

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee held on Wednesday 18 November 2009 in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Gail Casey, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, and May Smillie.

Attending: Stephen West, Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health; David Elliot, General Manager, Learning Disability Services; Max Agnew, Section Head, Quality Assurance and Training Section; Moira Swanson, Section Head – Strategy; Mary Holt, Acting Section Head, Welfare Rights and Money Advice Service; Antoni Anderson, Assistant Principal Officer, Learning Disability Services; Nigel Ettles, Principal Solicitor and Nuala Borthwick, Committee Officer, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Bolland, Patrick McGlinchey, Marie McNair, Iain Robertson and Martin Rooney.

Councillor Jonathan McColl in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee held on 16 September 2009 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

PROGRESS REPORT ON RE-PROVISION OF AUCHENTOSHAN DAY CENTRE

With reference to the Minutes of Meetings of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee held on 3 December 2008 (Page 1562 refers) and 16 September 2009 (Page 2181 refers), a report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health providing an update on the re-provision of Auchentoshan Day Services.

Having heard Councillor J. McColl in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of staff in Disability Services and the help provided by the Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service in achieving the progress made to date on the reprovion of Auchentoshan Day Services; and
- (2) otherwise to note the content of the report.

SOCIAL WORK BUDGETARY POSITION 2009/10 AS AT PERIOD 5 – YEAR TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2009

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

- (1) advising of the performance of the Social Work and Health budget for the period to 15 September 2009; and
- (2) providing information on steps being taken to reduce the level of current overspend by the end of the financial year as requested at the meeting of the Committee held on 16 September 2009.

Having heard Councillor J. McColl, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

HALF YEARLY REPORT 2009/10: SERVICE PLAN ACTIONS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH SERVICES FOR ADULTS

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

- (a) providing information on the performance of Social Work and Health in relation to Departmental Service Plan Actions 2009/2013, Statutory Performance Indicators and Key Performance Areas for Adult Services for the period of 1 April 2009 to 30 September 2009;
- (b) providing information on complaints about services for adults over the period; and
- (c) presenting information for elected members and stakeholders as part of the Corporate Public Performance Reporting Framework, in line with Scottish Government Guidance and Audit Scotland recommendations.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to request that the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health be instructed to provide ongoing progress reports to future meetings of the Committee; and

- (2) otherwise to note the content of the report.

WELFARE RIGHTS & MONEY ADVICE SERVICE (WRMAS)

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

- (a) providing information on financial gains and debt management within the WRMAS over the last 3 years;
- (b) providing information on the progress of WRMAS participation in the pilot roll-out of Public Service Improvement Framework (PSIF);
- (c) providing general local and national updates in relation to service developments and progress; and
- (d) highlighting challenges experienced by West Dunbartonshire residents as a result of the economic downturn, national welfare reforms and restrictive benefit regimes.

Having heard the Acting Section Head, WRMAS in explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to confirm its continued support of the Welfare Rights & Money Advice Service;
- (2) that the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health would write to staff, on behalf of the Committee, to thank them for their continued hard work and success in the provision of the service; and
- (3) otherwise to note the content of the report.

THE ROLE OF THE REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKER IN CONTRIBUTING TO BETTER OUTCOMES FOR SCOTLAND: GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health setting out the Council's comments in response to the Scottish Government's draft guidance document "The Role of the Registered Social Worker in Contributing to Better Outcomes for Scotland: Guidance for Local Authorities".

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to endorse the response made by the Council with regard to the proposed guidance;
- (2) to request that the guidance be taken into account when the new Departmental Workforce Plan is drafted; and

- (3) to report on how the guidance was taken into account when the workforce plan is reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

CARERS SERVICE

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health advising on the Carers Strategy for West Dunbartonshire and seeking approval for the associated Improvement Action Plan.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the Improvement Action Plan for Carer Services; and
- (2) to request regular progress reports to future meetings of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 10.16 a.m.