

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 29 MARCH 2001**

#### **JOINT FUTURE GROUP**

#### **Report by Director of Educational and Social Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform members of the Committee of the proposals and recommendations of the report of the Scottish Executive task group, the Joint Future Group (“Community Care: A Joint Future”)
- 1.2 To advise members of the Committee of the East Ayrshire response to the Joint Future Group report, as submitted by officers.
- 1.3 To seek authority to make local arrangements, in conjunction with Social Work, Health and Housing partners in Ayrshire, to implement the recommendations of the Joint Future Group report.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Joint Future Group was established in December 1999 by the Minister for Health and Community Care. The remit of the group was to give a kick start to practical action at local level to implement the priority objectives of “Modernising Community Care”, the Government’s policy initiative on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of community care services. The Joint Future Group was to give a new lead on joint working across Health, Housing and Social Work at local level.
- 2.2 The group was chaired by Iain Gray, at the time the Deputy Minister for Community Care, and had representation from the key players with an interest in Community Care, including CoSLA, ADSW, Primary Care NHS Trusts and academic institutions. The group was advised and supported by officials from the relevant Scottish Executive departments.
- 2.3 After meeting regularly throughout 2000, the group issued its report in December 2000. Comments were invited from interested parties within a four-week period from the date of issue.

### **3. JOINT FUTURE GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 The full recommendations of the Joint Future Group report are attached as Appendix 1. A copy of the full Joint Future Group report is available to members in the members' lounge.

3.2 The main elements of the action plan relate to the following areas (timescales in brackets):

- **re-balancing care for older people**

- development of intensive support and care schemes (by mid 2001/02)
- increased provision of short breaks/respite

- **improving joint working**

- single assessment procedures (by October 2001) and single assessment tools (by April 2002) for older people/people with dementia
- intensive care management (by 2001/02)
- information sharing (by 2002)
- improved equipment and adaptation services
- improved efficiency of occupational therapy services

- **planning, financial and service management frameworks**

- national planning and financial framework (by 2002 for older people)
- local joint resourcing and service management under local partnership agreements (by 2002 for older people)

- **amendments to charging,**

- free home care for up to 4 weeks for older people leaving hospital

- **good practice promotion**

- Scottish Executive will identify measures to collect and disseminate examples of good practice (mid 2001/02)

#### **4. EAST AYRSHIRE RESPONSE TO JOINT FUTURE GROUP REPORT**

- 4.1 Members will note that there are already a range of activities and developments in progress to improve community care services in East Ayrshire. The Joint Future Group action plan does not require a completely new approach but rather a re-enforcement or re-alignment of existing activity at local level.
- 4.2 Officers submitted the East Ayrshire response to the Joint Future Group report in January 2001. Timescales precluded prior submission to Social Work Committee. The response is attached as Appendix 2.
- 4.3 Members of the Committee will note that the response:
- Supports the principles and broad objectives of the Joint Future Group report;
  - Welcomes the additional resources which will be made available to support developments;
  - Describes the range of activities already being undertaken by the Council, in conjunction with the Health Board , NHS Trusts and Housing partners in Ayrshire, to develop the priorities identified in the Joint Future Group report;
  - Identifies a number of issues which will affect the implementation of the Joint Future Group action plan, including:
    - impact of financial limits;
    - importance of sustaining public and service user confidence in developments;
    - need to ensure that nationally defined priorities are implemented in a way which is consistent with priority needs as defined at local level;
    - need to clarify key concepts and think through the implications, eg. intensive care management;
    - need to avoid over-prescriptiveness where local arrangements are already working well.
- 4.4 Members should also note that the Joint Future Group report is subject to discussion within the Joint Development and Resources Group, which comprises senior officers with responsibility for Health and Social Work across the whole of Ayrshire. It has been agreed that a number of the priority developments outlined in the Joint Future Group report can best be progressed at Ayrshire level, with others being taken forward at individual local authority level.

## **5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Joint Future Group recommendations reinforce or realign existing community care activity and to that extent do not contain major policy or legal implications for the Council.
- 5.2 However, the specific emphasis on joint resourcing and joint management of community care services may raise issues which require to be referred back to Committee for approval in the context of finalising a Local Outcome Agreement, following the activity described at 4.4 above.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The allocation by the Council of £600,000 additional resources to the Department of Educational and Social Services will be used to support the implementation of the Joint Future Group priorities.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 Members of Committee are requested to:
- i) note the recommendations of the Joint Future Group report (Appendix 1);
  - ii) note the Council response (Appendix 2);
  - iii) note the policy/legal/financial implications (sections 5 and 6);
  - iv) authorise officers to continue to work jointly with Health, Housing and Social Work colleagues in Ayrshire to develop local arrangements in response to the Joint Future Group priorities, within the timescales set within the Joint Future Group report; and
  - v) invite the Director of Educational and Social Services to provide progress reports on developments, in accordance with the timescales set out in the Joint Future Group report.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Director of Educational and Social Services**  
**12 March 2001**  
**JA/CR**  
**Encls(2)**

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Appendix 1 - Joint Future Group Report: Chapter 2 – Recommendations
- Appendix 2 - East Ayrshire Response to Joint Future Group Report

For further information regarding this report please contact John Alexander,  
Principal Officer (Quality and Planning) Department of Educational Services,  
Civic Centre, John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock, KA1 1BY.  
Telephone: 03563 576978

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : JOHN ALEXANDER**

**AGENDA**