

**COMMUNITY SERVICES STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL.**

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,  
11th December 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

- Present: Councillors Ian Cavana (Chair), Peter Convery, Kirsty Darwent, William J. Grant, Hugh Hunter and Corri Wilson.
- Apologies: Councillors John Hampton and Brian McGinley.
- Attending: K. Leinster, Head of Community Care and Housing; D. Hutchison, Head of Education; D. Burns, Housing Policy and Strategy Manager; S. Stevenson, Principal Teacher of Instrumental Service; and D. Knight, Democratic Services Administrator.

**1. Chair.**

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Cavana, Vice-Chair took the Chair.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, welcomed Councillor Convery to his first meeting of the Scrutiny Panel.

**2. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting.**

Concerns were raised regarding the arrangements that the Council had in place, together with partner organisations, to support and monitor vulnerable children in secondary schools who needed targeted intervention to make the transition from school into the workforce.

**Decided:**

- (1) to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting of 2nd October 2013 (issued ([link attached](#))); and
- (2) to refer the Panel's concerns regarding the support and monitoring of vulnerable children in secondary schools who needed targeted intervention to make the transition from school into the workforce to the next meeting of the Officer Locality Group.

#### 4. **Enablement Service – Progress Update.**

Reference was made to Minutes of 5th June 2013 (Page 387, paragraph 4) and there was submitted a report (issued) of 3rd December 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director Care, Learning and Wellbeing providing the Panel with a briefing on the progress on the complete roll out of the Enablement approach to providing home care in South Ayrshire.

The Panel was advised that the further development of enablement had produced high levels of satisfaction from the people who had received this service. This approach had further developed the emphasis of caring for people at home rather than in a hospital or care home setting which was detailed within the Joint Strategy for Older People approved by the Council earlier this year.

The Panel referred to the useful enablement case study that was detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and demonstrated multi-disciplinary working and suggested that the Housing Policy and Strategy Manager should post this type of information on the Council's Website.

The Panel was advised that the temporary post of Enablement Co-ordinator had now been extended until March 2015 and that training would continue to be developed for staff.

The Panel noted the increased demands on the service in relation to people with dementia.

**Decided:** having recorded their appreciation of the work that had been undertaken by the Head of Community Care and Housing and his staff and the staff within NHS Ayrshire & Arran

- (1) to note the complete roll out of Enablement across the whole of South Ayrshire and associated costs; and
- (2) to agree that examples of enablement case studies be posted on the Council's Website.

**5. Scrutiny Review - Day Services Review Update No. 2.**

Reference was made to the Minutes of 2nd October 2013 (Page 4, paragraph 6) and there was submitted a report (issued) of 22nd November 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director – Care, Learning and Wellbeing providing the Panel with a briefing on the progress being made with the Day Services Review.

The Panel heard an update from the Housing Policy and Strategy Manager in relation to the progress being made by the Sub-Group of this Panel and the Operational Working Group which included Officers from this Council, NHS Ayrshire & Arran and the voluntary and third sectors and the consultation being undertaken with the service users seeking their views on day services.

Councillor Wilson advised of her recent visit to the Overmills Day Care Centre and that although the service itself was excellent, the building and external environment needed substantial upgrading. The Head of Community Care and Housing indicated that a number of options were being examined regarding locally based services and the provision of integrated facilities.

The Panel was advised of activities around inter-generational work within day care and noted the suggestion that this could be further developed.

**Decided:** to note the contents of the report.

**6. Scrutiny Review – South Ayrshire Instrumental Music Service Review.**

Reference was made to the Minutes of 2nd October 2013 (Page 3, paragraph 5) and there was submitted a report (issued) of 26th November 2013 ([link attached](#)) by the Executive Director – Care, Learning and Wellbeing providing the Panel with a final briefing on the progress being made with the Instrumental Music Service Review.

A member of the Panel congratulated the staff and pupils involved in the successful concert that had taken place in Dumfries House on Sunday, 8th December 2013.

The Panel noted the opportunities for young people across the Authority in relation to instrumental music instruction and that this Council had a team of dedicated, highly skilled instructors who provided high quality musical instruction to young people and their on-going commitment and dedication to activities beyond the school day.

Clarification was sought and provided that the budget for this service was approximately £500,000 with the service being free to users, and the Panel was advised that whilst some local authorities had introduced charges, information obtained had indicated the cost of recovery was higher than the income generated in some areas.

A discussion then took place on the consultations that had been undertaken with pupils and parents and the feedback that had been received, the progress that had been made during 2013/14 and the increase in provision of instrumental music including brass, woodwind, piping, and vocal tuition across primary and secondary schools.

The Panel

**Decided:** having recorded their appreciation of the work that had been undertaken by the Head of Education, the Principal Teacher of Instrumental Service and all staff involved in instrumental music, to note

- (1) the contents of the report; and
- (2) that the Head of Education would issue a Briefing Note to Elected Members indicating the amendments arising from the review as set out in the report.

The meeting ended at 11.00 a.m.