

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 9 NOVEMBER 2000

CHILDREN'S SERVICE PLAN 2001/2004

**Joint Report by Director of Educational & Social Services
and Director of Community Services**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To seek Elected Member representation from Social Work Committee to sit on a Community Representative Forum in relation to the development of the next three year Strategic Plan for Children's Services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 requires Local Authorities to prepare, consult on and publish a Children's Service Plan.
- 2.2** East Ayrshire Children's Service Plan "Our Children" set out proposals for the three years 1998/2001.

3. PREPARATION FOR THE CHILDREN'S SERVICE PLAN 2001/2004

- 3.1** The next three year Strategic Plan for Children's Services for 2001/2004 will be completed and submitted to the Scottish Executive by the end of June 2001.
- 3.2** The involvement of children, young people, their families and the wider community is being developed in a variety of ways as the Council and its partners prepare for the next plan.
- 3.3** This includes developing a web site for the use by children and young people within a school setting; establishing a Young Person's Forum which will work in partnership with the Council's Children's Service Plan Steering Group and separately arrangements to involve young people who are currently looked after by the local authority in their own forum to look at their very specific needs.
- 3.4** The Children's Service Plan also requires to be shaped through the views of the wider community. It is proposed to establish a Forum comprising Elected Member representation from each of the service committees for Social Work, Education and Community Services. It is also proposed to invite two community representatives from each of the Council's seven Local Committees to participate in the Forum which will be supported by Community Development staff.

- 3.5** It is envisaged that the Forum will come together on no more than three occasions, after which a review of its effectiveness will be undertaken.
- 3.6** This report is also being considered by Education Committee and Community Services Committee respectively.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1** Members of the Social Work Committee are asked to:
- (i) nominate one Elected Member from Social Work Committee onto a Community Representative Forum for the development of the next three year Children's Service Plan; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational & Social Services

KG/SB
11 October 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Children Scotland Act 1995
2. East Ayrshire "Our Children" A Service Plan for Children and Young People 1998/2001

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR

AGENDA