

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 22 MAY 2003
DIRECT PAYMENTS

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Committee of the continuing development of Direct Payments in East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Community Care (Direct Payments) Act 1996 gave local authorities the power to offer a cash payment instead of direct services to certain people with disabilities.
- 2.2 By June 2003, Local Authorities will have a duty to offer Direct Payments to an increased number of people assessed as requiring Community Care Services and by April 2004 to all Community Care client groups.
- 2.3 A report was submitted to Social Work Committee on 23 May 2002 advising of local developments in relation to Direct Payments at that time.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Seventeen people presently receive Direct Payments to purchase their supports in East Ayrshire.
- 3.2 Ayrshire Independent Living Network offer support and guidance to these individuals in relation to managing payrolls, staff and recruitment matters.
- 3.3 Each existing Direct Payment recipient is currently being reviewed by social work staff to ensure they wish to continue to access supports in this fashion.
- 3.4 The development of a robust Direct Payments structure for East Ayrshire is being developed to ensure people who wish to, will be able to access funds to purchase their own supports while a monitoring system is put in place to ensure public funds are being used appropriately.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 At present £250,000 is set aside to fund Direct Payments.
- 4.2 Where service users choose an alternative provider to the council, monies will be moved to the Direct Payments budget to reflect client choice.

5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Legislation states Direct Payments should be available to an extended group of people who require Community Care Services by June 2003 and to all Community Care client groups by April 2004.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that Social Work Committee:
- (i) note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
6 May 2003
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LIST OF BACKGROUND REPORTS

1. Community Care (Direct Payments) Act 1996
2. Social Work Committee Report – (23 May 2001) – The Provision of Personal Assistance via Direct Payments
3. Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002
4. Direct Payments Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 Sections 12 B & C: Policy and Practice Guidance – March 2003

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