

COMMUNITY SERVICES
STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 26th January 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors John Allan (Chair), Ian Douglas, Ann Galbraith, Bill Grant, Hugh Hunter, Elaine Little, Alec Oattes and Philip Saxton.

Attending: H. Garland, Executive Director – Children and Community; K. Leinster, Head of Community Care and Housing; C. Monaghan, Head of Policy, Performance and Communication; J. Cronin, Strategic Service Planning Manager; L. Long, Children and Families Manager; and E. Wyllie, Committee Administration Officer.

Also Attending: Councillor Douglas Campbell (Portfolio-holder for Housing and Customer First).

1. Items for Call-in.

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

2. Minutes of previous meetings.

Decided: to note the Minutes of the meeting of 7th December 2010 and the Special meeting of 13th January 2011 (issued).

3. Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Review Update 4.

Reference was made to the Minutes of 20th January 2010 (Page 55, paragraph 4) and there was submitted a report (issued) of 17th January 2011 by the Executive Director – Children and Community

- (1) outlining the progress of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Review to date;
- (2) informing that Arneil Johnston Consultants had been appointed in May 2010 to review the business plan by December 2010 with this review now being completed in draft format and a summary of findings outlined within the report; and
- (3) reporting that the review process had highlighted a number of issues that would require to be addressed prior to finalising a thirty year Business Plan which included financial accounting legacies, the validation of costs associated with housing stock conditions and the long term investment required in the Council's properties with all of these actions designed to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) by 2015.

Various questions were raised by Members of the Panel in relation to financial legacies and achieving SHQS. The Executive Director – Children and Community and the Head of Community Care and Housing responded accordingly to the various issues raised and commented on consultation processes and a forthcoming programme of Elected Members' briefings. The Head of Community Care and Housing intimated that he would arrange for the Consultants' report to be placed within the Members' Library once final amendments had been made to this document.

The Portfolio-holder referred to the proposed thirty year Business Plan and commented on financial legacies, compliance with the SHQS, rent structures and multiple tenure issues.

Decided: to note the current position as outlined within the report.

4. **Community Care Re-ablement Service.**

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

- (1) informing of the proposed redesign of the Community Care Service towards a re-ablement model of practice and service delivery;
- (2) advising that re-ablement
 - (a) contributed to one of the Council's key policy objectives of supporting people to live healthy and independent lives at home for as long as possible, building on the Scottish Government's Policy on Reshaping Care by supporting more people at home;
 - (b) was about delivering services in a way that encouraged service users to develop the confidence and skills to carry out day to day activities themselves and to continue to live at home; and
 - (c) was an approach, supported by evidence, that empowered people receiving care, improved confidence, motivation and provided greater independence for service users and was also a more efficient way of delivering care;
- (3) intimating
 - (a) that the re-ablement approach relied on partnership working, particularly between home carers, occupational therapists and nursing staff from NHS Ayrshire and Arran; and
 - (b) that a pilot re-ablement service had been operating in the Girvan and surrounding area since October 2010 with this being subject to a six month evaluation process which would include gathering feedback and experiences from people using the service as well as an analysis of cost benefits;
- (4) reporting that the proposal was to extend this re-ablement model of practice across South Ayrshire in partnership with NHS Ayrshire and Arran involving a number of key stages; and
- (5) concluding that the overall aim was to achieve better outcomes for people through:-
 - maximising individual choice, independence and quality of life;
 - promoting early discharge from hospital and preventing unnecessary admission to hospital or a care home; and
 - promoting independence and achieving goals whilst minimising the requirement for ongoing home care support.

Various questions were raised by Members of the Panel in relation to:- the Alert system; timeframe for referrals; resources and partnership working arrangements; Free Personal Care and dependency issues and a request for the findings from the Girvan pilot project to be circulated to Panel Members and the Strategic Service Planning Manager responded accordingly.

Decided: to note the information provided within the report and that, on completion of the pilot project in Girvan in April 2011, the evaluation report would be circulated to Members of the Panel thereafter.

5. **Family Support Review.**

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18th January 2011 by the Executive Director – Children and Community requesting that this Panel reviewed the progress to date and

- (1) advising that the review of the Family Support Services had been undertaken by a Multi-agency Panel and had been driven by the South Ayrshire Parenting Strategy with the need to ensure a wide range of parenting services offered across South Ayrshire;
- (2) highlighting that this review had identified some duplication in services and reporting that in order to ensure the delivery of targeted high quality services some aspects of the service would need to be de-commissioned and reinvestment made;
- (3) detailing the review process, timetable and recommendations which had been made as outlined within the report and its Appendices; and
- (4) informing that within the budgets available for Family Support Services, targeted services for children would be prioritised and intimating that South Ayrshire's Family Centre was in the process of being re-configured to reduce the unit cost.

The Head of Community Care and Housing commented on the ratings for each of the five service providers contained within the Appendix of the report and informed the Panel that the Community Planning Partnership would be meeting to further discuss these recommendations since it funded a large element of that. He also intimated that the potential savings of £112,000 would be re-invested into early years to identify those children in need of support.

Various questions were raised by Members of the Panel in relation to:- levels of parental substance misuse; the identified gap in service provision for children in their own right; tendering process arrangements; consideration of outcomes; partnership working and monies; the Gladys Beaton service; mediation services; and appointment uptake issues and the Head of Community Care and Housing and the Children and Families Manager responded accordingly and commented on the child focus approach being taken.

Decided: to note the progress of the review of the Family Support Service to date.

The meeting ended at 11.25 a.m.