

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee held on Wednesday, 21 November 2007 in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton at 10.05 a.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Bollan, Gail Casey, Jonathan McColl, Patrick McGlinchey, Martin Rooney and May Smillie.

Attending: Bill Clark, Executive Director of Social Work and Health; Sally Michael, Principal Solicitor; Stephen West, Manager of Resources; David Elliot, General Manager (Learning Disability); Tom Jackson, Joint Manager – Addiction Services; John Hepburn, Welfare Rights Development Officer; Moira Swanson, Research and Information Manager; Liz Cochrane, Principal Policy Officer; Mary Holt, Team Leader (Welfare Rights) and Craig Stewart, Administrative Assistant, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Also Attending: Colin Williamson, Chair of West Dunbartonshire Carers'; Dianne Hogg and Anne Ryan, Clydebank Womens Aid; and Elizabeth Gillespie, Dumbarton District Womens Aid.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Ronnie McColl, Craig McLaughlin and Marie McNair.

Councillor Jonathan McColl in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee held on 19 September 2007 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

With regard to the item under the heading "Consultation Phases One, Two and Three of the Acquired Brain Injury Services", the Committee agreed to note the update given by the Executive Director of Social Work & Health on this matter.

With regard to the item under the heading "Social Work Budgetary Position 2007/08 as at Period 4 to 15 August 2007", it was noted that the Manager of Resources would provide Members with information on the actual cost of absence to the Social Work budget under the relevant item of business on the agenda.

CARERS' SERVICES IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL AREA

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

- (a) providing an update on recent changes to Carers' services across West Dunbartonshire; and
- (b) seeking the support of Members for Carers' Rights Day on 7 December 2007 and the formal launch of Carers' Centres on that day.

Having heard the Chair, Councillor Jonathan McColl, the Committee noted that Mr Colin Williamson, Chair of West Dunbartonshire Carers', had been invited to this meeting, in order to make a short presentation to the Committee on the issue of Carers' Services in West Dunbartonshire. Following the presentation and a short question and answer session, Members thanked Mr. Williamson for his interesting and informative presentation. Thereafter, Mr. Williamson thanked the Committee for their kind invitation and support.

After discussion and having heard the relevant officers in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to commend everyone involved for their dedication and commitment which had ensured the success of the project;
- (2) to approve the re-launch of the Carers' Centres, under the new management arrangement, planned for 7 December 2007; and
- (3) to fully support the launch of the new Carers' Centres in every way possible.

SOCIAL WORK BUDGETARY POSITION 2007/08 AS AT PERIOD 6 TO 15 OCTOBER 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 October 2007.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Social Work and Health and the Manager of Resources in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2007 ON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS RELATING TO 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 Statutory Performance Indicators and Local Improvement Targets for Services for Adults for the period of 1 July to 30 September 2007;

- (b) providing information on work being undertaken by the Department on continuous improvement, including Best Value Reviews, Complaint Monitoring and Performance Development Planning; and
- (c) 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, Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor Casey, moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) that the four temporary posts in the Occupational Therapy Team establishment be made permanent positions;
- (2) to recommend to Council that the sum of £300,000 be transferred from the Council's Reserves to the Special Needs Adaptations and Equipment budget; and
- (3) that the Executive Director of Social Work & Health be instructed to prepare a report to a future meeting of the Committee which would provide more detailed information on how these changes would impact on service provision.

As an amendment, Councillor Jonathan McColl, seconded by Councillor Smillie, moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) that the Executive Director of Social Work & Health be instructed to prepare a report to a future meeting of Council, detailing the options available for the Special Needs Adaptations and Equipment service in terms of budgetary constraints, etc.; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report and the action initiated by the department to attempt to improve performance.

Following further discussion, Councillor Jonathan McColl withdrew his amendment with the consent of the Committee, and thereafter the motion was approved.

WELFARE RIGHTS SERVICES

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

- (a) providing up to date information relating to the services provided by West Dunbartonshire, Welfare Rights Unit (WRU); and
- (b) advising that the service will be part of the Council's pilot project for Continuous Improvement within the Public Services Improvement Framework.

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

- (1) that the funding for the Welfare Rights service be "ring fenced" to ensure that the staffing position of the service remained unchanged;
- (2) to give its full support to increase the personal prosperity and assistance into employment for the people of West Dunbartonshire; and
- (3) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

ADDICTIONS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLANS - ALTERNATIVES

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health providing an overview of recent developments by Alternatives, a community drugs project part-funded by West Dunbartonshire Council, highlighting the contribution of that service to the overall performance plan of Addiction Services. It was noted that these developments would maximise the amount of time workers spend with clients and provide a more intensive programme of care.

After discussion and having heard the Joint Manager, Addiction Services, in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the developments of services offered by Alternatives, in line with current and evolving performance standards;
- (2) to support ongoing analysis of service user views of the services they access at Alternatives;
- (3) that the report be referred to the West Dunbartonshire Alcohol and Drugs Forum, which is chaired by Councillor Jonathan McColl, for their ongoing monitoring of services generally and of the developments by Alternatives specifically; and
- (4) that a visitation be arranged to Alternatives, in order to enable a presentation to be made on the initial findings of the revised service.

BETTER HEALTH CARE – A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

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

- (a) informing on officer feedback to the Scottish Government discussion document titled, 'Better Health Better Care'; and
- (b) seeking the Committee's approval of the response.

After discussion and having heard the relevant officers in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the response to the discussion document be homologated, as outlined in the Appendix to the report;
- (2) to note, with concern, that the discussion document did not fully recognise the relevance of local authorities in joint planning for shared outcomes; and
- (3) otherwise to note the terms of the discussion that had taken place in relation to this matter.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP

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

- (a) providing an update on the progress of the West Dunbartonshire Violence Against Women Partnership (WDVAWP) as reported to the Scottish Executive Violence Against Women Fund and providing an update on some of the achievements of the Partnership and member agencies during the period 2006-2007; and
- (b) advising that the Partnership's Strategy on Violence Against Women 2006-8 and the six monthly Progress Report published in March 2007 were available as background papers to this report.

After discussion and having heard the Research and Information Manager in further explanation and Ms. Anne Ryan, Clydebank Womens Aid, in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to continue to support the work of WDVAWP in line with the development of its Action Plan for 2006-08;
- (2) to maintain the issues of domestic abuse and violence against women as Council priorities;
- (3) to note the significant and continued support over recent years from West Dunbartonshire Council and the Scottish Executive to the West Dunbartonshire Violence Against Women Partnership;
- (4) to note that the previously "ring fenced" funding sources for West Dunbartonshire Violence Against Women Partnership had now been contained within the total Council's Grant Aided Expenditure from the Scottish Government; and

- (5) that West Dunbartonshire Council must continue to fully fund the valuable work of the Partnership and Womens Aid to at least the same level of support that they have obtained over recent years.

The meeting closed at 12.02 p.m.