

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Director of Social Work Services

Health Improvement and Social Justice Partnership: 21 February 2007

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

1. Purpose

1.1 The report advises the Partnership of our Joint Sensory Impairment Strategy

1.2 The strategy has completed a three month consultation exercise and the Partnership has contributed to that consultation. A copy of the Sensory Impairment Strategy is attached as an appendix to the report.

2. Background

2.1 In January 2004 West Dunbartonshire Social Work Department hosted an open event with people with a sensory impairment, carers and service providers, as a means to establish a Sensory Impairment Strategy Group.

2.2 Public consultation and open events were hosted between 2000 – 2004 with deaf, blind and deafblind people in partnership with services users, carers, the voluntary sector, West Dunbartonshire Council, NHS Greater Glasgow and NHS Argyll and Clyde (as was) on the delivery and planning of services.

2.3 The Sensory Impairment Strategy Group was subsequently established with members from community organisations, the voluntary sector and statutory services. That group developed for consultation the Draft Sensory Impairment Strategy including Action Plan.

3. Main Issues

3.1 The Strategy links in with local policy documents such as the Extended Local Partnership Agreement 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.

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. Personnel Issues

4.1 No personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 No financial implications.

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. Conclusions

7.1 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.

7.2 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. Recommendations

8.1 Members are asked to agree the content of this report, and request updates from the Sensory Impairment Strategy Group on their progress with the Sensory Impairment Strategy.

8.2 Members are asked to comment to the Director of Social Work.

8.3 Members are asked for their approval on the finalised document.

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Appendices: Sensory Impairment Strategy

Background Papers:

Wards Affected: All council Wards.