

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

At a Special Meeting of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee held on Monday, 22 February 2010 in Meeting Room 2, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton at 13.40 p.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Bolland, Jim Brown, Gail Casey, Jonathan McColl, Martin Rooney and May Smillie.

Attending: Stephen West, Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health; Jim Nisbet, Head of Service – Older People's Team; Andrew Fraser, Head of Legal and Administrative Services and Fiona Anderson, Committee Officer, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Ronnie McColl, Patrick McGlinchey, Marie McNair and Iain Robertson.

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.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

MOTION BY COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MCCOLL ON A MOTION BY COUNCILLOR GAIL CASEY – ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND HOSPICE

Councillor J McColl, Chair, made the undernoted statement in explanation of the special circumstances and reasons why he considered the motion to be a matter of urgency:-

I consider there to be special circumstances in that a motion elected members would have expected to discuss at Full Council has been remitted to the next ordinary Social Work & Health Improvement Committee as a result of Standing Order 8(d).

In my opinion, elected members did not expect St Margaret's Hospice motions to be considered within the purview of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee, however given the wider health remit of this committee, standing order 8(d) does apply.

The urgency is twofold. The mover of the motion in question expected to discuss it at this week's full council meeting and I felt it was appropriate that we allow members the opportunity to facilitate this given the unexpected effect of standing order 8(d).

Also, this is currently a live issue at the Scottish Parliament with MSPs from all parties backing a cross party motion in support of the hospice. I understand that MSPs are attempting to have this motion debated in chambers as soon as possible, and while it is not on this week's business bulletin, it may appear at any time. In my opinion, it is important for us as the host authority to express a view, which will hopefully add to debate in the parliament.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to suspend Standing Order No. 8(d) in order to consider the undernoted motion:-

Committee notes that a motion submitted by Councillor Gail Casey regarding St Margaret of Scotland Hospice has been remitted to the next ordinary Social Work and Health Improvement Committee for consideration.

Committee agrees that this important issue should be discussed by all elected members and instructs officers to add this motion to the February Council agenda. Committee considers this to be an urgent matter and asks that the Provost accept it as such.

Copies of the motion should be emailed to all those on the normal Full Council distribution list with paper copies made available for all Councillors, Officers and members of the General Public on the night.

Councillor McColl was heard in support of the above motion which was seconded by Councillor Smillie.

Having heard from the Head of Legal and Administrative Services and following discussion, as an amendment, Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved:-

This Council calls on the Chief Executive to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Nicola Sturgeon MSP, urging her to intervene with NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde in order to protect vital services at St. Margaret of Scotland Hospice in Clydebank.

Council is concerned that the loss of continuing care beds could threaten the long term viability of the Hospice, which has provided an invaluable service to our communities.

Council welcomes the statement from Jackie Baillie MSP, Shadow Health Secretary, committing an incoming Labour Government to secure funding for the Hospice and believes that the Cabinet Secretary should guarantee funding for continuing care beds in order to end the uncertainty for the Hospice.

On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 3 for the motion. There being an equality of votes, the Chair, Councillor J. McColl, used his casting vote in favour of the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting closed at 1.55 p.m.