

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2004 AT 1405 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillor William Menzies; Cathy Brown, MBE and Jessie Graham (Irvine Valley Elderly Forum); Winnie Campbell, May Fraser and Barbara Gallagher (Kilmarnock South Elderly Forum); George Gillen and Jim Murray (Cumnock Area Elderly Forum); Maurice Ashbridge (North West Kilmarnock Elderly Forum); William Cooke (Muirkirk Elderly Forum); Eddie Fraser, Community Care Manager (Educational and Social Services); Marlene Harkis, Service Manager: Older People (Educational and Social Services); Charlie Mallon, Community Care Control Centre Manager (Educational and Social Services); Ron Murray, Environmental Health Officer (Neighbourhood Services); Dawn Vallance, Information Officer (Neighbourhood Services); Isabel Marr, Patient Services Manager (Ayrshire and Arran Health Board); Dawn Lynch, Partner Liaison Manager (Pension Service); Maxine McInnes, Policy Officer (Neighbourhood Services); and Stephen Sheach, Service Officer (Educational and Social Services).

ATTENDING: Quintin Eccles, Community Work Assistant (Educational and Social Services); and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Sarah Roy and Jean Aird (Northwest Kilmarnock Elderly Forum); Alex Currie (Muirkirk Elderly Forum); Jean Hendry, General Manager, Medicine (Ayrshire and Arran Acute Trust); and Carol Robertson, Service Co-ordinator (Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care Trust).

CHAIR: Councillor William Menzies, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair introduced Marlene Harkis, who had recently taken up the post of Service Manager: Older People within the Community Care Section of the Department of Educational and Social Services, and welcomed her to this, her first meeting of the Better Government for Older People Group.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 APPROVAL AS A CORRECT RECORD

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 5 May 2004.

2.2 MATTERS ARISING

2.2.1 Podiatry Services in East Ayrshire

It was agreed that an invitation be extended to John McConway, Podiatry Manager with Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care NHS Trust to attend the next meeting of the Group with a view to providing an update on issues relating to the recruitment of podiatrists and the delegation of work to Podiatry Assistants and any consequential impacts upon service delivery.

2.2.2 Older People's Residential Care Services

Eddie Fraser, in response to an enquiry from Jim Murray, advised that it was anticipated that the new build care home currently being developed in Auchinleck, to be called "Glennie House", would be completed in Spring 2005, and that soon afterwards residents of Affleck House would transfer to the new accommodation. As yet, no decisions had been taken with regard to the future use of Affleck House following the transfer of residents to Glennie House.

2.2.3 Neighbourhood Wardens

On the matter being raised by Councillor Menzies, it was agreed that arrangements be made for a presentation to be given at a future meeting of this Group on the implementation of the Neighbourhood Wardens Scheme within East Ayrshire.

HOSPITAL RE-PROVISIONING: CONTINUING CARE BEDS

3. The Group received a joint presentation by Isabel Marr, Patient Services Manager with Ayrshire and Arran Health Board and Eddie Fraser, Community Care Manager.

Isabel focussed on a range of issues relative to proposals for the future strategy and approach for the provision of continuing care beds within Ayrshire with particular regard to provision within East Ayrshire and highlighted the following aspects, namely:-

- "Continuing Care Beds" are for individuals requiring a specialist led service including frequent specialist medical and nursing and care services throughout a 24 hour period such that they could not be supported in the community;
- the intent and focus of the currently proposals was to address issues arising from existing accommodation which is not "fit for purpose" through the provision of higher quality, more appropriate accommodation. The model for this type of accommodation is that provided at the East Ayrshire Community Hospital, i.e. single on-suite accommodation with garden access;
- while the proposals would reduce the total number of continuing care beds available within Ayrshire, the primary aim was to improve the quality of the service offered to those genuinely in need, and took account of current under-occupancy levels within certain of the existing establishments;
- within Ayrshire, it is proposed that the reprovisioning of continuing care beds would take place at Ayrshire Central Hospital, Irvine and Kirklandsie Hospital, Kilmarnock, or at an alternative provision within the Kilmarnock area; but that due to the unsuitable nature of the premises, the establishments at Brooksbys Hospital, Largs and Holmhead Hospital, Cumnock, would close; and that provision within East Ayrshire Community Hospital would continue;
- the proposals were subject to an extensive consultation process over a three month period involving a series of six public meetings throughout Ayrshire, presentations/talks to local organisations and distribution of publicity leaflets etc;
- feedback from the consultation process so far had indicated that there may be a need to consider the possibility of shared accommodation, in addition to the proposed single units, being provided to a limited extent in certain circumstances; and

- the financial implications of the proposals would be a net additional cost to the Health Board involving capital investment of £12m and resource transfer to local authorities in Ayrshire of £3.8m.

Eddie Fraser then highlighted recent changes with the Social Services Section of the Department of Educational and Social Services in relation to the provision of services for older people and the strategic and service delivery implications for East Ayrshire Council of the re-provisioning of continuing care beds, viz:-

- reference to the East Ayrshire Joint Future Partnership and the establishment of formal and effective joint working and partnership arrangements between East Ayrshire Council, principally in relation to Social Work and Housing services, and the Health Authority; and the establishment in April 2003 and revision/expansion in April 2004 of a Partnership Agreement on Older People's Services within the area, all of which was focused upon facilitating the care of individuals within their own homes, where possible;
- the introduction of improved/streamlined decision-making structures and processes including restructuring within the Social Work Section involving the establishment of Locality Teams and Managers, with effective working links to local GP's;
- the underpinning of service delivery by monitoring against established Care Commission standards;
- with regard to future service development, Eddie made reference to the new care home facility which will shortly be available at Glennie House in Auchinleck and the plans of independent sector providers to develop a similar facility within the Kilmarnock area; and in respect of homecare services, the review which had been undertaken in 2002 and had proved to be successful in implementation;
- for the future, the development of intermediate care services in relation to both individuals being discharged from hospital and also to prevent admission, and streamlining of the social care assessment process; and
- emphasised the importance of "joined-up" working between the partners involved to ensure the effective delivery of services.

There then followed a discussion during which Isabel Marr and Eddie Fraser responded to a range of questions asked by Members of the Group.

The Chair thanked Isabel and Eddie for the presentation which had been comprehensive and most informative.

DOON VALLEY ELDERLY FORUM: UPDATE

4. The Group received a verbal update by Winnie Campbell who advised (a) that over the Summer period, a considerable amount of effort had been made by members of the Doon Valley Elderly Forum Development Group from the East Ayrshire Elderly Forum, in the form of liaison with the local community and public meetings, to progress the possible establishment of an Elderly Forum within the Doon Valley; but (b) that as the result of a lack of support locally for the proposal, culminating in a very poor response to a public meeting held towards the end of August, it had been

agreed not to continue to pursue the proposal and to stand-down the Development Group.

The Group agreed to note the position as indicated by Winnie Campbell.

BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE: LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

5. A general discussion took place regarding the implementation and effectiveness of Better Government for Older People within the local and national, Scottish, context. The discussion was informed by comments from Maurice Ashbridge and Stephen Sheach, Service Officer, who had both attended a meeting organised by the National Better Government for Older People organisation, held in Stirling on 15 September 2004, to discuss progress to date and preparation of a series of conferences for the Spring/Summer of next year.

Discussion focussed on the following issues, namely:-

- the effectiveness of Better Government for Older People within Scotland as a whole, in terms of involving older people in the planning and delivery of public services; and in this regard, it was noted that there is no Scottish base and all organisation is undertaken from London, and that currently, only 14 of 32 Local Authorities in Scotland are affiliated;
- the effectiveness of Better Government for Older People within the East Ayrshire context and value for money considerations in respect of any financial contributions/affiliation fee paid by East Ayrshire Council to Better Government for Older People; and
- the respective purposes of Better Government for Older People and the West of Scotland Seniors Forum.

Following, and in light of discussion, it was agreed:-

- (i) to note, as explained by Marlene Harkis, that Better Government for Older People was an initiative established essentially to facilitate and promote liaison and consultation between older people and public agencies, including Local Authorities, in respect of the planning and delivery of services, to which the Local Authority would affiliate; that the West of Scotland Seniors Forum was in the nature of a campaigning or pressure group for the interests of older people, which the local Elderly Forum could affiliate to;
- (ii) that Marlene Harkis would investigate, and report back to the East Ayrshire Elderly Forum on, the financial implications relative to affiliation by the Forum to the West of Scotland Seniors Forum;
- (iii) to note continuing concerns which were expressed at the meeting regarding the administration and operation of Better Government for Older People at the national level, with particular regard to the effectiveness of the relationship with the local level; and to continue consideration of this matter at future meetings, as appropriate, and in the light of further information.

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DOG FOULING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003

6. The Group received a presentation by Ron Murray, Environmental Health Officer within the Department of Neighbourhood Services on implementation of the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 within East Ayrshire.

Ron Murray then responded to questions put, and points of clarification sought, by members of the Group.

The Group agreed:-

- (i) to note the information provided by Ron Murray within the presentation and in response to questions; and
- (ii) to express the view that the aims and purpose of the Act would not be achieved until the Council provided a clear indication of its commitment to dealing with the problem of dog fouling through the issue of fixed penalty notices to individuals committing an offence under the Act, as a deterrent to potential offenders.

COMMUNITY ALARM SERVICE

7. The Group received a presentation by Charlie Mallon, Control Centre Manager with East Ayrshire Community Alarm Service, on aspects of the operation of that Service.

Charlie Mallon and Eddie Fraser responded to questions put by members of the Group.

The Chair thanked Charlie for an interesting and informative presentation.

BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE CONFERENCE 2004

8. There was submitted a verbal report by Marlene Harkis on progress with arrangements for the Better Government for Older People Conference 2004. Marlene advised (a) that arrangements had been made for the Conference to take place on Wednesday 1 December 2004 at Lochside House Hotel, New Cumnock; (b) that invitations would be issued to potential participants, including Elderly Forums, within the next 10 days or so; (c) that she would be pleased to receive suggestions from Elderly Forum Representatives on possible invitees from local communities, for example local Age Concerns or Old Folk's Welfare Associations; and (d) that she would be contacting the Elderly Forums within the very near future to invite each of them to appoint a nominee to contribute to consideration of the programme for the Conference.

It was agreed to note the information provided.

REQUESTS FOR PRESENTATIONS AT FUTURE MEETINGS

9. The Group agreed:-

- (i) to note, as discussed previously during the meeting, that presentations would be arranged for future meetings on the Neighbourhood Wardens Service and Podiatry Services;
- (ii) to accept an offer from Hugh Mitchell, Community Safety Officer with Strathclyde Police, as intimated by Marlene Harkis, to make a presentation to the next meeting of this Group on the Bogus Callers Initiative; and

- (iii) otherwise, to note that the Elderly Forums would have the opportunity to feed back to Officers of the Council on any other issues which they wish to receive information/presentations on.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Group should take place in March 2005; and noted that the detailed arrangements for this meeting would be determined in consultation with the Chair.

The meeting terminated at 1555 hours.