

COMMUNITY SERVICES
STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 23rd March 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

- Present: Councillors Elaine Little (Chair), Ian Douglas, Ann Galbraith, Bill Grant, Alec Oattes and Philip Saxton.
- Apologies: Councillors John Allan and Hugh Hunter.
- Attending: H. Garland, Executive Director – Children and Community; H. Carswell, Head of Children’s Services; and A. Gerrish, Committee Administration Officer.

1. Appointment of Chair

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Panel agreed that Councillor Little take the Chair for this meeting.

2. Items for Call-in.

The Panel noted there were no items for call-in.

3. Minutes of previous meeting.

Reference was made to the Minutes of 26th January 2011 (Page 114, paragraph 3) and a question was raised by a Member of the Panel in relation to the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and in particular whether the Arneil Johnston Consultants report would be placed in the Member’s Library and the Executive Director – Children and Community advised that the report had not been completed and that he would inform Members at the next meeting of this Panel when the report would become available.

Decided: to note the Minutes of the meeting of 26th January 2011 (issued).

4. Family Support Review.

Reference was made to the Minutes of 26th January 2011 (Page 116, paragraph 5) and there was submitted a report (issued) of 3rd March 2011 by the Executive Director – Children and Community

(1) informing

- (a) that the Community Planning Partnership had considered the Family Support Review at their Board meeting on 23rd February 2011 and had accepted the proposals contained therein; and
- (b) that the Council at its Special meeting on 10th February 2011 (Page 135, paragraph 6(1)(ii)) setting the Revenue Budget for 2011/12, had agreed that the sum of £96,806 be retained by the Council pending the conclusion of the Family Support Review; and

- (2) advising
- (a) that Appendix 1 of the report contained details of proposals arising from the Family Support Review;
 - (b) that it had been proposed that £30,000 of the savings from the decommissioning the services would be used to offset the additional allocation given to Family Connections each year to meet service demand;
 - (c) that the Family Support Review had concluded that there was an identified need to provide a service for children in their own right and that this had been supported by the Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) who had found a gap in the service provision for children affected by parental substance misuse; and
 - (d) that it had been proposed that the remainder of the savings arising from the termination of existing services (£66,806) be used to allow the above service to be placed for tender.

Assurances were sought from Members of the Panel in relation to the termination of the current services with Barnardos and Children 1st and a question was raised by a Member of the Panel in relation to the £66,806 earmarked for the proposed future service for children affected by parental alcohol and substance misuse and the Head of Children's Services responded accordingly.

Decided:

- (i) to agree the contents of the report; and
- (ii) to refer this matter to the next meeting of the Leadership Panel on 19th April 2011 for its consideration.

The meeting ended at 10.20 a.m.