

MINUTE of MEETING of the SOCIAL POLICY, POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL of WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 29 JUNE 2017.

Present – Councillors George Paul (Chair), Harry Cartmill (substituting for Angela Doran), Lawrence Fitzpatrick (substituting for Dave King), Charles Kennedy, Sarah King, Dom McGuire and Damian Timson

Apologies – Councillor Angela Doran and Dave King; Maureen Finlay, Senior People's Forum Representative

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cartmill declared a non-financial interest as an appointed member of West Lothian Integration Joint Board.

Councillor Paul declared a non-financial interest as an appointed member of West Lothian Integration Joint Board.

Councillor Timson declared a non-financial interest as an appointed member of West Lothian Integration Joint Board.

2. MINUTE

The Panel noted the contents of the minute of the meeting held on 16 March 2017. The Chair thereafter signed the minute.

3. WEST LOTHIAN CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2017-2020 AND THE WEST LOTHIAN CORPORATE PARENTING REPORT AND PLAN 2017-2018

The Head of Social Policy advised the Panel that details were included in the report (copies of which had been circulated) of the progress made with regards to the development and launch of West Lothian Children's Services Plan 2017-2020 (attached at appendix 1 to the report), in compliance with Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, and the development of West Lothian Corporate Parenting Report and Plan 2017-2018 (attached at appendix 2 to the report) in compliance with Part 9 of the Act.

The Senior Manager, Children & Early Intervention, provided a presentation on West Lothian Children's Services Plan 2017-20 and West Lothian Corporate Parenting Plan 2017-18.

West Lothian Children's Services Plan 2017-20 outlined the work of West Lothian Children and Families Strategic Planning Group and followed an outcome based approach to planning, led by the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership. The Plan has been developed to encompass the following principles:

- Getting the right balance between universal and targeted services
- Re-distributing resources towards targeted activities with individuals, groups and communities
- Improved integrated working
- Improving outcomes for the individual child and their family
- Focusing on early intervention by shifting resources from managing crises to building resilience.

Details of the key priorities identified in the Plan were highlighted which included early intervention and prevention; corporate parenting; child protection; violence against women; youth justice; transition and alcohol and drugs. Statistics relating to the challenges facing early years and school age children and young people in transition were provided.

West Lothian Corporate Parenting Report and Plan highlighted the commitment of Corporate Parents in West Lothian to facilitate positive practice to ensure that looked after children were supported to achieve the best possible outcomes and identified the following areas for improvement:

- Improving the quality of our care and care planning;
- Improving health and wellbeing;
- Supporting learning and raising attainment;
- Supporting employment, training and positive destinations;
- Providing high quality through care, continuing and after-care.

Finally, it was noted that the publication of these two plans marked the start of a comprehensive review of partnership service planning and delivery for children's services which would result in further refinement to the plan and the development of a strategic commissioning plan for children's services.

Following the conclusion of the presentation the Head of Social Policy advised that the West Lothian Children's Services Plan 2017-2020 and the West Lothian Joint Corporate Parenting Report and Plan 2017-2018 focussed on how to provide children's services in West Lothian in a way which best safeguards, supports or promotes the wellbeing of children, ensuring that any action to meet needs was taken at the earliest appropriate time and that, where appropriate, action was taken to prevent needs arising.

The Head of Social Policy then responded to questions from Panel members. Details relating to the work carried out to try to increase the number of children visiting dentists were provided. In response to a question relating to the number of pregnant women who smoked, the

Head of Social Policy undertook to provide members with details of the Smoke Free Homes initiative following the meeting, which aimed to raise awareness of the levels of smoke within homes in the hope to effect a behaviour change.

The Panel acknowledged the excellent work carried out.

It was recommended that the Panel note:

1. The progress made with regards to the development and launch of the West Lothian Children's Services Plan 2017-2020 in compliance with Part 3 of the Act; and
2. The development of the West Lothian Corporate Parenting Report and Plan 2017-2018 in compliance with Part 9 of the Act.

#### Decision

- To note the contents of the report; and
- To note that the Head of Social Policy undertook to provide members with details of the Smoke Free Homes initiative.

#### 4. SOCIAL POLICY MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017-2018

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing details of the Social Policy Management Plan 2017-2018.

The report explained that as a means of delivering outcomes effectively and efficiently, West Lothian Council identified management plans as an essential driver for the provision of excellent services. As such they were collated and presented at the service group level, under the responsibility of the Head of Service. The Social Policy Management Plan 2017-2018 was attached as an appendix to the report and set out how the service would drive performance. The measures, targets and actions of the plan would be available for management monitoring and reporting on the corporate performance management system (Covalent).

The Head of Social Policy then provided members with details of some of the key actions and priorities for 2017/2018.

The Panel was asked to note the Social Policy Management Plan 2017-2018.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. CARE INSPECTORATE INSPECTION OF COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing details of the grades achieved in the Care Inspectorate Inspection of West Lothian Council's Community Care Services during the financial year 2016-17.

The report explained that the Care Inspectorate graded services as part of fulfilling their duty under section 4(1) of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 and published inspection reports to provide information to the public about the quality of care services. All inspections undertaken were based on aspects of the National Care Standards and other regulatory legislation. Services were inspected under four quality themes for Care and Support, Environment, Staffing and Management & Leadership.

The care service inspection reports for West Lothian Council's Community Care Services identified how well the local authority delivered social work services. The current grades demonstrated a positive performance and provided reassurance that the needs of the council's service users were being well met by high performing services.

It was recommended that the Panel notes the current performance grades of West Lothian Council's Community Care Services.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. SOCIAL POLICY CONTRACT ACTIVITY UPDATE

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing details of the contracting activity for the provision of care and support services for the period 1 October 2016 to 31 March 2017. Appendix 1 to the report provided details of the contracts awarded during this period.

The report recalled that under the council's Health, Care and Support Services Procurement Procedures the Head of Social Policy was required to report bi-annually to the Social Policy PDSP on the care and support contracts awarded or extended within the reporting period and any general update on contract activity. There was also a requirement to report bi-annually on contract performance.

The report detailed the Social Policy contracts which had either been awarded or amended under the guidance of the Social Policy Contracts Advisory Group. Details of the contract performance was also outlined within the report with a total of eleven providers out of a total of eighty-six attracting a risk score which required more intensive monitoring.

The Head of Social Policy then responded to questions from Panel members. In response to a question relating to the length of contracts for

Mental Health Supported Accommodation, the Head of Social Policy advised that contracts would normally be negotiated for a longer period however, due to a redesign process being carried out of Mental Health Services, one year contracts had been agreed at this time. The Head of Social Policy undertook to provide elected members with an update following the meeting.

The Panel was asked to note the contracting activity for the provision of care and support services for the period 1 October 2016 to 31 March 2017 and recognise the ongoing development of clear contractual agreements between the council and providers of care and support services.

#### Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To note that the Head of Social Policy undertook to provide members of the Panel with an update on the Mental Health Supported Accommodation contracts following the meeting.

### 7. WORKPLAN

The Panel noted the contents of the workplan that would form the basis of the work over the coming months.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the workplan.