

### 3. WHITDALE DAY CENTRE - PETITION FROM EARS ADVOCACY

Councillor Conn having previously declared an interest left the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing the proposed response to the petition received from EARS advocacy in relation to Whitdale Day Centre.

The report recalled that as part of the council's budget setting meeting on 13 February 2018 a decision was taken to deliver older people's day care through existing external provision. At its meeting of 11 September 2018 the Council Executive considered the petition in relation to Whitdale Day Centre and agreed to refer the petition to the Social Policy PDSP for consideration and subsequently to report back to Council Executive.

The report advised that the provision of social care services was based on assessed eligible needs and services were commissioned, whether internal or external based on those needs. One objective of commissioning plans was to have a consistent model of care for council arranged services which ensured equity in service delivery and created a more efficient and consistent model in relation to registered care services.

The Senior Manager advised that the day care provision for older people was already met predominately through an external contract with Optima, representing five third sector day care centres geographically located throughout West Lothian, with capacity of 110 places per day. The only older people's day care centre run directly by the council was based within Whitdale Care Home. Whitdale has an average of fifteen attendees on a daily basis. Members were advised that there was adequate capacity within the Optima day centres to meet the demand related to the current provision at Whitdale.

The petition received with a covering letter from Ears Advocacy was clearly predicated on a fear that there would be no suitable alternative support to replace that provided by Whitdale Day Centre. This was never the council's intention to withdraw from direct provision of older people's day care without regard for an alternative. The budget proposal included a specific reference to this provision being delivered by existing external provision.

The Head of Social Policy explained that capital funding had been allocated to reconfigure space currently used for day care in Whitdale Care Home to provide additional residential beds, which would ensure that the current space remained dedicated to providing care for older people.

The creation of additional residential beds within the day care provision would have a positive impact on delayed discharge rates from St John's Hospital, waiting lists and also on respite demand. The provision of additional beds would improve the supply of care home provision and

provide capacity to assist with the longer term care planning.

The report recommended that the Council Executive:-

1. Note that the council as part of its budget setting on 13 February 2018 made a decision to deliver older people's day care through existing external provision;
2. Note that it was never the council's intention to close Whitdale Day Centre without regard for current and anticipated future demand for older people's day care needs.

#### Motion

To approve the terms of the report.

- Moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan

#### Amendment

To not approve the recommendations of the report until further consultation has taken place and a report is submitted to Social Policy PDSP.

- Moved by Councillor Frank Anderson and seconded by Councillor Diane Calder.

A roll call vote was taken which resulted as follows:-

#### Motion

#### Amendment

Harry Cartmill

Frank Anderson

David Dodds

Diane Calder

Angela Doran

Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Peter Heggie

Chris Horne

Charles Kennedy

George Paul

Kirsteen Sullivan

Damian Timson

Following a roll call vote the motion was successful by 10 votes to 2 and it was agreed accordingly.