

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 1 MARCH 2001

SOCIAL WORK PROPOSED SPEND

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the proposed spend in Social Work following additional allocation of £600,000 for Community Care and £175,000 (to be held in a contingency fund) for secure accommodation for children to the Social Work Budget 2001/2002.
- 1.2 To advise Committee of the additional initiatives that the Scottish Executive expects the Council to develop further in partnership with service users, carers and key agencies.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The allocation of additional monies is welcomed and will be used to expand front-line services in response to identified local need. The resources allocated to Community Care comes under three main headings and will be used to:
 - Prevent inappropriate admissions to residential, nursing or hospital facilities.
 - We will do this by increasing the numbers of intense care packages on offer to older people.
 - We will extend support services outwith office hours to the full range of vulnerable people in East Ayrshire.
 - Ensure appropriate early discharge from hospital.
 - We will improve our ability to respond speedily by building on Rapid Response services.
 - We will work closely with Health colleagues to ensure good quality care packages for people with learning disabilities or mental health difficulties returning to the community from long stay hospital placements.
 - Develop sufficient minimum community supports to vulnerable individuals and families.

- We will develop a range of community supports for people with learning disabilities to help them remain in their communities.
- We will support a range of community based initiatives to develop rehabilitation services for people who misuse drugs.
- We will sustain the level of equipment and adaptations provided to assist people with disabilities in the community.

2.2 Children's Services

The £175,000 allocated to cover the cost of secure accommodation for children who are remanded in custody will be held in a contingency fund and will be accessed in the event of need.

3. LOCAL OUTCOME AGREEMENT

- 3.1 The Council, with its planning partners, is expected to draw up a local outcome agreement indicating how it will spend the new resources.
- 3.2 The agreement should include what the Council currently spends in each area of service provision and how the Council and its planning partners can best use the new resources to achieve quantified targets.
- 3.3 Areas of service provision include the creation and/or extension of rapid response services; intense personal care packages; improving assessment arrangements; short breaks; shopping and maintenance services; significant care packages for people with a learning disability; unifying equipment services.
- 3.4 Within the agreement the Council is expected to outline the numbers of additional care packages available; the additional weeks of respite support on offer; the additional numbers of people helped to stay at home.

4. VALUE FOR MONEY

- 4.1 The new resources will be used to improve the protection and quality of life for individuals and families and, in a wider context, best value will be a key consideration.
- 4.2 Consequently, it is proposed that we review services using best value principles to ensure we effectively meet the needs of service users, reflect new requirements and achieve value for money.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Social Services have consulted and will continue to consult service users to ensure their views are taken into account in the provision and shape of support services. We will continue to approach service delivery from a needs led perspective and will allocate resources on the basis of identified need.

5.2 We will continue to work closely with planning, partners in health and housing to maximise the best use of resources to ensure quality community care services are available to vulnerable people in East Ayrshire.

6.0 POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Contained within the body of the report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that members of the Social Work Committee:

- (i) agree the contents of this report;
- (ii) invite the Head of Social Work to report on progress on the implementation of the proposals in this paper; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
21 February 2001
JD/JK
Enc (0)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

For further information regarding this report please contact Stephen Moore,
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AGENDA