

**MINUTES of MEETING of SOCIAL AFFAIRS POLICY AND PERFORMANCE GROUP held in
the COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD
on MONDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2008**

- Present:** Councillor Vivien Dance (Chair)
- Councillor Anne Horn Councillor John McAlpine
Councillor David Kinniburgh Councillor James McQueen
- Attending:** Alison Younger, Area Corporate Services Manager
Douglas Hendry, Director of Community Services
Dougie Dunlop, Head of Children and Families
Donald MacVicar, Head of Planning and Performance
Kerrie Corbett, Culture and Libraries Manager
Donald MacLeod, Education Support Officer – Gaelic
Douglas Mackie, Trades Union Representative
- Apologies** Councillor Mary Jean Devon Councillor Neil Mackay
Councillor Roderick McCuish

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

2. MINUTES

- (a) **SOCIAL AFFAIRS POLICY AND PERFORMANCE GROUP 8 SEPTEMBER 2008**
The Minutes of the Social Affairs Policy and Performance Group meeting held on 8 September 2008 were approved as a correct record.

With reference to item 6 – Children’s Champion, Councillor Dance advised that she and Councillor Horn had attended a first meeting of the Working Group and hoped that a report on progress with this initiative would be brought to the PPG in February 2009.

- (b) **SOCIAL AFFAIRS POLICY AND PERFORMANCE GROUP 10 OCTOBER 2008**
The Minutes of the Social Affairs Policy and Performance Group meeting held on 10 October 2008 were approved as a correct record.

3. SOCIAL WORK GAE

A report advising of the split of expenditure and budget pressures on Social Services within Argyll and Bute and the implications of this for future policy within Social Work Services was considered.

Decision

1. To note the split of Social Work expenditure within Argyll and Bute, and that the use of Grant Aided Expenditure as a measure is unlikely to be sustainable in the future;
2. To note the wider implications of this for policy and strategy development and in particular the issue of rebalance of expenditure between Adult and Children’s

Services as highlighted by the report of the Scrutiny Review;

3. To note the budget pressures related to Older People, Learning Disability Residential Care placements for Children and Adults, Adult Protection, Respite for Adults and Children and Kinship Care (Child Care) and endorse the views expressed by Officers; and
4. To recommend to the Executive that the budget pressures identified within the report be considered as a matter of urgency and as a priority by the Council during the budget process.

(Reference: Joint report by Head of Adult Care and Head of Children and Families, submitted)

4. SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY

A report advising on progress with the Action Plan produced in response to recommendations made by the Social Work Inspection Agency following their inspection of the Social Work Services in Argyll and Bute between February and June 2007 was considered.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report and recognise the hard work and success that staff have achieved in delivering the changes to this Service; and
2. To note that the outcome of the SWIA follow up visit in January 2009 will be reported to the PPG at its meeting on 10 February 2009.

(Reference: Report by Head of Adult Care, submitted)

5. FREE PERSONAL CARE

The Council meeting of 28 June 2006 agreed to utilise the sum of £700,000 from the "free" element of the General Fund reserve towards the care of the elderly over a three period to deliver reductions in delayed discharges and waiting times for the provision of Free Personal Care. A report highlighting the utilisation of the last tranche of these monies, and the consequential budget pressure on Free Personal Care Services for 2009/10 was considered.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and ongoing budget pressures to recognise and welcome progress in the reduction of numbers in terms of clients waiting for care packages and to congratulate staff for the work undertaken to achieve these results.

(Reference: Report by Head of Adult Care, submitted)

6. CORPORATE PARENTING

It was agreed at the PPG meeting on 14 January 2008 to bring a report analysing the National Statistics in relation to Corporate Parenting to this meeting with the intention of benchmarking progress within Argyll and Bute to the position across the country. The

Head of Children Families advised that the statistics have not as yet been released by the Government and it was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting of the PPG on 10 February 2009

(Reference: Report by Head of Children and Families, submitted)

7. SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY DISABILITY

The PPG considered a report which provided an up date in relation to the development of services for Children Affected by Disability within the authority.

Decision

1. To note the progress made in relation to key aspects of the strategy to support children affected by disability and their families; and
2. To note the priority areas identified for further development in the coming year, and the ongoing budget pressures.

(Reference: Report by Head of Children and Families, submitted)

8. GAELIC STRATEGY

A report advising on progress with the production of the Gaelic Language Strategy was before the Group for consideration.

Decision

1. To acknowledge the hard work and long hours staff have put in to revise the Gaelic Language Strategy; and
2. To note that the draft Gaelic Language Strategy will now be brought to the PPG in May 2009 for consideration.

(Reference: Report by Education Support Officer, tabled)

9. ARMED FORCES VISITS TO SCHOOLS

A report advising of the initial steps which have been taken in implementation of a decision of the Council on 2 October 2008 and the further actions which will be pursued in relation to visits to schools by the Armed Forces was considered.

Decision

To note the current position and that a further, more detailed paper will be brought to the PPG on 10 February 2009.

(Reference: Report by Director of Community Services dated 6 November 2008, submitted)

10. BEST VALUE REVIEW - CULTURE AND LIBRARIES

A report outlining progress made in the Best Value Review of Culture and Libraries was

considered.

Decision

1. To approve the interim conclusions and redirection of the service as detailed in the report;
2. To note that a final report, following completion of the review and external assessment of the 5 Public Library Quality Improvement Indicators, will be brought to the PPG on 11 May 2009;
3. To note that the Chair will contact the Chair of the Economy PPG to ascertain what the Economy PPG were doing in terms of tourism and marketing in Argyll and Bute and the links to culture.

(Reference: Report by Culture and Libraries Manager dated 29 October 2008, submitted)

11. PIS FOR EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The Community Services Quarterly Report for 1 July – 30 September 2008 was before the Group for consideration. The Head of Planning and Performance highlighted key points within the report and responded to various questions from Members.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To note that Community Services were in the process of preparing Performance Balanced Scoreboards for Pyramid which will be kept at a level which will be easy to understand and that hopefully by May 2009 the PPG would be able to scrutinise Service performance indicators in this way.

(Reference: Community Services Quarterly Report 1 July – 30 September 2008, submitted)

12. SOCIAL AFFAIRS WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2009

The current work programme for the Social Affairs PPG and proposed work programme with suggested dates for meetings in 2009 was considered.

Decision

1. To agree the work programme for 2009 as detailed in the appendix attached to this minute and that the PPG will meet on the following dates during 2009:-

Tuesday 10 February 2009 at 11.00 am

Monday 11 May 2009 at 10.00 am

Monday 10 August 2009 at 10.00 am

Monday 9 November 2009 at 11.00 am

2. To note that there may be a special meeting of the PPG called in January 2009 to consider a response to the Vision for Vale of Leven Hospital consultation document

which was launched on 31 October 2008 by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and seeking comments by 31 January 2009.

(Reference: Work Programme 2008 and Proposed Work Programme for 2009, submitted)