

**REPORT BY POLICY LEAD FOR ADULT CARE**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1** This is my first report as Policy Lead for Adult Care and it spans the period 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013 to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014.

I would, firstly, like to pay tribute to the efforts of all our staff who are working on the Council's behalf to deliver front line services to the most vulnerable citizens in Argyll and Bute. I would like to make special mention of the Head of Service, Mr Jim Robb, who has already been very supportive to me in the portfolio I represent.

I would like to thank Elected Members for their co-operation with my emailed request to direct operational issues directly to service managers. This has allowed concerns to be dealt with at the appropriate level, providing the opportunity to resolve issues, where possible and at an early stage, within the appropriate service. I would like to further endorse that Elected Members continue to make use of this protocol, but as stated, Mr Jim Robb is always available if there is a requirement for him to intervene and I too would be more than happy to assist with members' issues when required.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** It is recommended that Elected Members note the contents of this report.

**3. ACTIVITY REPORTS****3.1 Care Homes**

During the aforementioned period, I have visited the following care homes; Eadar Glinn (Oban), Gortonvogie (Islay), Struan Lodge (Dunoon) and Bowman Court (Isle of Mull) on two occasions. I already have a working knowledge of Ardfenaig as it is within my ward. The main aim of these visits was to introduce myself to staff and to begin to develop a working relationship with senior staff members, which will be particularly vital when we, as a council, develop commissioning care for older people and when we consider the implications this will have for all in the care sector. Over the next few months I will endeavour to visit other Adult Care services with the Head of Service, Jim Robb.

### **3.2 Joint Improvement Team Conference**

In November 2013, I attended the Joint Improvement Team Conference in Edinburgh, with Jim Robb and Allen Stevenson. The Joint Improvement Team (JIT) is a uniquely positioned strategic improvement partnership between the Scottish Government, NHS Scotland, COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) and the Third, Independent and Housing Sectors. It provides a range of practical improvement support opportunities, including; knowledge exchange, developmental innovation, improvement capacity and direct practical support to local health, housing and social care partnerships across Scotland. The main focus of the event was to discuss the issues that councils were experiencing in relation to Integration. Speakers from within and outwith Scotland spoke of experiences they had in relation to integration and this has proven very helpful in discussions with officers of the council regarding the direction that we, in Argyll and Bute, wish to take in relation to integration.

### **3.3 Other Visits**

I attended the launch of the Marie Curie Service, Argyll, at Inveraray. This proved to be a very interesting and informative event where many professionals came together to learn about the importance of the work of Marie Curie and of how this service supports people at a time when they are experiencing high level and complex needs.

I attended the AGM of the Cowal Community Care Forum in Dunoon as a guest panellist with Pat Tyrell, Lead Nurse for Argyll and Bute Community Care Partnership, and Cleland Sneddon, Executive Director for Community Services. As panellists, we were interviewed by Lorna Ahlquist and made our responses, along with other panellists to an assembled group of attendees. One of the main themes discussed was the importance of good communication between the council, health service and the forums around Argyll and Bute, particularly with a number of key policies being worked up at present to allow local input to the future development of services.

I attended the December Area Committee in Oban supporting Jim Robb who presented his paper in relation to Bowman Court on Mull. A number of concerns had been raised by the Mull Community Council, residents, carers and Mull Progressive Care liaison group in relation to the Centre. The issues were also addressed at a meeting on Mull on the 25<sup>th</sup> February where, in partnership with all concerned, a positive way forward was secured for the centre to develop.

### **3.4 Future Policies**

The council is now embarking on a number of substantial policy developments which will result in major changes to how we deliver our services. In particular by April 2015 we as a council will be integrated with NHS Highland in terms of the delivery of integrated health and Social Care Services. We will also be involved in the reshaping of care for older people and in the joint commissioning of services for our vulnerable adults. This will involve the council being involved in a process, which include consultation, to examine the options for the future provision of care for the residents of Argyll and Bute which will be fit for purpose for the future.

### **3.5 Ministerial Meeting**

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, Cleland Sneddon Executive Director, Cllr Mary Jean Devon, Policy Lead for Children's Services and Elaine Mead, Chief Executive of NHS Highland met with the Cabinet Minister Alex Neil. The agenda focused on progress being made in relation to integration between the council and NHS Highland. The minister concurred with the course of action that is being taken.

### **3.6 Health and Social Care Integration Seminar**

I attended the member's seminar on Health and Social Care Integration on 3<sup>rd</sup> March which was presented by Cleland Sneddon Executive Director. Members had the opportunity to discuss the implications of the legislation for our council.