Welcome
AYRshare is now live! Following successful testing and delivery of training to over one hundred practitioners, AYRshare is now live in the Prestwick/Troon locality of South Ayrshire. During May, access to AYRshare will be provided to more practitioners throughout the rest of South Ayrshire. We are also working with North and East Ayrshire Councils to implement the system in the coming months.

Update
AYRshare is an innovative computer system developed by NHS Ayrshire & Arran in partnership with East, North and South Ayrshire Councils. It provides effective, timely and secure sharing of information between organisations to help address concerns about the well-being and protection of children and young people. It therefore directly supports the implementation of the Scottish Government’s “Getting it Right for Every Child” (GIRFEC) policy.

AYRshare was implemented in the Prestwick/Troon area of South Ayrshire on 8th March 2013, less than 18 months from its initial conception. It has not only been highly praised by local practitioners and managers, but it has also generated considerable interest nationally. This interest culminated in a visit from the Minister for Children and Young People at the end of March (see article below for further information).

As well as developing the new AYRshare system, changes also require to be made to existing social work, education and health systems to produce the information for AYRshare. The changes required for the South Ayrshire Council Social Work system (SWIS) and the NHS Child Health system (FACE) have been completed for the initial implementation.

The roll-out of AYRshare to the rest of South Ayrshire is well underway. Changes are currently being made to the North Ayrshire Council Social Work system (CareFirst) and discussions with the supplier of the East Ayrshire Council Social Work system (SWIFT) and the SEEMIS education system are underway. AYRshare will be implemented in North Ayrshire from June and East Ayrshire in late summer.

Confessions of an AYRshare User
We asked one of the first people to use AYRshare to tell us why the new system will help to improve service delivery.

“As a practitioner in Education in South Ayrshire, I am the Named Person for all students within my school - over 1,000 young people. The lines of communication for such a large amount of young people can be immense. Therefore the opportunities offered by AYRshare will no doubt lead to a faster flow of information and a more concentrated approach to identifying young people’s needs. This will ensure that effective provision and appropriate support is available to them.”

Clinical Team Leader, NHS Ayrshire & Arran
The major benefit for my organisation will be the availability of plans and significant events from partner agencies, applying the GIRFEC practice model. This information can be used by my school to formulate plans at both school and authority level to secure additional support for young people. It must however be recognised that this availability of on-line information will not replace the monthly Joint Support Team discussions and Professionals Meetings that form the basis of our commitment to meeting the needs of our young people.

The other major advantage of AYRshare is the regular updates on pupil information from different agencies. This is essential to ensure that Education is aware of any changes to young people’s lives and of the necessary additional support they require to realise their potential. It is hoped that as more agencies such as the Police and Fire Service contribute to AYRshare, as well as automatic updates from SEEMIS on young people’s significant events, the influence of AYRshare will become integral to how we work together in partnership.”

Depute Head Teacher, South Ayrshire Council

Ministerial Visit
On 26th March the Minister for Children and Young People, Aileen Campbell, was given a presentation and demonstration of AYRshare. The event took place at the Ayrshire Maternity Unit, and the Minister was given an overview of AYRshare including its history and progress, the business needs it was developed to support and the benefits we expect to gain from its use. Involvement of practitioners in the design was emphasised as one of the key success factors. Practitioners involved in the project discussed their involvement and showed their enthusiasm for AYRshare with the Minister.

The Minister was most impressed by how AYRshare can be used to support GIRFEC practice. In addition, the Minister recognised that the lessons learned from the design and implementation of AYRshare could be used to guide other areas to produce their own solutions in a similar manner.

Want to know more?
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