

MINUTE

‘A’

Services Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Thursday 17 June 2004 at 10.30am

Present:

F B Grains	B J Cheyne
W N Stove	C B Eunson
L Angus	L G Groat
R G Feather	E J Knight
I J Hawkins	Captain G G Mitchell
W H Manson	F A Robertson
B P Gregson	J H Henry
W Tait	J G Simpson
W A Ratter	

Apologies:

A J Cluness	J P Nicolson
J A Inkster	T W Stove
J C Irvine	

In Attendance (Officers):

J Watt, Executive Director – Community Services
J Wylie, Community Safety Assistant
C Ferguson, Community Care Manager
S McKay, Youth Justice Social Worker
C Medley, Head of Housing
D Fiedler, Chief Accountant
L Adamson, Committee Officer

Chairman:

Mrs F B Grains, Chairperson of the Committee, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Minutes:

The minute of the meeting held on 6 May 2004, having been circulated, was confirmed.

Attendance at External Meetings:

There was nothing to report.

37/04 **Review of Laundry Service**

The Committee considered a report by the Community Care Manager (Appendix 1).

Mr C B Eunson moved that this report be deferred to allow for the Member for Cunningburgh and Sandwick to be present. Mr E J Knight seconded. Some Members were of the opinion that a discussion should take place.

The Community Care Manager summarised the report stating that the proposal was not for the laundry service to be removed but to introduce a more cost effective method of providing the service.

Mrs B J Cheyne said that she understood the need for savings to be made but questioned the social aspect of these changes to the elderly community. She noted the current difficulties in recruiting home helps to carry out this type of work in client's homes.

In seeking assurance that the service currently provided to older people would not be cut, Mr W A Ratter moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. Mr L G Groat seconded.

A Member suggested that the laundry service be open to the community, run on a commercial basis, in order to save costs. Concern was also expressed on how the laundry service would be carried out in client's own homes, particularly the drying process.

A Member stated that the laundry service has never been a uniformed service. He said that there was certainly a need to continue with facilities, particularly for soiled laundry.

After some further discussion Members were in agreement to defer a decision, to allow for a more detailed report be presented to the next Services Committee meeting. With the approval of his seconder, Mr W A Ratter withdrew his amendment.

In referring to agenda item 4, the Community Care Plan, a Member pointed out that no reference to the laundry service had been included in the document.

38/04

Single Shared Assessment

The Committee considered a report by the Community Care Manager (Appendix 2).

In referring to the size of the document the Executive Director – Community Services stated that the detail is required in order to understand the fundamental tools to assessing people's needs. Mr B P Gregson referred to page 2 in the report, to the diagram indicating the main stages in the process, and questioned the three-week timescale from the 'Review of Emergency Provision' until the 'Care Plan Implementation stage'. He suggested that a fast track alternative should be implemented. The Executive

Director – Community Services explained that the timescales are very much targets to comply with legislation and that the aim is to provide the service as quickly as possible. She added that fast track emergency provisions are in place.

On the motion of Mr L G Groat, seconded by Mr W A Ratter, the Committee approved the recommendation contained in the report.

In response to a query, the Community Care Manager explained that SWIFT is a computerised client information system which will be used by all agencies involved in Community Care services.

39/04 **Extended Local Partnership Agreement**

The Committee considered a report by the Community Care Manager (Appendix 3).

Mr W A Ratter moved, and Captain G G Mitchell seconded, that the Committee approve the recommendation contained in the report.

40/04 **Health and Community Care Plan 2004-2007**

The Committee considered a report by the Community Care Manager (Appendix 4).

Some Members expressed concern at the lack of Member involvement in the preparation of this document. The Community Care Manager stated that Member involvement would be welcomed. She went on to say that they have the opportunity to take part in the two planning conferences arranged each year by NHS Shetland. She suggested that Members could also be represented on the Strategy Groups as had been agreed recently for the Disability Strategy Group with four elected Members nominated.

In referring to the document, the Member for the Area pointed out that Scalloway is a village, rather than a town.

Members questioned the value of the Scottish Executive's approach regarding the requirements for strategy documents on Health and Community Care issues. It was suggested that alternative policies and proposals should be written into the Community Corporate Plan, following consultation with the community and consideration at the Community Planning Board.

On the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mr L G Groat, the Committee approved the recommendation contained in the report.

41/04 **Advocacy Development Plan 2004-2007**

The Committee considered a report by the Community Care Manager (Appendix 5).

The Committee approved the recommendations in the report, on the motion of Mr W A Ratter, seconded by Mrs I J Hawkins.

42/04 **Allocation of Youth Justice/Anti-Social Behaviour Resources 2004-2005 and 2005-2006**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager – Looked-After Children (Appendix 6) and on the motion of Mr W H Manson, seconded by Mr J H Henry, the Committee approved the recommendations contained in the report.

43/04 **Staffing within Social Work Residential Units**

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

Mr L Angus stated that staffing levels at Council residential establishments have not moved with the times due to the lack of resources, with staff struggling to maintain the physical care element of the service and little time for the social care requirements. In suggesting a need for a thorough root and branch review of all residential units, Mr L Angus moved to approve the recommendations in the report. Mr C B Eunson seconded.

In referring to paragraph 7.2 in the report, Mr W N Stove enquired what effort was being made to improve the sickness levels. The Community Care Manager explained that much of the sickness absence was due to the heavy work which is involved with the care of older people and the pressure on staff due to staff shortages. Risk Assessments and more proactive measures are being put in place to safeguard staff.

Mr L G Groat suggested that any future new builds of residential establishments should be designed to be user-friendly and work efficient for the staff.

44/04 **Housing Service – Strategic Options**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Housing (Appendix 8).

In order to maintain stability and to avoid causing unnecessary fear and alarm to tenants, Mr W A Ratter moved that the Committee approve recommendation 10.1.3 in the report. Mr L G Groat seconded.

Captain G G Mitchell declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Member of the Hjaltland Housing Association. He explained the background to the report and his concerns regarding the implications to the Council. He was of the opinion that it was important to be seen to progressing this situation and therefore moved as an amendment that staff should be actively investigating

the other two options in the report and present their findings to a future Social Forum meeting. Mr B P Gregson seconded.

Mrs I J Hawkins declared a non-pecuniary interest. Referring to the Shetland Tenants Forum, she was aware that only a small representation of the tenants were represented on the Forum and that some tenants had ceased attending meetings as their views were not being taken into consideration. Members were generally of the opinion that representation on the Tenants Forum should be actively addressed.

(Mrs F B Grains left the meeting. Mr W N Stove, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee assumed the Chair).

Discussion took place regarding the housing debt and the fact that Shetland tenants are paying increasing rents due to this debt. The implications of having the debt written off were also discussed.

(Mr W N Stove gave notice of a further amendment).

After summing up, voting took place by a show of hands and the result was as follows:

Amendment (Captain G G Mitchell)	6
Motion (Mr W A Ratter)	8

Mr W N Stove moved as an amendment that the review of the situation should take place after a period of 2 years, instead of 5 years. In receiving the consent of his seconder, Mr W A Ratter agreed to accept this suggestion.

In order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, Mr W N Stove moved, and Mr B P Gregson seconded, to exclude the public in terms of the relevant legislation during consideration of agenda items 9 and 10.

(Mr J G Simpson left the meeting)

45/04

Proposed Transfer of Scottish Homes Properties to Shetland Islands Council

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing (Appendix 9).

In response to a query from a Member, the Head of Housing explained that there will be initial costs to the Council through refurbishment work to the houses.

The Committee approved the recommendations contained in the report, on the motion of Mr L G Groat, seconded by Mr L Angus.

46/04 **King Erik House and Care at Home**

The Committee considered a report by the Community Care Manager (Appendix 10) and approved the recommendations contained therein on the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mrs B J Cheyne.