

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 30 JANUARY 2003

THE JOINT FUTURE AGENDA : A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise Committee of recent developments in Joint Future work and to seek approval, in principle, for the establishment of a new political process; a Joint Future Partnership Group.
- 1.2 The Joint Future Partnership Group made up from Council representation, NHS and other partners will provide leadership to deliver key National Objectives in the strategic integration of community care services across East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The new Joint Future Partnership Group proposal stems from a history of joint working with health as reflected in the Operational Framework which the Council signed up to in June 2000 and the Initial Local Partnership Agreement on the Joint Management and Resourcing of Older Peoples Services endorsed at Social Work Committee on 9 April 2002.
- 2.2 In order for this agreement to work to its maximum potential it requires to operate within a political and strategic framework.
- 2.3 The Scottish Executive Circular, CCD7/2001 Joint Resourcing and Joint Management of Community Care Services, set out the need for local partners to work together in a more structured way than ever before to provide an enabling framework – joint resourcing and joint management – for more and better joint services. CCD7/2001 set out a range of joint models in the broadest sense. All of these models are possible within the scope of existing NHS and Local Authority legislation (including the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act).
- 2.4 Social Work Committee has received 3 reports in respect of local joint future work, on 29 March 2001, 3 January 2002 and 9 April 2002 respectively. In addition, briefing notes have been provided to Elected Members as required.
- 2.5 The overall aim of the Joint Future Agenda is to make community care services more accessible and more efficient and to deliver better outcomes for people who use services. To achieve this, we need to continuously improve joint working across health, housing and social care, to promote partnership between all providers of health, housing and social care services and to remove barriers that impede progress.
- 2.6 The scope of decision making will be agreed by members of the Partnership Group but it is envisaged that the Group will consider all relevant matters relating to the

Joint Management and Joint Resourcing of all Community Care Services, and all other joint community care business such as Delayed Discharge Action Plans, Carer's Strategy, the implications of new legislation, the balance of care.

- 2.7 The Joint Future Agenda for community care is a key element of the wider debate in joint resourcing and management of services.

3. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- 3.1 Over the past 6 months a Joint Future Ministerial Group has been established to consider strategic direction and provide an opportunity for high level discussion on all appropriate matters relating to joint future work.

- 3.2 It was also anticipated that a further role of this group would be to discuss tri-partite issues between the Scottish Executive, NHS Boards and Local Authorities as required. For example, Delayed Discharge.

- 3.3 In addition a Joint Future Involvement and Communication Framework has been established involving senior officers and members of the key agencies involved.

- 3.4 The streamlining of the above arrangements having taken place in order to ensure political and NHS ownership and leadership of the Joint Future Agenda.

- 3.5 The recent NHS Review has also addressed the Joint Future Agenda during its recent evaluation, the outcome of which is still awaited at time of writing.

4. LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS

- 4.1 The East Ayrshire Joint Future Implementation Group which brings together the senior managers in all key community care agencies is now well established and is represented by all of the key agencies with a good mix of strategic and operational managers to deliver community care services in East Ayrshire.

- 4.2 A Joint Staff Forum has been established at local level to begin to address the implications of the National report produced by the Human Resource Working Group.

- 4.3 An MGF2 (Modernising Government Fund) bid has been made with local partners in an attempt to attract funds to establish I.T. systems which can share information across key agencies subject to client approval.

- 4.4 A shared financial framework is being established with partners but remains in the early stages.

- 4.5 A shared performance framework is also in the early stages.

- 4.6 Integrated working with social work staff attached to the majority of GP practices across East Ayrshire continues to develop with Single Shared Assessment being rolled out across the authority. A shared database in relation to O.T. equipment has also been agreed across Ayrshire with key agencies.

- 4.7 Consultation with older people continues to ensure we reflect their needs and wishes, the most recent consultation taking place on 11 December 2002 through a Better Government for Older people consultation conference.

5. PARTNERSHIP GROUP

5.1 Purpose

The Partnership Group will ensure that there is political leadership at local level to deliver key national and local objectives in improving the delivery of frontline community care services.

5.1 Membership

It is recommended that the membership of the Partnership Group will include:

- East Ayrshire Elected Members
- NHS Board Members
- Member for Communities Scotland

It is proposed that there will be equal representation from East Ayrshire Council and the NHS Board. Nominations from the Council and from partnership agencies will be invited, subject to Committee's agreement.

5.3 Budgets will be aligned as detailed in the Initial Local Partnership Agreement.

6. EAST AYRSHIRE JOINT FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

6.1 The Senior Officers Group will continue to undertake detailed work including:

- Producing relevant plans for the approval of the Partnership Group with financial framework and timescales.
- Monitoring and reviewing the implementation of plans and making policy, strategy and resource recommendations to the Partnership Group.
- Ensuring proper public consultation and accountability mechanisms are in place to support the work of the partnership.
- Promoting the development of integrated services across all sectors.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Detailed terms of reference determining the operation, financial and administrative parameters will be drafted by Legal and Administration and submitted to the Partnership Group for consideration.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The establishment of a Partnership Group is in line with the Joint Future Agenda and various Scottish Executive circulars outlining potential models and frameworks.

8.2 The proposals will strengthen the Council's capacity to meet its existing statutory joint planning responsibilities in Community Care and will complement its joint working arrangements with NHS Ayrshire and Arran and other partner agencies on the development of the East Ayrshire Community Plan.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Staffing

Proposals to appoint jointly a small number of staff offering financial, strategic and administrative support to underpin the work of the partnership are being considered by partners. East Ayrshire Council will lead in respect of these posts and a separate report will be presented to a future Committee once agreement between partners has been reached.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Nil.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Social Work Committee is asked to:

- (i) establish a Joint Future Partnership Group;
- (ii) approve the development of the proposals set out in the body of the report;
- (iii) refer to Council consideration of the nominations to the Partnership Group and;
- (iv) request that the Director of Educational and Social Services, in consultation with the Head of Legal and Administration, make arrangements for the establishment of the group.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
14 January 2003
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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