

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Director of the Community Health and Care Partnership

Community Health and Care Partnership Committee: 21st May 2014

Subject: New Support Services for Vulnerable Young People

1 Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the specific actions and recommendations put forward by the Multiagency Review following the deaths of 3 young women residing at the Blue Triangle Supported Housing projects between July 2012 and September 2012.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1** The committee is asked to approve the actions taken to implement these new services to support vulnerable young people.

3 Background

- 3.1** During the period between July 2012 to September 2012, three young women took their own lives whilst residing within Blue Triangle Housing Accommodation.
- 3.2** A Multi-Agency Review was commissioned by the Chief Executive of West Dunbartonshire Council in her capacity as Chair of the West Dunbartonshire Public Protection Officers Group and the Director of the CHCP. The review engaged and critically reflected upon contributions from the range of responsible disciplines and services of West Dunbartonshire Council, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Strathclyde Police, Third Sector organisations (including the Blue Triangle) and importantly sought the views and comments from the family members of the three young women.

4 Main Issues

- 4.1** The multiagency report made 10 recommendations and West Dunbartonshire Council committed £250K new investment in support of the recommendations and in particular invest in new services to support our most vulnerable of young people.
- 4.2** The multiagency group have continued to meet to see through the implementation of each of the recommendations.
- 4.3** There were four particular areas of investment targeted as a result of the multiagency review.
- 4.3.1** £110K - additional investment was set aside to provide a 7 day support service provided by the ALL4Youth team supporting our most vulnerable young people between ages of 12 – 21yrs

Progress – Recruitment of staff is underway and this enhanced service will be fully implemented by end of June 2014. The service provides

- Support to help empower young people to take responsibility for life choices
- Support and accompany young people to attend various NHS, Social Care Appointments and criminal justice appointments.
- Work with the other agencies to put safe plans in place and manage crisis effectively
- To provide information and support to increase knowledge and understanding of addictions and high risk behaviours.

4.3.2 £50k- additional investment was set aside to offer a young persons Rapid Response Service with 24 hour support and accommodation

Progress – Recruitment of staff is underway. The service will be fully implemented and will offer 24 hour support to young people who require this level of support by end of June. The service will be delivered either within the young person's home or the young person will be supported within West Dunbartonshire Accommodation until such times as the situation is resolved.

4.3.3 £50K –additional investment to deliver an enhanced Young People in Mind Service.

Progress – Recruitment underway . The service will be fully implemented by July 2014 and will provide a new service which supports the transition of young people from residential care to through care. This post will also link with the All4Youth service in supporting our most at risk young people and co-ordinating their care between services.

4.3.4 £40k – additional investment to deliver a mediation service which engages at an early stage with young people and their carers, families or guardian to proactively

Progress- This service is in place and Sacro will deliver the family mediation service to young people aged between 12 and 21 years who are or have been in regular or serious conflict with their parent or carer and where relationships have broken down. Mediation can be used to improve communication within relationships and work out ways to make things better. It is future focused and supports those involved to build an agreement together. It will be delivered in line with the Scottish community mediation standards and good practice guidelines. Timescales for first contact will be within 5 working days.

5 People Implications

5.1 There are no direct people implications; however there is an expectation that all services will be committed to a partnership approach to supporting our most vulnerable young people.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1** There are no financial implications arising beyond the level of funding approved by the council in setting its budget for 14/15.

7 Risk Analysis

- 7.1** As with any new services there can be risk of uncertainty; however, regular reports to Council will serve to mitigate this risk and keep all stakeholders informed of progress on the issues involved.

8 Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** None required for the report.

9 Consultation

- 9.1** In the process of delivering the Multi-Agency Report consultation was taken with members of the Three Families, West Dunbartonshire CHCP Mental Health and Crisis Services, Children's Through Care, Social Work, Youth Services, Blue Triangle Supported Housing, Alternatives All 4 Youth, Strathclyde Scotland, NHSGGC Children's and Mental Health Adolescent and Housing Services.

10 Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** The implementation of the recommendations will relate to the following strategic priorities of the Council:
- Improve the well-being of communities and protect the welfare of vulnerable people.
 - Improve life chances for children and young people.



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Wards Affected:

All