

## 2021 ECHSC 21

### THE FIFE COUNCIL - EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

30th March, 2021

10.00 a.m. – 12.05 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tony Miklinski (Convener), Ian Cameron, Bill Connor, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Andy Heer, Zoe Hisbent, Kathleen Leslie, Karen Marjoram, Lea Mclelland, David Ross, Jonny Tepp and Ann Verner. Religious representative William Imlay.

**ATTENDING:** Maria Lloyd, Head of Education and Children's Services (Secondary Schools and Specialist Support), Kathy Henwood, Head of Education and Children's Services (Children and Families and Criminal Justice Services) / Chief Social Work Officer and Suzanne McGuinness, Service Manager - Improving Outcomes, Adult Services; Education and Children's Services; Fiona Mckay, Divisional General Manager (Interim) and Cindy Graham, Service Manager, Care at Home, Health and Social Care Partnership; Helena Couperwhite, Manager - Committee Services and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Religious representatives Alastair Crockett and George Haggarty.

#### 40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of Interest were made in terms of Standing Order No. 7.1.

#### 41. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Education and Children's Services, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee meeting of 9th February, 2021.

##### Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

#### 42. CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

The Committee considered an annual report by the Chief Social Work Officer - considered by the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee at its meeting on 16th March, 2021 - providing an overview of Social Work services within Fife and reflecting on the formal statutory responsibilities of the Chief Social Work Officer.

##### Decision/

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the content of the report which outlined the role and range of functions covered by the Chief Social Work Officer;
- (2) considered and discussed aspects of Social Work provision in Fife; and
- (3) noted suggestions from members, on areas of interest for consideration in the Forward Work Programme, such as:-
  - Feeley Report - How will this impact Fife?
  - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Mental Health, including Suicide prevention, with a focus on young males
  - Individual freedom protection
  - Social Care Workforce Issues – including staffing, recruitment, pay grades, etc
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Commissioning Strategy and Performance Monitoring

**43. CHALLENGES OF PROVIDING CARE AT HOME IN FIFE**

The Committee considered a report by the Divisional General Manager (Interim), Health and Social Care, providing an overview of the challenges within care at home services across Fife - inhouse provision and external private and not for profit organisations - focusing on the work undertaken to try and mitigate the position.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report and acknowledged the continued efforts by Health and Social Care Partnership to provide high quality care at home services during the Covid-19 pandemic;
- (2) acknowledged the challenges faced by care home services, including: the number of referrals per month; waiting times for the implementation of care at home packages; difficulties in delivering services in rural areas; staffing, etc. and noted the steps taken by the Health and Social Care Partnership to prioritise and improve service provision; and
- (3) agreed that a briefing note would be circulated to members of the Scrutiny Committee providing a breakdown of costs to the Health and Social Care Partnership for the provision of care at home services from both inhouse and external care providers.

*Councillor David Ross left the meeting during consideration of the above item.*

**44./**

**44. EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee noted:

- (1) that the areas for further scrutiny detailed under Para. 42 above, would be considered for inclusion in the Education and Children's Services, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme; and
  - (2) that members contact the Manager, Committee Services, Legal and Democratic Services with suggested reports to be included on the Education Children's Services, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Forward Work Programme, which would be updated accordingly.
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