

Services Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Thursday 24 January 2008 at 10.00am

Present:

L Angus	L F Baisley
E L Fullerton	J Budge
A J Cluness	A T J Cooper
A T Doull	A G L Duncan
F B Grains	I J Hawkins
R S Henderson	J H Henry
A J Hughson	W H Manson
C H J Miller	F A Robertson
G Robinson	J G Simpson
C L Smith	A S Wishart

Apologies:

R C Nickerson

In Attendance:

H Sutherland, Executive Director of Education & Social Care
H Budge, Head of Schools
C Ferguson, Head of Community Care
C Medley, Head of Housing & Capital Programmes
J Reyner, Quality Improvement Manager
D Shearer, Evaluation, Research & Development Officer
G Smith, Director – Shetland College
J Thomason, Senior Assistant Accountant
N Watt, Sport and Leisure Services Manager
W Weis, Service Manager – Community Care Resources
A Williamson, Chief Social Work Officer
L Geddes, Committee Officer

Chairperson

Mr L Angus, Chairperson of the Committee, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interest

Mr G Robinson declared an interest in Agenda Item (4) as an employee of Shetland Recreational Trust.

Mr A J Cluness declared an interest in Agenda Item (14) as a member of Shetland Golf Club.

Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 29 November 2007, having been circulated, was confirmed.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings

Mr A J Hughson	Scottish Funding Council Strategic Review Meeting, Edinburgh – 21 January
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UHI Strategic Review Meeting, Dunkeld – 23 January

01/08 **SIC Response to the Scottish Government on the Future of Housing in Scotland**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing and Capital Programme Services (Appendix 1).

The Committee agreed to the Chairperson's suggestion that the finalisation of the response should be delegated to the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, Housing staff and any other Members with an interest, with the final response being presented to the next Council meeting for approval.

The Vice-Chairperson explained that the draft response presented today was a collation of the responses that had been received from managers and staff in the Housing Service, and it had been felt important to present the draft response in this format so that Members were aware of the views of the staff.

Some Members commented that they felt that the views expressed in the draft response should remain, as they felt a strong response was required.

02/08 **Corporate Parenting Role and Reporting to Members**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Children's Services (Appendix 2).

Members noted that their role did not relate to the day to day care of looked after children, but was instead to consider the needs of looked after children when making decisions, and to take their views and experiences into account.

In moving that the recommendations in the report be approved, Mr W H Manson requested that Members make every effort to attend the proposed seminars.

Mr J H Henry seconded.

03/08 **Inspection of Community Learning and Development**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Social Care (Appendix 3) and approved the recommendation contained therein on the motion of Mr A J Cluness, seconded by Mrs E L Fullerton.

04/08 **Management Arrangements for the Community Development Service**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Social Care (Appendix 4) and on the motion of Mr A T J Cooper, seconded by Mr C L Smith, approved the recommendation in the report.

The Chairperson referred to conversations which the Vice Chairperson had initiated with the S.R.T. in relation to achieving synergies with the Sport & Leisure Service. He requested the Committee agree to continuing these discussions and to the Services Committee considering them in due course. The Committee agreed.

05/08 **Social Work Inspection Agency Performance Agency (SWIA) Inspection Reports – Action Plan for Social Work**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Social Care (Appendix 5).

In response to a query regarding the establishment of local service delivery groups, the Head of Community Care explained that it had taken longer to set up these groups than anticipated. There were two remaining groups to be set up – Lerwick/Bressay and the North Isles. The former had yet to be set up as it had been felt that as it was a large area involving a lot of services, it would be useful to see how the other groups were operating first. With regard to the North Isles, there were already groups meeting and work going on. However discussions would be taking place with these groups to see how to expand their remits and build on what had been taking place. She went on to confirm that the local service delivery groups brought together managers and pooled resources, so that managers were able to act locally without having to go through several layers of bureaucracy.

Some Members commented that they felt that the local service delivery groups in their areas were not operating effectively. It was felt that their remit was too wide and too aspirational, and that it was important to get the focus back to the original remit and to have an effective Chairperson in place to ensure this happened. It was also commented that Community Health Partnerships did not seem to be working nationally and were making limited contributions, and that they could be considered from a fresh perspective to see if they could contribute to the process.

On the motion of Mr L Angus, seconded by Mr C L Smith, the Committee approved the recommendation in the report, with the inclusion of the Members' comments.

06/08

Social Care Services for Older People – Future Demands

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Community Care (Appendix 6).

Members congratulated staff that had been involved in the Social Care Seminar on Long Term Care, and said that they had found it very useful.

Members noted that the proposed new Joint OT Store and Stock Control System referred to in paragraph 5.2.5 had not been included in the Capital Programme, and concern was expressed at the potential effect on clients and waiting times. Concern was also expressed at the waiting list for long-term care, and a Member advised that a constituent had pointed out to her that Day Care clients were invoiced for meals rather than being able to pay on the day, and that this could cause difficulties for them.

The projected demographic changes referred to in paragraph 5.1 were discussed. Some Members pointed out that it was equally important that the Council looked after young people, as well as older people, in order to encourage them to stay in Shetland and to provide a workforce to care for the projected increased elderly population. It was suggested that the Council should have a strategy to help ensure that a balanced population in future was achieved.

Members spoke about the role of care centres in their communities, and it was noted that they acted as “social hubs”, as well as care centres, and carried out a lot of services in the communities. However there were problems with lack of capacity and staffing resources, and some were almost carrying out a nursing home role. It was felt vital that consideration should be given to these factors when looking at increasing or adapting the units.

Mrs E L Fullerton moved that the Committee agree to note the information contained in the report; request the Council to agree in principle to progressing, with all possible haste, plans to increase the capacity of care places to meet current

unmet need across Shetland to keep pace with projected demand based on population projections and to include additions to current resources and new build; and that a detailed report for consideration be brought to an early Services Committee.

Mr C L Smith seconded.

07/08

Isleshavn Care Centre and the Long Term Care Review

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Care (Appendix 7).

In response to a query regarding whether there was any involvement of North Isles Members in this project, Mrs L F Baisley confirmed that she had been involved in the Isleshavn Review Group and that she would be happy to continue her involvement with the project in future.

Members noted that the building, which had been designed for respite care, was now inadequate. The unit now had an increased role in managing various care packages, as well as acting as a social hub for the community, so this would have to be taken into account with any new design.

In response to a query regarding the recommendations in the report, the Head of Community Care explained that the motion relating to the previous report on the agenda did not include the endorsement of the blueprint for long term care across Shetland, therefore the recommendations in this report would require separate approval. This would not delay the progress of the Isleshavn project in any way.

In response to a query regarding timescales for the Isleshavn project, the Executive Director confirmed that the technical appraisal usually took around six months.

On the motion of Mr F A Robertson, seconded by Mr A G L Duncan, the Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

08/08

Dementia Redesign Project Phase 2 and Replacement for Viewforth

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Care (Appendix 8) and approved the recommendation contained therein on the motion of Mr A G L Duncan, seconded by Mr J H Henry.

09/08

Developing a “Blueprint” for the Education Service

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education and Social Care (Appendix 9).

The Chairperson gave a presentation to Members outlining the background to developing the blueprint for the Education Service. This highlighted population projections, the overview of finances, and the key issues facing the Education Service. Members noted that the school population was projected to fall by around 30% over the next ten years, and the position regarding the Council's reserves if they continued to be used at the current level. The Chairperson advised Members that nationally driven changes to the service were in the pipeline and the Council had a choice of either planning for these changes by developing the Blueprint, or to do nothing and react to the changes as they happened, accepting the costs and the use of reserves to fund them.

During the discussion that followed, Members questioned if a review of staffing levels and the schools estate were included in the proposed review. It was felt that it was also important that the blueprint was worked through thoroughly, and that

Members from each of the Council wards were included. It was also suggested that with regard to the proposed timetable, there should be a second seminar for Members before the proposals for change were published in July 2008.

Members commented that they welcomed the comprehensive review that would be taking place, but that it was vital that Members acknowledged and acted on the outcomes otherwise it would be a futile exercise. It was recognised that it was vital to give children the best educational opportunities and experiences to equip them for the future. However some Members cautioned that if savings were not made at this stage, at some point in the near future there would simply not be reserves available to augment the existing level of service provision, therefore Members would have to be prepared to make some hard decisions regarding staffing and the schools estate. It was noted that in terms of educational achievement, both Orkney and the Western Isles had overtaken Shetland in some areas, but that they spent significantly less on their education services.

Mrs E L Fullerton moved that the recommendations in the report be approved, subject to the inclusion of the following in the remit outlined in Appendix 1:

“the opportunities for savings to bring budgets to a sustainable level, *including a comprehensive staffing review*, should be considered”.

Mr A S Wishart seconded.

With the consent of her seconder, she agreed to include in her motion that a second seminar should be held for Members before the publication of the proposals for change, and she agreed to the inclusion of the suggestion that each Council ward should be represented on the Member/Officer Working Group.

The Committee agreed that the following Members should also therefore be included in the Group:

- Mr R S Henderson (North Isles)
- Mr R C Nickerson (Shetland South) – *in absentia*
- Mr A S Wishart (Lerwick North)

10/08 **Schools Service – Service Improvement Plan**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Schools (Appendix 10) and on the motion of Mr L Angus, seconded by Mr C L Smith, approved the recommendation contained therein.

(Mr A J Cluness and Mr A T J Cooper left the meeting)

11/08 **HM Inspectorate Report: Anderson High School**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Schools (Appendix 11).

The Committee agreed to the Chairperson's suggestion that a letter of congratulations should be sent to the Head Teacher of the Anderson High School.

12/08 **HM Inspectorate Report: Bressay Primary School and Nursery**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Schools (Appendix 12).

13/08 **HM Inspectorate and the Care Commission Report: Lerwick Pre-School Group**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Schools (Appendix 13).

The Committee agreed to the Chairperson's suggestion that a letter of congratulations should be sent to the management of the Lerwick Pre-School Group.

14/08 **Shetland Golf Club – Service Level Agreement**

The Committee noted a report by the Sport and Leisure Services Manager (Appendix 14).

15/08 **Minutes of Shetland College Board of Management – 22 November 2007 and 9 January 2008**

The Committee noted the above.

The meeting concluded at 11.20am.