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| **THE FIFE COUNCIL -** **EDUCATION AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING** |
| **25th May, 2021** | **10.00 a.m. – 12.55 p.m.** |
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| **PRESENT:** | Councillors Tony Miklinski (Convener), Ian Cameron, Bill Connor, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Andy Heer, Kathleen Leslie, Carol Lindsay, Lea Mclelland, David Ross, Jonny Tepp, Ann Verner and William Imlay, Religious representative. |
| **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); Christine Moir, Senior Manager (Children and Families and Criminal Justice Services); Nicky Connor, Director of Health and Social Care, Fiona Mckay, Divisional General Manager (Interim), Health and Social Care; Helena Couperwhite, Manager - Committee Services and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services. |
| **ALSO ATTENDING:**  | Fiona MacKay, Age Concern Scotland.  |
| **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** | George Haggarty, Religious representative. |

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| **45.** | **Declarations of Interest** |
|  | No declarations of interest were made in terms of Standing Order No. 7.1. |
| **46.** | **Minute**  |
|  | The Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Education and Children's Services, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee of 30th March, 2021. |
|  | **Decision** |
|  | The Committee agreed to approve the minute. |
| **47.** | **Update Report on the Belong to Fife Strategy** |
|  | The Committee considered a report by the Senior Manager, Education and Children's Services providing an update on the development of the Belonging to Fife Strategy and the impact of the Strategy during 2020-21, highlighting a significant reduction in High Cost Residential Placements and providing a summary of Social Work activity in support of the Strategy. |
|  | **Decision/** |
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|  | **Decision** |
|  | The Committee:-1. considered the content of the report and congratulated the Social Work Service for the excellent progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy;
2. acknowledged that savings from a significant reduction in the use of High Cost Residential Placements had achieved a greater outcome in reconnecting children with family and community and the provision of support for those families from renewed working with partners; and
3. agreed that further areas for scrutiny highlighted by the Committee, including: the disparity in payments for Carers across the public and private sectors; recruiting Foster Carers; and training and financial support for Carers, etc, would be considered in a future report to this Committee on Social Work Workforce issues.
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| **48.** | **Impact on Social Care for Adults and Older People - application of the eligibility criteria in Fife** |
|  | The Committee considered a report by the Divisional General Manager (Interim), Health and Social Care detailing the current position in respect of the volume of assessments against the Eligibility Criteria assessed as substantial or lower as detailed within the Health and Social Care Partnership’s eligibility criteria.The Committee welcomed Fiona MacKay, Age Concern Scotland, Glenrothes branch, to the meeting. Fiona presented the Committee with an overview of the work undertaken and services provided by Age Concern, including the eligibility criteria they are required to work within. |
|  | **Decision** |
|  | The Committee:-1. thanked Fiona MacKay, Age Concern Scotland for her informative presentation and acknowledged the valuable Service provided by the organisation;
2. recognised the high demand for Social Services for Adults and Older People in Fife and noted that Service provision was largely restricted to those assessed as having critical needs and that resources were inadequate to allow full support to those assessed as having substantial/moderate/low needs;
3. noted an increase in the requirement for support from Third Sector Services and Partnership Organisations to provide critical care services and the challenges that the Services faced due to increased demand during the pandemic;

(4)/1. noted additional support was available from Services such as Occupational Therapy, Age Concern Scotland, Help Stay at Home Service, Dementia Home Support, etc, for clients assessed as moderate or low need; and
2. requested an estimated cost for the provision of an average weekly care package for a service user assessed as moderate need, in comparison with a critical care package.
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| *Councillors Leslie and Ross left the meeting during consideration of the above item.* |
| The meeting adjourned at 12.00 p.m.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_The meeting reconvened at 12.10 p.m. |
| **49.** | **Factual Briefing on Health and Social Care Management Structure** |
|  | The Committee considered a presentation by Nicky Connor, Director of Health and Social Care Partnership, outlining the improvement journey to 2024  for the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership. The presentation focused on delivering the outcomes and principles of integration and priorities in the strategic plan to improve the user’s experience of care services; a clear management structure to strengthen leadership and key service functions; aiming to be amongst the highest performing Health and Social Care Partnerships and Integration Joint Boards by 2024. |
|  | **Decision** |
|  | The Committee welcomed the informative presentation detailing the Health and Social Care Partnership’s improvement journey to 2024.   |
| **50.** | **Education and Children's Services Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme** |
|  | The Committee 1. noted the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme;
2. agreed to include an item on the ‘Feeley Report’, the impact for Fife on the Forward Work Programme for further scrutiny at a future meeting – date to be advised; and
3. requested members contact the Manager, Committee Services, Legal and Democratic Services with any other suggested reports for inclusion on the Forward Work Programme.
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