

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE GROUP**

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2003 AT 1440 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillor William Menzies; Jessie Graham and Cathy Brown, MBE (Irvine Valley Elderly Forum); Winnie Campbell and May Fraser (Kilmarnock South Elderly Forum); Jim Murray and George Gillan (Cumnock Area Elderly Forum); Jessie Duffy (North West Kilmarnock Elderly Forum); Will Shaw and William Cooke (Muirkirk Elderly Forum); Maurice Ashbridge, East Ayrshire Elderly Forum; and Carol Robertson, Service Co-ordinator - Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care NHS Trust.

**ATTENDING:** Eddie Fraser, Service Unit Manager (Home Care); Janice Harrison, Team Leader - Support to Communities; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Rena Brown (North West Kilmarnock Elderly Forum); Sergeant James Richmond, Local Authority Liaison Officer, Strathclyde Police; Karen Darling, Health Service Commissioner, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board; and Martin Clark, Service Unit Manager, Older People's Services.

**CHAIR:** Councillor William Menzies, Chair.

#### **CHAIR'S REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

1. The Chair welcomed those present to this the first meeting of the Group since his appointment as Champion for Older People and having given everyone the opportunity to introduce themselves, went on to explain that, in order to create a less formal and more relaxed forum to endeavour to promote participation in discussion by the Elderly Forum Representatives, he had arranged, on a trial basis, for attendance at this meeting by Officers to be restricted to those with an identifiable interest in the matters to be considered.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

2. There were submitted (circulated) and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Better Government for Older People Group held on 15 March 2002, subject to amendment to indicate that that meeting had commenced at 1305 hours rather than 1505 hours.

#### **ELDERLY FORUM DEVELOPMENT WORKER**

3. Janice Harrison, Team Leader - Support to Communities reported that the East Ayrshire Council for Voluntary Organisations were continuing to progress with preparatory work in connection with a proposed application for funding for a dedicated Elderly Forum Development Worker, to the Lotteries Fund and that it was hoped that the application would be finalised and submitted within the near future.

During discussion, the Elderly Forum Representatives expressed some concerns regarding what was perceived as relatively slow progress in moving towards implementation of the Development Worker and, in this connection, the Group noted that Janice Harrison, Team Leader - Support to Communities, would endeavour to

ensure that this matter is moved on as quickly as possible; and the Chair's assurances that he would maintain a close interest in this matter and would expect to see firm and clear progress before very much longer.

#### **UPDATE ON HOMECARE SERVICES**

4. The Group received a presentation from Eddie Fraser, Service Unit Manager (Homecare) on the provision of homecare services within East Ayrshire.

There then followed a general discussion relating to matters arising from the presentation and the Service Unit Manager answered questions put by representatives of the Elderly Forums.

The Chair thanked the Service Unit Manager for the presentation.

#### **EAST AYRSHIRE OLDER PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE: 11 DECEMBER 2002 - FEEDBACK**

5. There was submitted a document entitled "Summary of Comments from East Ayrshire Better Government for Older People's Conference - 11 December 2002" in order to provide feedback from the Conference to the Group.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the document submitted; and
- (ii) to note additional comments on the Conference offered by those members of the Group, and Officers, who had been involved.

#### **BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE: EAST AYRSHIRE**

6. In response to some concerns expressed by representatives of the Elderly Forums regarding the operation of the Better Government for Older People Group within East Ayrshire, a detailed discussion took place during which various issues were raised and explored, and as a result of this, it was agreed that the following measures should be applied:-

- a less formal meeting format than previously for meetings of this Group, similar to that which had been adopted for this meeting, which would limit Officer representation from East Ayrshire Council and other external organisations, only to those with an identifiable interest in the business of the meeting;
- meetings of this Group to be held at regular intervals at least three times per year; and
- facilitation of input to this Group through the East Ayrshire Elderly Forum Liaison Group.

#### **SCOTTISH OLDER PEOPLE'S ADVISORY GROUP TO BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

7. Jessie Graham reported on a range of issues of concern which had arisen from the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Older People's Advisory Group to Better Government for Older People on 10 February 2003, which she had attended, relating to the running of the meeting including the conduct of the Chair, circulation of Agenda papers, voting entitlements and the legitimacy of the membership of the East

Ayrshire Representatives; and suggested, in the present circumstances, that there was little of benefit or worth in the East Ayrshire Representatives participating in the Advisory Group.

The Group expressed extreme disappointment at the issues of concern set out in Jessie Graham's report but, notwithstanding, recognised that it was important that Representatives from East Ayrshire should have the opportunity to be properly involved and to contribute through the Advisory Group to issues relevant to older people, at the national level. Accordingly, it was agreed to request Martin Clark, Service Unit Manager - Older People's Services, to communicate appropriately with the Advisory Group regarding the concerns expressed by this Group and to report back on the outcome to the next available East Ayrshire Elderly Forum Liaison meeting and to the next meeting of this Group.

The meeting terminated at 1555 hours.