

MINUTE of MEETING of the SOCIAL POLICY, POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING, on 4 JUNE 2021.

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

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

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTES

The panel confirmed the minute of its meeting held on 26 February 2021 as a correct record.

3. ORGANISATIONAL DUTY OF CANDOUR ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing an update on the annual Duty of Candour report. The report detailed the number and nature of incidents to which the Duty of Candour procedure had been applied in relation to the Council's Social Work services.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note the contents of the Duty of Candour Annual Report for 2020/21, which was intended to be submitted to the Council Executive for approval; and
2. Note that there had been no incidents which triggered requirements under the Duty.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report.
2. To agree that the report and its recommendations be forwarded to the next appropriate Council Executive for approval.

4. NATIONAL STATISTICS PUBLICATION - CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORK STATISTICS SCOTLAND 2019/20

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy advising of the National Statistics Publication, Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland 2019/20.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Notes the Scottish national statistics in relation to:

- looked after children and young people;
- child protection; and
- young people in secure care

2. Notes the performance of West Lothian Council in comparison to national figures.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5. TRANSFORMING YOUR COUNCIL MEASURE SJ5B - REMODEL HOUSING WITH CARE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy informing of the updated proposal of the remodelling of Housing with Care (HWC) ahead of the start of the engagement period with tenants and key stakeholders.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note that the Council at its budget setting meeting on 13 February 2018 agreed to measure (SJ5b) to remodel the HWC provision with a saving of £693,000 over the three year period from 2020/21 to 2022/23;
2. Note that the saving of £693,000 was re-phased at the budget meeting on 19 February 2019 to be delivered over the two years 2021/22 and 2022/23;
3. Note that the measure was delegated to officers to deliver as an operational measure; and
4. Note that engagement with tenants and key stakeholders was required before moving to implementation.

Decision

To note the terms 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 an update on contracting activity for the provision of care and support services for the period 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note the contacting activity for the provision of care and support services for the period 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021; and
2. Recognise the ongoing development of clear contractual agreements between the council and providers of care and support services.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7. PERFORMANCE REPORT - ANNUAL INDICATORS

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy reporting the current level of performance for the annual indicators which support the Corporate Plan and were the responsibility of Social Policy and reportable to the 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. SOCIAL POLICY MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021/22

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy informing of the contents of the Social Policy Management Plan 2021 - 2022.

It was recommended that the panel note the details of the Social Policy Management Plan 2021 - 2022.

The Head of Social Policy presented the report and offered to provide progress reports on the activities detailed therein. The panel confirmed such reports should be added to the workplan.

Decision

1. To note the content of the report; and
2. To request that progress reports on activities detailed in the Management Plan were added to the workplan.

9. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

1. To note the workplan
2. To note the request that progress reports on activities detailed in the Management Plan were added to the workplan.