

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE - 27 MARCH 2003**

**WOMEN'S AID**

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

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** To advise Committee of progress in relation to the preparation of the Service Level Agreement for Kilmarnock Women's Aid and Cumnock and Doon Valley Women's Aid and to seek Committee approval for a service review of both organisations.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** Both Women's Aid organisations have been funded in the past through Social Work Section 10 funding. At Social Work Committee on 23 May 2002 approval was given to transfer funding from Section 10 to mainstream funding through the development of a Service Level Agreement.

**3. PROGRESS**

- 3.1** Work has been progressing in relation to a Service Level Agreement for both Women's Aid's organisations and both organisations have been reviewing how they can work more closely together to meet the needs of women and children who have been subject to domestic abuse in East Ayrshire.
- 3.2** On 29 January 2003 Housing Committee received a report informing Committee of a successful bid to the Scottish Executive to replace Kilmarnock Women's Aid refuge. Regrettably, funding was not secured for the Cumnock Women's Refuge and Housing Committee agreed to support Cumnock Women's Aid to look at alternative options for accommodation through the Supported Housing Scheme.
- 3.3** As these are potentially fundamental changes to Women's Aid organisations in East Ayrshire it is proposed to carry out a full service review of both organisations. On this basis it is recommended that the core funding for both Kilmarnock Women's Aid and Cumnock & Doon Valley Women's Aid is continued for financial year 2003/04 with an inflationary increase. A revised Service Level Agreement will be developed based on the outcome of the service review.
- 3.4** The recommendations arising from the service review will be reported back to Committee later in 2003. One of the options which will be considered is whether there are benefits of bringing both organisations together into a umbrella East Ayrshire Women's Aid.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** Core funding for Kilmarnock Women's Aid for 2003/04 is £187,348 and Cumnock & Doon Valley Women's Aid is £79,204. These figures include an inflationary increase of 1.7%, which is the level of uplift for voluntary agencies agreed by the Council.

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

- 5.1** Nil

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1** It is recommended that Committee:
- (i) approve the service review of Cumnock & Doon Valley Women's Aid and Kilmarnock Women's Aid and report the findings to Committee;
  - (ii) approve the total core funding of £266,552 for financial year 2003/04.

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services

JM/KG/SR  
5 February 2003

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR**