

MINUTE of MEETING of the SOCIAL POLICY, POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 26 FEBRUARY 2021.

Present – Councillors Angela Doran-Timson (Chair), George Paul, Tom Conn, Damian Doran-Timson, Charles Kennedy, Dom McGuire and Moira Shemilt

Apologies – Maureen Finlay (Senior People's Forum Representative)

The Chair welcomed Susan Mitchell, who would be taking up the role of Senior Manager Children and Families within Social Policy, to the meeting.

1        DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2        MINUTES

The panel confirmed the minute of its meeting held on 15 January 2021 as a correct record, subject to adding Councillor Tom Conn as 'present' in the sederunt.

3        DOMESTIC ABUSE UPDATE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) and presentation by the Head of Social Policy providing an update on the key issues surrounding domestic abuse in West Lothian.

It was recommended that the panel note the situation and actions being undertaken in response to domestic abuse during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

4        NEW INCLUSION AND SUPPORT SERVICE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy and the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) providing an update on a new Inclusion and Support Service, which brought together teams from within Education Services and Social Policy to enable a holistic approach to early intervention and support for young people and their families.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note that the new management structure is now operational; and

2. Note that the new service is due to become operational from 19 April 2021.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5      THE COMMUNITY ORDERS (CORANAVIRUS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2021

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing an update on The Community Orders (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2021.

It was recommended that the panel note the pending actions being considered by Scottish Government in response to pressures on the Scottish Courts and Criminal Justice Services across Scotland.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6      MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy informing members of the referrals currently being received by the Wellbeing Recovery Group and the partnership with CAMHS.

It was recommended that the panel note the partnership work that had been undertaken by partners in West Lothian to support the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7      PERFORMANCE REPORT

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing an update on the current level of performance for the quarterly indicators up to quarter 3 of 2020-21 that supported the Corporate Plan and were the responsibility of Social Policy and reportable to the Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel.

It was recommended that the panel note the performance information and determine if further action or enquiry was necessary for any of the performance indicators in the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8      WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.