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**REPORT BY POLICY LEAD COUNCILLOR FOR ADULT CARE**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

This is my Second report as Policy Lead for Adult Care and it spans the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014 until 31<sup>st</sup> November 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 continues to be very supportive to me in this Portfolio.

I would like to thank Elected Members for their co-operation with my emailed request to direct operational issues directly to Area 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**

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

**3. UPDATE**

**2.1 Cowal and Bute – Locality Issues**

The provision of care home services for the Island of Bute is currently in consultation linked in with the Reshaping Care for Older people. This is an important piece of work for the council and particularly flagged up on the island of Bute. Health and Adult care will take this issue forward to produce a blueprint for provision of a robust service for Bute. Health and Adult services are currently working together to consult on the model of care with the potential option of Joint Health and social care campus being a model of national exemplar which will engage with our communities. This will in effect take time but in order to provide the model for Bute that is what our community want we have to invest time to do this. In Cowal there have been specific concerns raised by members regarding the commissioned services by the council for care at home and that there may be breeches of the contract.

The commissioning team have been active in obtaining specific evidence to take to providers to allow scrutiny of claims. This has involved obtaining information from potential breeches and questioning care providers. There are sensitivities surrounding this process as staff who may be involved feel vulnerable in their employment. With the evidence presented to date the commissioning service are pursuing this issue with the available information presented to the Head of Service.

## **2.2 Helensburgh and Lomond – Locality Issues**

There are no specific issues I have been involved in to date

## **2.3 Mid Argyll Kintyre and the Islands– Locality Issues**

There are continuing problems with recruitment to the service despite this being kept within the council which is having an impact on the provision of service Alison Hunter Area Manager is attempting to recruit but this is proving difficult. It has to be highlighted that in the care sector this is not unusual and this is a national problem.

Greenwood Residential Centre in Campbeltown has had a recent report from the Care inspectorate which has required a detailed action plan to be drawn up and monitored. This was following a change in registration of Greenwood from a care home to tenancies with housing support/care at home. The action plan will be managed by the Area manager.

## **2.4 Oban Lorn and the Islands– Locality Issues**

The provision of care at Bowman court is currently being reviewed as part of an improvement process by Gordon Murray (temp cover to service manager) The local community are actively involved in the review and will continue to feed into a local group set up for communication purposes. There have been challenges to the integration agenda however this may prove to be a useful experience to learn from as the reshaping care and integration agenda is rolled out within Argyll and Bute. I attended a recent staff meeting where staff are committed to work together to support the vulnerable people on the island

## **2.5 Other Issues**

Given the increase of care provision at Home the financial consequences are increasing and Head of Service Jim Robb is managing and there will be a report to the December community services committee regarding this area of business.

Health and Social care Integration is moving forward, the four councillors who have been elected to the shadow board are Cllrs Anne Horn, Mary Jean Devon, Elaine Robertson and I. At the first Board meeting I was elected and Chair of the Shadow Board which will become live for a period of 2 years with Robin Creelman as vice chair.

I will be going to Fortnightly telephone contact to supplement the face to face meetings with head of service Jim Robb. For next year there is a plan to continue to visit residential units twice per annum.

**Councillor Dougie Philand**  
**5 November 2014**