

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

At a Special Meeting of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee held on Wednesday, 3 December 2008 in the Council Chamber, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank at 1.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Bollan, Jim Brown, Gail Casey, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, Patrick McGlinchey, Marie McNair, Iain Robertson and May Smillie.

Attending: Bill Clark, Executive Director of Social Work and Health; David Elliott, General Manager, Learning Disability Services; Antoni Anderson, Assistant Principal Officer Learning Disability; Sally Michael, Principal Solicitor and Nuala Borthwick, Committee Officer, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor John Millar.

Councillor Jonathan McColl in the Chair

SPECIAL REPORT ON AUCHENTOSHAN DAY CENTRE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee held on 15 October 2008 (Page 1422 refers), a report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Health providing further information on Auchentoshan Day Centre services in Dalmuir, Clydebank.

The Chair, Councillor Jonathan McColl, invited Provost Agnew, a local Member for the area, to address the Committee and he made his views known in relation to the condition of the existing building and on the importance of retaining a Day Centre in the Clydebank area for service users of Auchentoshan and their families.

The Chair, Councillor Jonathan McColl, then invited Mrs Betty Macdonald, on behalf of the Carers and Parents of Service Users at Auchentoshan Centre, to address the Committee and she made their views known on the vital role of the Centre and on the necessity to retain such a facility in the Clydebank area. Mrs Macdonald also stressed the importance of keeping the service users together particularly during any temporary move outwith Auchentoshan.

The Executive Director of Social Work and Health was then heard in relation to the report and expressed the hope to have all service users out of Auchentoshan by the end of January for reasons of health and safety.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Social Work and Health and the General Manager, Learning Disability Services in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Jonathan McColl, seconded by Councillor Robertson, moved:-

- (1) The Committee notes the contents of this report and, in particular, the options available for relocating the current service;
- (2) The Committee considers the contents of the Care Commission and Health and Safety Reports and their impact on current service delivery; and accepts that Auchentoshan cannot continue to be used;
- (3) The Committee agrees that service users, subject to full consultation, are placed within other resources as soon as is practical;
- (4) The Committee, in partnership with the service users and carers of Auchentoshan, commit to securing a long-term replacement centre for Auchentoshan on site or if this is not possible within the Clydebank area; and
- (5) To ensure that this remains high on the political agenda, a progress report will be brought before the August 2009 Social Work and Health Improvement Committee. Officers are instructed to continue efforts to secure a new centre in the intervening months and that there be full consultation with service users on any alternative locations.

Councillor McNair, having failed to obtain a seconder for a proposed amendment, requested that her dissent be recorded in respect of this item.

As an amendment, Councillor McGlinchey, seconded by Councillor Casey, moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to continue this report to the February meeting of Council;
- (2) that, in the report going to the February full council meeting, alternative accommodation options in the Clydebank area which as far as possible keeps the community together should be included so that elected members take the final decision on relocation and ensure that the service provision remains in Clydebank; and
- (3) that until then service should continue as usual.

As an addendum to the amendment, Councillor Bollan proposed the following:-

That the Committee agrees to refurbish Auchentoshan Day Care Centre at a cost of £690,000 and that this be funded from Council reserves.

ADJOURNMENT

After hearing the Chair, the Committee agreed to a 5 minute adjournment to enable the legal officer to seek clarification in relation to the Standing Orders and in particular the competency of allowing an addendum after the amendment had been seconded.

The meeting re-convened at 2.20 pm with all Members listed in the sederunt in attendance.

The Principal Solicitor was then heard in relation to Standing Order 19.

Thereafter, on a vote being taken in relation to accepting the addendum to the amendment, 3 Members voted to accept the addendum and 6 Members voted against accepting the addendum. The amendment therefore remained unchanged.

After debate, on a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 5 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting closed at 2.45 p.m.