

# ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 20 May 2010 at 4.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillors ALISON ANDREWS, RUTH LESLIE MELVILLE MBE, COLIN BROWN, MAIRI EVANS, PETER NIELD, JEAN LEE, IAN MACKINTOSH, DAVID MAY, BILL MIDDLETON, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, ROB MURRAY, SHEENA WELSH, MARGARET THOMSON, PAUL VALENTINE and JOHN WHYTE.

Councillor ANDREWS, Convener, in the Chair.

## 1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors David Fairweather and Helen Oswald, with Councillors Peter Nield and Sheena Welsh substituting respectively.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee agreed to note that no declarations of interest were made.

## 3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 April 2010](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

## 4. TELECARE FACILITIES AT SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEMES - EXEMPTION REQUEST

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee of 15 April 2010, there was submitted [Joint Report No 273/10](#) by the Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the situation regarding upgrading the former "warden call" systems in sheltered housing to Telecare systems with enhanced options.

The Report indicated that the provision of new "warden call" systems in Angus Council sheltered housing had been undertaken in 1999 from one supplier to maximise efficiency for repairs, servicing, and to allow staff flexibility to be relocated at different schemes as needed (Report No 743/99 refers). The Housing Committee, at the time, agreed and all the installations were completed over the next two years. However, these systems now needed partial upgrades and the reasons for this were outlined in the Report.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of the Report.

## 5. CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 17 December 2009, there was submitted [Report No 358/10](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health detailing tenders received in respect of the provision of support services for adults with mental health problems.

The Report indicated that the tender comprised of two projects, namely employment, education and training services, and services to provide support for daily living, recreation and leisure services. The tenders had been evaluated in respect of quality and price via a three stage process and a comparison of the tenders received was detailed in the Report. The award of the contract would ensure that best value was achieved in the procurement of support services for adults with mental health problems in Angus.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve acceptance of the tender for the provision of support services for adults with mental health problems to Penumbra; and
- (ii) to approve the award of the contract to Penumbra in accordance with public procurement legislation.

## 6. RESPITE PROVISION FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITY

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 April 2009, there was submitted [Report No 359/10](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the interim arrangements put in place for the provision of respite care for adults with learning disabilities.

The Report indicated that providers of care home and care at home services in Angus had been invited to submit notes of interest in the provision of respite care for people with learning disabilities in Angus. Six providers had submitted notes of interest and interested parties were then invited to submit proposals for a facility offering six to eight beds which would be self-contained with its own dedicated entrance. Of the six, only two providers had submitted details of facilities which had been evaluated against a set of agreed criteria, and only one provider had met the criteria.

Four Seasons Healthcare Ltd had offered the redevelopment of a unit adjacent to Bearehill Care Home, Brechin and the unit had now been refurbished to meet the needs of people with a learning disability. The unit had eight beds which Social Work and Health had commissioned, four for a residential level service and two beds for a high dependency service. The remaining two beds were available for spot purchasing. The unit would provide respite exclusively for adults with a learning disability and the development would significantly increase the respite available for carers of people with learning disability in Angus.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the establishment of interim respite provision for people with learning disability at Bearehill Care Home.

## 7. SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITY

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 9 April 2009, there was submitted [Report No 360/10](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health seeking Committee approval for the development of a partnering agreement with Ark Housing over the redevelopment of a former Ark Housing care home for adults with learning disability into a core and cluster supported accommodation project.

The Report indicated that Ark Housing had worked with architects to develop a design for the refurbishment of the care home building which would see the creation of ten tenancies within the property. Ark Housing were the care provider within the care home and already provided outreach floating housing support services to eight individuals residing in the Arbroath area. These floating support services were also commissioned by Social Work and Health.

It was proposed to consolidate the care models to provide a core and cluster supported accommodation model based within the refurbished building. Ark Housing would fund the cost of the refurbishment of the former care home at a cost of £450,000. To ensure a flexible approach to the development of the service model, it was proposed to continue working with Ark Housing as care provider. Social Work and Health would commission around 340 hours of care and support from Ark Housing for the next five years as part of the partnering arrangement, which would provide consistency for service users during the transition to the new service model.

The Report concluded that working in partnership with Ark Housing on the development of a core and cluster model for adults with learning disabilities would provide continuity of the service for service users currently receiving a service from Ark Housing and would allow for the development of a flexible model which introduced elements of enablement into housing support provision.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the partnering arrangement with Ark Housing for a period of five years from the completion of the refurbishment of the former Ark Housing Care Home at Burnside Drive, Arbroath.

## **8. CHOOSE LIFE - PHASE 3 PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS**

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 September 2006, there was submitted [Report No 361/10](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the current work of the Choose Life Steering Group and the impact that this may have on future funding and planning arrangements.

The Report indicated that following completion of Phase 2, Choose Life would move onto its third and final phase which would run until 2013. A National Suicide Prevention Review Group had been established to consider the findings of the Phase 2 Evaluation which included reviewing the utility and relevance of the 20% suicide reduction target and to review and refocus the current objectives of the Choose Life strategy to ensure performance could be measured and tracked. Funding for Choose Life would now be managed directly by local authorities as ring fenced funding for this strategy had been removed as part of the Concordat Agreement in 2007. Once the local statistical analysis had been completed and local priority areas agreed, a Choose Life Action Plan for Angus would be prepared covering the period up to 2013.

The Report concluded that Choose Life Angus was completing a review and analysis of its work and this would be undertaken at a local level to ensure that a Suicide Prevention Action Plan was further developed to meet the needs of people in Angus and target funding accordingly.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the Report.

## **9. THE FIRS RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME**

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 January 2007, there was submitted [Report No 362/10](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the final closure date of The Firs Residential Care Home.

The Report indicated that following a programme of work undertaken by the Housing Division on a property in Carnoustie, the final resident of The Firs Residential Care Home had moved to a community based placement in supported accommodation with another individual during the last week in April. This had allowed The Firs to close on 30 April 2010.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to note the date of the closure of The Firs.