SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee held on Wednesday, 19 May 2010 in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton at 10.00 a.m.

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

***** Arrived later in the meeting

Attending: Stephen West, Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health; David Elliott, General Manager, Learning Disability Services; Max Agnew, Section Head, Quality Assurance and Training Section; Moira Swanson, Section Head – Strategy; Helen Weir, Strategy Manager – Addiction Services; Nigel Ettles, Principal Solicitor and Nuala Borthwick, Committee Officer, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Gail Casey.

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 17 March 2010 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

In relation to a point raised by Councillor Rooney concerning the item 'Scottish Government Consultation on Social Care Procurement Guidance' (Page 2697 refers), the Committee agreed to note that a report providing conclusions and recommendations on the guidance would be provided to the next meeting of the Committee scheduled to be held on 11 August 2010.

COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES PERFORMANCE ON SERVICE DELIVERY TIMESCALES

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health advising of the performance of the Department of Social Work and Health in relation to timescales for service delivery within Joint Addiction and Mental Health Services.

After the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health and the Section Head – Strategy had been heard in answer to Members' questions and in further explanation of the report, Councillor Rooney moved the undernoted motion:-

> Committee is disappointed that the information presented to the Committee on 17 March 2010 was not correct.
>
> Committee is concerned that continuing with a mix of Social Work and NHS performance data is leading to inconsistent reporting of performance, and the potential for misleading performance information to be reported to management and Elected Members.
>
> Committee also notes that performance information is reported 3 months in arrears.
>
> Committee accepts that changes to recording procedures are required and notes that a review of business processes for some Mental Health and Joint Addiction Services is to take place.

After hearing Councillor J. McColl, Councillor Rooney agreed to accept the undernoted paragraph as an addendum to his motion:-

> Committee further notes that officers have already identified a need for better information systems and are working on a local solution and asks that an update is brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to approve the motion.

Note: Councillor McGlinchey entered the meeting during consideration of this item.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE REPROVISION OF AUCHENTOSHAN DAY CENTRE

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 the General Manager, Learning Disability Services in elaboration of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

(1) to note the contents of the report including the planned timeline for the development of re-provision; and

(2) to note that a further progress report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee scheduled to be held on 11 August 2010.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, THRESHOLD LEVEN SERVICES, ALEXANDRIA

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health providing information on the progress towards service re-design of the services currently provided by the Church of Scotland Care Service (Crossreach) following the organisation's decision to withdraw from the provision of this service.

Having heard the General Manager, Learning Disability Services in elaboration of the report and in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Bollan, moved:-

> Committee is disappointed by the Church of Scotland's decision to withdraw from the provision of learning disability services in West Dunbartonshire.
>
> However, Committee is pleased with the help and support from Social Work Services and partners in securing appropriate care services for adults with learning disabilities.
>
> Committee thanks all those involved for all their hard work in ensuring the continuity of care services to vulnerable adults in West Dunbartonshire.

As an amendment Councillor R. McColl, seconded by Councillor J. McColl, moved:-

> That the Committee agrees:-
>
> (1) to note the work undertaken by officers following notification by Crossreach of their planned withdrawal;
>
> (2) to note the actions taken by officers to ensure continuity of care for service users;
>
> (3) to thank officers for the work done by them; and
>
> (4) to note the planned future provision of support for service users as detailed in the report.

On a vote being taken, 6 Members voted for the amendment and 3 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP (WDVAWP) PROGRESS REPORT 2009 – 2010

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

(a) providing an update on the progress of the WDVAWP as reported to previous Committees; and

(b) providing an update on some of the achievements of the Partnership and member agencies during the period 2009-2010.

Following discussion and having heard the Section Head – Strategy in elaboration of the report, Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor McGlinchey, moved:-

> Committee congratulates the WDVAWP achievements in developing a co-ordinated range of preventative and support services to women and children affected by violence and abuse.
>
> Committee also congratulates the Social Work Department, the previous Scottish Executive and the current Scottish Government for their continued support to WDVAWP and the range of projects and services they provide.
>
> Committee recognises the significant contribution made by the Community Planning Partnership Fairer Scotland Fund to the range of support services and projects that WDVAWP provide.
>
> Committee is concerned that future funding for a number of projects are at risk and asks the Executive Director of Social Work and Health to write to the Scottish Government and the Community Planning Partnership seeking assurances that they will continue to provide further support to the WDVAWP.
>
> Committee agrees that a report is provided to a future committee meeting advising of progress in securing longer term funding for the WDVAWP.

ADJOURNMENT

After hearing Councillor J. McColl, the Committee agreed to adjourn for a short period of time to enable Councillor McNair to prepare and distribute copies of an amendment. The meeting reconvened at 10.55 a.m. with all those Members shown on the sederunt in attendance.

Thereafter, Councillor Rooney, with the consent of the Committee, withdrew his motion and indicated his support of the amendment by Councillor McNair.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed Councillor McNair's amendment, with the addition of a final paragraph, as follows:-

I would like to thank the officers for the report and pay tribute to all the workers who provide valuable and crucial services to survivors of domestic abuse in West Dunbartonshire.

The report suggested at Paragraph 3.2.1 that since 2007 the Council has invested heavily in services. I think however, that it would be generally accepted that our commitment to tackling domestic abuse goes back much further than 2007.

The important thing however, is that we maintain a forward momentum – we cannot let up on this issue. There has to be a coherent and co-ordinated approach that covers all the areas that we can make a difference in from the provision of refuge places to the provision of education of our young people.

On the issue of education, paragraph 3.4.2 of the report advises that domestic abuse prevention work is now included in the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Curriculum in MOST secondary schools. I would want to see this provided in ALL our secondary schools and I call for this to be achieved.

We must also ensure that national government steps up to the mark. It is worrying that at Paragraphs 4.2 and 7.1 of the report it appears that future funding from the Scottish Government remains unclear. What is clear is that a failure of the government to put in money where its mouth is will mean, as the report says, vulnerable women who are survivors of trauma may not get the support they require.

This is unacceptable and I call for the strongest representations to be made on this issue.

Finally, I think that the cross party approach we have taken to this issue in West Dunbartonshire has been important in making the progress we have made to date. I hope this approach will continue. I suggest that the Committee agrees the conclusions of the report and also incorporates the issues I have raised when taking things forward.

The Committee is concerned that future funding for a number of projects is at risk and asks the Spokesperson for Social Work and Health to write to the Scottish Government and the Community Planning Partnership seeking assurances that they will continue to provide further support to the WDVAWP and that a report is submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

CARE COMMISSION INSPECTION REPORTS FOR REGISTERED SERVICES IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health providing information on the Care Commission inspection reports received during the previous year for seven voluntary sector services located in West Dunbartonshire.

Following discussion and having heard the Section Head, Quality Assurance and Training Section in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed to note the Care Commission Inspection Reports.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE PLAN 2010/2014

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health presenting the draft Social Work Service Plan for the period 2010/2014.

Following discussion and having heard the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to approve the draft Service Plan for Social Work Services for 2010/14 subject to the issue to Members of the Committee of the updated appendices at the next Committee as part of the Annual Performance Report for 2009/10.

BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2009/2010 – COMPETITIVENESS REVIEW OF PRIORITISED SERVICES FOR SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

A report was submitted by the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health identifying the progress made to establish and evaluate the competitiveness of five service areas identified as part of the corporate programme of competitiveness testing.

Following discussion and having heard the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health in answer to Members' questions, Councillor J. McColl, seconded by Councillor R. McColl, moved:-

> That the Committee agrees that the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health is instructed to:-
>
> (1) gather further data and prepare a detailed analysis in respect of the five prioritised services noted and submit further reports on the progress of this work to future meetings of this Committee;
>
> (2) identify opportunities to re-provide the Council provision of Older People's Residential Services with external providers as any future opportunities for such re-provision arises; and
>
> (3) produce a plan for the ongoing testing of competitiveness for all other services within the Social Work and Health department and implement the plan with reports coming to future meetings of this Committee as the reviews are completed.

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

> That the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health is instructed to:-

(1) gather further data and prepare a detailed analysis in respect of the five prioritised services noted and submits further reports on the progress of this work to future meetings of this Committee;

(2) identify opportunities to re-provide the Council provision of Older People's Residential Services with external providers, excluding those from the private sector, as any future opportunities for such re-provision arises; and

(3) produce a plan for the ongoing testing of competitiveness for all other services within the Social Work and Health department and implement the plan with reports coming to future meetings of this Committee as the reviews are completed.

On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment, 6 Members voted for the motion and one Member abstained. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

HALF YEARLY REPORT 2009/2010:
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 the Social Work and Health department in relation to Departmental Service Plan Actions 2009/2013, Statutory Performance Indicators and Key Performance Areas for Adult Services for the period of 1 October 2009 to 31 March 2010;

(b) providing information on complaints in relation to adult services 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.

Following discussion and having heard the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health and the Section Head, Strategy in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

(1) that officers be requested to prepare and submit an urgent report to the May meeting of Council outlining the changes made to the Independent Living Fund;

(2) to support the submission of an Emergency Motion by the Spokesperson for Social Work and Health to the May meeting of Council in view of the Committee's concerns on this issue;

(3) to request ongoing reports on progress; and

(4) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting closed at 11.45 a.m.