

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 9 NOVEMBER 2000

#### CHARGES FOR RAPID RESPONSE SERVICE

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

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval from Committee on the proposed non-charges for occupational therapy equipment and home care services delivered by independent home care agencies on behalf of the Rapid Response Service in East Ayrshire.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Reports setting out details of the operation of services were presented to Social Work Committee of 2 June 1998 ((Item 12, Page 3433) and Community Care Sub Committee of 7 October 1999 (Item 2 Page 411). East Ayrshire Council has been allocated £135,000 by the Health Board to start up a Rapid Response Initiative in conjunction with North Ayrshire Council. This money will allow key staff (Social Worker and Home Help Organiser) to be put in place to deliver the service. This initiative should mirror the Rapid Response Service operated by South Ayrshire giving consistent arrangements across Ayrshire. The funding is recurring from the Health Service to support the development.
- 2.2 The initiative is multi agency with additional monies to the above being allocated for Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy equipment, District Nursing and Clerical support.

The allocated funds for the Rapid Response Team are to ensure:

- (i) the prevention of admissions to hospital for people who could be treated at home with short term supports; and
- (ii) quicker discharge of patients from Crosshouse which will allow increased bed usage.

#### 3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 This service will operate from Crosshouse Hospital, East Ayrshire Council being the lead agency for social work services there.
- 3.2 The team will be multi-disciplinary.
- 3.3 The team will ensure, if appropriate, that, after an assessment of need is undertaken, "immediate" home care supports and occupational therapy equipment can be provided to support a patient's discharge.
- 3.4 It is recommended that the initiative will provide a free service to people requiring home care services and occupational therapy equipment. This free

service will be for up to 14 days. Should services continue beyond the timescales of the initiative, the present Non-residential Charging Policy will apply.

#### **4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 Both North and South Ayrshire Council have agreed not to charge service users for the use of home care services or equipment provided by the Rapid Response Service. East Ayrshire Council's charging policy states that the Council should charge for all home care services and has introduced a one off payment for occupational therapy equipment.

#### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 East Ayrshire Council have a one-off charge of £25 for the provision of Occupational Therapy equipment and a charge for all home care services delivered by local authority or independent agencies provided within the person's home. To ensure the service operates timeously across the three council areas the Committee is asked to waive charges in the first fourteen days.
- 5.2 The potential service users of the Rapid Response Team will be additional and not typical of current service users. However the gross cost of the scheme is met by specific Scottish Executive funding, via the Health Board and does not include a required income target. Nonetheless some income may be generated if services continue beyond the "free" fourteen-day period.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 It is proposed that Social Work Committee:
- (i) recommend to Council that the charge for services provided by the Rapid Response Service are waived for the first fourteen days of service, to apply equity to all service users across Ayrshire and;
  - (ii) otherwise note the content of the report.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Director of Educational and Social Services**  
**JM/DAB/PP**  
**Enc (0)**  
September 2000

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

**Nil**

For further information on this report please contact Denise Brown, Service Unit Manager, Home Care on 01563 554825 or Jackie Donnelly, Principal Officer Community Care, on 01563 576931

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : DENISE BROWN**

**AGENDA**