

MINUTE of MEETING of the SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, on 18 AUGUST 2022.

Present – Councillors Danny Logue (Chair), Pauline Clark, Tom Conn, Veronica Smith and Kirsteen Sullivan (substituting for Ann Davidson)

Apologies – Councillors Ann Davidson, Angela Doran-Timson and Anne McMillan

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 5 - National Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy Consultation Response

Councillor Danny Logue stated a connection as an employee of NHS Lothian.

2. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: ROOTS PROJECT

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Head of Social Policy providing an overview of the mental health landscape in West Lothian for children, young people and families. The report also included information on the Roots Partnership offered within the mental health framework.

Two presentations accompanied the report, the first of which covered the Mental Health and Wellbeing Services Roots Partnership. Information was provided on The Children and Young People's Mental Health Taskforce with an overview of the Services and Supports framework. Also detailed within the presentation was information on; both national and local drivers for change to mental health and wellbeing services, the local picture in West Lothian, response and developments, the Inclusion and Support Service (ISS) delivery model, ISS within Social Policy and the planned next steps.

Simon McGowan, from Children 1st, provided the second presentation which included further information on the Roots Partnership. Simon detailed the background of the Partnership and their approach before advising the panel of the organisations the Roots Partnership were involved, their links within West Lothian, the benefits of the Partnership and how Roots could be accessed.

It was recommended that the panel note that:

1. there were a number of services and supports in place to support the mental health and wellbeing of our children and young people as part of core services within both Social Policy and Education and in collaboration with Third Sector partners; and

2. that services were working together to ensure that the most appropriate mental health support was provided for children, young people and their families.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and presentations.

3. NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the General Manager for Mental Health and Addictions Services providing the draft response to the National Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and inviting comment and discussion on the content of the response before progressing the response to the Council Executive on 6 September 2022 for approval to submit in line with the Scottish Government deadline of 9 September 2022.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. note the contents of the report; and
2. provide comment on the content of the draft response.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To agree that the report be presented to Council Executive for approval.

4. 2021/22 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 Work and Health portfolio.

It was recommended that the panel note:

1. the financial performance of the Social Work and Health portfolio in 2021/22;
2. that the Social Work and Health portfolio position at month 12 was part of the overall council budget position reported to Council Executive on 21 June 2022; and
3. actions to be taken by Heads of Service and budget holders to manage spend within available resources.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION - NATIONAL CARE SERVICE (SCOTLAND) BILL

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive informing of the Scottish Government's consultation on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill and seeking views on the draft consultation response included in Appendix 1 which was intended to be submitted to the Council Executive for approval.

It was recommended that the panel note that:

1. the Scottish Government was consulting on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill which made provision for the development of a National Care Service for Scotland which was anticipated to be operational by March 2026;
2. it was planned that the draft response would be submitted to the Council Executive for approval;
3. the proposals outlined within the consultation document would have significant implications for West Lothian Council and local decision making; and
4. there were many areas over which the consultation documentation provided little clarity, in particular on Finance, Human Resources implications, the role of council Elected Members and the role of the Chief Social Work Officer.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To agree that the report be submitted to Council Executive for approval.

6. 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 informing of the changes made to the contributions policy for adult non-residential social care, which required to be reviewed on an annual basis.

It was recommended that the panel note the proposed changes to the Contributions Policy which were intended to be submitted to the Council Executive for approval.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To agree that the report be submitted to Council Executive for approval.

7. PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTERLY 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 quarterly indicators up to quarter 1 of 2022-23 that supported the Corporate Plan and were the responsibility of Social Policy and reportable to the newly combined Social Work and Health 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 contents of the report.

8. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.