

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 5 JANUARY 2023

Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 5 January 2023 at 3.00pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Brooks, Cassidy, Daisley, Jackson, McCluskey, Quinn, Reynolds and Robertson.

Chair: Councillor Jackson presided.

In attendance: Mr A Stevenson (for Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership), Head of Finance, Planning & Resources (Inverclyde HSCP), Interim Head of Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services, Ms L Moore, (Chief Nurse, Inverclyde HSCP), Service Manager Quality & Development (Inverclyde HSCP), Interim Head of Property Services, Ms M Kiers (Finance Services), Mr D Keenan (for Head of Legal & Democratic Services), Ms D Sweeney, Ms L Carrick and Mr P MacDonald (Legal & Democratic Services) and Mr PJ Coulter (Corporate Communications).

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Brennan, Daisley, Quinn and Robertson attending by video-conference.

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Panel.

1 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

1

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Provost McKenzie.

No declarations of interest were intimated, but certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:

Agenda Item 5 (Bagatelle Report – Social Work & Social Care Oversight – December 2022) – Councillor Brooks.

Agenda item 8 (Reporting by Exception – Governance of HSCP Commissioned External Organisations) – Councillors Cassidy and McCluskey.

2 Revenue & Capital Budget Report – Revenue Outturn Position as at 31 October 2022

2

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership and the Head of Finance, Planning & Resources, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, on the projected outturn on revenue and capital for 2022/23 as at 31 October 2022.

Decided:

- (1) that the projected current year revenue outturn of a £1.202million underspend at 31 October 2022, as detailed at paragraphs 4.1 to 4.12 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that the projected capital position, as detailed at paragraphs 5.1 to 5.4 of the report, be noted;
- (3) that the current earmarked reserves position, as detailed in paragraphs 6.1 to 6.3 of the report, be noted;
- (4) that the recommendation to the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board to earmark the underspends, as detailed at section 4 of the report, be noted; and
- (5) that the virements, as detailed in appendix 6 of the report, be noted.

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 5 JANUARY 2023

- 3 National Care Service 3**
- Mr Stevenson provided a verbal report on the current position regarding the implementation of the National Care Service (NCS) and advised that there had been no significant developments since the update provided to the previous meeting.
Decided: that the verbal report be noted.
- 4 Care Home Assurance Tool Themes and Trends Report – Social Work & Social Care Oversight – December 2022 4**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership advising of emerging themes and trends identified from care assurance visits to the 21 Care Homes within Inverclyde in late 2021 which highlight good practice and areas for improvement.
Decided: that the contents of the report and proposed actions, as detailed at paragraph 4.9 of the report, be noted.
- 5 Bagatelle Report – Social Work & Social Care Oversight – December 2022 5**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership summarising the outcome of a debriefing session which was held following a fire at Bagatelle Court sheltered housing complex on 12 August 2022.
 Mr A Stevenson (for Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership) provided a verbal update that, at the time of the meeting, 11 families remained displaced from Bagatelle Court.
 Councillor Brooks declared a connection in this item as a Member of the Board of River Clyde Homes. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision-making process and was declaring for transparency.
Decided:
 (1) that the contents of the report and proposed actions, as detailed at paragraph 4.1 of the report, be noted; and
 (2) that the Panel's appreciation be conveyed to all staff involved in the response to the incident.
- 6 Children & Families Performance Refresh 6**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing context to figures contained within the Inverclyde Council Annual Performance Report 2021/22, a copy of which was appended to the report, relating to (a) the percentage of looked after children with a permanence plan within six months of being accommodated, and (b) the percentage of Child Protection review case conferences taking place within 110 days of registration.
Decided: that (a) the contents of the report be noted and (b) the direction of travel supported.
- 7 Proposal to Fund Final Year MSc Social Work Students to Commit to Work for Inverclyde HSCP for 3 Years 7**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing detail of a new initiative to attract self-funding MSc students who

SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 5 JANUARY 2023

are not currently employed by Inverclyde HSCP to ensure an intake of newly qualified Social Workers to Inverclyde.

At the conclusion of discussion on this item of business Councillor Jackson extended thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Panel all Social Work and Social Care staff who had worked over the festive period.

Decided:

(1) that the proposals in the report be noted, namely that Inverclyde HSCP will implement an approach whereby it funds up to ten final year MSc Social Work Students at a cost of £150,000 where on successful qualification those students would commit to working for Inverclyde HSCP for three years in a qualified Social Worker role;

(2) that it be noted that (a) the proposals contained within the report will be submitted to the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board to secure appropriate approval for the funding of the initiative and (b) there will be a separate report to a future meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee exploring the wider adoption of this approach to assist other Council areas that suffer similar recruitment challenges; and

(3) that the Panels thanks and appreciation be conveyed to all Social Work and Social Care staff who worked over the festive period.

It was agreed in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

8 Reporting by Exception – Governance of HSCP Commissioned External Organisations 8

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing an update on matters relating to the Health & Social Care Partnership governance processes for Externally Commissioned Social Care Services. Councillor Cassidy declared a connection in this item as a family member is on the Board of an organisation mentioned within the report and Councillor McCluskey declared a connection as a family member is in a care home mentioned within the report. They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

(1) that the governance report for the period 17 September to 18 November 2022 be noted;

(2) that Members acknowledge that officers regard the control mechanisms in place through the governance meetings and managing poorly performing services guidance within the Contract Management Framework is sufficiently robust to ensure ongoing quality and safety and the fostering of a commissioning culture of continuous improvement; and

(3) that it be remitted to officers to provide a report to a future meeting on feedback from service users provided through the 'Mind of My Own' electronic App.