

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 16 January 2007 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors GLENNIS MIDDLETON, STEWART McGLYNN (substitute for BILL ROBERTON), ALEX KING (substitute for IAIN GAUL), IAN MACKINTOSH, The Hon R J LESLIE MELVILLE MBE, Provost BILL MIDDLETON, JOY MOWATT, PETER MURPHY, ROB MURRAY, GEORGE NORRIE MBE, HELEN OSWALD, FRANK ELLIS (substitute for KITTY RITCHIE), RON SCRIMGEOUR, RICHARD SPEIRS and TERRY WOOD.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors BILL ROBERTON, IAIN GAUL and KITTY RITCHIE.

Councillor GLENNIS MIDDLETON, Convener, in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee agreed to note that no declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 November 2006](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

3. SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2006/2007

With reference to Article 22 of the minute of meeting of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 28 November 2006, there was submitted [Joint Report No 20/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health and the Director of Corporate Services advising the Committee of the projected outturn position for Social Work and Health's revenue budget for 2006/2007, commenting on the major variances arising, and proposing a number of budget virements.

The Report reminded the Committee that an overall projected underspend for Social Work and Health of £750,000 had been reported to the Resources and Central Services Committee in November 2006 (Report No 1428/06 refers). The Report had also highlighted that a proportion of such an underspend could be used towards investment in accommodation, and that officers would undertake a further review of expenditure patterns in relation to Supporting People.

The Social Work and Health Department's budget was divided into a number of sectors and the projected position within each of the sectors was outlined within the Report. The projected net underspend was clearly of a significant nature but had arisen through a combination of many favourable circumstances in the current financial year. For example, staff slippage across a number of sectors had been very significant but was not expected to continue into future years.

While approval was being sought at the present time for the various transfers detailed in the Report, the department's revenue budget would continue to be monitored throughout the financial year. Should the projected underspends vary from the levels currently envisaged, approval would be sought for amended transfers to the Special Funds referred to in the Report.

Having heard from the Senior Service Manager (Older People Service) and following discussion, the Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the virements identified in Appendix I;

- (iii) to approve virement of up to £1,000,000 to the Local Capital Fund to address the pressing building and accommodation related issues within Social Work and Health;
- (iv) to approve virement of £150,000 to the IT Repair and Renewal Fund;
- (v) to note that the proposals contained in (ii) and (iii) above would allow the department to carry forward the maximum year-end budget flexibility into 2007/2008; and
- (vi) to note that in the event that the projected underspend position presently envisaged should change, an update report would be brought to Committee.

4. INNOVATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SUPPORT OF EX-OFFENDERS

There was submitted [Report No 21/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health informing the Committee of two new initiatives in Criminal Justice Social Work which were aimed at reducing re-offending and strengthening the provision of community based services.

The Report provided a description of the Homelessness Initiative Project and the Intensive Women's Support Project which would be overseen by the Tayside Criminal Justice Partnership but would be managed by East Port House (Dundee) and the Partnership Resettlement Service respectively. The Preventing Homelessness Innovation Fund had awarded the Tayside Criminal Justice Partnership £59,568 for one year from January 2007 and this would be used to assist clients to develop social skills and independent living skills to access and maintain accommodation in the long term. The Intensive Support to Women Prisoners Project would seek, in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service, to identify all women intending to return to the Tayside area who were serving sentences of less than four years, with a substance misuse issue. Following release, they would be offered one to one support to develop their motivation and coping skills in dealing with their drug misuse. The two projects would encourage socially excluded groups to access services.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the introduction of the short term projects as outlined in the Report.

5. "OPENINGS" JOINT OPEN UNIVERSITY AND UNISON STUDY PROGRAMME

There was submitted [Report No 22/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of a partnership initiative with UNISON, the Open University and Angus Council Social Work and Health department offering supported further education opportunities to enhance work based skills and knowledge as an introduction to higher education.

The Report indicated that Angus Council had been approached as the first local authority in Scotland to pilot two Open University modules within an introductory route to learning called "Openings". Working in partnership with the Open University and UNISON would allow the Council to offer an inclusive programme of study to staff who were interested in getting started on the higher education route. This programme allowed for supported involvement that would afford enhancement of skills and knowledge to the benefit of both the staff participating and service users. It met criteria for continuous professional development and building a career pathway for staff. The Social Work and Health department also saw this as a significant contribution towards the creation of a "Learning Organisation" objective and the "Supporting Staff" agenda.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the participation in the "Openings" programme in partnership with UNISON and the Open University to enhance supported further education opportunities to a range of Angus Council staff as well as promoting partnership working with both the private and voluntary sector.

6. PROGRESS UPDATE ON RESETTLEMENT FROM STRATHMARTINE HOSPITAL

With reference to Article 18 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 November 2005, there was submitted [Joint Report No 24/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health, the Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Director of Corporate Services informing the Committee of progress on the resettlement of the remaining Angus long stay patients in Strathmartine Hospital.

As well as helping Angus Council fulfil its obligations under community care legislation and the "Same As You" agenda, the resettlement to more appropriate care in the community would help promote a real and meaningful change in the quality of life for the individuals concerned.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of the Report.

7. PROPOSED EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR CARE AND SUPPORT AT LILYWYND, FORFAR

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 November 2004, there was submitted [Report No 35/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee that the current contract for Care and Support for Adults with Learning Disabilities at Lilywynd, Forfar would expire on 20 March 2007. To rationalise the increased tendering workload being generated by the implementation of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, it was proposed that this contract be extended for a period of seventeen months to allow a full re-tendering of this contract to take place.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the extension of the current contract for Care and Support for Adults with learning Disabilities at Lilywynd, Forfar for a period of seventeen months until 20 August 2008.

8. PROPOSED EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS FOR FROZEN FOOD, FRESH FISH AND FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of the Social Work Committee of 4 June 2002, there was submitted [Report No 48/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee that the current contracts for the supply of frozen food, fresh fish and fresh fruit and vegetables to Social Work and Health establishments would expire on 30 June 2007. To rationalise the increased tendering workload being generated by the implementation of The Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, it was proposed that these contracts be extended for a period of one year.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the extension of current contracts for the supply of frozen food, fresh fish and fresh fruit and vegetables to Social Work and Health establishments for a period of one year until 30 June 2008.

9. CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF AN INDEPENDENT INTERMEDIATE CARE SERVICE

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 September 2006, there was submitted [Report No 56/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the tender received in respect of the provision of the independent intermediate care service and the evaluation process undertaken.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and

- (ii) to approve the award of the contract to Southern Cross Healthcare, North Divisional Office, 193 – 199 Bath Street, Glasgow, to enable the service to be provided within the Cairnie Lodge Care Centre, Arbroath.

10. CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES IN RESPECT OF REVIEW OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 November 2006, there was submitted [Report No 57/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the tenders received in respect of the provision of consultancy services in connection with a review of Social Work and Health Services for Children.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the award of the contract to Marjut Kosonen and Associates Ltd., 80 Grove Road, West Ferry, Dundee.

11. CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF PROVISIONS AND GROCERIES

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting the Social Work and Health Committee of 4 June 2002, there was submitted [Report No 58/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the need for a contract for the supply and distribution of provisions and groceries to Angus Council Social Work and Health establishments.

The Report detailed the responses received to advertisements seeking expressions of interest from potential suppliers and sought approval for the Director of Social Work and Health to issue tender documents to suppliers who had responded to the advertisements and who met the requirements of the pre-qualifications questionnaire.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the issuing of tender documents to those suppliers who had expressed an interest in tendering and who had met the requirements of the pre-qualification questionnaire; and
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to report back on the tenders received.

12. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee resolved, in terms of Standing Order 27(2), that the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item, so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraph 7.

13. THE FIRS RESIDENTIAL UNIT, LINEFIELD ROAD, CARNOUSTIE

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 November 2006, there was submitted [Report No 59/07](#) advising the Committee of the outcome of the consultation exercise and re-assessment of the care of the current residents of the Firs, Residential Unit, Linefield Road, Carnoustie.

The Report recommended the closure of the unit and that plans to move the current residents to more appropriate care placements be progressed in line with the needs of the individuals concerned.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;

- (ii) to approve the proposals to close the Firs Residential Unit, Linefield Road, Carnoustie; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to progress plans to move the current residents to more appropriate care placements.