATED OR WAIVED

4.1 Two accounts, totalling £222.18 were waived in respect of community care services, on the grounds of possible financial hardship. Both were approved by the appropriate Service Unit Manager.

5 FINANCIAL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report fulfils the conditions set in the Council's Scheme of delegation on reporting expenditure for payments and the waiving of charges to users.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

Douglas Bulloch
Director of Social Work
DB / AYMcd
6/8/00
ENCL (0)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS Scheme of Delegation [Committee / Officers], 19 December 1999

For further information on this report please contact Allan Y McDougall, Depute Director of Social Work (Finance & Resources) at 01563-576950.

AGENDA