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**Social Affairs Thematic Group Update Report**

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** This report summarises the continued progress made by the Social Affairs Thematic Group over the last quarter.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** That the Management Committee note the progress made by the Social Affairs Thematic Group.

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1** At the group's most recent meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012 a number of key issues were discussed and scrutinised including; Happy to Translate, Multi Agency Child Protection Inspection Improvement Plan, Additional Support Needs (ASN) Review, Review of Older Peoples Services and Learning Disability, Single Outcome Agreement / Community Plan and the Social Affairs Scorecard.

In addition, a number of presentations were made, including; See Me Pledge, Adverse Childhood Events Link to Health Outcomes and the Good Places Better Health publication.

- 3.2** The group considered the Integrated Business and Inspection Improvement Plan for 2011-2013, which has been prepared by the Argyll and Bute Child Protection Improvement Group following the 2011 multi agency inspection of Child Protection Services in Argyll and Bute. The plan seeks to address the inspection findings including one area of weakness highlighted in respect of the immediate response to child protection referrals. The group agreed to monitor progress with a six month update requested.
- 3.3** After consideration of the paper on Happy to Translate (HTT), a non profit initiative, self financed through its growing membership, which bridges communication gaps between organisations and service users who struggle to communicate in English, it was decided that once costs are known, they will be circulated to Partners to see if they would be interested in participating in the scheme.

**3.4** Discussion took place around a presentation which had previously been delivered at a COSLA meeting by Sir Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, and which highlighted poor life expectancy trends for Scotland. The presentation also considered the effect of adverse childhood events leading to poorer outcomes in later life including higher risk of alcoholism, perpetrating violence, teenage pregnancy and heart disease and early adversity. It was noted that there was a need to look at prevention and early intervention measures and the group noted the current work on developing an integrated early intervention strategy aligned to the proposed change fund.

**3.5** A presentation was given on Good Places Better Health, a Scottish Government Strategy on health and the environment. It recognises that the environment has a significant impact on the health of Scotland's people and that action is required to create safe, healthy, nurturing environments for everyone.

Partners were asked to consider the recommendations contained within the report and to identify what they currently contribute to each recommendation, reporting back to the group at the next meeting.

**3.6** The date of the next meeting of the Social Affairs Thematic CPP group will be set following the Scottish Council elections in May 2012.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

**4.1** Significant progress has been made over the year in monitoring progress towards achieving the group's objectives and this progress will continue throughout the following year through the development of strong partnership links and increased scrutiny and development of the Social Affairs Thematic Group scorecard.

#### **For further information contact:**

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