

SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, 1st December, 2009. - Minute of Meeting of the SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor Kiddie, Convener; Councillor Leslie, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Allan, Cormie (substituting for Councillor Kevin Stewart for part of the meeting), Cormack, Robertson (substituting for Councillor Cormack for part of the meeting), Ironside, Laing, Malone, McDonald, Penny, Jennifer Stewart, Kevin Stewart, Wendy Stuart, Kirsty West and Young.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. (A) Meadow Court

The Committee heard the Convener make reference to the recent flooding at Meadow Court, Sheltered Housing and on behalf of the Committee he wished to convey thanks to all staff concerned for the work undertaken at the weekend.

The Vice-Convener and Councillors Kevin Stewart and Ironside also wished to convey their gratitude to staff.

The Committee resolved:-

to concur with the remarks of the Convener.

(B) Learning Disability Day Services

The Convener made reference to the announcement by John Swinney, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth on 21st November, 2009 that Aberdeen City Council and Inspire were successful with their bid for funding to enhance Learning Disability Day Services in the city. The Convener indicated that this was a public social partnership which demonstrated the Council's commitment and approach to joint working with the third sector.

The Committee resolved:-

to note the information provided.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2. The Committee had before it the minute of their previous meeting of 29th October, 2009.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the minute.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE ADULT SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE

3. The Committee had before it the minute of meeting of the Adult Services Sub-Committee of 16th November, 2009.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to circulate details of the presentations undertaken at the meeting to Committee members; and
- (ii) to otherwise note the minute.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE IN ABERDEEN – JOINT MOTION BY THE CONVENER AND VICE-CONVENER

4. The Committee heard the Convener speak in relation to the following joint motion referred by Council on 18th November 2009 (Article 14 of the Minute refers):-

“Council notes efforts to tackle the massive problems of opiate addiction including a heroine prescription programme in England.

To tackle the substantial and increasing problems of substance misuse in Aberdeen, Council agrees to work with and support NHS and other appropriate partners in investigating options for a proposal pilot scheme in Aberdeen and to refer the matter ultimately to Government for consideration”.

The Convener, seconded by Councillor Stuart moved:-

that a full background report on the issues be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee for consideration.

Councillor Ironside moved as an amendment:-

that no action be taken until a full background report, including statistical information, is submitted to the Committee.

In terms of Standing Order 12(2), the Convener ruled the above amendment incompetent on the basis that it did not differ substantially from the motion, therefore:-

Councillor Ironside, seconded by Councillor Allan moved as an amendment:-

that no action be taken at present.

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (10) – the Convener; Vice-Convener; and Councillors Malone, McDonald, Penny, Robertson, Jennifer Stewart, Kevin Stewart, Wendy Stuart and Kirsty West; for the amendment (4) – Councillors Allan, Ironside, Laing and Young.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the motion.

CAPITAL BUDGET PROGRESS REPORT – SCW/09/031

5. With reference to Article 4 of the previous minute of 29th October, 2009, the Committee had before it a joint report by the Director of Social Care and Wellbeing and the City Chamberlain which provided information and progress on three capital projects, namely Rosewell House, the Integrated Drugs Service at the Timmer Market site and the new Children’s Residential Unit.

The report (a) indicated that the projects were included within the Non-Housing Capital Programme, previously approved by Council and aligned to Social Care and Wellbeing Services; (b) advised that monies required to fund the capital programme were achieved through external borrowing, capital receipts and grant income; (c) explained that the General Fund has adequate resources available to finance the capital spend in 2009/10; and (d) outlined previous spend, expenditure as at 30th September, 2009 and the forecast out-turn for the three projects.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee -

consider and note the content of the report in relation to the projects.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10 – SCW/09/028

6. With reference to Article 5 of the minute of the previous meeting of 29th October, 2009, the Committee had before it a joint report by the Director of Social Care and Wellbeing and the City Chamberlain which provided information on the current year’s revenue budget performance for Social Care and Wellbeing Services and outlined areas of risk and management action.

The report (a) explained that in overall terms, the position reflected current spend above budget of £3.1m and a projected forecast overspend of £6.5m for the year, if the current trends continue to year end and subject to the impact of management actions; (b) advised that this was an improvement in projection since the previous report in October of £1m resulting from management action to reduce expenditure and the following reductions in forecast:-

- favourable variance on agency costs in children’s services (reduction in the number of external placements in children’s residential and fostering facilities) - £400,000;
- improved forecast on children’s services staffing to be achieved by vacancy management - £250,000;
- anticipated saving on adult protection budget by not committing any further expenditure against this budget - £200,000;

(c) highlighted the main areas of risk together with management actions being taken; (d) indicated that there were significant pressures on the adults community care budgets with care commitments projected at £4.8m above budget at the year end which reflected additional resources on needs led services; (e) stated that there were significant pressures on the Children’s Residential School and external fostering budgets with a 26% increase in referrals to children’s services over the

past 12 months, together with a 34% increase in children on the Child Protection Register; (f) intimated that their continued to be progress with the review of all remaining young people who are looked after and accommodated; (g) outlined savings achieved to date, together with proposed management actions to achieve a full year saving target; (h) advised that all budget holders within the service have been instructed to identify all non-committed budgets under their control which may then be taken as short term savings measures to bring the overall spending back into line with budget; (i) indicated that the service was currently restricting admission to care homes to people requiring placements to enable discharge from hospital, except where there was a clearly demonstrable need for such support for people within the community; and (j) had attached as appendices, the overall budget for the service and detailed analysis in respect of services managed by the Service Director and the three Heads of Service.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) consider and note the report and the information on management action and risks contained therein; and
- (b) instruct that officers continue to review budget performance and report on service strategies to ensure a balanced budget.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to approve recommendations, subject to the report at (b) being submitted to the next meeting of the Committee and including alternative savings proposed to achieve a balanced budget; and
- (ii) that a report be submitted to the Committee on the impact on staff at Burnside Day Centre in terms of the closure of the kitchen and dining room.

SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS REVIEW COMMITTEE – EXTENSION TO MEMBERSHIP – CG/12/115

7. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Corporate Governance which (1) provided information on the current membership of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee (CRC), specifically the difficulties that occur whilst trying to agree dates for a CRC to meet and (2) proposed that the Committee advertise for additional external members to join the pool from which members of the CRC are selected.

The report (a) advised that the covering circular to the Social Work (Representations Procedure) (Scotland) Directions 1996, Circular No. SWSGS/1996 sets out the role and membership for the Complaints Review Committee; (b) outlined the role of the CRC, which was to examine objectively and independently the facts as presented by the Complainer and by the local authority, then to make recommendations to the relevant council committee (in the case of this authority, the Social Care and Wellbeing Committee); (c) indicated that it was necessary to appoint both members to the pool, as well as Chairpersons of the CRC; (d) explained that Chairpersons should have knowledge of Social Work matters and the conduct at proceedings before a review body or tribunal; (e) referred to paragraph 14(2) of the Directions in terms of recruiting Chairpersons and members of the CRC; (f) advised that the CRC meets as and when required to investigate complaints submitted following the complainer being unhappy with the

outcome of their original complaint submitted to the Social Care and Wellbeing Service; (g) indicated that the current pool of members comprises seven external members, from which three members were selected for each Committee meeting, with one acting as Chairperson; (h) explained that the number of cases requiring to be heard by the CRC had increased in recent months, which has put additional pressure on the current Committee members, causing an unfair distribution of workload; (i) proposed that additional members for the pool be recruited by way of an advertisement in the Citizen newspaper costing approximately £150 to be met from within existing budgets and on the Council's website; and (j) outlined the recruitment process and the training provided to new and existing Committee members.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) authorise the Head of Democratic Services to place a public advertisement in the Citizen newspaper and on the Council's website, inviting applications to join the pool of members of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee,
- (b) authorise the Head of Democratic Services to select and recruit individuals in accordance with the criteria set out in the legislation, with the outcomes to be reported to the Committee by way of the information bulletin.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations;
- (ii) to instruct officers to write to the Scottish Government to seek clarification of the reasons why Complaint Review Committee Chairpersons should not be a member of the political party forming the ruling group on the Council, or an officer of any local authority during the year prior to their appointment;
- (iii) that officers investigate additional appropriate mediums for advertising for new members of the Complaints Review Committee pool including the use of the Council's new "Hub" website, libraries and community centres; and
- (iv) that the information sought at (ii) above be included in the Committee Business Statement.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME ON SOCIAL CARE – SCW/09/020

8. With reference to Article 8 of the minute of the previous meeting of 29th October, 2009, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Social Care and Wellbeing which sought approval in principle for the Community Engagement Programme "More Choice, A Louder Voice".

The report (a) advised that the focus of this engagement would be the draft Commissioning Strategy for Adults; (b) indicated that the programme was an ongoing process due to the strategy being revised and amended; (c) appended details of nineteen events and meetings scheduled thus far with other events and meetings being arranged where there were gaps with particular stakeholders; (d) explained that the Community Engagement Programme was based on linking with existing groups and forums, and meetings so far scheduled indicate where the majority of participants are users of services or organisations representing or providing services; (e) stated that a record would be kept from each of the meetings of individuals comments which would help to inform the final version of the strategy;

and (f) advised that a report summarising the programme on the strategy along with the revised Commissioning Strategy would be presented to members at the Committee meeting on 25th February, 2010.

The report recommended:-

- (a) that members note the content of the report and authorise the Director to begin the consultation process on the draft Commissioning Strategy; and
- (b) that the Director be asked to report back on the findings of the consultation and changes to the strategy as a result of the consultation.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) that the report be referred to the Disability Advisory Group for their information.

INTENSIVE COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND LEARNING SERVICE – SCW/09/036

9. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Social Care and Wellbeing which sought agreement for a spend to save investment to establish an Intensive Community Support and Learning Service for young people as a direct alternative to residential care.

The report (a) advised that the establishment of this service was planned as part of the strategy to reduce spend on residential placements by developing community based alternative services; (b) indicated that residential school placements vary in cost ranging from £160,000 to £200,000 per annum for one place, secure accommodation could cost £7,500 to £10,000 per week (annual cost £390,000 to £520,000) and specialist foster placements cost £45,000 to £70,000 per annum; (c) outlined the budgeted and actual costs for residential school placements since 2004; (d) explained that planned budget savings of £2,265,000 in the aligned budget (out of authority placements including external fostering), and £2,650,000 in 2010/11 would be difficult to deliver without credible alternatives available in the city; (d) indicated that a suitable building had been identified at 116 Westburn Road, Aberdeen which requires some capital investment estimated at £50,000 to £70,000 to carry out minor repairs, decorative works and the installation of IT and a communication system; (e) revealed that revenue costs would include staff salaries, running and infrastructure costs, education and learning materials which totalled £583,981; (f) advised that the proposed service would offer places to twenty young people, with a weekly unit cost of less than £600; (g) stated that it was anticipated that in year one the number of residential school places would reduce (net) by four giving a reduction in spend of £640,000 with a target reduction in years two and three of a further eight places at a costed reduction of £1.2m; (h) explained that the reductions in cost for the first year's spend would address the current overspend with a net saving from years three and four; (i) revealed that the service was targeted at young people of secondary school age where the following criteria applied:-

- there was a risk of them becoming looked after and accommodated; and
- they required support to return to the community following a period of accommodation;

(j) outlined the core objectives and the programme delivered by the service; and
 (k) had appended the service specification for the Intensive Community Support and Learning Service.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee -

- (a) agree the spend to save investment to establish the Intensive Community Support and Learning Service;
- (b) agree the use of the building at 116 Westburn Road, Aberdeen as service premises;
- (c) agree the staffing implications set out in paragraph 6.12 of the report, subject to the approval of additional staff within the Education, Culture and Sport Service by that Service Committee; and
- (d) remit the report to Finance and Resources Committee for agreement of revenue and capital costs as shown in paragraph 6.12 of the report

The Committee heard Susan Devlin, Interim Head of Children's Services advise that there was an error within the table at 6.12 of the report, referred to at (e) above, namely that the number of hours required for intensive community support assistants should read 800, therefore the costs would be amended to £14,764 resulting in the total figure for revenue costs being £588,727.

The Committee Resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations, subject to the amendment to the table at 6.12 of the report referred to above;
- (ii) that the salary grades for the four Teachers be provided to the Education, Culture and Sport Committee when it considers the referral; and
- (iii) that officers write to the former users of the premises at 116 Westburn Road (Choices) to inform them of the service proposal.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Kiddie declared an interest in the subject matter of the following article by virtue of his previous membership of UNISON but did not consider that the nature of his interest required him to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter.

LEARNING DISABILITY DAY SERVICE REDESIGN – SCW/09/021

10. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Social Care and Wellbeing which provided details on the proposals to redesign Learning Disability Day Services agreed by Council on 17th December 2008.

The Committee heard the Convener advise that correspondence had been received from UNISON requesting that the Committee should not consider the report submitted due to inadequate consultation time with the trade union, however he proposed that the correspondence be noted and to proceed with consideration of the report as planned.

The report (a) advised that the proposal to close two Day Care Centres was emotive which current service users and family carers were finding unsettling and fearful that the centre closures would mean increased risk, less structure and resulting in more responsibilities for them; (b) revealed that staff were also anxious about the future for themselves, their service users and family carers; (c) explained that further delay would heighten anxiety and that there was an urgent need to take forward the redesign plans to bring resolution for all concerned to enable alternative day opportunities to be implemented; (d) advised that the aim of the service redesign was to ensure that the appropriate services and improved levels of staffing were available and were provided within budget, that savings of £350,000 were delivered and that £370,000 was released for investing into new day opportunities; (e) outlined the current provision provided by the three Aberdeen City Council Day Centres for adults with learning disabilities namely, the Burnside Centre, Rosehill House Centre and the Community Special Needs Group (CSNG) and a range of other day opportunities available in the city; (f) explained that the proposal to close the CSNG service in 2009, followed by the Burnside Centre in two phases during 2009/10 – 2011 was a result of the buildings not being fit for purpose and services which cater for large numbers isolating and further segregating adults with learning disabilities from the wider community; (g) revealed that Aberdeen City Council was committed to the promotion of self directed support and the development of new day opportunities which support adults with learning disability to explore new options which were challenging, stimulating, provide lifelong learning opportunities, real jobs and greater involvement in sport and leisure activities; (h) indicated that the Rosehill House Centre was an overall condition grading B and would require some upgrading and modernising in the short term, however the building was not suitable in the long term for the delivery of high quality day care for adults with complex needs; (i) intimated that the Social Work Service would therefore require to consider, in due course, the replacement of Rosehill House Day Centre with modern purpose built premises that offers day care for those with complex needs; (j) advised that individual assessment of the Day Centre service user needs were currently being undertaken against the revised (2007) Community Care Eligibility Criteria with only those in high or urgent need continuing to receive a Day Centre service; (k) explained that adults who were aged 65 years or over who meet the criteria for a Day Centre service would be referred to Older People Day Care services unless they have a need for the Specialist Learning Disability Day Centre service; (l) outlined proposals for the redesigned Day Centre service at Rosehill House Centre including the staffing structure; (m) highlighted the progress being made in terms of Aberdeen City Council's discussions with the voluntary sector, including the identification of a Service Manager to drive forward new developments and the momentum for change; (n) outlined new options and initiatives which were currently being established; and (o) appended costs of the existing in-house Learning Disability Day Care services and the new proposals which revealed a saving between the existing service and proposed scheme of £660,000.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) agree to the closure of Community Special Needs Group and the transfer of service users and staff to both Burnside and Rosehill Day Centres;
- (b) agree to the phased closure of Burnside Centre during 2009/10 – 11 as part of the programme of modernising services to adults with learning disabilities;
- (c) agree to the new staffing structure at Rosehill House Centre;

- (d) agree in principle to the development and commissioning of a new purpose built, integrated day care centre for adults with complex needs to replace Rosehill House Centre; and
- (e) note the need to continue to consult with service users, family carers, staff and other partners in Health and the voluntary sector to develop alternative day opportunities that will facilitate the closure of Burnside Centre and seek a further report on alternative day opportunities.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note the correspondence received by Unison, referred to above and to consider the report as planned;
- (ii) to approve the recommendations subject to the proviso that Burnside Centre would not close until service users had been fully consulted and appropriately placed in alternative settings;
- (iii) that alternative day service providers not identified within the report be identified to ascertain whether they would have capacity or alternative opportunities for the service users currently resident at Burnside Centre;
- (iv) that members of the Committee receive details of Burnside Centre service user placements as and when they have been agreed;
- (v) to convey thanks to Murray Leys and Helen McNeill for the work undertaken to date; and.
- (vi) to congratulate the Breadmaker on being nominated for the national award for "Best New Social Enterprise"

ADVOCACY SERVICES – SCW/09/051

11. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Social Care and Wellbeing which provided information in relation to the provision of Independent Advocacy Services in Aberdeen City.

The report (a) outlined the definition of independent advocacy (1) indicating that advocacy enables people to make informed choices about, and remain in control of, their own care, helping people to have access to information they need to understand options available to them, and to make their views and wishes known; and (2) explaining that independent advocacy could be individual or collective (group), was provided by organisations whose sole or main function was advocacy and it recognises that there may be times in the life of an individual when they need or want someone to advocate for them who has no other role in the individual's life; (b) detailed the provision and funding arrangements currently provided by Aberdeen Advocacy Service including a core service, Woodlands Service, Mental Health Outreach project, Old Age Psychiatry, Mental Health Act Project, Young People's Project, Mental Health Collective Advocacy Service, Older People's Project and Children's Advocate; (c) outlined the total funding for the provision of independent advocacy for 2008/09 as follows:-

- Aberdeen City Council - £139,403
- NHS Grampian - £92,409
- Resource Transfer

to Aberdeen City Council -	£46,009
• Children in Need -	£7,345
	£285,166;

(d) provided information relating to the level of service for client related activities for the last financial year compared to the activity in the preceding two years; (e) explained that since Aberdeen Advocacy Service lost two full time lottery funded workers during 2006/07, there had been a significant decline in the number of people with a learning disability that the service has been able to work with on a one to one basis and the number of groups have halved; and (f) advised that due to the commencement of the collective advocacy pilot scheme during last year, there was an increase in collective work with people with mental health issues, however there was a marked decrease in the number of “drop in” sessions the service has been able to hold due to a reduction in funding.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) note the contents of the report; and
- (b) instructs the Director of Social Care and Wellbeing to pursue the intentions of NHS Grampian, Moray Council and Aberdeenshire Council along with Aberdeen City Council to prepare a Grampian Independent Advocacy Plan for 2009/2012.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Social Care and Wellbeing to arrange an early meeting with the Chairman of NHS Grampian Board and the Chief Executive of NHS Grampian to discuss the matter in detail and to report back to the Committee at its meeting on 25th February 2010.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS STATEMENT

12. The Committee had before it for consideration, a statement of Committee Business prepared by the Head of Democratic Services, which also contained the Business Statements for the Children’s Services and Adult Services Sub-Committees for information.

The Committee resolved:-

to note the dates on which a number of reports were expected and updates received by officers to date.

MOTIONS LIST

13. The Committee had before it for consideration, a motions list prepared by the Head of Democratic Services.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note that the Convener and David Wemyss, Democratic Services would be writing to Sir Moir Lockhead, Chief Executive of First Group on behalf of

- the Committee and Disability Advisory Group respectively in relation to Motion 3 (Councillor Kiddie – advertising on buses); and
- (ii) to otherwise note the motions list.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Council resolved in terms of Section 50(A) (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in paragraphs 3, 5 and 7 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS REVIEW COMMITTEE OF 9TH SEPTEMBER 2009

14. With reference to Article 16 of the minute of the previous meeting of 29th October 2009, the Committee had before it for consideration, the minute of meeting of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee of 9th September 2009 and an additional foreword prepared by the Director of Social Care and Wellbeing which (a) made reference to the Committee's decision to accept recommendations (i), (iii) and (iv) and defer consideration of (ii) to enable clarification to be sought from the Complaints Review Committee on the level of supervision envisaged in these cases; and (b) summarised the response received from the Chairperson of the Complaints Review Committee.

The Committee resolved:-

to accept recommendation (ii) of the minute in light of clarification received by the Complaints Review Committee.

- COUNCILLOR JAMES KIDDIE, Convener.