

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 30 JANUARY 2003

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY CARE

Joint Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services and the Director of Finance

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Committee approval to establish a dedicated temporary finance post to ensure that the Department of Educational and Social Services fulfils its responsibilities to Care in the Community.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Over the past two years the financial responsibilities of the Community Care section has significantly increased in line with new legislation and policy initiatives. Recent examples of this include the Transfer of Preserved Rights, the introduction of Free Personal Care and the Supporting People Programme.
- 2.2 At the same time, implementation of the Community Care agenda has led to the introduction of a Joint Management and Joint Resourcing Framework with Health and Housing with much detailed work required to shift budgets and services towards a more integrated model.
- 2.3 Over the course of 2003 the Council is required to expand the Initial Local Partnership Agreement covering older people's services (endorsed at Social Work Committee on 9 April 2002) into a Full Local Partnership Agreement covering all Community Care Services, with accompanying financial framework.

3. DEDICATED FINANCE POST

- 3.1 The Community Care Budget currently sits at £29.5 million with increased funds anticipated in respect of Care Home Fees, Free Personal Care, and Supporting People in 2003/2004.
- 3.2 Given the scale of budget and increased financial responsibilities and requirements, dedicated financial support is now required to ensure that robust financial systems and accounting are put in place and can be sustained in partnership with Health and Housing.
- 3.3 Agreement has been reached between the Head of Social Work and the Director of Finance on the necessity of this post and management arrangements will be put in place to ensure appropriate professional support and guidance is available to the successful candidate.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In order that the Council can fully meet its responsibilities under the Joint Future agenda, a Finance post will be required, initially for the period of one year, recommended to be graded at SO8 to reflect the responsibilities of the post. The

responsibilities will be predominantly financial but will carry out other social work tasks as required.

- 4.2 The Trade Union has been consulted and is supportive of the establishment of this post.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The costs of this additional post, with related administrative support and on costs = £41,308.
- 5.2 These costs can be met from monies given by the Scottish Executive to create infrastructure to support new services for older people and adults.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The appointment of a dedicated temporary finance post will allow the Council to meet its requirements with a range of new responsibilities, some of which are outlined at 2.2.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Nil.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Social Work Committee is asked to:
- (i) approve in principle a dedicated temporary post, recommended to be graded at SO8 attached to Community Care, to provide financial and accounting support.
 - (ii) refer staffing implications to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
14 January 2002
Enc (0)

Alex McPhee
Director of Finance

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Community Care: A Joint Future, November 2000
2. Scottish Executive CCD7/2001 Joint Resourcing and Management of Community Care Services.
3. Joint Future and COSLA Paper on Political and Corporate Governance
4. Scottish Executive CCD11/2002 Implementation of the Provisions of Joint Working Regulations

For further information on this report please contact:
Jackie Donnelly, Principal Officer Community Care, telephone: 01563 576931

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: JACKIE DONNELLY