

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 22 MAY 2003

MOVING AND HANDLING

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Committee of operational issues in relation to Moving and Handling arising from a recent Health and Safety Executive Inspection.
- 1.2 To seek approval to implement increased measures to address concerns raised.

2. CONTEXT OF REPORT

- 2.1 Manual handling (lifting, supporting, carrying, pushing and pulling by bodily force) is one of the most common activities in the home and at work. It is also one of the most common causes of strain and sprain injury and back pain.
- 2.2 Since January 1993, the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 have provided a general framework for tackling handling activities at work. The regulations require the following approach:
 - To avoid manual handling activities where it is reasonable and practicable to do so; and, where it is not.
 - To assess the risk and take appropriate steps to reduce it so far as is reasonably practicable.
- 2.3 In February 2003 the Health and Safety Executive carried out an inspection in respect of certain social work services an integral part of which was to assess the Council's arrangements for the risks to Social Service staff associated with Moving and Handling of service users. The inspection was part of the Health and Safety Executive's review of such arrangements in Local Government settings across the country.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The Health and Safety Executive advised that the Council should continue to develop and implement robust procedures for carrying out Moving and Handling assessments.

3.2 Staff with responsibility for carrying out assessments should be clearly identified and provided with appropriate training. Where necessary specialist input should be sought from health and safety and manual handling advisers.

3.3 Frontline staff require access to high standards of advice in Moving and Handling for both the health and safety of service users and themselves.

4. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 It is proposed that all staff involved in Moving and Handling operations are provided with a minimum of 2 day basic training course.

4.2 It is proposed that staff involved in assessment of risk in relation to Moving and Handling Operations are provided with an advanced level of training including risk assessment.

4.3 It is proposed that a new post of Moving and Handling Advisor is established. The functions of this professional role will be in relation to Moving and Handling policy, setting standards, and operationally undertaking complex assessments.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This proposal can be funded through utilising Resource Transfer monies from Ayrshire and Arran Health Board (£76,800).

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The proposal introduces the new post of Moving and Handling Advisor which will require a professional qualification in nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy or similar.

6.2 Staff will be provided with the necessary training and support to undertake their roles.

6.3 Trade Union agreement has been secured in respect of these proposals.

7. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Through these proposals the Council will meet its' obligations under:

- (i) the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974;
- (ii) the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992; and
- (iii) the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that Social Work Committee:

- (i) agree the proposed developments as outlined at 4.1 – 4.3;
- (ii) refer the staffing implications to the Corporate Governance Committee for consideration; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
7 May 2003
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
2. Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992
3. Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

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