

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee held on Wednesday, 19 September 2007 in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank at 10.03 a.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Bollan, Ronnie McColl, Jonathan McColl, Patrick McGlinchey, Marie McNair, Martin Rooney and May Smillie.

Attending: Bill Clark, Executive Director of Social Work and Health; Stephen West, Manager of Resources; David Elliot, General Manager (Learning Disability); Tom Jackson, Joint Manager – Addiction Services; Helen Weir, Addiction Action Officer; Sally Michael, Principal Solicitor and Shona Barton, Administrative Officer, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Gail Casey.

Councillor Jonathan McColl in the Chair

MINUTES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of Meeting of the Social Justice Committee held on 13 June 2007 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

With regard to the item headed “Approved Providers List”, it was agreed that the Executive Director of Social Work and Health would provide information on the legal position to Councillor Rooney.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE PLAN 2007/11

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health seeking approval of the draft Social Work Services Departmental Plan, relevant to this Committee’s remit, in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Social Work and Health in further explanation and in answer to Members’ questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the draft Service Plan for Social Work Services;

- (2) to note that the Service Plan had already been approved by the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee, specifically in regard to the parts relating to Children and Young People; and
- (3) that legal clarification be sought on future reports which are submitted to more than one Committee for approval.

CONSULTATION PHASES ONE, TWO AND THREE OF THE ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY SERVICES

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the reporting of Phases One to Three of the consultation programme with Acquired Brain Injury service providers and users.

Having heard the Chair, Councillor Jonathan McColl, the Committee agreed to allow Ms. Margo Irwin to address the meeting. Ms. Irwin provided the Committee with a moving account of her personal circumstances and her fight to ensure that her daughter gains access to all the services that she requires.

The Committee thanked Ms. Irwin for her contribution.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Social Work and Health in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the report and to request updates from the Acquired Brain Injury Strategy Group on their progress with the consultation process;
- (2) to instruct the Acquired Brain Injury Strategy Group to develop phase four of the consultation process with Acute services; and
- (3) to forward this report to the next meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council, along with a further update on ideas for long and short term strategies to deal with the issues raised, particularly in relation to the provision of psychological support for brain injured individuals.

SOCIAL WORK BUDGETARY POSITION 2007/08 AS AT PERIOD 4 TO 15 AUGUST 2007

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health advising of the performance of the Social Work budget for the period to 15 August 2007.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Social Work and Health and the Manager of Resources in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and

- (2) that the Manager of Resources should provide information to Members on the actual cost of absence to the Social Work budget.

10 QUESTIONS TO A BETTER SERVICE: AN ADDICTION SERVICES SURVEY OF CLIENT PERCEPTIONS OF AVAILABLE SERVICES

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health providing an overview of the results of a service user satisfaction survey carried out within all addiction services, both voluntary and statutory, during November and December 2006 and making recommendations thereon.

After discussion and having heard the Addiction Action Officer in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the results of the baseline Addiction Service User Satisfaction Survey as shown in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) to support ongoing measurement against that baseline;
- (3) to support further in-depth analysis of service user views of the services they access locally;
- (4) to support the establishment of a service user satisfaction baseline across all West Dunbartonshire addiction services;
- (5) to endorse the establishment of a feasibility study, linked to the provision of out of hours support, for service users across all local services;
- (6) that oversight and direction of the feasibility study be driven by this Committee;
- (7) to refer this report to the West Dunbartonshire Alcohol and Drugs Forum for comment; and
- (8) to support the implementation and maintenance of an appropriate action plan.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2006/07 AND QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT APRIL TO JUNE 2007 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: SOCIAL WORK SERVICES FOR ADULTS AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT INFORMATION FOR ALL SOCIAL WORK

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health:-

- (a) providing information on the performance of Social Work in relation to the Statutory Performance Indicators for Adults and the Local Improvement Targets for the period of 1 April to 30 June 2007;

- (b) providing information on the annual performance for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007;
- (c) providing information on work being undertaken by the department on continuous improvement, including Best Value Reviews, Complaint Monitoring and Performance Development Planning; and
- (d) presenting information for elected members and stakeholders as part of wider Public Performance Reporting, in line with Scottish Executive Best Value Guidance and Audit Scotland recommendations.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Social Work and Health and the Manager of Resources in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and the action initiated by the department to attempt to improve performance.

PROVISION OF RESIDENTIAL RESPITE SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health providing an update on progress on the provision of residential respite services for adults with learning disabilities and seeking approval for the proposal to develop a provision in partnership with Knowes Housing Association.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the joint venture for the re-provision of respite services in the West Dunbartonshire area should proceed as indicated in the report;
- (2) to instruct the Council's Estates Section to enter into negotiations with Knowes Housing Association to agree a rental rate and length of tenure for the use of the premises;
- (3) that following the selection of the Care Provider, the Executive Director of Social Work and Health in consultation with the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services and the Chair of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee should determine whether the rental of the premises should proceed in the name of the Council or the selected Care Provider; and
- (4) that until these arrangements are in place, regular reports should be submitted to this Committee and to Council providing updates on the progress of the project.

The meeting closed at 11.18 a.m.