

Social Services Committee  
16 January 2007

**IRVINE, 16 January 2007** - At a Meeting of the Social Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

Alan Munro, Margaret Munn, John Bell, Ian Clarkson, Margie Currie, Jane Gorman, Jean Highgate, Alan Hill, Margaret McDougall, Elisabeth Marshall, John Moffat, David O'Neill, Samuel Taylor and Nan Wallace.

**In Attendance**

I. Snodgrass (Chief Executive); S. Paterson, Head of Service (Children, Families and Criminal Justice) and S. Gault, Head of Service (Community Care) (Social Services); A. Grossart, Finance Manager (Finance); J. Stevenson, Communications Officer and M. McKeown, Corporate Support Officer (Chief Executive's).

**Chair**

Councillor Munro in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Jack Carson and Drew Duncan.

**1. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 November 2006, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

**2. Revenue Budget 2006/07: Budgetary Control**

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the budgetary control position for Social Services at the end of November 2006, and on projections to the end of financial year 2006/07.

Taking account of adjustments made during the financial year, the budget for Social Services at the end of November 2006 was £56,933,000 compared to the original budget of £57,765,000. The report summarised variances and highlighted budgetary pressures. Projections based on the position at the end of November, indicate a potential overspend in Social Services of £312,000 by the end of the financial year.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the position at the end of November 2006 and the year end projections; and (b) that the Corporate Director (Social Services) continue to take action to bring the budget back on target by the financial year end.

### **3. National Quality Standards for Substance Misuse Services**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on new National Standards for Substance Misuse Services published by the Scottish Executive in September 2006.

The new Standards are expected to improve the consistency and quality of Substance Misuse Service provision in Scotland and will form the foundation of a framework that is intended to enable service providers to examine and continuously improve their service delivery and accountability, as well as assist service commissioners to make evidence-based funding decisions. The Standards will provide a benchmark for the level of quality that should be consistently reached for all services working with substance misusers, and will inform service users, their families, or their authorised representatives, of what they should expect from the services they wish to access, and what will be expected of them.

It is intended that all Alcohol and Drugs Action Teams across Scotland and service commissioners will incorporate the new Standards into their monitoring arrangements. A monitoring framework to support the implementation of the new Standards is being developed by the Executive. Meantime, North Ayrshire Council Addition Services have developed an Action Plan against which progress towards meeting the 11 Quality Standards will be monitored.

The Committee agreed to approve the actions being taken to respond to the introduction of the National Quality Standards.

### **4. South West Scotland Community Justice Authority**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on the progress of the South West Scotland Community Justice Authority.

The South West Scotland Community Justice Authority is a strategic policy and monitoring body set up to look at ways of reducing re-offending. The core partners are East, South and North Ayrshire Councils, Dumfries and Galloway Council, and the Scottish Prison Services. Statutory partners include Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary, Strathclyde Police, Ayrshire and Arran and Dumfries and Galloway Health Boards, the Procurator Fiscal Service, Scottish Courts Service, Victim Support for Scotland and representatives from the voluntary sector. Participation in the South West Scotland Community Justice Authority has to date been restricted to the core partners although plans are in place to ensure representation from statutory partners at future meetings. The public will also have access to meetings.

One of the initial requirements of the Authority was to prepare an Area Plan which sets out how core and statutory partners will work together and agree joint objectives to reduce re-offending. A draft Area Plan was submitted to, and approved by, the Authority in September 2006, prior to submission to the National Advisory Board.

From April 2007, the Scottish Executive will provide funding to the Authority for the provision of Criminal Justice Social Work Services across the four local authority areas. The Authority will determine how the grant will be allocated. It is envisaged that the distribution of the grant monies for 2007/08 will be similar to the distribution in previous years. The funding allocation thereafter will be dependent upon priorities agreed in the Area Plan 2008/11, and potentially may have significant implications for the Council.

Noted.

## **5. Youth Strategy Services Sessional Mentor Project**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on the award of Approved Provider Standard to the Sessional Mentor Project.

The Sessional Mentor Project was established in January 2003 to promote the involvement of vulnerable young people between 12-16 years of age, in a variety of leisure, cultural and sporting activities within their local communities. In particular the Project assists those young people who are at risk of being looked after, and in particular those young people affected by social and economic factors and exclusion from school.

The Sessional Mentoring Project has now been successful in securing Approved Provider Standard. This is a national award supported by the Home Office and the Department for Education and Skills which recognises good practice by organisations who provide one-to-one mentoring or befriending services. The Project is one of only 7 mentoring projects in Scotland to receive the award.

Noted.

## **6. Services for Older People on the Island of Cumbrae**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on the outcome of the Review of Services for Older People on the Island of Cumbrae.

According to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, Millport on the island of Cumbrae falls into the 20% most deprived data zones in Scotland. The rest of the island falls into the 45% most deprived areas in Scotland.

The 2001 census showed that 31.2% of the Cumbrae population had a long-term limiting illness, which includes any long-term illness, health problem or disability that limits the daily work or activities that a person can do. The Strategic Review of Older People Services carried out in 2003, indicated that the older people population in North Ayrshire will increase by 31% by 2016. On Cumbrae, 33% of the population is over 65 which is more than twice the Scottish average and considerably higher than North Ayrshire as a whole.

Against this background a review has been carried out of all current service provision provided by Health and Social Services for older people on the Island of Cumbrae. The review sought to redesign services in a fashion that responded to current and anticipated needs of older people on the Island, changes in demography, integration of services across Health, Housing and Social Services, Scottish Executive policy, and availability of resources. A multi agency group was established to conduct the review and there was detailed consultation with stakeholders by means of an open day and a satisfaction survey.

The review has now been completed and the resulting report, a copy of which was appended, has been endorsed by the North Ayrshire Partnership for Older People. The review has identified a range of recommendations to take forward the development of services and joint working on the Island of Cumbrae, i.e.

- The establishment of a group involving Social Services, Health, Voluntary Organisations and Carers to scope the options for a joint resource to meet the need for day service, respite and continuing type care for older people.
- The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) Rural Sub Group should consider the needs for sheltered housing within the research proposed for Cumbrae during 2007.
- The provision of Care at Home services on Cumbrae be reviewed to assess the potential to increase the provision to provide rehabilitation support and respite support at home for service users and their family.
- The scope of the Health review of Lady Margaret Day Hospital provision be extended to include North Ayrshire Council Older People Service to facilitate partnership working in the development of service.
- The Elderly Mental Health Service should review the needs of older people on Cumbrae and identify gaps in service and develop options to meet unmet need.
- A joint directory of service provision should be developed and made available to older people on the Island.
- Older Peoples Services should review the position of satellite offices on the Island for staff and public.

An action plan will be developed to take forward the recommendations.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations arising from the review of services for older people on the Island of Cumbrae.

## **7. Services for Older People with Dementia**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on the progress of Montgomery Court, Kilbirnie and the redesign of community services for people with dementia.

The Strategic Review of Older People Services carried out by the Council in 2003, highlighted that the older population will increase by 31% by 2016. Prevalence rates indicate that one in four people aged 85+ will suffer from dementia and consequently, appropriate services will need to be designed to meet their specific needs. The Strategic Review identified a number of gaps in service provision to older people with dementia and their carers, including a lack of respite services and inadequate day care provision. The North Ayrshire Partnership Group has been taking forward a redesign process to meet gaps in provision. Following consultation with stakeholders, a number of areas for development have been identified i.e.

- Redesign Montgomery Court, Kilbirnie from an eighteen bed long stay residential unit to a fourteen bed dementia respite centre
- Create a respite flat for carers
- Within the centre include carer support, information and advice
- Incorporate an intermediate care outreach service to the respite centre
- Increase day service provision throughout North Ayrshire
- Develop Homecare respite with specifically trained staff
- Develop multi-disciplinary policies and procedures
- Develop care pathways
- Develop a staff training programme

Work to redesign Montgomery Court is now out to tender. It is anticipated that the tendering process will be completed by March 2007 with all necessary work completed by September 2007. Advice on the internal redesign of the building has been provided by a consultant from Stirling University.

A proposed staffing structure, which meets Care Commission standards, is in the process of being drawn up. Due to the level of dependency and specific needs, a staff training pack has also been developed in conjunction with the Dementia Training Centre at Stirling University. As part of the review, carer support groups have been extended from the North Coast and the Garnock Valley to include the Three Towns. Locality plans are in place to extend this to include Irvine/Kilwinning.

A new day service specifically for older people with dementia is being developed in Kilbirnie and will provide an additional fourteen places. It is anticipated that work will be completed on the redesign of the premises by February 2007. Other premises are being sought throughout North Ayrshire to further extend day service provision within all localities.

The overall objective of the Dementia Implementation Group is to establish a continuum of care for older people with dementia and for their carers. To ensure this objective is achieved the group will focus on the development of multi-disciplinary policies and procedures, pathways of care and criteria for service provision for the redesigned service. Carer education/training, staff training and development and carer strategy/involvement will also be included to ensure that services are delivered in a manner which reflects Best Practice.

The Committee agreed to approve the approach being taken to redesign services for older people with dementia and their carers, as set out in the report.

## **8. North Ayrshire Joint Community Care Plan**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on the requirement to produce a North Ayrshire Joint Community Care Plan (JCCP).

The North Ayrshire Joint Community Care Plan 2007-2010 sets out the current and future challenges for community care in North Ayrshire, summarises the resources available to meet these challenges, details the development and future priorities for community care services, and indicates how performance will be monitored and reported on. The Plan contains key priorities in relation to services for older people, services for people with learning disabilities, services for people with mental health difficulties, services for people affected by drug and alcohol misuse, and services for people affected by sensory impairment or physical disability.

North Ayrshire Council has the lead responsibility in producing the Joint Community Care Plan along with partners in the health service. A draft Plan has been prepared and was approved by the Joint Community Care Board in December 2006. Following a further round of consultations and final editing it is intended that the Plan will be implemented from April 2007.

The Committee agreed to endorse the approach being taken to prepare the Joint Community Care Plan 2007-2010.

The meeting ended at 3.45 p.m.