

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 9 NOVEMBER 2000

“THE SAME AS YOU?” A REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the Scottish Executive launch of “The Same As You?” A Review of Services for People with Learning Disabilities.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Current national policy for people with learning disabilities reflects a commitment to individuals being supported in an individualised, person centred way which encourages personal choice, maximises independence and promotes social inclusion. People should be supported in their own homes or in a homely environment, and hospital care should only be necessary when individuals have complex health care needs.
- 2.2 “The Same As You?” A Review of Services for People with Learning Disabilities was launched by the Scottish Executive in May 2000, following an eighteen month period of extensive consultation involving service users, cares, statutory agencies and independent sector providers.
- 2.3 The document sets out a clear direction for the improvement of services and the development of opportunities for people with learning disabilities and their carers. It covers all aspects of peoples’ lives including accommodation options; care and support services; access to educational and vocational opportunities; employment; access to leisure and recreational activities; health; advocacy and transport.
- 2.4 The Policy and Resources Committee of 5 October 2000 agreed to the development of a Partnership in Practice Plan which will ensure the effective implementation of the review recommendations in East Ayrshire, and also noted the content of the joint agency Ayrshire wide response to the review document.

3. CONTENT

- 3.1 The Review contains twenty nine recommendations, many of which have significant implications for the local authorities and the health service in Ayrshire. Progress will include:
 - the closure of most long stay hospital beds;
 - an increase in supported living arrangements;
 - a shift away from centre based, traditional forms of day care to the development of day supports to facilitate access to mainstream education, leisure and employment opportunities;
 - increased numbers of people with learning disabilities having real jobs; and
 - increased access to independent advocacy.

4. IMPLICATIONS FOR EAST AYRSHIRE

4.1 A range of developmental work has taken place or is underway in East Ayrshire which is consistent with the recommendations of the Review. This includes:

- the development of accommodation with support in Kilmaurs;
- a review of day services; and
- individual planning for people who are resident in hospital, and who will be discharged to the community.

4.2 The proposal to close the majority of learning disability hospital beds will have significant implications for people with learning disabilities and their carers. At present, there are 46 people originating from East Ayrshire currently living in learning disability hospitals.

4.3 The Council has established a Corporate Learning Disabilities Group which will ensure the effective implementation of the Review recommendations. In addition, a joint agency Pan Ayrshire Learning Disability group has been established to co-ordinate planning arrangements and hospital discharge activity. The group is currently planning an Ayrshire Learning Disability Conference on 16 November 2000, which aims to inform people of the review and the implications for Ayrshire.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Discussions continue to take place between Ayrshire and Arran Health Board and the three Ayrshire local authorities regarding the level of funding to be transferred to the Council as a result of hospital closures. No hospital discharge will proceed without funding being identified.

5.2 The shift to more modernised services for people with learning disabilities will require additional financial resources. The Council is currently awaiting further information in respect of the change fund.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The recommendations of the review are consistent with the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 which seeks to shift the balance of care from hospitals to community based services.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The recommendations of the review are consistent with the objectives set out in a number of strategic Council planning documents, including:

- East Ayrshire Community Care Plan 1998-2001
- East Ayrshire Children's Service Plan 1998-2001
- Council Plan
- Community Learning Strategy 2000-2003

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None at this time.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 It is recommended that Social Work Committee:

- (i) note the contents of the document “The Same As You?” A Review of Services for People with Learning Disabilities.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
25 October 2000
Enc (0)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. “The Same As You?” A Review of Services for People with Learning Disabilities

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AGENDA