

## FIFE COUNCIL

22 JUNE 2023

### ITEM 8 – QUESTION TIME

#### Question 1 from Councillor Margaret Kennedy

In December 2019 a motion put forward by the Liberal Democrat Group secured, following amendments, unanimous support. This was in relation to the provision of CPR training for out of hospital management of Cardiac Arrest including the use of Public Access Defibrillators in all our Secondary Schools.

Whilst the impact of COVID is respected it is not clear as to how well this agreed activity has been embedded.

Can Council be advised of the following:

- Is the activity formally integrated into the curriculum?
- Are there any secondary schools where it has been introduced?
- If minimal or no progress has been made what is the proposed date for this to be fully introduced?

#### Answer

CPR Training is delivered within all our Secondary Schools within at least one year group stage through a variety of different methods including;

PSE Curriculum

Alternative Curriculum

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Young Leaders Programmes

Physical Education

Extra Curricular Activities

At present we are reviewing the delivery and content of personal and social education (PSE) in secondary schools. PSE addresses the learning outcomes within the Health and wellbeing indicators in Curriculum for Excellence. Although CPR training is not included as part of the curriculum, we will review the possibility of inclusion where possible.

We are currently in the process of gathering data with regards the use of Public Access Defibrillators in all our Secondary Schools. We hope to have this information by the end of this school session.

## **FIFE COUNCIL**

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### **ITEM 8 – QUESTION TIME**

#### Question 2 from Councillor Brian Goodall

What action has been taken by the Housing Service since the full Council meeting on 16/03/23 to address the backlog on Housing Functional Needs Assessments (HFNA)?

What is now the longest time someone has been waiting for their HFNA in Fife?

What percentage of people waiting for a HFNA in Fife have now been waiting from longer than the four week maximum waiting time set out in the Council's Housing Allocations Policy?

#### Answer

Housing Service is working hard to address the backlog issues in the Housing Functional Needs Assessment. As outlined previously there has been a focus on streamlining processes to ensure a smooth flow through for the application. Since March 2023. Managers have focussed on putting additional resources into the medical assessment process – this has been in the form of Community OT Assistants and support from Senior Practitioners (OT) in Social Work Service. There has also been additional support from the Fife Housing Register Team of Housing Officers.

The significant absences from work has significantly improved and the Housing OT's have now returned to work. (5 Staff)

The additional staff resources outlined above and streamlined processes will result in a significant improvement in performance to reduce backlogs.

The Head of Housing has initiated a service review into the Housing OT Role and this aims to complete by September 2023.

Work is underway to identify and examine systems in use by other Local Authority landlords and transplant simplified and streamlined practice into Fife with the agreement of the Fife Housing Register Partnership.

Due to the backlog in processing applications the oldest group of applications date back to October 2022. The oldest applications have been waiting for 38 weeks.

There are a very small number of applications that are slightly longer than this (late September 2022 - this is not due to processing delays. In these cases, the applicants have not responded to multiple attempts to make contact. This has always been the case with Fife Housing Register applications.

79% of applicants have been waiting longer than the Fife Housing Register target of 28 days.

The Housing Service and Housing Associations have a Fastrack process in place where Housing Allocating Officers can seek urgent updates on medical assessment when applicants are actively being considered for a vacant house or flat. By using this process, we can ensure that applicants can be considered for eligible vacancies.

The Housing Service will be providing a full report and performance update to the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

#### Supplementary

What assessment has been done on the equality impact of the ongoing delays in assessments?

#### Answer

Head of Housing has indicated a review of the service.