

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 14 JUNE 2000

OUTCOME OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICE PLAN (1998-2001) "OUR CHILDREN"

Report by Director of Social Work

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To ask Committee to endorse the outcome of the mid-term review of the Children's Service Plan (1998-2001) "Our Children".

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 placed a duty on local authorities to consult on, prepare and publish a Children's Service Plan, covering three-year periods.
- 2.2 The initial Consultation Plan was presented to the Children, Families and Criminal Justice Sub-Committee of the Social Work Committee (Item 5, Page 2849) and Special Policy and Resources Committee of 27 March 1998 (Item 1, Page 3178) approved the final Plan.
- 2.3 The Children's Service Plan is centred around the three overarching principles which underpin the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 namely:
- the welfare of the child is paramount
 - the views of the child should be listened to and fully taken into account
 - minimum intervention
- 2.4 Particular emphasis is focused on vulnerable young people with the aim of:
- supporting and maintaining the child in the community
 - promoting the health, development and welfare of the young person

3.0 MID-TERM REVIEW

- 3.1 The mid-term review reports on progress in the implementation of the Children's Service Plan against the original objectives and sets out the forward plan for 2000-01.
- 3.2 Consultation arrangements

A range of representative organisations and individual service users were consulted in relation to the mid-term review. Views were most frequently received from

parents and agencies representing children and young people with a disability, in particular in relation to accessing mainstream community resources.

The outcome of this consultation has resulted in awareness raising training for Community Services staff and an audit of service provision carried out in conjunction with the Cumnock Forum on Disability.

3.3 Progress

Objectives have been assisted in their progress through a number of new initiatives:

- The Childcare Partnership
- Children's Services Development Fund
- Excellence Funding
- New Community Schools
- Social Inclusion Partnership

The outcome of these initiatives and associated funding has enabled the implementation of a number of objectives earlier than anticipated. Other service objectives are progressively being met through improved co-ordination between services, the development of procedures and staff training and development.

The undernoted sets out some of the main achievements:

- Implementation of New Community Schools
- The prioritisation of Early Intervention and preventative work
- Enhanced role of the Family Support Team across the Authority
- The recruitment of an additional eight children's carers
- Employment of a Young Persons Worker
- Improvements in the quality of residential services
- Establishment of a Young People Who Offend Team

4.0 **POLICY / LEGAL /IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Children's Service Plan is the key strategic corporate document which sets out the range of issues in relation to children's services. It pulls together other strategic planning issues in a coherent and coordinated way.

4.2 The key issues set out in the Children's Service Plan are reflected in the draft Council Plan.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Nil

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Social Work Committee:

- (i) endorses the mid-term review of the Children's Service Plan and;
- (ii) otherwise notes the content of this report

Douglas Bulloch
Director of Social Work

ENC (O)

June 8, 2000

DB/KG/MK

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Children (Scotland) Act 1995
Children's Service Plan (1998-2001) "Our Children"
Children's Service Plan (1998-2001) "Our Children" Mid-Term Review

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AGENDA