

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday 20 June 2013
at 10:30am in Council Offices, English Street, Dumfries

Present

Members

Andy Ferguson (Chairman)	- North West Dumfries
Roberta Tuckfield (Vice Chairman)	- Wigtown West
Richard Brodie	- Annandale South
Karen Carruthers	- Annandale East & Eskdale
James Dempster	- Mid & Upper Nithsdale
Iain W Dick	- Stranraer & North Rhins
Yen Hongmei Jin	- Lochar
Jane Maitland	- Dee
Denis Male	- Annandale East & Eskdale
John Martin	- Nith
David J McKie	- North West Dumfries
Graham Nicol	- Mid Galloway
Willie Scobie	- Stranraer & North Rhins
David Stitt	- Abbey
John Syme	- Mid & Upper Nithsdale
Graeme Tait	- Annandale North

Officials

Sean McGleenan	- Interim Chief Social Work Officer
Claire Thomson	- Governance Officer
Gavin Stevenson	- Chief Executive
Paul Garrett	- Head of Finance
Heather Collington	- Operations Managers

Apologies

Ian Blake	- Abbey
Marion McCutcheon	- Stranraer & North Rhins
Andrew Wood	- Mid & Upper Nithsdale

Alex Haswell

Director Chief Executive Service

1 SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

15 Members present, 3 apologies.

PROCEDURE - WELCOMED Sean McGleenan, Interim Chief Social Work Officer, to his first Committee meeting

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Decision

NONE declared

3 SOCIAL WORK BUDGET REVIEW - REPORT BY DIRECTOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Decision

AGREED

3.1 the measures identified at Section 5 of the report to ensure that the 2013/14 Social Work budget was realistic and that spend would be contained within that revised budget;

3.2 to recommend to the Policy & Resources Committee that the following amounts are added to the Social Work budget from Corporate Budget Pressures Funding:- £258k to address the impact of the increased uplift to payments under the National Care Homes Contract; and a further £228k to address the remaining projected shortfall against the 2013/14 Social Work budget;

NOTED

3.3 that the approach outlined at Section 5 of the report required the delivery of savings of £1.170 Million through the Social Work Management Team and the Social Work Services Committee and that further savings options would require to be sought to help address ongoing demand pressures;

3.4 the required improvements to Social Work business and financial management arrangements outlined at Appendix 2 of the report and that these measures will now be progressed by the Social Work Management Team with appropriate corporate support; and

3.5 **AGREED** that each of the reviews/reports identified at Section 7, aimed at containing spending within budget on a sustainable basis, would be brought back to this Committee in line with the identified timescales.

4 SOCIAL WORK SERVICES REVENUE OUTTURN REPORT 2012/13 - REPORT BY INTERIM CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

Decision

NOTED

4.1 that Social Work Services returned a net overspend position of £653k which equated to 0.8% of the Social Work Services 2012/13 budget;

4.2 that the net overspend position reflected the application of the £700k Elderly Care/Early Intervention Change Fund in recognition of the early intervention/prevention work undertaken during the course of the year; and

4.3 that a range of improvement measures in business financial management arrangements were currently being progressed by the Social Work Senior Management Team to improve service and budgetary control and to reduce the risk of future overspending.

MEMBER – Jim Dempster entered the meeting – 16 Members present

5 THE WAY FORWARD UPDATE - REPORT BY INTERIM CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

Decision

5.1 **NOTED** the progress made on the Way Forward actions and achievements so far as summarised in Appendix 1 of the report; and

5.2 **AGREED** the focus of the actions planned.

6 DIRECTOR'S END OF YEAR ASSESSMENT OF BUSINESS PLAN PERFORMANCE - SOCIAL WORK SERVICES - REPORT BY INTERIM CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

Decision

6.1 **NOTED** the overall summary of performance for Social Work Services set out at Appendix 1 of the report; and

6.2 **SCRUTINISED** the exception reporting in at Appendix 2 of the report and **AGREED** that the actions proposed were adequate to improve performance and future monitoring of areas which have not met the target and recognised the areas of good practice/high performance where the target had been exceeded.

7 REFRESHED BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2012-15 - SOCIAL WORK SERVICES - REPORT BY INTERIM CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

Decision

APPROVED the refreshed sections of the Business Plan for Social Work Services as set out in the Appendix to the report.

8 SOCIAL WORK CHANGE PROGRAMME - UPDATE - REPORT BY INTERIM CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

Decision

NOTED the progress made in respect of the Change Programme activities and the use of the change fund up to March 2013 and the committed funds to support the development of the Change Programme in 2013-14.

9 JOINT IMPROVEMENT TEAM - JOINT STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING CONFERENCE 2013 - DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS - REPORT BY INTERIM CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

Decision

NOTED the feedback from the Conference.

10 MINUTE OF OLDER PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING OF 12 FEBRUARY 2013

Decision

NOTED

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN DUE TO THE NEED FOR A DECISION

Decision

NOTED that there was no business deemed urgent by the Chairman.