

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 24 September 2009 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors ALISON ANDREWS, RUTH LESLIE MELVILLE MBE, COLIN BROWN, MAIRI EVANS, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, IAN MACKINTOSH, DAVID MAY, BILL MIDDLETON, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, DONALD MORRISON, ROB MURRAY, IAN GAUL, MARGARET THOMSON, PAUL VALENTINE and JOHN WHYTE.

Councillor ANDREWS, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Helen Oswald with Councillor Ian Gaul substituting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Glennis Middleton declared an interest in item 7 being Vice-Convener of the Tayside Community Justice Authority.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 13 August 2009](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

In accordance with Standing Order 36(2), the Committee agreed that, as there was to be a presentation, the order of business be varied from that published and was considered in the following order.

4. SEX OFFENDER COMMUNITY DISCLOSURE PILOT PROJECT - TAYSIDE

There was submitted [Report No 676/09](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health providing information on the Sex Offender Community Disclosure Pilot Project which would operate in the Tayside area between 21 September 2009 and 31 May 2010 for which the responsibility for the management lay with Tayside Police.

The Report indicated that the Pilot, details of which were outlined in the Report, was an opportunity for Tayside to add to its reputation in terms of good partnership working. The Pilot would undoubtedly provide greater intelligence relating to the behaviour and movements of sex offenders within Tayside. It was also recognised that this Pilot had the potential to significantly increase the protection given to children within Tayside and was seen as adding value to existing child protection procedures.

In this connection, Chief Inspector Eric Knox, Tayside Police and Project Manager, gave a short presentation on the Sex Offender Community Disclosure Pilot. Following a full discussion when questions were answered, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee thanked Chief Inspector Knox for his interesting and informative presentation.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to update the Committee with the outcome of the evaluation of the Pilot Project in the Autumn of 2010.

5. SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY - SCRUTINY ACTIVITY IN ANGUS

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Strategic Policy Committee of 26 May 2009, there was submitted [Joint Report No 671/09](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health and the Acting Director of Education advising the Committee of the Initial Scrutiny Level Assessment of Social Work and Health in Angus currently being undertaken by the Social Work Inspection Agency and the multi agency inspection of Learning Disability Services in Angus to be undertaken during October 2009.

The Report indicated that at the launch of their self evaluation guide for social work services in February 2009, the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) had set out its plans to move to more targeted and proportionate inspection. Further to this the Accounts Commission had written to local authorities in April 2009 with details of joint scrutiny arrangements with an accompanying schedule which included scrutiny of Angus Council.

The Report concluded that scrutiny always allowed learning and development to take place but this should not be at the expense of service delivery. It was therefore hoped that this new approach to scrutiny, with shared risk assessment across scrutiny bodies would lead to more proportionate activity in the future.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to submit an update report on progress with the Initial Scrutiny Level Assessment of Social Work and Health; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to submit an update report on the multi agency inspection of Learning Disability Services.

5. CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER'S REPORT

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 January 2009, there was submitted [Report No 672/09](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health presenting the Chief Social Work Officer's Report for 2008/2009.

The Report indicated that the national guidance published in April 2009 by the Scottish Government required that a Chief Social Work Officer report be provided to elected members on an annual basis. This was the first Chief Social Work Officer's Report provided in Angus and had been written to compliment, and should be read in conjunction with, the Departmental Annual Report (Report Number 517/09 refers). This Report specifically provided details as to how the Chief Social Work Officer for Angus Council discharged the specific statutory elements of his role.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the contents of the Chief Social Work Officer Report for 2008/2009, a copy of which was appended to the Report; and
- (iii) to commend the Director and all his staff for their excellent level of customer care.

7. TAYSIDE COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 September 2008, there was submitted [Report No 673/09](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health providing information on the work of the Tayside Community Justice Authority (CJA) in the period 2008/2009 as noted in the recently published Tayside Community Justice Authority Annual Report, a copy of which was appended to the Report.

The Report indicated that the CJA Annual Report set out the background to the formation of CJA's, described Tayside CJA and its partners and set out the focus of the work undertaken towards reducing offending across Tayside through joint working arrangements with other partner agencies. The Report also illustrated examples of good practice undertaken in Tayside and specific areas were detailed in the Report. The annual report reflected the commitment of partner agencies in Tayside to delivering the Tayside Community Justice Authority Action Plan which also clearly demonstrated that the Tayside CJA remained firmly committed to the aims and objectives of the National Strategy for the Management of Offenders.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the contents of the Tayside Community Justice Authority Annual Report 2008/2009; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to update the Committee on the work of the Tayside CJA as necessary.

8. ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT AND BUSINESS PLAN 2008/2009

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 14 August 2008, there was submitted [Joint Report No 674/09](#) by the Chief Executive, the Director of Social Work and Health, the Acting Director of Education and the Director of Neighbourhood Services presenting the Angus Child Protection Committee Annual Report and Business Plan for 2008/2009.

The Report indicated that the Angus Child Protection Committee had been formed at local government reorganisation and the Annual Report and Business Plan, which had been circulated to all members of the Social Work and Health Committee, was the thirteenth one produced and detailed the work and activity of the Committee and member agencies in the field of child protection over the past year.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of the Angus Child Protection Committee Annual Report and Business Plan 2008/2009.

9. CONSULTATION ON THE ROLE OF THE REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKER IN CONTRIBUTING TO BETTER OUTCOMES FOR SCOTLAND: GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

There was submitted [Report No 675/09](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health setting out a proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation on guidance on The Role of the Registered Social Worker in Contributing to Better Outcomes for Scotland: Guidance for Local Authorities.

The Report indicated that "Changing Lives", the Report of the 21st Century Social Work Review had set out a vision for the future of social work services in Scotland. The delivery of safe, effective and innovative practice in social work services was identified as an important aspect and the purpose of the guidance to local authorities was to highlight the role of social work in contributing to better outcomes for Scotland and to set out those social work functions which only registered social workers should be accountable for.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the response to the Scottish Government Consultation on Guidance on the Role of the Registered Social Worker in Contributing to better Outcomes for Scotland: Guidance for Local Authorities, copies of both which were appended to the Report.