
Report To: Health & Social Care Committee **Date:** 14 March 2018

Report By: Corporate Director (Chief Officer)
Inverclyde Health & Social Care
Partnership **Report No:** SW/25/2018/JC

Contact Officer: Jane Cantley **Contact No:** 01475 711711

Subject: Interim Minute of Agreement for Social Work Standby Services

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval in terms of Standing Order 23.3 to participate in a non-exempt collaborative agreement with Glasgow City Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, Renfrewshire Council and West Dunbartonshire Council and for delegated authority to be given to the Head of Legal & Property Services to negotiate and enter into the Minute of Agreement for Social Work Standby Services.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 Social Work Standby (Glasgow and Partners Emergency Social Work Service) has provided an out of hours emergency statutory social work service for a number of years. The existing agreement terminates on 31 March 2018.

2.2 Over the last few years a number of different local authorities have left the service to set up their own emergency social work provision and as such a new agreement is required with the remaining local authority members.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Health & Social Care Committee:

- i. Approves, in terms of Standing Order 23.3, the Council's participation in the collaborative agreement with Glasgow City Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, Renfrewshire Council and West Dunbartonshire Council; and
- ii. Delegates authority to the Head of Legal & Property Services to negotiate and enter into the Minute of Agreement for Social Work Standby Services

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Following Local Government re-organisation in 1996, Glasgow City Council Social Work Standby provided an out of hours emergency statutory social work service for the West of Scotland Local authorities. Since then, a number of local authorities withdrew from the arrangement to set up their own emergency social work provision. This reduced the actual business of the service and as a result the service was redesigned in 2014 to ensure continued effectiveness and sustainability of the service. It then became known as Glasgow and Partners Emergency Social Work Service (GPESW). The Lead Authority in terms of the current agreement is Glasgow City Council (HSCP).
- 4.2 In 2015 Sir Lewis Ritchie published his national review of out of hours services for people in Scotland. As a consequence of this, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde instigated a review of local Out of Hours services (Social Work, GP and Mental Health) in order to integrate multiple service arrangements into a more streamlined and efficient out of hours provision. A national review of social care out of hours service was also initiated by Iona Colvin, Chief Social Work Adviser, Scottish Government in 2017. In 2017, notification was given to each of the partner HSCPs and local authorities to terminate the existing Out of Hours contract as it was agreed by Chief Officers that Social Work Standby Services would be considered as part of the integrated Out of Hours Review. A new interim contract and service level agreement have been developed by GPESW to take account of current arrangements and allow for account to be taken of the broader out of hours review when it is completed.
- 4.3 The work of Social Work Standby Service is overseen by a Joint Users Group which includes members from each participating local authority. The service deals with referrals which are too urgent to wait for the involvement of the Member local authority's social work services the next working day. Referrals can be made by members of the public, external agencies or by day time services on an alert basis. Interventions may include child protection investigations, assessments of adults at risk and formal mental health assessments under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 if required. The Service will also operate the Appropriate Adults Service on behalf of Inverclyde. The role of the appropriate adult is to help vulnerable people to understand what is happening during contact with the police and includes facilitating communication in the police interview process for those deemed as requiring the service.
- 4.4 The new minute of agreement is among the member authorities of Glasgow City Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, East Renfrewshire Council, Inverclyde Council, Renfrewshire Council, and West Dunbartonshire Council and will ensure effective delivery of out of hours Social Work Services until 1 October 2019.

4.5 Agreement dates

The Interim Standby Agreement will commence on 1 April 2018 and will continue until 1 October 2019. This timescale allows the partners to take account of the outcome of the broader out of hours review. The agreement is renewable six monthly after this date.

- 4.5 Inverclyde HSCP has a statutory duty to provide an emergency Social Work service out of hours and the current arrangement is coming to an end. The Council in terms of Section 58 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 may enter into a collaboration agreement with any other Local Authority to carry out any service on its behalf. The new interim contract and service level agreement developed by GPESW takes account of current arrangements and allows for account to be taken of the broader out of hours review when it is completed.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 5.1 There are no financial implications related to this proposal. Costs will be met from within HSCP budget.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A	Standby Service	1 April 2018	143		

Legal

- 5.2 A new interim contract is being developed and shared with the five partner HSCPs/local authorities.

Human Resources

- 5.3 There are no HR implications related to this proposal.

Equalities

- 5.4 The proposals contained in this report place due regard on equality duties.

Repopulation

- 5.5 There are no repopulation implications related to this proposal.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Head of Legal & Property Services, the Corporate Procurement Manager and the Chief Financial Officer have been consulted on this report.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 N/A.