

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 29 JANUARY 2004

BEST VALUE REVIEW OF COMMUNITY MEALS SERVICE

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise committee of the intention to conduct a review of the Community Meals Service in line with best value principles.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council is involved in the provision of 4,000 community meals each week. Approximately 3,000 are provided through the Meals on Wheels service with the remainder being provided through lunch clubs.
- 2.2 It has been 4 years since there has been a review of the service. In the intervening period there have been substantial changes both in the profile of community care service users and in options as to how the service can be delivered.
- 2.3 Initial comparisons with other local authorities would suggest that improvements for service users may be possible in relation to choice of meals and flexibility about when they are provided. Comparisons would also suggest that our net average subsidy per meal is higher than other authorities.

3. PROPOSED REVIEW OF SERVICE

- 3.1 It is proposed that a short life member/officer group is established to co-ordinate the review.
- 3.2 The group will be tasked to:
- (i) Detail the current service.
 - (ii) Consider the quality of the service.
 - (iii) Consider how flexible the service is in meeting assessed need.
 - (iv) Benchmark with other local authorities.
 - (v) Ascertain the views of service users and stakeholders.
 - (vi) Consider financial aspects of the service including unit cost and income recovery.
 - (vii) Consider options for the future of the service.
 - (viii) Make a recommendation.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None anticipated. To be considered by review group.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 To be considered by the review group.

6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The review will contribute towards the Council's obligation to ensure that services are delivered in line with best value principles.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) recommend to Policy and Resources Committee the establishment of a short life member/officer group to review the Community Meals Service;
- (ii) agree in principle with the terms of reference for the group in paragraph 3.2;
- (iii) request that the Director of Educational and Social Services bring a report on the outcome of the review to a future committee; and
- (iv) otherwise note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
Enc (0)
12 January 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information regarding this report please contact:
Eddie Fraser, Principal Officer Community Care, telephone: 01563 554825

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: JACKIE DONNELLY