

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## Report by the Director of Community Health and Care Partnership

Community Health and Care Partnership Committee: 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011

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**Subject: WD CHCP Commissioning Strategy For Adult Learning Disability Services: 2012 – 2021**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the purpose of the attached CHCP Commissioning Strategy, and to ask the CHCP Committee to approve it.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Institute of Public Care (IPC) has defined a commissioning strategy as “a formal statement of plans, for specifying, securing and monitoring services to meet people’s needs at a strategic level. This applies to all services, whether they are provided by the NHS, the Local Authority, other public agencies or by the voluntary and private sectors”.
- 2.2 Audit Scotland have emphasised their expectation that good commissioning of these services is essential to ensure that high quality sustainable services are available to all those who need them; and that NHS boards and councils need to work together to agree strategic commissioning plans.
- 2.3 An explicit local action identified following the last Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) assessment undertaken of the former Social Work and Health Department was the production and approval of a range of commissioning strategies to span the breadth of service delivery responsibilities. This is an action that the successor Care Inspectorate will be seeking evidence of material progress on during their assessment of the CHCP in 2012.
- 2.4 As part of an explicit commitment within CHCP Strategic Plan 2012-13 the CHCP has developed a schedule for the delivery of commissioning strategies across the breadth of its service delivery responsibilities; all of which will be completed and presented to the CHCP for approval by the end of the calendar year 2013. This commitment is reinforced as an objective within the West Dunbartonshire Council Assurance and Improvement Plan 2011/12.
- 2.5 The attached Commissioning Strategy is one of a suite of commissioning strategies that have been and are being produced in line with the above requirements.
- 2.6 This Commissioning Strategy is presented to the CHCP Committee for approval (as committed to within the CHCP Forward Plan agreed by the Committee at its September 2011 meeting).

### **3. Main Issues**

#### Commissioning

3.1 There are four core values that have been identified to underpin all of the CHCP's approach to strategic commissioning across the breadth of its service delivery responsibilities, namely:

- Quality
- Fairness
- Sustainability
- Openness

3.2 These values will be manifested through a systematic concern for the following principles ensuring:

- Optimal outcomes for individual service users.
- A client-centred approach appropriate to individual needs through an emphasis on informed self-care, co-production and personalisation of services.
- Effective and safe services that draw upon the best available evidence and local feedback from service users.
- Equalities-sensitive practice.
- Acceptability of service provision informed through constructive engagement with local stakeholders – including staff, community groups and elected members.
- Affordable and efficient services that continue to be reflective of the relative demands across the West Dunbartonshire population as a whole.

3.3 In keeping with best practice, all CHCP commissioning strategies are and will be key components of an on-going process of commissioning as advocated by the IPC and illustrated within the attached document (page 4). The Audit Commission has emphasised three particular strengths of this model:

- The cyclical nature of the activities involved, from understanding needs and analysing capacity to monitoring services.
- The importance of meeting needs at a strategic level for whole groups of service users.
- The importance of commissioning services to meet the needs of service users, no matter who provides them.

#### Adult Learning Disability Services

3.4 The aim of this Commissioning Strategy is to project how the local provision of adult learning disability services will need to be developed over the course of the next decade (i.e. to 2021) and provide a strategic framework for on-going activity to address changes in demand, development of policy, emergent best practice and available resources.

- 3.5 It reflects the requirements of Scottish Government as reinforced by the local priorities and concerns of West Dunbartonshire Council and NHSGGC (including the findings of a substantial GGC-wide learning disability needs assessment). This strategy will have a particularly important reciprocal relationship with the forthcoming West Dunbartonshire CHCP Children's Services Commissioning Strategy (in relation to children with learning disabilities and transitional services/support).
- 3.6 It has also benefited from comments and contributions from local stakeholders, particularly those CHCP staff planning and delivering our local services. The key policy driver influencing the development of learning disability services in recent years has been *The same as you?* (2000) review of learning disability services. This commissioning strategy reinforces the CHCP's commitment to the key principles set out within that report, namely that people with learning disabilities:
- Should be valued.
  - Are individual people.
  - Should be asked about the services they need and involved in making choices about what they want.
  - Should be helped and supported to do everything they are able to.
  - Should be able to use the same local services as everyone else, wherever possible.
  - Should benefit from specialist social, health and education services.
  - Should have services which take account of their age, abilities and other needs.
- 3.7 Learning disability service provision in West Dunbartonshire is geared towards supporting people with a learning disability to:
- Live at home, whether that is with their family or carer, independently, or in accommodation with supports,
  - Realise full and enriching lives through access to education, training, employment, recreation and the achievement of personal goals and aspirations,
  - Enjoy supportive and fulfilling relationships,
  - Maintain good health and well being,
  - Be in control of managing their welfare and financial interests, and
  - See themselves and be seen as equal members of society and their community.
- 3.8 Reflecting a generally ageing population, the changing age profile of the learning disability population will result in changing needs. Targeted and tailored services will need to be developed for specific groups within the population. This commissioning strategy has been developed to provide a framework for action to respond to these emerging challenges, notably:
- More people with learning disability outliving their parents and carers.
  - Increasing expectations for more flexible and a broader range of respite services.
  - Older carers increasingly needing access to support services.

3.9 The issues and priorities set out within it are not unique to West Dunbartonshire and very much reinforce national analysis and local imperatives. This includes the recent decision by West Dunbartonshire Council at its February 2012 meeting to redirect capital monies previously earmarked for the replacement of the Auchentoshan Centre towards the development of learning disability services throughout West Dunbartonshire, including the development of services based at the Dumbarton Centre. That said, it reflects a necessarily ambitious agenda that should provide legitimate challenge to all those involved in the leading, management and delivery of local learning disability services.

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

4.1 This strategy will inform workforce planning and development activities. The Joint Staff Partnership Forum will be engaged in any material impacts on staff that emerge.

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

5.1 This strategy will inform financial planning and procurement arrangements to ensure effective delivery within available resources.

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

6.1 This strategy is an important element to ensuring that the CHCP is able to provide services in a effective, relevant and sustainable manner as advocated by Audit Scotland. Moreover failure to deliver, approve and implement commissioning strategy creates risk in relation to the requirements of external scrutiny bodies, most notably the Care Inspectorate and Audit Scotland.

#### **7. Equalities, Health & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)**

7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken on the Strategy indicated no significant negative issues; and the person-centred element of the model in particular was suggestive of the Strategy having a positive impact in these regards.

#### **8. Strategic Assessment**

8.1 The Commissioning Strategy is in line with and supports the following West Dunbartonshire Council strategic priorities:

- Fit for Purpose Services
- Financial Strategy
- Asset Management

## 9. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 9.1 Audit Scotland has recently re-emphasised both the importance and the technical complexities of strategic commissioning, alongside the heightened challenges posed by a challenging financial climate coupled to changing demands and expectations.
- 9.2 Robust commissioning is essential to ensure that high quality and sustainable services are available to those who need them. The attached document makes important statements about the commitment of the CHCP to outcome-based strategic commissioning; and delivering effective and sustainable over the next decade. The strong track record of the CHCP, supported by a positive history of good partnership working locally, provides a robust foundation for realising these ambitions going forward.
- 9.3 This commissioning strategy provides a framework through which the CHCP will drive further detailed work (both internally and increasingly with partners) as well as shaping the substance of relevant operational service plans (and attendant financial and procurement plans) on an on-going basis, within the context of CHCP's wider set of development priorities as set within its annual CHCP Strategic Plan.
- 9.4 The CHCP Committee is therefore asked to approve the West Dunbartonshire CHCP Adult Learning Disability Service's Commissioning Strategy; and to commend the work of the CHCP staff involved in its development.

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**Appendix:** WD CHCP Commissioning Strategy For Adult Learning  
Disability Services: 2012 – 2021

**Background Papers:** Institute of Public Care (Oxford Brookes University) (2007), adapted by SWIA in *Guide to strategic commissioning: taking a closer look at strategic commissioning in social work services*, Social Work Inspection Agency, 2009.  
*Improving Social Work in Scotland: A Report on SWIA's Performance Inspection Programme 2005-1009*, SWIA, 2010.  
*Commissioning Social Care*, Audit Scotland 2012.

**Wards Affected:** All