

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 22ND MAY 2003

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT TO INCREASE PAYMENTS TO SHARED CARERS AND
SHARED CARE PLUS CARERS**

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval on increasing the rates we currently pay to Shared Carers and Shared Care Plus Carers.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Children with Disabilities in East Ayrshire Council access respite care through a variety of residential respite services and through the shared care and shared plus schemes.
- 2.2 Shared carers are people who are approved and matched to children with disability and who take the children into their own home for a period of respite. Respite occurs on a regular planned basis and is consistent care for the children who are matched.
- 2.3 Shared care plus carers are people who are approved and matched to four children with disability and they also take these children into their own home for regular periods of respite. This is also consistent care for the children who are matched.
- 2.4 East Ayrshire Council developed the two schemes when it became an authority in 1996. Carers are recruited, assessed and trained by workers from the Children with Disability Team and the carers are approved at the Fostering and Resources Panel. Once approved shared carers could transfer to other authorities as they are not employees of the Council.
- 2.5 Since 1996 we have recruited, assessed and trained 3 shared carers and 3 shared care plus carers.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE SERVICE

- 3.1 We currently pay carers £20 per 24 hours period of continuous care and this has not increased since 1996.

- 3.2 Neighbouring authorities have increased their rates in line with inflation and linked to fostering rates. Shared carers in East Ayrshire have raised this issue with Social Services and asked what action the Council would take to review the rate it pays given that there is now a significant difference.
- 3.3 An increase for our carers to a rate compatible to neighbouring authorities would reduce this anomaly and would ensure that we can retain those carers already recruited and assist with future recruitment campaigns. It is recommended that the rate increase to the sum of £41.60p per 24 hour period of care. It is further recommended that for future years the rate is increased in line with rates paid to foster carers.
- 3.4 The new rate would still demonstrate value for money compared with the rates that we currently pay for residential respite placements for the same period of time. Residential respite care rates vary between £117 and £250 per 24 hour period of care.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no legal implications in approving this increase in rate.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Implementation of the increase in rates will require a budget of £13977.60 based upon current usage of the service and will be achieved within the budget for children with a disability through a refocusing of service delivery.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Social Work Committee agree to increase the allowances for shared care and shared care plus as suggested.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
6th May 2003
Enc (0)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

For further information please contact Lesley Gibson, Service Unit Manager (Services), Children and Families Team, Council Offices, John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock KA1 1BY on 01563 576901.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: LESLEY GIBSON