

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health**

**Social Work and Health Improvement Committee: 11 August 2010**

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Subject: **Sensory Impairment Strategy covering services for People with Sensory Impairment**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The report advises the Committee of our Joint Sensory Impairment Strategy.
- 1.2 The strategy has completed a three month consultation exercise.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 In January 2004 West Dunbartonshire Social Work Department hosted an open event for people with a sensory impairment, carers and service providers, in order to establish a Sensory Impairment Strategy Group.
- 2.2 The Sensory Impairment Strategy Group was subsequently established with members from community organisations, the voluntary sector and statutory services in 2004.
- 2.3 That group reviewed and developed for consultation an updated Draft Sensory Impairment Strategy, including Action Plan, for consultation from January 2009 to January 2010.

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1 The Strategy links in with local policy documents such as the Departmental Service Plan and the Community Health Partnership Annual Plan as well as initiatives from the Scottish Executive such as the Report on the Review of Community Eye Care Services and the Audiology Modernisation agenda.
- 3.2 The Strategy Group, whose members are from community organisations, the voluntary sector and statutory services suggested the priority order of the key issues for people with a sensory impairment.
- 3.3 The Sensory Impairment Strategy Group published the draft strategy on the West Dunbartonshire Council website and intranet site as well as making it available on audio tape, in Braille and large print. The draft strategy was circulated to all local organisations for deaf, blind and deafblind people as well as national service providers.
- 3.4 Service users and providers within the Strategy group supported the strategy's aspiration that sensory impaired people should be at the heart of

the planning, delivery and development of services and this is reflected in the Strategy's Action Plan.

#### **4. People Implications**

4.1 No personnel issues

#### **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 No financial issues

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

6.1 There is deemed to be no risk attached to the proposal contained within this report and therefore no risk assessment has been carried out due to the nature of the content.

#### **7. Equalities Impact**

7.1 An impact assessment was carried out on the document with support from officers from the Policy Unit.

7.3 No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this policy

#### **8. Conclusions and Recommendations**

8.1 The Strategy reflects the multi-agency involvement in the Strategy Group of local service users, support groups and statutory services for people with a sensory impairment, the ratification and publication of the Strategy will continue to drive the work of the partnership.

8.2 The Sensory Impairment Strategy has been developed in partnership with people with a sensory impairment, their carers, voluntary organisations, West Dunbartonshire Council, West Dunbartonshire Community Health Partnership and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. The Strategy Group is keen to maintain the momentum of the work and to develop services for users within the West Dunbartonshire area.

8.3 Members are asked to endorse the Sensory Impairment Strategy for West Dunbartonshire and request updates from the Sensory Impairment Strategy Group on progress with implementation of the action plan.

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H. Anne Ritchie,  
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**Appendices:** Sensory Impairment Strategy Document

**Background Papers:**

**Wards Affected:** All wards