

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE: 22ND May 2003

QUALITY OF LIFE FUNDING

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the committee that there has been an allocation of Quality of Life monies to improve the quality of life of young people who are accommodated.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive allocated monies to local authorities for a three year period, 2003 to 2006, and invited local authorities to indicate their intentions regarding the spending of their allocation. The outline proposals have now been accepted by the Executive.
- 2.2 Social work has been allocated the sum of £30,000 per annum for the next three years to improve the quality of life of young people in care. Members will be aware that young people who are accommodated are amongst the most vulnerable young people within our community and that this impacts significantly upon their life chances in terms of educational attainment, employment opportunities and their ability to sustain a stable lifestyle. Young people in residential care are further disadvantaged, in comparison to those in foster care, as they miss out on the experience of living within a family environment and do not enjoy the range of positive family experiences open to young people within the general community.
- 2.3 The number of young people who are looked after in either residential care or community based placements now stands at 152, an increase of 29% on the previous year. In addition the department supervises another 186 children who are looked after at home bringing the total number of children looked after to 338 which is an increase of 36% on the previous year.
- 2.4 It is intended to use the allocation to support the young people who are accommodated to expand upon the range of experiences to a level that would be available to young people in the wider community and which will enhance their opportunities for learning. This will include participation in extra curricular activities within the community, opportunities for outings

and developing particular talents, which may be demonstrated by individuals. The funds will be accessed by unit managers and team leaders to spend at a local level in consultation with service users.

3 FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Social Work has been allocated £30,000 from the Quality of Life fund to deliver this service.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and to approve the recommendation that Team Leaders and Unit Managers are invited to bid for this money on an individual case basis. A progress report will be submitted in due course on the outcome of the spending.

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

List of Background Papers

None

For further information please contact Bill Eadie, Principal Officer, Children and Families Team, Council Officer, John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock KA1 1BY on 01563 576728.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: BILL EADIE