

COMMUNITY SERVICES
STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 22nd June 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

- Present: Councillors John Allan (Chair), Ian Douglas, Ann Galbraith, Bill Grant, Elaine Little, Alec Oattes and Philip Saxton.
- Apology: Councillor Hugh Hunter.
- Also Present: Councillors Douglas Campbell (Portfolio-holder) and Helen Moonie.
- Attending: H. Garland, Executive Director – Children and Community; V. Andrews, Head of Legal and Administration; M. McCulloch, Quality Improvement Manager; J Cronin, Strategic Service Planning Manager; D. Burns, Policy and Strategy Manager; S. Kelly, Assistant Manager, Community Care; and A. Gerrish, Committee Administrative Officer.

1. Variation in order of business.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 10, the Panel agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

2. Item for Call-in – Review of Housing Options for Older People.

Reference was made to the Minutes of the Leadership Panel of 14th June 2011 (Page 373, paragraph 12) when that Panel, having considered a report of 7th April 2011 by the Executive Director – Children and Community, decided to agree the implementation of the key recommendations of the Review of the Housing Options for Older People, namely:-

- (1) to review the Sheltered Housing allocations process to adopt a more integrated assessment of housing and care needs;
- (2) to identify mainstream properties which have been adapted and could be designated as Amenity Housing;
- (3) to review the remit of Sheltered Housing Wardens and that the role of caretakers be included in this review;
- (4) to develop housing options advice and information for older people;
- (5) to work with the Private Sector to develop private housing which would meet the needs of an ageing population; and
- (6) to explore the use of sheltered housing communal facilities to provide day care and community services.

The Panel was advised that the report had been the subject of a call-in (issued) for the following reasons:-

- (a) to consider to what extent the recommendations above would lead to efficiency savings, as outlined in paragraph 5.5.1 of the report;

- (b) in relation to paragraph 2 (1)(b) of the report, what was the minimum statutory definition of adaptation by which any property could be designated as amenity housing; and
- (c) to consider the management costs in relation to the provision of housing services for older people, as outlined in paragraphs 3 (1) and 3 (2) of the report.

The Chair invited Councillor Moonie to explain her reasons for the call-in and, thereafter, the Panel heard her advise

- that the Review of the Housing Options for Older People report had been placed in the Member's Library only the day prior to the Leadership panel, namely 13th June 2011;
- that there were Appendices omitted from the report; and
- that she had further questions she wished to ask which related to the report.

The Head of Legal and Administration outlined a number of options available to this Panel in relation to this call-in and taking into account that the full documentation had not been available to all Members. Following discussion, various points were made by Members of the Panel and the Portfolio Holder in respect of this matter and the Executive Director – Children and Community and the Head of Legal and Administration responded accordingly.

Decided: to agree that as all the relevant documentation had not been made available to all Members timeously prior to the Leadership Panel Meeting on 14th June 2011, to refer this matter back to the Leadership Panel to allow its Members to reconsider this report, to ensure that the full report and Appendices would by then have been made available to all Members, and that as this Panel was referring the report back to the Leadership Panel before scrutiny based on the terms of the call-in had been undertaken, requesting that the Leadership Panel refer the report back to the Standing Scrutiny Panel for further scrutiny thereafter to include any further questions based on the full report as referred to above.

3. Item for Call-in – 16+ Learning Choices Co-ordinator – External Funding.

Reference was made to the Minutes of the Leadership Panel of 14th June 2011 (Page 365, paragraph 2) when that Panel, having considered a report of 23rd May 2011 by the Executive Director – Children and Community, decided to accept the funding of £40,788 for a 16+ Learning Choices Co-ordinator in order to embed the 16+ Learning Choices model within the Senior Phase of the Curriculum for Excellence and the roll-out of Activity Agreements within South Ayrshire.

The Panel was advised that the report had been the subject of a call-in (issued) to allow the Panel to consider whether the proposal was in compliance with the Council's Standing Orders.

The Chair invited Councillor Moonie to explain her reasons for the call-in and, thereafter, the Panel heard her seek clarification on the post of the 16+ Learning Choices Co-ordinator and specifically where was the funding for this post being met from and the Executive Director – Children and Community and Quality Improvement Manager responded accordingly.

Questions and comments were raised by Members of the Panel in relation to:- Council Standing Orders; the risk element and funding for the post after 2013 and the Executive Director – Children and Community responded accordingly.

Decided: following review, that the decision of the Leadership Panel in respect of this matter be confirmed and implemented.

4. **Minutes of previous meeting.**

Decided: to note the Minutes of the meeting of 25th May 2011 (issued).

5. **Enablement – Girvan and Maybole Locality Progress.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3rd June 2011 by the Executive Director – Children and Community

- (1) outlining the progress to date on the implementation of the Enablement model of practice in Girvan and Maybole; and
- (2) advising
 - (a) that the Enablement Service was targeted at older people with poor physical or mental health and was a time limited, focused, multi-agency approach which encouraged people to learn or re-learn the skills necessary for daily living; doing as much as they can for themselves; and reconnecting with their communities and social opportunities;
 - (b) that the aim was to maximise long term independence, choice and quality of life and minimise the need for ongoing support;
 - (c) that the Enablement model of practice was a robust partnership arrangement with NHS Ayrshire and Arran, particularly the Community Rehabilitation and Enablement Service (CRES), and the Private and Voluntary Sector;
 - (d) that the CRES team was jointly funded by South Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran and comprises of nursing staff, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, technical instructors, dieticians, pharmacists, speech and language therapists;
 - (e) that the service had been introduced in Girvan and Maybole in October 2010 and the proposal was to implement this across South Ayrshire during 2011, starting with the Prestwick and Troon and this would assist in shifting the balance of care from acute services to services in the community, and assist in meeting increasing demand as a result of the changing demography of the area and reducing budgets; and
 - (f) that the longer term benefits of full implementation should result in a reduction in the cost of care at home.

Questions and comments were raised by Members of the Panel in relation to:- who the consultation on feedback was from; partnership workings; occupational therapists and district nurses; fire safety officers; the age group of the clients taking part in the pilot scheme; training costs; the use of the Private Sector to deal with all new referrals; localising services; and the rapid response team and the relevant officers responded accordingly.

Decided:

- (i) to note the progress made in implementing the enablement service to date in Girvan and Maybole and the intention to roll out this model of practice across South Ayrshire; and

(ii) to agree

(A) that the full cost analysis that will be undertaken, be reported to this Panel after it is completed in January 2012; and

(B) that regular updates on progress be submitted to this Panel.

The meeting ended at 11.15 a.m.