

## SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – 14 MAY 2024

### Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

**Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 3pm**

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

**Chair:** Councillor Brennan presided.

**In attendance:**

Kate Rocks	Chief Officer (Inverclyde HSCP)
Craig Given	Head of Finance, Planning & Resources (Inverclyde HSCP)
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor (for Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services)
Jonathan Hinds	Chief Social Work Officer and Head of Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services (Inverclyde HSCP)
Alan Best	Interim Head of Health & Community Care (Inverclyde HSCP)
Gail Hughes	Interim Service Manager for Justice Social Work (Inverclyde HSCP)
Marie Keirs	Senior Finance Manager (Inverclyde HSCP)
Ian Hanley	Community Justice Lead Officer (Inverclyde HSCP)
Lesley Cockburn	Homeless Change Lead (Inverclyde HSCP)
Jim Kearns	External Consultant – Homelessness/Housing Access Specialist
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
Alison Ramsey	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Cassidy, Daisley and Quinn attending remotely.

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

**244 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 244**

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 4 (Stock Transfer Authorities Homelessness Performance 2022/23) – Councillor Brooks

Agenda item 8 (Inverclyde Integration Joint Board Budget 2024/26) – Councillors McCluskey, Quinn and Reynolds

Agenda item 9 (Reporting by Exception – Governance of HSCP Commissioned External Organisations) – Councillor Cassidy

**245 Revenue & Capital Budget Report – 2023/24 Revenue Outturn Position as at 29 February 2024 245**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care

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Partnership and the Head of Finance, Planning & Resources, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, on the projected outturn on revenue and capital for 2023/24 as at 29 February 2024.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the projected current year revenue outturn of £0.710million overspend at 29 February 2024 be noted;
- (2) that the current projected capital position be noted; and
- (3) that the current reserves position and the intention to allocate any year end overspend against appropriate reserves be noted.

**246 National Care Service Update 246**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, providing an update on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill and national developments in this regard.

**Decided:** that the update on national activity around the proposed National Care Service (Scotland) Bill as detailed in the report be noted.

**247 Stock Transfer Authorities Homelessness Performance 2022/23 247**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership providing detail on the comparative performance of homelessness services across the six Large Scale Voluntary Transfer authorities in Scotland. The Panel heard a presentation, with PowerPoint slides, entitled 'Scotland's Housing Network – Inverclyde Council – Performance Analysis Visit 2022/23' by the Homeless Change Lead, Inverclyde HSCP, and Mr Kearns, an external consultant, who thereafter answered a number of questions from Members.

Councillor Brooks declared a connection in this item as a member of River Clyde Homes Board. 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 content of the report, which provides a data driven view to both positive achievements and the direction of travel, be noted;
- (2) that the proposed joint development of a temporary Local Lettings Initiative to increase the percentage of allocations to homeless households across the Inverclyde Registered Social Landlords, which would serve to increase choice and control for households in crisis and improve tenancy sustainment figures and prevent costly repeat homelessness, be noted; and
- (3) that the thanks and appreciation of the Panel be extended to all staff connected with this work.

**248 Publication of Care Inspectorate Report: Prison Based Social Work: Thematic Review 248**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership appending the Prison Based Social Work Thematic Review report by the Care Inspectorate and HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland for noting. The Panel heard a presentation by the Interim Service Manager for Justice Social Work, Inverclyde HSCP, on various aspects of the report, who thereafter answered a number of questions from Members.

**Decided:**

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- (1) that the publication of the Prison Based Social Work Thematic Review and the proposed next steps be noted; and  
 (2) that the content of the presentation be noted.

**249 Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) 2024 249**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership (1) providing an update on the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership, and (2) advising of the proposed publication of the Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) 2024, a copy of which was appended to the report. The Panel heard a presentation, with PowerPoint slides, by the Community Justice Lead Officer, Inverclyde HSCP, on various aspects of the Plan, who thereafter answered a number of questions from Members.

**Decided:** that the intention of the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership to submit the Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) 2024 to the Inverclyde Alliance Board for approval in June 2024 be noted.

**250 Inspection of Inverclyde Fostering, Adoption and Continuing Care Services 250**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership advising that the Care Inspectorate have notified their intention to inspect Adoption, Fostering and Continuing Care Services in Inverclyde over a four-week period commencing on 22 April 2024.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the commencement of the inspection be noted; and  
 (2) that it be remitted to officers to submit a further report to the Panel following publication of the Inspection Report.

**251 Inverclyde Integration Joint Board Budget 2024/26 251**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership advising of the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board (IIJB) budget for 2024/26 which was presented to the IIJB at their meeting on 25 March 2024.

Councillors McCluskey, Quinn and Reynolds declared a connection in this item as members of the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection 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:** that the IIJB budget for 2024/26 be noted.

**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 & 9 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**

**252 Reporting by Exception – Governance of HSCP Commissioned External Organisations 252**

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.

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Councillor Cassidy declared a connection in this item as a relative is a member of a Board mentioned within the report. 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 governance report for the period 10 February 2024 to 12 April 2024 be noted; and
- (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.