

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of the COUNCIL EXECUTIVE of WEST Lothian COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST Lothian CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON , on 29 JULY 2015.

Present – Councillors John McGinty (Chair), Cathy Muldoon, Frank Anderson, Tony Boyle (substituting for Angle Moohan), Tom Conn, Jim Dixon, Peter Johnston, Dave King, Danny Logue, Anne McMillan, and George Paul

Apologies – Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick and Angela Moohan

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 4 (Paediatric Services at St John's Hospital) – Councillor Peter Johnston declared a non-financial interest as a Non-Executive Director of NHS Lothian, for which a specific exclusion applied. He also declared an interest as COSLA's spokesperson for Health and Well-Being Strategic Group.

2. PAEDIATRIC SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S HOSPITAL

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Chief Executive advising of a reduction in Paediatric Services at St John's Hospital, Livingston during the summer of 2015.

The Chief Executive explained that NHS Lothian had implemented a reduced service in Paediatric Services at St John's Hospital to meet anticipated staffing pressures over July and August 2015 and which commenced on Friday 3 July 2015.

The Council had written to the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-Being and Sport in relation to the issue to convey the council's concern and opposition to this move and also to seek an assurance that the service would return to a normal and fully operational service in August.

Additionally at a meeting of the St John's Hospital Stakeholder Group on 22 July 2015, NHS Lothian were unable to provide an undertaking that regular services at the Paediatric Unit would resume again following the reduction of services which had been implemented in July 2015.

It was recommended that the Council Executive :-

1. Notes the reduction in Paediatric Services which had been operating at St John's Hospital over the summer period in 2015; and
2. Decide what action should be taken by the council in relation to the issue.

Motion

"Council Executive condemns the failure of NHS Lothian and the Scottish Government to maintain a fully functional paediatric service at St John's

Hospital over the summer and for the resultant downgrade of the service that has occurred.

Council Executive further condemns NHS Lothian and the Scottish Government for their subsequent failure to confirm the date when a normal paediatric service will resume at St John's Hospital and for their unwillingness to rule out that the downgrade of the Service at St John's Hospital will not be permanent.

Council Executive restates this position of Council that no downgrade of the Paediatric Service at St John's Hospital is acceptable, calls upon NHS Lothian and the Scottish Government to urgently confirm the date from which the full paediatric service will resume at St John's Hospital, and instructs the Chief Executive to consider options available to West Lothian Council to campaign for the retention of a full paediatric service at St John's Hospital."

- Moved by Councillor McMillan and seconded by Councillor Boyle

Amendment

"West Lothian Council SNP Group reiterates our absolute and continuing commitment to supporting the provision of 24/7 paediatric services at St. John's.

West Lothian Council SNP Group congratulates the consultants and staff working within the St. John's Children's Ward for their dedication, commitment and delivery of high quality services to the community of West Lothian.

The SNP Group notes;

- The current restriction in opening hours is a temporary move by NHS Lothian in response to their view that there is a lack of available suitably trained staff to provide a reliable "out of hours" rota.
- The current availability of staff to fill the rota is fluid with staff sickness, maternity leave and the failure to appoint to a medical staff vacancy, all contributing to compromising the available staff resource.
- NHS Lothian intends to assess the viability of the "out of hours" rota in the first week of August.
- The NHS Lothian Board will discuss a paper on St. John's paediatrics at their meeting on 5th August.

The SNP Group asserts;

1. That the 24/7 paediatric service at St John's is an essential part of the provision of appropriate medical services for the West Lothian community.

2. That fully integrated children's health and care services provide the optimum opportunity to provide sustainable long term paediatric services at St. John's.
3. That it is essential that NHS Lothian take all steps necessary to remove the current restrictions on paediatric services at St John's and to restore 24/7 paediatric services to St John's as a matter of urgency.

The SNP Group therefore call upon the Council Executive to;

1. Write to the Chief Executive of NHS Lothian to reiterate the view that 24/7 paediatric services at St. John's are essential to the well-being of the West Lothian community and that it is essential that a 24/7 service is restored as a matter of urgency and delivered in a sustainable manner.
 2. Write to the Chief Executive of NHS Lothian seeking an urgent meeting to discuss how best West Lothian's children's health and care services can be integrated and devolved to the West Lothian Health and Care Partnership.
 3. Write to West Lothian's MSP's and MP's seeking their support for points 1 and 2.
- Moved by Councillor Johnston and seconded by Councillor Anderson

It was agreed that a roll call vote be taken which resulted as follows :-

Motion

Tom Conn

Jim Dixon

Dave King

Danny Logue

John McGinty

Anne McMillan

Tony Boyle

Cath Muldoon

George Paul

Decision

Following a vote the motion was successful by 9 votes to 2 and it was agreed accordingly.

Amendment

Frank Anderson

Peter Johnston

