

AUCHENTOSHAN STEERING GROUP

Note of a Meeting of the Auchentoshan Steering Group, held on Wednesday, 1 February 2012 at 1.07 p.m. in the Dalmuir Community Centre, Duntocher Road, Clydebank.

Present: Councillor Jonathan McColl (Chair)
Councillor Marie McNair
Maureen Carlton, Carer
Ruby McCann, Carer
Betty Macdonald, Carer
Tony Meechan, Carer
Lorraine MacKenzie, Carer*
Joan Fraser, Lomond Advocacy Service
David Elliott, General Manager, Learning Disability Services
Kate Quinn, Centre Manager, Dumbarton Centre
Adrian McBride, Acting Operations Manager, Learning Disability Services
Nuala Borthwick, Committee Officer

* Arrived later in the meeting.

Apology: An apology for absence was received from Councillor Gail Casey.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair, Councillor McColl, welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Steering Group. Thereafter he advised that Councillor Casey had tendered her apologies for the meeting but had attended the Consultation Event in the morning and was in favour of the development of a learning disability centre based at Skypoint, Faifley.

NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- (a) The Note of Meeting of the Steering Group held on 31 May 2011 was submitted and noted as a correct record; and
- (b) the Note of Meeting of the Steering Group held on 25 October 2011 was submitted and noted as a correct record.

CONSULTATION EVENT – FEEDBACK

Mr Elliot, General Manager, Learning Disability Services provided an overview of the morning's Consultation Event held for the wider group of carers concerning the future shape of learning disability services in West Dunbartonshire.

Mr Elliott stated that he was pleased to hear the positive comments regarding current services as expressed by carers. He advised that the issues that required to be addressed concerned how clients use and develop current services, particularly in the Clydebank area. Mr Elliott also advised that he felt the service could utilise the knowledge and experience of those on the Steering Group to develop services in Clydebank, especially services for those with complex needs and those young people and families undergoing transition from children to adult services.

Thereafter, the Steering Group heard from Ms Fraser, Lomond Advocacy Services who advised that the points of view of service users had been consistent since the commencement of the Steering Group in that, since the initial move from Auchentoshan Day Centre, the vast majority had become settled in their current services, whether they be building based or community based. Ms Fraser also advised that most service users were more concerned about the nature, quality and variety of services they currently benefited from and that the issue of whether those services were based at a day centre in a particular geographical area was of secondary importance. It was noted that some service users had sought assurances that they would be given a choice over where their services were based. Ms Fraser also advised that the service users now needed a decision to be made on the future of disability services.

Following discussion, the Steering Group agreed:-

- (1) to recommend the following points to Council:-
 - (a) that the Council no longer seeks a Clydebank base for Learning Disabilities;
 - (b) that the Council invest in improving the Dumbarton Centre for Learning Disabilities to expand the service currently provided;
 - (c) that the Council invest in community services throughout West Dunbartonshire to enable everyone to access them;
 - (d) that the current 'Dumbarton Centre' should now become a single base for disability services in West Dunbartonshire and should be re-named appropriately to reflect this; and
 - (e) that a Consultative Group on developing the future of Learning Disability Services should be formed to continue the work of the Steering Group and to facilitate the involvement of service users, carers and health care professionals to achieve the desired service re-design;
- (2) to note the disappointment expressed by a member of the Steering Group in relation to the Steering Group's conclusion as detailed at (1) above;
- (3) that there was a requirement for a new computer suite in the Clydebank area and Officers would investigate the possibility of utilising available space at Clydebank College, Skypoint Community Centre or the Hub for this purpose;

- (4) that Officers would continue to investigate 'link up' models of support services to enable service users to be exposed to life in the community;
- (5) that Minutes of Meetings of the Service Users Network would be circulated to members of the future consultative group when formed;
- (6) to thank all Members and Officers of the Steering Group for their commitment and input during meetings and at site visits which would be used as a basis for service redesign; and
- (7) that Officers would prepare a report detailing the conclusions of the Steering Group which would be submitted to the meeting of Council scheduled to be held on 22 February 2012 and thereafter, the Chair, Councillor McColl would write to all Members of the Steering Group advising of the outcome of the decision at Council.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

It was noted that there was no other competent business.

The meeting closed at 1.46 p.m.