

MINUTE of MEETING of the HEALTH AND CARE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 20 OCTOBER 2016.

Present – Councillors Anne McMillan (Chair), John McGinty, Janet Campbell, George Paul, Frank Toner

Apologies – Councillor Mary Dickson; Mary Benson (Senior People's Forum Representative)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 6 (West Lothian IJB Minute) – Councillor Frank Toner declared a non-financial interest in that he was the former Chair of the IJB.

2. MINUTE

The Panel confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 25 August 2016. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. NHS LoTHIAN HEALTH BOARD MINUTE

A report had been circulated by the Depute Chief Executive to which was attached the Minute of the NHS Lothian Board meeting held on 22 June 2016.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and Minute

4. WEST LoTHIAN INTEGRATED JOINT BOARD MINUTES

A report had been circulated by the Depute Chief Executive to which was attached the Minute of West Lothian Integrated Joint Board meeting held on 31 May 2016.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and Minute

5. REPORT ON PROJECT SEARCH

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing an update on the implementation of Project Search which was a work-based training programme for young people with a learning disability or autism from the West Lothian area.

The Head of Social Policy explained that Project Search was an

innovative employability partnership for young people aged 16 to 24 with learning disabilities and/or autism which prepared students for competitive integrated employment. The West Lothian Partnership, based in Livingston, involved Jabil, an electronic produce solutions company, West Lothian College and West Lothian Council. Jabil was the first manufacturing company in Europe to be involved in Project Search.

Nine young people had joined the programme on 29 August 2016. The students had originally made an application through West Lothian College and the selection process included an assessment of numeracy and literacy skills, along with a range of practical exercises and a final interview at Jabil.

In preparation for the August start, students took part in a two-week summer school which focused on developing confidence, independent travel skills, health and safety in the workplace, creating personal profiles and visits to Jabil to make introductions to staff. An information evening was also held for parents and carers to highlight how young people could be supported through the programme. Sessions were also held for Jabil staff throughout the summer to raise awareness of learning disabilities and autism in preparation for welcoming the students into the workplace.

The nine students would be based full-time over 5 days on the Jabil site and would have the chance to carry out three job rotations during the college academic year. The rotations would enable students to experience a range of employment opportunities, build skills, develop social understanding and gain a college qualification.

The aim of Project Search was to secure paid employment for young people at the end of the programme and students would be supported throughout the year to achieve that goal.

Plans were also being made to develop a Project Search Business Liaison Group with representation from other local businesses who would be able to identify skills in demand and may also be able to recruit Project Search students in the future.

The report concluded that Project Search was a new and innovative approach which supported people from West Lothian with a learning disability or autism to gain employment and so far feedback from the programme had been very positive.

It was recommended that the Panel note the progress of Project Search.

Decision

- 1) Noted the contents of the report;
- 2) Recorded a note of thanks to all the partners involved in bringing about the initiative; and
- 3) Agreed that a further update be provided to a future meeting of the Panel.

6. THE ROLE OF CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER GUIDANCE ISSUED BY SCOTTISH MINISTERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 5(1) OF THE SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT 1968

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy advising of the revised guidance on the role of the Chief Social Work Officer issued by Scottish Ministers.

The guidance, a copy of which was attached to the report at Appendix 1, provided an overview of the Chief Social Work Officer's role and outlined the responsibility for values and standards, decision making and leadership. The guidance also covered accountability and reporting arrangements.

The guidance was for local authorities and would also be of use to bodies and partnerships to which local authorities had delegated social work functions. Local authorities must have regard to the guidance when carrying out their functions under the 1968 Act. The guidance also summarised the minimum scope of the role of the Chief Social Work Officer.

The guidance was intended to :-

- a) Support local authorities in the effective discharge of responsibilities for which they were democratically elected;
- b) Help local authorities maximise the role of the Chief Social Work Officer and the value of their professional advice – both strategically and professionally;
- c) Provide advice on how best to support the role so that the Chief Social Work Officer could be effective in their role both within the local authority and in regard to other entities, such as Community Planning Partnerships, whilst recognising that local authorities operated with different management and organisational structures and in different partnership landscapes;
- d) Assist Integration Joint Boards to understand the Chief Social Work Officer role in the context of integration of health and social care brought in through the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014;
- e) Be read alongside the wide range of guidance relevant to social work functions of local authorities and relevant guidance issued by the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014; and
- f) Be sufficiently generic to remain relevant in the event of future management or organisational structural change.

The Panel then heard the Head of Social Policy confirm that West Lothian Council was fully compliant with the guidance.

It was recommended that the Panel note the revised guidance on the role

of Chief Social Work Officer which was issued by Scottish Ministers on 15 July 2016.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

7. NEW SUPPORTED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing an update on the development at Rosemount Gardens in Bathgate, which was a new supported housing facility for older people.

The Head of Social Policy explained that Rosemount Gardens was a new build supported housing complex in Mid Street, Bathgate situated close to an existing sheltered housing complex in Rosemount Court. Now fully completed, having been handed over to the council on 3 May 2016, it offered 30 new tenancies for older people in an ideal location close to Bathgate town centre. The building had been designed to be fully accessible and dementia friendly offering an ideal opportunity for the promotion of independent living.

Meanwhile the existing sheltered housing complex in Rosemount Court was currently undergoing extensive refurbishment which had been achieved by decanting tenants from Rosemount Court to Rosemount Gardens whilst refurbishment works were ongoing.

The Head of Social Policy continued that with Rosemount Gardens being situated very close to Rosemount Court and Jane Place this had provided an ideal opportunity to adopt a more streamlined and flexible approach to the use of staff resources across all three provisions. And that the service model had been designed to ensure that staff could work flexibly across all three sites, offering economies of scale and ensure that tenants in all three complexes could benefit from additional investment.

The Panel were further advised that the tenancies within the new build had now all been allocated via the council's sheltered housing allocations policy. Also tenants who were decanted from Rosemount Court had been given the opportunity to take up a permanent residency within Rosemount Gardens should they wish thus avoiding the disruption of a second move.

The report concluded that the development of Rosemount Gardens in conjunction with a new model of support enabled older people to live independently in the community with the opportunity for an improved quality of life both now and in future years.

It was recommended that the Panel note the investment in supported housing for older people and the progress made in developing a purpose built facility and model of support which had the potential to maximise independence and choice.

Decision

- 1) Noted the contents of the report; and
- 2) Noted the good work being done in the community to provide flexible care for older people.

8. OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY INFORMATION DAY

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy advising of a public information event to promote occupational therapy (OT) services to members of the public during National OT Week.

Occupational Therapy was a health and social care profession regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council. Occupational Therapy took a whole-person approach to both mental and physical health and well-being, enabling individuals to achieve their full potential. OT provided practical support to enable people to facilitate recovery and overcome any barriers that prevented them from doing activities (occupations).

OT teams operated within both community and acute sectors and in West Lothian there was a well-established partnership approach to joint working with benefits in efficiency and sharing good practice.

The joint OT teams were planning to hold an open day to promote the service to members of the public. This would incorporate "Soapbox" presentations, OT specific stalls, covering subjects such as Leisure, Self & Health Management, Self-Care and Work-Education and some stalls from relevant companies.

The event was planned for Tuesday 8 November from 10am to 3pm at Howden Park Centre, Livingston. It was intended to publicise the event through posters and plasma screen information in the main Health and Care Partnership Buildings. It was also hoped that members of the Panel would also give their support to the event.

The Panel were asked to :-

1. Note the OT Information Day event planned for Tuesday 8 November 2016 from 10am to 3pm in Howden Park Centre, Livingston; and
2. Encourage attendance at the event by members of the PDSP and other selected members.

Decision

- 1) Noted the contents of the report;
- 2) Noted that officers would pursue the use of all forms of social media to promote the event;
- 3) Noted that officers would send an invite to all elected members

following the conclusion of the meeting; and

- 4) Requested that officers give consideration to how best promote online access to aids and adaptations.

9. WEST LOTHIAN PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN - DIRECT ACCESS TO HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Clinical Director, West Lothian Health Services & Care Partnership advising of a new initiative to encourage the public to make better use of direct access to health and social care services.

The Panel were advised that traditionally GP practices had been the first point of contact for the public when they required access to health services with GP's being frequently asked about access to social care. In the context of a national shortage of GP's, practices were having to develop new ways of working to manage an increasing level of patient demand and ensure that scarce GP time was used appropriately.

There were numerous services that patients could access directly without going through their GP, however people were not always aware of these nor did they know how to go about it.

Therefore a poster campaign had been developed and which outlined a wide range of services that patients could access for themselves along with details on how to do this. This not only aimed to reduce the demand on GP practices but also empower the public to take care of their own health.

Attached to the report at Appendix 1 was a sample poster.

The report concluded that the poster campaign was an example of joint working supported by health and social care as well as third sector organisations such as West Lothian Leisure. The posters would be displayed in key locations throughout West Lothian such as GP practices, community pharmacies, West Lothian Leisure facilities and appropriate council facilities. In the long run it was hoped to expand the campaign using take-home leaflets and bus advertising.

It was recommended that the Panel support and help raise awareness of the campaign.

Decision

- 1) Noted the contents of the report;
- 2) Agreed agree to support the initiative, however officers were asked to consider the following suggestions :-
 - a) Give consideration to using digital and social media to promote the campaign;

- b) Make the leaflet look more professional including the use of appropriate graphics and logos;
- c) Give consideration to using the reverse of routine NHS/GP correspondence sent to patients to advertise the campaign; and
- d) Give consideration to how best to monitor the success of the campaign.

10. WORKPLAN

The Panel noted the contents of the workplan that had been prepared by the Depute Chief Executive and which would form the basis of the panel's work over the coming months.

Decision

To note the contents of the workplan