

## ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 27 February 2007 at 4.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillors GLENNIS MIDDLETON, BILL ROBERTON, 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, KITTY RITCHIE, RON SCRIMGEOUR, RICHARD SPEIRS and TERRY WOOD.

Councillor GLENNIS MIDDLETON, Convener, in the Chair.

### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mowatt declared an interest in item 15 as a Director of Brechin Day Care Centre.

Councillors Norrie, Ritchie and Wood declared an interest in item 16 as Governors of Dorward House.

### 2. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 January 2007](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

*In accordance with Standing Order 36(2), the Committee agreed that, the order of business be varied from that published, and be considered in the following order.*

### 3. PROJECT TO PROMOTE DIGNITY AND RESPECT FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN ANGUS

There was submitted [Report No 238/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of a proposed initiative to promote dignity and respect for older people in health and social care settings in Angus.

The Report indicated that the Angus Older People's Planning Group, an established multi-agency group working to improve health and co-ordinate service provision for the 50+ population across Angus had recently viewed a film produced by actress Amanda Waring in memory of her mother, Dame Dorothy Tutin, called "Look Closer – What do you see?". The film, which was also viewed by the Committee, dealt with issues around dignity and respect for older people in health and social care settings and had particular significance for Angus as the poem on which it was based had been written some years ago by a nurse at Sunnyside Hospital.

The film had been identified as a relevant resource for potential use in health improvement activity to promote dignity and respect and to raise awareness of wider discrimination and elder abuse issues. Following consideration of how this could be best utilised, it was proposed to engage with local stakeholders by means of an initial awareness raising seminar, output from which would form the basis of an action plan, to include possible development of additional educational materials and a multi-agency training programmes.

An award of £4,000, along with three days of professional input and support from a national expert in the field, had been made by the NHS Scotland Health in Later Life Programme who, in conjunction with Age Concern and the Mental Health Foundation were offering funding and support for local partnerships in developing integrated health improvement planning in relation to mental health and wellbeing in later life.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the details of the proposed initiative as detailed in the Report; and

- (iii) to note the successful acquisition of funding and support from NHS Health Scotland to progress this work locally.

#### **4. TWELFTH SPECIAL OLYMPIC WORLD SUMMER GAMES, CHINA – 2-11 OCTOBER 2007**

With reference to Article 17 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 5 June 2003, there was submitted [Joint Report No 223/07](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the Special Olympic World Summer Games which were taking place in China from 2 to 11 October 2007 and the inclusion of Angus athletes and council staff in the Great Britain Team.

The Report indicated that Angus had eight members travelling as part of the Great Britain Team, six athletes and two staff. Staff travel and accommodation costs would be met by Tayside and Great Britain Special Olympic Groups.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the participation of social work service users at the Twelfth Special Olympic World Games to be held in China;
- (ii) to approve the attendance of staff from the Social Work and Health Department at the Games in a coaching capacity; and
- (iii) to approve granting paid leave to the two members of staff, for fifty percent of the period of absence from work.

#### **5. ANGUS MONEY ADVICE PARTNERSHIP**

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 April 2005, there was submitted [Report No 224/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of progress made by the Angus Money Advice Partnership on the Angus Money Advice Strategy.

The Report indicated that, while there remained a large amount of work to be done within the strategy, the partners were confident that they were moving forward in the right direction. It was clear that problem debt affected the lives of many Angus residents and the partnership was dealing with increasing numbers of citizens facing the misery associated with debt. In the three months from July to September 2006 the partners had dealt with seventy seven new problem debt cases rescheduling £955,000 in debt, an average of £12,400 per service user. The Welfare Rights Service and Angus Citizens Advice Bureau remained committed to the aims of the strategy and would continue to work towards developing a comprehensive and seamless money advice service for the whole of Angus.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

#### **6. VISIT TO ANGUS BY PUBLIC SERVICE LEADERS FROM SWEDEN**

There was submitted [Report No 225/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the proposed visit by public service leaders from Sweden to Angus on 14 and 15 March 2007 as part of a programme led by the Scottish Leadership Foundation. The group would be hosted by Angus Drug and Alcohol Action Team and would examine some aspects of community planning with regard to the Angus Focus on Alcohol initiative.

The Report indicated that the Scottish Leadership Foundation (SLF) had provided a programme of "People Exchange" since 2005 in which public service leaders from Sweden met with public service leaders in Scotland to share experience and to build new networks. The visit would allow an exchange of knowledge and approaches to the translation of public policy on alcohol issues in a local activity. Although the programme for the two days was quite full it was hoped that members of the group would have the opportunity to experience a little of the life and hospitality that Angus could offer.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

## 7. **ANGUS PARENTING HANDBOOKS**

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 22 February 2007, there was submitted [Joint Report No 226/07](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the development and production of Angus Parenting Handbooks which had been jointly commissioned by the Angus Childcare Partnership, the Angus Drug and Alcohol Action Team, the Angus Child Protection Committee, the Youth and Justice Forum and NHS Tayside.

The Report indicated that two versions of the handbook had been produced; one aimed at the 4-11 age group and the other at the 12-18 age group, with the target audience being for all parents of primary and secondary school pupils in Angus. NHS Tayside was currently providing information to all new parents, covering advice required for pre-school children.

Feedback to date had been positive and the working group would undertake a more detailed evaluation during the first quarter of this year.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the contents of the handbooks which were available in the Members' Lounge.

## 8. **PEER SUPPORT, EDUCATION AND MEDIATION PROJECT**

With reference to Article 12 of the minute of meeting of the Housing Committee of 28 September 2006, there was submitted [Joint Report No 187/07](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Director of Social Work and Health seeking approval to develop a Peer Support, Education and Mediation Project.

The Report indicated that the two proposed projects, Mediation and Peer Support, included in the 2005/2006 Local Outcome Agreement to prevent and alleviate homelessness had not delivered the anticipated outcomes (Report No 1159/06 refers). Following further research it was now proposed to merge the projects to provide a combined Peer Support, Education and Mediation Project. The revised proposal was to join the work and resources previously identified separately for family mediation services for young people and the Buddying Project. In addition the revised proposal aimed to include an element of peer education, supporting the role of the recently appointed Education and Information Officer.

The Report concluded that there was a clear need to provide peer support, housing education and mediation services as a way of preventing and alleviating homelessness among young people. The re-development of the project, as outlined in the Report, would enhance partnership working to further develop services for young people in a strategic way enabling person centred delivery while meeting best value.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (iii) to note that two projects identified in the 2006/2007 Local Outcome Agreement were being joined, namely Mediation Services for Young People and the Buddying Project;
- (iii) to approve the merging of the above two projects; and
- (iv) to approve the development of the new project in partnership with Angus Council Social Work and Health, the Web Project and Tayside Council on Alcohol under a Service Level Agreement.

## 9. JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICES TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN ANGUS

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 22 February 2007, there was submitted [Joint Report No 162/07](#) by the Director of Education, the Director of Social Work and Health and the Director of Neighbourhood Services advising the Committee of the outcome of the Joint Inspection of Services to Protect Children in the Angus Area.

The Report indicated that this was the first time child protection services in Angus had been inspected in this way and the inspection had given all agencies who worked together to protect children the opportunity to reflect on their practice and to consider how services should be improved in the future.

The inspection had taken place in three phases on 10 March, 19 June and 28 August/4 September 2006 and a copy of the full Inspection Report was appended to Report No 162/07.

Following a full discussion, and having heard from the Director and the Senior Manager, Children and Families, the Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health, along with other relevant Directors to report back to the respective Committees with an Action Plan to address the recommendations contained within the Inspection Report.

## 10. HMIE NATIONAL TASK: LOOKED AFTER AND LOOKED AFTER AND ACCOMMODATED CHILDREN

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 22 February 2007, there was submitted [Joint Report No 229/07](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Social Work and Health outlining the outcome of recent visits to Angus by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIe) which focussed on the education outcomes for looked after and looked after and accommodated children.

The Report indicated that the visits had taken place on Monday 18 and Wednesday 20 December 2006 and the Inspectorate had concluded in their feedback that all levels of council staff should take care to celebrate considerable success in the provision made to support looked after and looked after and accommodated children. Simply retaining a young person in an educational setting might in itself be a very significant achievement.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the contents of the positive feedback from the Inspectorate.

## 11. PROPOSED EXTENSION TO CONTRACT WITH TURNING POINT SCOTLAND FOR CARE AND HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 August 2004, there was submitted [Report No 230/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health recommending the authorisation of a two year extension to the contract with Turning Point Scotland for care and housing support services for people with a learning disability and sensory impairments at Walton Mill, Dundee. The current contract was due to expire on 27 March 2008 and it was proposed that under the terms of the existing contract a two year extension be granted to Turning Point Scotland. Following the extension period it was further proposed to re-tender for the service in line with the European Procurement Regulations.

The Committee agreed:-

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

- (ii) to authorise the two year extension to the existing contract with Turning Point Scotland for the provision of a care and housing support service for people with a learning disability at Walton Mill, Dundee.

## 12. CONTRACT FOR HIGH DEPENDENCY RESPITE CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

There was submitted [Report No 231/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the need for a contract for High Dependency Respite Care for Older People. The Report detailed the responses received to an advertisement seeking expressions of interest from potential service providers and requested approval to issue tender documents to service providers who had responded to the advertisement and completed a pre-qualification questionnaire. The Report also requested approval for interim measures to be put in place to secure a service while the tendering process was completed.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the issuing of tender documents to those service providers who had expressed interest in tendering and had completed a pre-qualification questionnaire;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to report back to the Committee on the tenders received; and
- (iv) to approve the interim measures being put in place to secure a service while the tendering process was completed.

## 13. REVIEW OF FEES AND ALLOWANCES WITHIN CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2007/2008

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 February 2006, there was submitted [Report No 232/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health setting out the proposals for the fees and allowances within Children's Services for 2007/2008.

The Report indicated that the Social Work and Health Department had revised the fees and allowances for specific services in line with statutory requirements, guidance and Angus Council policy. The rates proposed, details of which were appended to the Report, were in relation to Children's Services.

In previous years COSLA had recommended an annual update on a variety of fees and allowances, including fostering allowances. Last year however COSLA had decided that they would no longer be issuing annually recommended rates on the basis that they were simply providing a measure of overall yearly inflation. Their view was that Councils could just as easily apply inflation measures themselves. The proposed increase of 3% for all fees and allowances was therefore based on the current rate of the consumer prices index.

The Committee agreed to approve the rates set out in the Appendix to the Report, with effect from 2 April 2007.

## 14. REVIEW OF NON-RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2007/2008

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 February 2006, there was submitted [Report No 233/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health proposing some amendments to the non-residential charging policy and seeking approval for revised rates for financial year 2007/2008.

The Report indicated that, each year, the fees and charges for community care services were revised to allow contractual arrangements with service users and providers to be updated. The charging policy for non-residential care packages were revised to reflect guidance from COSLA and to take account of the introduction of Supporting People. A transitional protection scheme was established for existing service users, which meant that there were effectively

two schemes of charges in operation. This was reflected in the rates proposed in Appendix 1 (Report No 249/03 refers). The policy had been amended again in February 2006 to reflect further guidance from COSLA aimed at bringing greater uniformity to charging policies across Scotland (Report No 293/06 refers). The proposed rates set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the Report took into account and reflected the COSLA recommendations.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the charges and disregards for non-residential care services outlined in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (iii) to approve the rates for direct payments set out in Appendix 2 to the Report.

## **15. FUNDING OF LUNCH CLUBS**

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 August 2006, there was submitted [Report No 234/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the current situation regarding lunch clubs in Angus and arrangements for funding these services from the financial year 2007/2008.

The Report indicated that, to date, lunch clubs had been funded by Angus Council to provide meals to attendees irrespective of need for this service. Rather than funding the clubs as a whole, the new arrangements would fund only attendees who had been assessed as having a need for a community meals service. Lunch clubs had been requested to ask attendees if they wished to be assessed and visits had been arranged to explain the process. Assessments had now commenced for 120 individuals and it was anticipated that these assessments would be completed by the end of February 2007. From 9 April 2007 lunch clubs would receive a payment for each service user approved for meals subsidised by Angus Council.

Following consultation with the lunch club organisers, it was proposed that subsidised attendees would pay the lunch club £1.60 per meal, with the remaining subsidy of up to a maximum of £2.00 being paid from Angus Council directly to the lunch club. This charge was consistent with charges and costs associated with the provision of community meals to the value of £3.60 and would allow for associated costs incurred by lunch clubs.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the current situation regarding lunch clubs; and
- (iii) to approve the arrangements for supporting individuals with an assessed need to use these services.

## **16. REVIEW OF FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING HOMES 2007/2008**

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 28 February 2006, there was submitted [Report No 235/07](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health proposing rates for placements in local authority residential homes for 2007/2008 and requesting approval for the setting of rates for independent sector homes when national negotiations regarding these had been completed.

The Report indicated that the proposed rates for the local authority residential homes, which were appended to the Report, would be applied from 9 April 2007. Proposed rates for independent sector residential and nursing home fees for 2007/2008, based on a Scottish

Executive allocation of £20.5 million, had been accepted by COSLA leaders as shown in the Report however these rates were subject to national agreement on a payment quality model, discussions on which were ongoing. It was proposed therefore that these rates or such other rates as might be agreed were implemented when the payment quality model had finally been agreed. A Report would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee to confirm the rates to be paid.

The Committee, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the proposed rates for local authority residential homes for 2007/2008 as set out in the Appendix to the Report; and
- (iii) to approve the setting of rates for independent sector homes when national negotiations regarding these had been completed.

#### **17. TELECARE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 November 2006, there was submitted [Joint Report No 189/07](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the successful outcome of the submission by the Angus Community Care Partnership for funding from the Scottish Executive's Telecare Development Programme.

The Report indicated that the Angus submission had been approved by the Scottish Executive in December 2006 and an offer of grant for the first tranche of funding of £51,000 had now been received. Release of the remaining two thirds of the grant award would be dependent on the partnership demonstrating progress in implementing the submitted proposals. A joint project team had now been appointed and had begun work on implementing the Telecare Development proposals. A further Report would be submitted to Committee once the business case had been finalised.

The Report concluded that the success of the Angus Community Care Partnership in securing £154,741 would enable the development of initiatives which would give additional support to vulnerable people to sustain independent living in the community, in safety and in confidence.

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

#### **18. CONSULTATION ON THE NATIONAL REVIEW OF THE EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE WORKFORCE – ANGUS COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE**

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 22 February 2007, there was submitted [Joint Report No 159/07](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the consultation response submitted to the Scottish Executive on the National Review of The Early Years and Childcare Workforce.

The Report indicated that this review had been announced by the Minister of Education and Young People in June 2004 with a remit to improve employment opportunities for early years and child care staff and raise the status of the sector by examining and defining the role and responsibilities of staff in the early years, childcare and play workforce; determining an approach to national workforce planning; rationalising and modernising early years/childcare qualifications, ensuring that they were appropriate for the different sectors of the workforce; developing vertical and lateral career pathways which provided for progression within a chosen area in lateral movement between different sectors of the workforce; and considering the implications of these matters for pay and conditions.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

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

- (ii) to note the main issues highlighted in the consultation response which had been made to the Scottish Executive.

**19. VALEDICTORY REMARKS**

As this was the last meeting of the Committee to be held before the Local Government Election, the Convener thanked all the officers for the support which she and the Committee had received over the last four years. Tribute was also paid to the Director and his staff for their dedication, hard work and many achievements.