

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

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

Community Health & Care Partnership Committee: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013

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**Subject: The West Dunbartonshire Social Transport Support Scheme - Update**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To provide the Committee with a progress report on the transition to an equitable social transport support scheme that is an explicit element of the Council's Community Chest grant arrangements.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** The Committee is asked to note the progress of the scheme; and the transfer of routine reporting to the WDC Corporate Services Committee alongside other elements of the Council's Community Chest grant arrangements.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1** At its May 2013 meeting, the CHCP Committee agreed the implementation plan to replace historical arrangements for social care transport with an equitable social transport support programme established as an explicit enhancement to the Council's Community Chest grant scheme (which is scrutinised by the WDC Corporate Services Committee).
- 3.2** At that meeting, the Committee highlighted the importance of the transition to the new arrangements being managed smoothly and clearly and requested that a progress report on the transition to the refreshed arrangements be brought to its November 2013 meeting to provide reassurance and clarity.

### **4. Main Issues**

- 4.1** At its May 2013 meeting, the following key actions for managing the transition were agreed:
- The CHCP would write out to all those on the current list of eligible recipients for the out-going scheme during the week of the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013. This letter would:
    - Confirm that as of the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 the current arrangements would be replaced by a new Social Transport Support Scheme administered by West Dunbartonshire CVS
    - Explain that as part of a phased transition, the CHCP would continue to provide transport under the current arrangements for those on the existing list until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 but that any such booking requests had to be made by the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

- Explain that from the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013 they and any other local group would now be able to apply to West Dunbartonshire CVS to be considered for social transport support sought from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 and onwards.
  - Include a copy of an application (appendix 1) for the new Social Transport Support Scheme and a copy of the eligibility checklist (appendix 2).
- The CHCP would ensure that anyone on the current list of eligible recipients for the out-going scheme who contact the CHCP HQ seeking social transport would be made aware of the points set out within the letter referred to above, and their request processed or signposted to CVS accordingly (with the CHCP happy to send them a copy of the necessary application paperwork for the new Scheme if they required it).
  - The CHCP would ensure that anyone who is not on the current list of eligible recipients for the out-going scheme who contacts the CHCP HQ seeking social transport would be made aware of the new Scheme and signposted to CVS (with the CHCP happy to send them a copy of the necessary application paperwork if they required it).
  - The CVS and the CHCP would work together to publicise/highlight the new Scheme across through a variety of means (e.g. websites; local groups – e.g. the CHCP PPF).
  - The CVS would ensure that the new Social Transport Support Scheme was publicised/highlighted alongside the other funding schemes it either signposts or administrates (e.g. the broader Community Chest).
- 4.2** It was also agreed that any requests for social transport under the previous arrangements that had already (i.e. at the time of the May 2013 Committee meeting) been committed to for after the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 would still be fulfilled.
- 4.3** All of the above agreed actions were undertaken and completed during the week of May 2013.
- 4.4** As of 30 September 2013, the new Social Transport Support Scheme had received 40 registrations from local community groups. Twenty one of these community groups had previous confirmed booking arrangements covering 2013/14 and so had not been affected in the initial transfer phase, i.e.:
- Age Concern Vale of Leven
  - Vale of Leven Arthritis Club
  - West Dunbartonshire Access Panel
  - Dalmonach Disabled Club
  - Over 50s and 60s Club
  - 3D Club
  - Phin Club
  - Alexandria Gardening Club
  - 50+ Walking Group
  - Manage Your Pain
  - Get Up and Go Youth Club
  - Parkhall Wednesday Disabled Group

- Parkhall Monday Club
- Clydebank Special Needs Forum
- Young at Heart
- Guys and Dolls
- Open Door Social Club
- Clydebank Forum on Disability
- St Eunans Club for the Disabled
- St Peters Special Needs Club
- Clydebank Arthritis Care

**4.5** Additionally five local community groups had pre-registered under the new arrangements but had no requirements during the period September – March 2014, i.e.:

- Second Ward Senior Citizens
- OHR Seniors
- Unity Enterprise Independent Options
- Old Kilpatrick Seniors Tuesday Club (new applicant)
- Dumbarton & District Probus Club (new applicant)

**4.6** As committed to, all of the above local community groups were supported by members of West Dunbartonshire CVS staff to complete the required paperwork for the new arrangements and will be assessed in February 2014 for the period 2014/15. In the handful of cases where there has been any uncertainty regarding previous arrangements, the CHCP, Council Transport Section and CVS staff have engaged directly with the interested parties in a constructive, fair and open manner that reflects the spirit of the equitable and forward-looking process approved by Committee.

**4.7** Fourteen local community groups with requirements between September and March 2014 have been assessed under the new scheme to date; and 13 local community groups have been awarded support grant awards based on their applications meeting the transparent and agreed criteria, i.e.:

- Silverthreads (Trust Housing) £500
- Bridge Court Social Group £500
- Clydebank Mentally Disabled Association £500
- 130 Club £750
- Alexandria Carers Support Group £500
- Clydebank Shopmobility £500
- VIPERS £1000
- Clydebank Seniors Forum £500
- Clydebank Stroke Club £1250
- Dumbarton District Disabled Childrens Forum £500
- Rockvale Rebound £500
- Focus £250
- Vale of Leven & Dumbarton Seniors Forum £250

**4.8** In addition, three local community groups have also attended the WDCVS monthly funding surgeries, and been supported to apply for additional external funding to cover transport costs not eligible under the scheme.

**4.9** All local community groups who express an interest in the support scheme have been and are offered one-to-one support from WDCVS staff both in completing the applications and in making booking arrangements if required. Details of awardees are also sent monthly to the Council's HEEDS Transport Section to facilitate booking procedures for groups wishing to contract council run transport services.

## **5. People Implications**

**5.1** No people implications for this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

**6.1** As per the Committee's decision at the February 2013 meeting, in implementing the new scheme the full recurrent budget (i.e. £136k) for social transport has been transferred to CVS to be utilised for the new Social Transport Support Scheme; and arrangements have been made for reporting on its expenditure/allocation to the Council's Corporate Services Committee as an explicit enhancement of the Council's Community Chest grant arrangements.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

**7.1** As accepted by Committee at its February 2013 meeting, the main risks of not implementing the approved social transport support scheme were in relation to not acting in compliance with the Equalities Act (Scotland) 2010; and in not delivering best value.

## **8 Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

**8.1** Committee considered and accepted the full equality impact assessment that was detailed within the report presented at its February 2013 meeting.

**8.2** As accepted by the Committee, the previous historical arrangements within West Dunbartonshire (while valued by its many varied recipients) were at risk of not fulfilling the requirements of the Equalities legislation. The new scheme now implemented represents an explicitly positive response to meeting the needs of vulnerable groups in relation to the Equalities legislation; and provides a best practice model for community transport in relation to community benefits and transparency of allocation based on need.

## **9. Consultation**

**9.1** As Committee will recall, consultation with service recipients was a key element of the independent review. As committed to, the new scheme has been extensively promoted to local community groups; and support provided

by members of West Dunbartonshire CVS staff. In the handful of cases where there has been any uncertainty regarding previous arrangements, the CHCP, Council Transport Section and CVS staff have engaged directly with the interested parties in a constructive, fair and open manner that reflects the spirit of the equitable and forward-looking process approved by Committee.

## 10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1 The positive implementation of the new social transport support scheme as part of the Council's Community Chest grant scheme supports the Council's strategic priority to "improve the wellbeing of communities and protect the welfare of vulnerable people".

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Keith Redpath  
Director of the Community Health & Care Partnership

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> November 2013

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**Background Papers:** CHCP Committee Report (May 2013) - Implementing the  
West Dunbartonshire Social Transport Support Scheme

CHCP Committee Report (February 2013) - West  
Dunbartonshire Social Transport Service Review  
& Equality Impact Assessment

**Wards Affected:** All.