

APPENDIX 5

Proposal Title	Out of Authority Placements (Social Work)
Proposal Text	We are spending over 6 million pounds in specialist placements and I am keen that value for money is being delivered. My belief and I would like to be proved wrong by the review is that we as a council could provide more local services and specialist services with such funding.

TOPIC TITLE:	Out of Authority Placements (Social Work)
DATE OF SUBMISSION:	03 April 2019

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT			
QUESTION		RESPONSE	RESPONSE JUSTIFICATION
1	Does the issue affect a number of people living in Argyll and Bute across multiple wards or, if restricted to a single or small number of wards, would its scrutiny have a wider impact across the council?	Yes	There are currently approximately 57 disability clients within Argyll and Bute receiving out of authority placements. There is no geographic restriction to a potential resident's right to access this service should they have a qualifying need.
2	Does the issue concern an area of poor performance or an emerging issue (meaning there is no comprehensive performance data available)?	Yes	Residential care budgets have been overspent historically. For example, the Children & Families residential placement budget was overspent by £228,000 in 2017/18 and £588,000 in 2018/19. This is a 23% and 73% overspend respectively.
3	Can scrutiny add value - i.e. is performance likely to improve as a result of scrutiny?	Yes	Given that there is historic overspend which has increased significantly between 2017/18 and 2018/19 and given that out of area placements are common place across Scotland there would be an opportunity to learn from practice at other local authority areas.
4	Does the issue relate to a service area with a revenue and/or capital budget in excess of £100k or, in the case of an emerging issue, is there a realistic expectation that the revenue and/or capital budget will exceed £100k?	Yes	This topic will relate to a number of different budgets, the Children & Families residential budget alone in 2018/19 was approximately £800k.
5	Is the issue being addressed by another committee (area or strategic) or been subject to review in past 18 months?	No	No, however there are currently significant savings targets with the HSCP and management are looking to try to bring a number of external packages back to Argyll and Bute. Staff have been asked to review all packages to determine whether it could be resourced locally.
Does the issue pass to stage 2 assessment?		Pass	
QUESTION		RESPONSE	RESPONSE JUSTIFICATION
6	Is the scrutiny activity timely - i.e. will it be possible to implement changes at the current time?	Yes	There are no clear restrictions on implementing change for improvement and in the current climate the HSCP are currently overspent so there will be an appetite for improvements to reduce overspend.

7	Is there adequate resources in place to scrutinise the issue effectively?	Yes	The scrutiny work programme for 2019/20 is to be submitted to the June 2019 Audit and Scrutiny Committee. There are currently no reviews planned until such time as this programme is approved.
8	Is it an issue which has attracted public attention and/or highlighted by residents?	Yes	There have been six freedom of information requests received between 2013 - 2019 relating to out of authority placements.
9	Does it address an area highlighted by the Council's risk management process or other audit/scrutiny reports?	Yes	The Strategic risk register has risks relating to financial sustainability, understanding the needs of the community and the Health & Social Care Partnership.
Stage 2 Assessment Outcome		High Priority	

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DATE OF SUBMISSION: 03 April 2019

STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT OUTCOME: High Priority

	QUESTION	OPTIONS	SELECTION	SCORE	WEIGHTING	TOTAL SCORE	JUSTIFICATION FOR SELECTION
1	What is the current performance based on the council's performance scorecard?	> 10% under target < 10% under target < 10% over target > 10% over target Not applicable	Not applicable	0	3	0	Not applicable as there is no performance relating to this topic on any Council scorecard as this is a service delivered under the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).
2	To what extent does the issue contribute to a business outcome aligned to the Council's corporate plan?	Major contribution Significant contribution Medium contribution Slight contribution No contribution	Significant contribution	3	3	9	Included within the Argyll and Bute HSCP Strategic Plan are a number of national outcomes listed as part of the provisions of the 2014 Public Bodies (joint working) (Scotland) Act 2014. One of these priorities focus on 'Independent Living' which aims for people, including those with disabilities, long-term conditions, or who are frail, are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community. Although this is a service delivered by the Health and Social Care Partnership it is aligned to Council corporate outcomes, specifically 'people will live in safer and stronger communities' and 'Children and Young People have the best possible start'.
3	To what extent is this issue being highlighted as a public concern?	Widespread Significant Medium Slight Not applicable	Slight	1	2	2	There have been six freedom of information requests received between 2013 - 2019 relating to out of authority placements.
4	What is the revenue and/or capital budget commitment to this area of service?	>1m 500k-1m 250k-500k 100k-250k	500k-1m	3	3	9	This topic will relate to a number of different budgets, the Children & Families residential budget alone in 2018/19 was approximately £800k.
5	In the past three years what is the pattern of budget performance for this area?	Major under/over spend Significant over/under spend Medium over/under spend Slight over/under spend Largely on budget	Major under/over spend	4	2	8	Residential care budgets have been overspent historically. For example, the Children & Families residential placement budget was overspent by approximately £46,000 in 2016/17, £228,000 in 2017/18 and £588,000 in 2018/19. This is a 5%, 23% and 73% overspend respectively.
6	What is the status of national legislation on the issue?	Failure to implement = penalties Current legislation Definite future legislation Possible future legislation Not applicable	Current legislation	3	2	6	There is no statutory requirement for a local authority to place clients within the area however the Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to promote integration with the NHS and work with other key partners to improve services locally. There are also national outcomes listed as part of the provisions of the 2014 Public Bodies (joint working) (Scotland) Act 2014, one of these is 'Independent Living'. Independent Living aims for people, including those with disabilities, long-term conditions, or who are frail, are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community.
7	How widespread is the impact of the issue?	Council wide Multiple wards Single ward Small no of residents No impact	Council wide	4	1	4	There are currently approximately 57 disability clients within Argyll and Bute receiving out of authority placements. There is no geographic restriction to a potential resident's right to access this service should they have a qualifying need.

8	Does the issue feature in the Council's risk management registers?	Yes - red risk	Yes - red risk	4	3	12	This topic relates to SRR red risk 7 relating to the success of the HSCP and also SRR risk 3 relating to financial sustainability and SRR risk 5 about understanding the needs of the community.
		Yes - amber risk					
		Yes - green risk					
		No					
					WEIGHTED TOTAL	50	
					HIGH / MEDIUM FACTOR	1.5	
					TOTAL SCORE	75	