

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 30 JANUARY 2003

THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS PROCEDURES

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the progress in the development of the Multi-Agency Protection of Vulnerable Adults Procedures across East Ayrshire and to seek Committee's approval for the introduction of these procedures.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At Social Work Committee of 5 November 2001, Committee approved the introduction of Interim Protection of Vulnerable Adult Procedures and agreed further work with key partners in developing a multi-agency procedure.
- 2.2 Vulnerable adults are open to a range of abuses including financial exploitation, physical abuse, sexual abuse and institutional abuse, to give some examples.
- 2.3 The Interim Protection Procedures were implemented across Social Work and Housing in December 2001.
- 2.4 These procedures sought to:
- ? provide a working definition of abuse
 - ? establish agreed categories of abuse
 - ? establish a standard procedure to be followed when it is suspected that abuse has occurred
 - ? identify the roles and responsibilities of the key agencies involved
 - ? provide a co-ordinated multi-disciplinary response to reduce or alleviate abusive situations
 - ? provide guidance on the resolution of disputes and to place the lead role in co-ordinating activity in respect of the protection of vulnerable adults at risk of abuse with social services.

3. PROGRESS

- 3.1 A multi-agency working group was established in November 2001 in order to develop a procedural document which would be applicable across all staff in all partners agencies.
- 3.2 Membership of this group comprised representatives of the three Ayrshire Local Authority Social Work Departments, East Ayrshire Local Health Care Co-operative, Carrick and Doon Local Health Care Co-operative, the NHS Trust Ayrshire and Arran, Strathclyde Police and East Ayrshire Department of Homes and Technical Services.

- 3.3 This multi-agency document borrows heavily from the East Ayrshire Interim Procedures and reflects amendments made following the use of the interim procedures over the past year.
- 3.4 Staff training requirements were also identified by the working group and a sub-group has been established to devise a training programme to be delivered on a multi-agency basis in the Summer of 2003.
- 3.5 A full copy of the Multi-Agency Protection of Vulnerable Adults Procedures is attached to this report as Appendix 1

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The financial implications are minimal in respect of printing and joint training of staff. These costs can be met through existing budgets.

5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Scottish Executive have published its "Vulnerable Adults: Consultation Paper" and its "Consultation on Vulnerable Adults: Analysis of the Responses". When these new measures are implemented, local authorities will have additional duties to enquire as to whether intervention is required to protect the welfare, property or financial affairs of a vulnerable adult. Any such changes will be incorporated in the new procedures when available.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Social Work Committee is asked to:
- (i) To agree the introduction of the Multi-Agency Protection of Vulnerable Adults Procedures; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
10 January 2003
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. East Ayrshire Interim Protection of Vulnerable Adults Procedures

APPENDIX 1 - EAST AYRSHIRE MULTI-AGENCY PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS PROCEDURES

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