

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee held on Wednesday 15 April 2009 in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Brown, Gail Casey, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, Patrick McGlinchey, Iain Robertson, Martin Rooney and May Smillie.

Attending: Bill Clark, Executive Director of Social Work and Health; Stephen West, Head of Service – Strategy, Resources and Modernisation; Jim Nisbet, Head of Service – Community Care; Max Agnew, Quality Assurance and Training Section; David Webster, Manager, Improvement and Performance; Moira Swanson, Section Head – Strategy; Nigel Ettles, Principal Solicitor and Nuala Borthwick, Committee Officer, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Bolland and Marie McNair.

Councillor Jonathan McColl in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Having heard Councillor J McColl, Members were invited to declare any interest in any of the items of business appearing on the agenda.

Councillor Rooney declared a non-financial interest in Item 6 – Care Commission Inspection Reports for Independent Sector Care Homes in West Dunbartonshire and advised that he would participate in any discussions held in relation to the item.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee held on 18 February 2009 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE AUCHENTOSHAN STEERING GROUP

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee held on 18 February 2009 (Pages 1766 - 1767 refer), the Committee was requested to consider the appointment of an elected member to the Auchentoshan Steering Group.

Councillor J McColl advised that the first meeting of the Auchentoshan Steering Group had been held on Thursday, 9 April 2009 and that both he and Councillor Casey had attended.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the Steering Group would oversee the development of a new Auchentoshan Day Centre and ensure that appropriate consultation takes place;
- (2) to note that Councillor J McColl would speak to the Trades Unions to request that an employee representative from Auchentoshan be invited to join the Steering Group; and
- (3) to note that future meetings of the Steering Group would be co-chaired by Councillor J McColl and Mrs Betty MacDonald.

Thereafter, Councillor J McColl, seconded by Councillor R McColl, moved that Councillor Marie McNair be appointed to the Auchentoshan Steering Group.

As an amendment, Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved that Councillor McGlinchey be appointed to the Auchentoshan Steering Group.

After debate, on a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 5 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENTS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive presenting the latest draft of the new Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and requesting comments on the SOA by the end of April 2009.

The Manager, Improvement and Performance provided an overview of the latest draft of the SOA and in doing so, outlined the national outcomes which were most important for the Committee. It was noted that additional work was required to refine the indicators, targets and actions included in the draft SOA.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Social Work and Health and the Manager, Improvement and Performance in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) that the SOA would benefit from the inclusion of a glossary of terms and abbreviations for reference purposes;
- (2) that all comments provided by Members in relation to the SOA would be scrutinised and followed up by Officers; and
- (3) that the deadline for Members of the Committee to provide any further comments on the SOA was the end of April 2009.

CARE COMMISSION INSPECTION REPORTS FOR INDEPENDENT SECTOR CARE HOMES IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health providing details of the most recent inspection reports received from the Care Commission covering Independent Sector Care Homes for older people in West Dunbartonshire. Seven reports were from announced inspections and one from an unannounced inspection.

After discussion and having heard Officers in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Rooney, moved:-

This Committee notes that there has been a delay in informing the Committee of the details of inspection reports and agrees that, when such an inspection report is received, details of the report should be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

This Committee is deeply disappointed to learn about the poor quality standards at Dalmoak Castle Nursing Home.

This Committee has no confidence in Dalmoak Castle Nursing Home and its capacity to improve service to an acceptable standard.

Given the above, this Committee instructs the Director of Social Work and Health to bring forward a report to Council setting out options for possible withdrawal of Social Work clients from Dalmoak Castle Nursing Home.

The Executive Director of Social Work and Health was then heard in response to Councillor Rooney and expressed disappointment at the tone and content of the aforementioned motion, the implication that there was an attempt not to share information and the implication of criticism towards Officers in their handling of the situation at Dalmoak Castle Nursing Home. The Executive Director intimated that the Groups' spokespersons were kept informed of developments. The Executive Director of Social Work and Health then requested that the motion be withdrawn.

The motion was not withdrawn and was seconded by Councillor McGlinchey.

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

This Committee is deeply concerned with the Care Commission's inspection report for Dalmoak Castle Nursing Home. The Committee notes Councillor Rooney's comments and also notes the wide evidence available to the public that the removal of elderly people from Care Homes can cause stress and undue fatalities. The Council has learned lessons from the closure of Leven Cottage and does not wish to repeat any actions taken at that point.

This Committee supports the actions being taken to meet the requirements of the Care Commission. Following the Care Commission's return inspection of Dalmoak Castle Nursing Home in May 2009, Officers are instructed to bring a report on the findings of the Care Commission to the next available meeting of the Social Work and Health Improvement Committee.

After debate, on a vote being taken, 5 Members voted for the amendment and 3 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

**WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL AND WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE
COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP – WHOLE SYSTEM USE INFORMATION
PROJECT (WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE
PARTNERSHIP ONLY)**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health containing information on the status and progress of the Whole System Use Information Project prepared by West Dunbartonshire Council and West Dunbartonshire Community Health Partnership.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Social Work and Health in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a further report be presented to the Committee on the progress of the project if further work is commissioned by the Scottish Government;
- (2) that a further report be presented to the Committee when the publication of a joint report with both West Dunbartonshire and Aberdeenshire Partnerships respectively is formally published by the Scottish Government; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting closed at 11.45 a.m.