

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 10 January 2008 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors RUTH LESLIE MELVILLE MBE, ALISON ANDREWS, COLIN BROWN, MAIRI EVANS, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, IAN MACKINTOSH, JOHN RYMER, BILL MIDDLETON, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, DONALD MORRISON, ROB MURRAY, RALPH PALMER, MARGARET THOMSON, PAUL VALENTINE and JOHN WHYTE.

Councillor LESLIE MELVILLE MBE, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors David May and Helen Oswald with Councillors John Rymer and Ralph Palmer substituting respectively.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 15 November 2007](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. 12TH SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD SUMMER GAMES - SHANGHAI, CHINA 2007

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 February 2007, there was submitted [Report No 36/08](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the success of the Great Britain Team in the Summer Games which had taken place in Shanghai, China from 2 to 11 October 2007 and in particular the inclusion of the Angus athletes in the Great Britain Team.

The Report indicated that the Great Britain Team had been made up of 159 athletes from England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland competing in 19 of the 25 sports. Tayside had 15 athletes competing with Angus having 4 of these who were supported by four Angus coaches. The 4 athletes, Sarah Anderson from Carnoustie (Ten Pin Bowling), Melissa Niven from Forfar (Equestrian), Kevin Megaw from Carnoustie (Power Lifting) and Kimberley Gillilan from Arbroath area (Table Tennis) had collectively won 3 gold medals, 4 silver medals, 2 bronze medals as well as three 4th place ribbons and one 6th place ribbon. This was considered to be a magnificent achievement for a World Games where the best athletes with a learning disability from 165 countries had taken part.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the participation and success of the Angus athletes and staff at the 12th Special Olympic World Summer Games in Shanghai, China; and
- (ii) to congratulate the athletes and coaches on their wonderful achievements.

5. SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS - OUTTURN 2007/2008

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 September 2007, there was submitted [Joint Report No 37/08](#) 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 2007/2008, commenting on the major variances arising and proposing a number of budget virements. The Report also gave a brief update on the capital budget.

The Report indicated that based on actual expenditure incurred to end of November 2007, there was a projected underspend on the Social Work and Health budget of £88,000 which equated to 0.18% of the total budget. A breakdown of the underspend was outlined in the Report and details of the major variances were given in Appendix 1. The Report concluded that this was a very small variance based on actual expenditure to date. As with any projection, it was not possible to predict with accuracy what the actual expenditure would be, especially given the demand led nature of many social work services. It was possible, therefore that this would change by the end of the financial year.

The Report also pointed out that the Capital budget had been adapted to take account of the slippage on the main projects and the department would continue to monitor the financial plan and take corrective action as appropriate.

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

6. CHANGES TO THE INSPECTION METHODOLOGY USED BY THE CARE COMMISSION

There was submitted [Report No 38/08](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of changes being made by the Care Commission to the methodology used to inspect social care services. These changes were being introduced from 1 April 2008 and would impact on all social care services in Angus, both local authority and independent, that were regulated by the Care Commission.

The Report indicated that the main changes being introduced were more involvement from people who used care services and their carers, in assessing the quality of care; introducing a grading scheme to help report on the quality of care; and having a system to assess how much inspection time was needed for each service so that more inspection time was spent on those services that needed to improve and less time on those that were performing well. The Report concluded that many social work and health services were regulated by the Care Commission and the introduction of the new grading scheme would challenge these services to actively demonstrate the quality of service provision and how service users and carers were involved in and their views taken account of in the provision of the service.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

7. REDESIGN OF LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES - UPDATE

With reference to Article 17 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 30 May 2006, there was submitted [Report No 39/08](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee on the progress of the development of the Learning Disability Services Redesign Project.

The Report indicated that a Programme Manager had been appointed for a period of two years to co-ordinate and progress the project. The outline action plan had been developed into a project initiation document, a copy of which had been placed in the Members' Lounge, and a Project Board, comprising representatives from Health and Social Work had also been established to oversee the project. Four key workstreams had been identified, namely, day opportunities, assessment and care co-ordination, accommodation and respite and short breaks. Initial milestones had been identified for each of the workstreams and these were detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report along with a summary of the progress to date.

Having heard from Councillors Whyte and Glennis Middleton and the Director, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to bring forward further updates on progress of the redesign as it progressed.

8. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: “WE CAN AND MUST DO BETTER” FUNDING TO SUPPORT STRENGTHENING THE CORPORATE PARENT FUNCTION

There was submitted [Joint Report No 40/08](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health and the Director of Education advising the Committee that the Scottish Government had provided Angus Council with “one off” funding of £42,000 to be spent within this financial year to raise and sustain awareness of the local authority’s responsibility as a Corporate Parent for looked after children. This should include building capacity through more effective and better partnership working and commissioning of services.

The Report indicated that it was proposed to use the additional funding to appoint a Project Manager to lead on the development of a Corporate Parenting Strategy for Angus that would clearly set out the Corporate Parent functions of the Council and its partners and how these responsibilities would be met. The Project would concentrate on identifying key national and local outcomes for looked after children and engage stakeholders in taking forward and improving on these. The aim would be to develop a strategy that would identify key priorities for change with improvement targets from 2008 to 2011. It would also need to ensure integration with the current development of parenting services across the local authority area and that key outcomes for looked after children were an integral part of the developing Strategy.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to support the principle of seconding a Project Manager from current services to lead on the development of a Corporate Parenting Strategy for Angus; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health and the Director of Education bring a Corporate Parenting Strategy to both the Social Work and Health and Education Committees for final authorisation.

9. NATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR COMMUNITY CARE - ANGUS PATHFINDER PROJECT

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 27 September 2007, there was submitted [Report No 41/08](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health updating the Committee on the progress of the National Outcomes for Community Care Pathfinder Project. The Project was focussed on developing and delivering an outcome focussed performance management framework for health, housing and social work and would also highlight opportunities to improve organisational, financial and service delivery arrangements in ways that would facilitate better joint working and better outcomes for people in Angus.

The Report indicated that eleven workstreams had been identified as part of the Project Initiation Document and an accountable officer identified to take forward the agreed tasks over the next year. Each work stream would be measured against a set of national priorities and local success criteria and these were detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report. One of the work streams related to the development of an evaluation framework to measure the success of the pathfinder project and a report on this would be produced towards the end of 2008.

The Committee agreed to note the progress made to date on the National Outcomes for Community Care Pathfinder Project in Angus as detailed in the Report.