

MINUTE of MEETING of the SOCIAL POLICY, POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 30 AUGUST 2019.

Present – Councillors Angela Doran (Chair), Dave King, Sarah King, Dom McGuire and Damian Timson

Apologies – Councillor Charles Kennedy and Senior People's Forum Representative Maureen Finlay

Absent – Councillor George Paul

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair ruled that agenda item 6 would be considered before agenda item 5.

3 MINUTE

The panel approved the minute of its meeting held on 17 May 2019 as a correct record. The Chair thereafter signed the minute.

4 TRANSFORMING YOUR COUNCIL REVIEW OF ADULT DAY CARE (INCLUDING COMMUNITY TRANSPORT) (SJ1A) AND EFFICIENCIES IN THE PROVISION OF CONCESSIONARY LEARNING DISABILITY AND PHYSICAL DISABILITY TRANSPORT (SJ1E)

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing an update on the progress of the measures associated with the Transforming Your Council (TYC) review of adult day care and the provision of concessionary transport for adults with a disability.

The council's agreed revenue budget strategy for the five years 2018/19 to 2022/23 included a revised measure to review adult day care services. The review would cover a number of elements, and engagement work with stakeholders was ongoing to help inform the review. Appendix 1 to the report contained the integrated impact assessment completed prior to the review.

Officers clarified that the engagement exercise was a targeted process which utilised a number of approaches and confirmed that alternative proposals that might emerge from the engagement process, especially in

relation to material changes, would be given due consideration.

Further development was required regarding Community Transport and Ancillary Support services, while officers also proposed to redesign the model for concessionary transport, allowing savings to be delivered without impacting on quality of service. Officers reassured members that individual transport needs would always be met.

Finally, the report indicated that the outcome of the review would be reported at budget setting in early 2020.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note that the Council at its budget setting meeting on 13 February 2018 had agreed to a measure (SJ1a) to review adult day care services with a saving of £755,000 to be delivered in 2020/21 and further note that the phasing had been amended at the budget setting meeting on 19 February 2019;
2. Note that the Council at its budget setting meeting on 13 February 2018 had agreed to a measure (SJ1e) for efficiencies in the provision of concessionary learning disability and physical disability transport with a saving of £41,000 to be delivered in 2020/21;
3. Note that the Council directed officers to present proposals for both measures to the Social Policy PDSP and Council Executive;
4. Note that following the TYC consultation in 2017, the revised model for adult day care required to be based on the retention of the three existing day care centres; and
5. Note that engagement with day care service users was being undertaken and that this would be used to inform the Integrated Impact Assessment.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To agree the recommendations that would be presented to a future meeting of Council Executive.

5 CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY FOR ADULT NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL CARE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing an update on the implementation of the contributions policy for adult non-residential social care as well as details of proposed revisions to the policy as a result of the annual policy review.

The report indicated that the council had introduced its new contributions policy in October 2018, and service users who had been assessed as

having to make a contribution towards their package of care had been invoiced. This had resulted in a number of enquiries from service users, which had been dealt with in line with the agreed policy and procedures and West Lothian Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy.

Following feedback from officers, benchmarking with other authorities and engagement with service users, the Contributions Policy approved in September 2018 had been reviewed and proposed changes were marked on the version in Appendix 2. The equality impact assessment undertaken at the time of policy development was shown in Appendix 1.

During discussion, members were reassured that service users requesting to have elements of their care reduced were appropriately assessed to ensure any risks to them were eliminated.

In response to a query, it was noted that full benchmarking information against other local authorities with regard to contributions for adult non-residential social care services could be found in Appendix 1 to the *Contributions Policy for Non-Residential Social Care Services* report submitted to Council Executive on 11 September 2018.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note that on 14 May 2019, full council resolved that officers should provide a report to Social Policy PDSP to outline the uptake of the policy as well as the range of mitigating measures in place to ensure people were not entering into poverty as a result of the policy;
2. Note and consider the recommended revisions to the policy in section D.6 of the report, which was intended to be submitted to Council Executive for approval; and
3. Note and consider the recommendation in relation to the date of the annual review of the policy in section D.7 of the report, which was intended to be submitted to Council Executive for approval.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To agree the recommendations that would be presented to a future meeting of Council Executive for approval.

6 CARE INSPECTORATE INSPECTIONS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVICES

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy informing members of the inspection grades achieved by Children & Family services during the period April 2018 to March 2019.

The report indicated that the Care Inspectorate work aimed to improve the

quality of care services. The contents and areas of focus of a typical visit were then set out and it was noted that inspection visits could be unannounced.

The quality inspection reports from the Care Inspectorate of Services for Children and Young People showed that of all areas assessed, 100% had been awarded grades of 3 (Adequate) or above with 37% awarded grade 5 (Very Good). Appendix 1 to the report contained an overview of the grades achieved by Children & Family services over the past year following inspections.

It was recommended that the Panel note the performance of Children and Families Services inspected by the Care Inspectorate between April 2018 and March 2019 and recognise the high standards and positive inspection reports achieved.

The panel congratulated Children & Family services on the high standard of their work and the positive results achieved at inspection.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7 NATIONAL STATISTICS PUBLICATION: CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORK STATISTICS SCOTLAND 2017/18

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy advising members of the National Statistics Publication *Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland 2017/18*.

The *Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland* Bulletin, attached to the report as an appendix, highlighted that in many aspects the figures for West Lothian did not vary greatly from the national averages. West Lothian had adopted an early intervention and prevention approach and continued to work with partners to ensure that children and young people had the best start in life and were ready to succeed.

It was recommended that the Panel:

1. Note the Scottish national statistics in relation to:
 - looked after children and young people
 - child protection and
 - young people in secure care; and
2. Note the performance of West Lothian Council in comparison to national figures.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

8 2018/19 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - MONTH 12 MONITORING REPORT

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing an update on the financial performance of the Social Policy portfolio for the General Fund Revenue budget.

The position for the Social Policy portfolio was an underspend of £1.956 million and was part of the overall outturn position for 2018/19 which had been reported to Council Executive on 25 June 2019.

The overall position reflected the very challenging financial position the council was facing after many years of funding constraints and requirements to make significant savings with demand for services continuing to grow. Specifically for the Social Policy portfolio, there were key risks around the ability to meet growing demands for care provision in the challenging economic environment due to demographic growth and price pressures, both of which were well in excess of the current rate of inflation.

Finally, it was noted that the council's risk-based approach to budget monitoring would ensure that effective action was taken to manage risks during the course of the financial year. Officers would continue to provide updates on risks as part of the quarterly budget monitoring reporting to Council Executive.

It was recommended that the Panel:

1. Note the financial performance of the Social Policy portfolio for 2018/19;
2. Note that the Social Policy portfolio position for the year formed part of the outturn reported to Council Executive on 25 June 2019; and
3. Note any actions required to be taken by Heads of Service and budget holders to manage spend within available resources.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

9 WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.

