

POLICY LEAD REPORT – HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** As the Policy Lead of Health and Social Care it has been an incredible, exciting and busy time. The integration of health and social work brings an opportunity to reshape how we deliver services in our communities. Bringing them together is not without its challenges for NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Council Social Work in these difficult financial times. The report highlights my work as policy lead over the last 12 months.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** Members are asked to note the progress in Health and Social Care Integration.
- 2.2** Members are asked to commend the high quality work of the Children and Families Service, in particular their achievement of a COSLA Gold Award.
- 2.3** Members are asked to note significant changes in legislation which place statutory duties on the council to deliver on self-directed support, corporate parenting responsibilities, kinship orders, continuing care for looked-after children and introduction of high risk offenders to MAPPA processes.

3. DETAIL

3.1 Integration – Management Structure

- 3.1.1** Jim Robb Head of Adult Care retired from the Council at the end of June 2015. Jim leaves his post with all our best wishes.
- 3.1.2** Christina West was appointed as Chief Officer for Health and Social Care Partnership on 1st December. A new management

structure has been put in place to support and develop the new service. Managers and staff are now focused on the continued move towards integration and more effective joint working through the delivery of our new integrated management structure. The Head of Children and Families post will be filled by the end of September, and the three other Head of Services appointments are:

- Allen Stevenson, Head of Integrated Adult Services East
- Lorraine Paterson, Head of Integrated Adult Services West
- Stephen Whiston, Head of Planning and Performance

3.2 Integration Joint Board

- 3.2.1** The Integration Joint Board (IJB) was legally constituted and met for the first time on 18th August 2015 in Oban. I am a voting member of the IJB, along with three elected member colleagues and four nominees from NHS Highland.
- 3.2.2** From the 1st April 2016 the Health and Social Care Partnership will take on responsibility for strategic planning and operational delivery of all health and social care services in Argyll and Bute.
- 3.2.3** There will be a single health and social care organisation with single integrated teams and a single budget. This budget will also cover the specialist health and care services provided outside of Argyll & Bute in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. The budget will be approximately £250 million and there will be around 3000 members of staff.
- 3.2.4** The Health and Social Care Partnership are committed to working with the voluntary sector, the independent sector and communities in the planning and delivery of services. Representatives from these sectors are part of the Integration Joint Board.
- 3.2.5** The Partnership is also required to produce a three-year Strategic Plan 2016 - 2019 as the road map for the changes to services that are necessary to make them fit for the future. Consultation on the plan will start in September 2015 for a period of three months. There will be meetings with staff and communities during this period across Argyll and Bute.

3.3 Inspection of Older People's Services

- 3.3.1** The Partnership is waiting for confirmation from the Care Inspectorate of a date in September to receive the findings from the joint inspection of older people's services in Argyll and Bute by the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland. The inspection team will provide a full report on how well we are supporting older people through our health and social care services to improve health and wellbeing outcomes. We fully expect to receive feedback on areas we are performing well in as well as areas for improvement. Improvement action will be added to our new Improvement plan for 2015/16 and taken forward by our managers and staff.

3.4 Argyll and Bute Adult Protection Committee

- 3.4.1** The Adult Protection Committee continues to make progress on the national priorities set by the Scottish Government. Considerable work was done last year on adult support and protection issues in relation to care homes and on improving our data capture in order to fulfil the requirements of the draft national dataset. This year work is underway to roll out Adult Support and Protection training to A&E staff across the area, and also to improve the way that we engage with service users and carers during the adult protection process and use their feedback to improve our services.
- 3.4.2** In addition, the committee is planning to hold a conference in November focussing on financial harm. This will aim to raise the profile of this type of harm and the seriousness of the issues involved, as well as starting to develop multi-agency ways to prevent such harm or detect it at the earliest possible opportunity, so that our most vulnerable citizens may be protected.
- 3.4.3** In accordance with the legislation, the APC submitted its latest biennial report to the Scottish Government in October 2014. To date no feedback has been received.
- 3.4.4** As last year, a comprehensive audit of adult protection work is being undertaken during August. The audit looks at referrals and cases as well as interviews with the adults who were considered at

risk and the staff members who lead the investigations. This should ensure a detailed examination of all aspects of adult protection work. As last year, a small multi-agency group will evaluate the findings and produce a report for the APC and recommendations for each of the key agencies on improving practice.

3.5 Criminal Justice Partnership

3.5.1 Argyll and Bute Criminal Justice Service are delivered within a formal partnership arrangement with East and West Dunbartonshire Councils. Argyll and Bute CJS continue to work effectively with partner agencies to manage offenders in the community and provide a service to courts in Argyll and Bute.

3.5.2 Providing Community Payback Orders (CPOs) has been difficult in some areas due to recruitment issues, however, the CPO service continues to have a significant impact with projects such as Ardentiny Gardens showing the success of the initiative.

3.6 Child Protection Committee

3.6.1 The Child Protection Committee (CPC) continues to make progress on the national and local priorities. Considerable work has been carried out to improve identification and planning of child protection investigations.

3.6.2 A wide range of training has been offered across Argyll and Bute to improve practice. The CPC is confident practice is improving and able to demonstrate improvements through self-evaluation. While the number of children within child protection is relatively small I am always struck with how complex and high level the risk is that the children and families' social workers work within. Child protection remains a priority of Argyll and Bute.

3.7 Corporate Parenting Board

3.7.1 As the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board, the board meet twice a year to monitor the progress of our looked after children. Often the most vulnerable in society, I feel passionately that everyone in this room has a responsibility to these children and young people. Outwith the twice yearly meeting we meet with the young people. All partners are working to improve outcomes for looked after children including tracking their educational attainment.

3.7.2 The board and I have undertaken a number of activities learning from foster carers, young people and their families. The highlights of my many activities including tea at East King Street with Chief Executive, meeting young carers, attending foster event. All these interactions with people who receive a service remind me why I am an Elected Member and why we need to make a difference.

3.7.3 The service is being developed and redesigned to ensure it is able to undertake new statutory functions outlined in the Children and Young People Act 2014. To ensure compliance, new services for the following are required: -

- Kinship
- Continuing care
- Alternative to Care

3.7.4 All these new duties place responsibility on the local authority to ensure parity between kinship carers and foster carers. In addition to providing care for looked after children up to the age of 21 including fostering and residential services and age responsibility up until the day before their 26th birthday. The development of service to support increase number of looked after children is being developed.

3.8 Celebrating Success

3.8.1 In Argyll and Bute we don't always celebrate success, so let me list some of the successes for 2014/15 for adult and children's services:

- COSLA Gold award – Children and Families
- 2 Social Workers short listed for Social Worker of the Year
- Ex young person made Ambassador for Scotland and travelling to New Zealand
- All 3 children's houses received "very good" grades across all indicators.
- New build for Dunclutha progressing
- Chief Officer appointed and integration scheme submitted
- Delayed discharge remains low across Argyll and Bute.
- Innovative and inspiring learning disability which operate to a high standard.
- Steady progress around Self Directed Support.
- Planning of joint older people's inspection

4.0 CONCLUSION

As Policy Lead for Health and Social Care, I am aware that 2015/6 will be a challenging year but I am looking forward to the improved outcomes that the Health and Social Care Integration opportunities will bring.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy – None

5.2 Financial – None

5.3 Legal – None

5.4 HR – None

5.5 Equalities – None

5.6 Risk – None

5.7 Customer Service – None

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