

ADAPTING TO THE FUTURE 2003 – 2004.

1. SUMMARY

The Accounts Commission - Audit Scotland issued a national report towards the end of August 2004 entitled, "Adapting to the future". As there were no implementation dates assigned to the report recommendations, Internal Audit in conjunction with Community Services management prepared an Action Plan with agreed implementation dates.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The contents of this report are noted and to be followed up by Internal Audit.

3. DETAILS

3.1 The Action Plan for this report lists 21 recommendations. As at the 8th of November 2005, it can be reported that 9 recommendations have been addressed. (See Appendix 1).

3.2 As indicated previously by Community Services' management the remaining 12 recommendations will be addressed through a feasibility study. To achieve this and other requirements, a decision was taken by the Joint Strategy Group comprised of both Community Services and NHS representatives to engage a consultant. After a tendering exercise, AGE Ltd was awarded a consultancy contract. As part of their brief, Age Ltd was tasked to address the 12 remaining recommendations.

3.3 At a meeting on the 15th of November 2005, Internal Audit in co-operation with Community Services management met with AGE Ltd to discuss in detail the agreed feasibility study issues they were to address. At the same meeting it was requested of AGE Ltd that their final report include an Action Plan that prioritised issues, detailed resource requirements and assigned achievable dates for each recommended action.

3.4 Internal Audit was also able to provide AGE Ltd with findings from a recent audit, which addressed the wider issues raised by the Audit Scotland national report. The findings were centred around the impact on Council resources of implementing good practice and the identification of risk and liability issues particular to the Council. AGE Ltd is due to issue their final report in January 2006.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Progress by AGE Ltd in addressing the feasibility study recommendations will be monitored by Internal Audit and reported to the Audit Committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1	Policy:	None
5.2	Financial:	None
5.3	Personnel:	None
5.4	Legal:	None
5.5	Equal Opportunities:	None

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