

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 13 SEPTEMBER 2001

THE AYRSHIRE PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE AGREEMENT 2001/2004 AND THE EAST AYRSHIRE PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE AGREEMENT 2001/2004

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the Ayrshire and East Ayrshire Partnership in Practice Agreements 2001/2004, which set out the direction for services to people with learning disabilities and their families/carers, and which required to be submitted to the Scottish Executive by 30 June 2001.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Government's Community Care Policy for people with learning disabilities reflects a commitment to individuals being supported in an individualised way, which encourages personal choice, maximises independence and promotes social inclusion. This approach is set out in the document : "The Same as You?: A Review of Services for People with Learning Disabilities" which was reported to Social Work Committee on 9 November 2000 (Item 12,Page 1370) and to Policy and Resources Committee in October 2000 (Item19, Page 1294).
- 2.2 The Review contains twenty nine recommendations, many of which have significant implications for the local authorities and the health service in Ayrshire. Progress in implementing this policy will include:
- the closure of most long stay hospitals
 - 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 real jobs

- increased access to independent advocacy.
- 2.3 One of the recommendations in the document requires local authorities, health and other stakeholders to develop Partnership in Practice Agreements (PIPs) to cover a three year period, which will provide a clear, joint vision of the future direction and funding of learning disability services.
- 2.4 The Scottish Executive guidance dated 26 March 2001 on the development of PIPs suggests that they should focus on measures which will enable people with learning disabilities to :
- be included, better understood and supported in their communities
 - take part in discussions about their needs, through being better informed
 - have the same opportunities as others to get a job, to develop as individuals and to access leisure pursuits
 - be able to use local services wherever possible, and specialist services when they need them.
- 2.5 The guidance requires that PIPs address the needs of both children and adults, however East Ayrshire, in common with other local authorities, has addressed the needs of children in the Children's Service Plan. Consequently, the East Ayrshire PIP will focus on the needs of adults, and clear linkages will be made between these plans. The PIP will address transition issues particularly for young people leaving school and accessing adult services. This area of work will involve young people, carers/parents and a wide range of professionals.

3. THE AYRSHIRE PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE AGREEMENT 2001/2004

- 3.1 An Ayrshire wide, joint agency learning disability planning group was established to co-ordinate hospital discharge planning arrangements in Ayrshire. It has co-ordinated work across Ayrshire in raising awareness of the content and implications of "The Same as You?". The group has also developed the Ayrshire wide PIP, which will ensure that a common set of principles are adopted across Ayrshire for the future development of learning disability services. The Ayrshire PIP specifically focuses on :
- planning and co-ordinating learning disability discharges from long stay hospital
 - identifying the need for specialist provision and developing services on an Ayrshire wide basis, where required and appropriate

- agreeing a clear financial framework to ensure that new arrangements are appropriately funded

3.2 Key priorities addressed in the Ayrshire PIP include:

- young people at the point of transition to adult services
- individuals in long term/continuing care institutions whose needs can be appropriately met in their local community or community of choice
- individuals in the community whose current care arrangements are liable to breakdown.

3.3 The group has consulted a range of interested stakeholders in developing the Ayrshire PIP. This includes a Stakeholders Day on 28th November 2000 for professionals, and the Ayrshire Learning Disability Conference held on 30 March 2001. Both events aimed to ensure that the views of people with learning disabilities, carers, families, staff, and elected members were taken into account in developing the PIP.

3.4 The Ayrshire PIP was submitted to the Scottish Executive in July 2001, with the agreement of all partner agencies including: East Ayrshire Council; North Ayrshire Council; South Ayrshire Council; Ayrshire and Arran Health Board, Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care NHS Trust and Scottish Homes.

4. THE EAST AYRSHIRE PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE AGREEMENT 2001/2004

4.1 The East Ayrshire PIP reflects the broad principles set out within the Ayrshire PIP, and also addresses the needs and issues of the communities of East Ayrshire. It outlines a range of developments including:

- plans for individual and shared tenancies with support for people with learning disabilities being discharged from hospital, as reported to Social Work Committee on 29 March 2001 (Item 11, Pages 19-24)
- how day services for adults with learning disabilities will develop to meet the different needs of individuals, noting that some people need to access services which provide care and others require support to access local recreational, leisure and educational opportunities
- opportunities to develop healthy living services for people with learning disabilities
- plans to further develop home based short break opportunities for carers

- how corporate departments are working together to develop supported employment opportunities, improved access to leisure, recreation and life long learning options
 - how people with learning disabilities will be supported to employ Personal Assistants
 - how assessment and care management arrangements will improve
 - plans to redesign existing traditional services to make them more responsive to the needs of individuals, and to ensure best value
- 4.2 The East Ayrshire PIP reflects the involvement of a range of stakeholders in developing the future shape of learning disability services, with a particular focus on service user and carer participation. This has occurred through meetings, individual interviews, surveys and public consultation events.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 "The Same as You?" recommended the establishment of a change fund to support the implementation of the proposed changes, which has been included in the Council's Revenue Support Grant. The Scottish Executive plans to monitor how effectively both current and new resources have been deployed through the use of local outcome agreements. We are in the process of determining how much we can set aside for the change fund as the budget is established for the new financial year.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposals ensure that the Council meets its statutory responsibilities in assessing the needs of people who are likely to require community care services.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The contents of this report are consistent with government policy in respect of people with learning disabilities, as outlined in "The Same as You? A Review of Services for People with Learning Disabilities" (Scottish Executive, May 2000).
- 7.2 The proposals also reflect a commitment to working together with health which is the emphasis within the Scottish Executive Report "A Joint Future" (December 2000)
- 7.3 The report outlines work which is consistent with the Council's approach to community care as outlined in the Joint Community Care Plan 2001-2004, and the Council's commitment to social inclusion in relation to people who are marginalised because of their disability

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Nil

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Social Work Committee is asked to :

- i) note the draft documents outlined at sections 3 and 4; and
- ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
24 August 2001
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. The Same as You?: A Review of Services for People with Learning Disabilities (Scottish Executive, 2000).
2. Scottish Executive letter 26 March 2001 (Circular CCD 3/2001) Implementing "The Same as You?" : Partnership in Practice Agreements (PIPs) and Change Funds.
3. Ayrshire Partnership in Practice Agreement 2001-2004.
4. East Ayrshire Partnership in Practice Agreement 2001-2004.

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AGENDA