

SERVICE AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held remotely on
11 January 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Clark (Chair), A. Campbell, Dowey, McCabe and Pollock.

Apologies: Councillors Brennan-Whitefield, D. Campbell and I. Campbell.

Attending: M. Newall, Assistant Director – People; W. Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; L. Reid, Assistant Director – Place; M. Inglis; Head of Children’s Health (Care and Justice Service) HSCP; J. Wood, Senior Manager (Planning and Performance) HSCP; C. Buchanan – Committee Services Officer; and E. Moore, Clerical Assistant – Democratic and Governance.

1. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest

The Chair took the Sederunt and outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that this meeting would be broadcast live.

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors’ Code of Conduct.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2021 (issued) were submitted and approved.

3. Action Log and Work Programme

There was submitted an update of the Action Log and Work Programme (issued) for this Panel. The Assistant Director – People provided the Panel with a verbal update on the Action Log and Work Programme highlighting that an update had been provided to Members on 7 January 2022 related to Action 3 of the Work Programme ‘Further information requested in the form of a Briefing Note regarding the low figure of 20% relating to contract management within the HSPC and Children’s Services’.

The Panel

Decided: to note the current status of the Action Log and Work Programme.

4. Integration Joint Board (IJB) Annual Performance Report 2020-21

There was submitted a report of 5 January 2022 by the Director of Health and Social Care providing the Integration Joint Board (IJB) Annual Performance Report 2020-21 for scrutiny.

The Senior Manager (Planning Performance) and the Head of Children’s Health (Care and Justice Service) HSCP both gave a verbal overview of the report and invited the Panel Members to ask any questions that they had in relation to the report.

Questions were raised by members in relation to;

(Page 9 of the Report entitled 'Pace of Change') The potential dangers of discharging patients from hospital before being tested for Covid-19 and if there had been any learning from that, The Head of Children's Health (Care and Justice Service) HSCP advised that, in his opinion, the entire Health and Social Care system became more refined due to support from Public Health partnerships and knowledge gained related to the Pandemic and highlighted that there was higher pressure to create bed space within Hospitals to cope. The Senior Manager (Planning Performance) HSCP also stated that formal processes were being reviewed weekly with Care Homes, Scottish Care and the Council's Chief Social Work Team to provide a focus on Care Homes and confidence in safe practice.

(Page 9 of the Report entitled 'Our Workforce') What can be done to encourage people to apply for a Care Sector role, particularly carers due to current staffing shortages? The Senior Manager (Planning Performance) HSCP stated the recruitment of carers and pressures on the workforce were being tracked and highlighted and that the Director of Health and Social Care convened a short-life working group which sought to recruit new care staff. He also advised that a recruitment drive took place which included; social media campaigns, the national campaign for Social Care Workers, looking into the rates of pay, flexible working hours for employees and creating a general social care job vacancies page on My Job Scotland. The Senior Manager outlined that he would provide a briefing note to Members detailing this information.

A Panel Member referenced pages 47 and 78 of the Report entitled 'Emergency Bed Days' and enquired why the Council was tracking above the National Scottish Average; and the Senior Manager (Planning Performance) HSCP outlined that 'Bed Days' had been a long-standing challenge within the Ayrshire demographic and was related to a combination of demographic and social pressures such as a high dependency ratio in Ayrshire, a higher number of elderly people and higher levels of deprivation leading to poor health.

Questions were raised in relation to the increase in hospital readmission dates and the Senior Manager (Planning Performance) HSCP stated that he would provide a written response to Members in the form of a briefing note.

Following a question from a Member of the Panel relating to improving upon report findings in the coming year, the Head of Children's Health (Care and Justice Service) HSCP advised that there had been benefits to working with care experienced individuals that engaged positively through the use of technology, connecting with communities and working remotely. He further advised that Health and Social Care employees had been able to build closer connections with Education partners, seeing a reduction in the number of children in external provision over the last 2 years and a 45% reduction in young individuals offending.

A Panel Member raised concerns for vulnerable children and asked what assurance could be given that they were safe from any harm. The Head of Children's Health (Care and Justice Service) HSCP highlighted that all children and young people considered to be at risk of harm on the Child Protection Register were visited weekly, families had continued attending the Families Centre and that 100% of children had been seen throughout the Pandemic. He further advised that weekly Education meetings were taking place to look at children already known to the Service as well as identifying new individuals who may be vulnerable.

A Member of the Panel asked what impact the Pandemic had on services for mental health and adults with learning disabilities and if these services would be resumed; and

the Head of Children's Health (Care and Justice Service) advised that the Learning and Disability Services Team were currently drafting a new plan for these services and that the Manager (Learning and Disability) was making a commitment that these services will not be compromised.

A Panel Member queried the drop of young people in Secure Care and asked if the Scottish Criminal Justice Service delays were having an impact and the Head of Children's Health (Care and Justice Service) highlighted court delays were not relevant as the appropriate route was via the Children's Hearings system and that any concerns were raised through a Hearings Officer. He further advised that the Pandemic had impacted domestic violence as there had been a delay in perpetrators of domestic violence being dealt with in court, but assured Members that the Health and Social Care Partnership were cited on this. The Senior Manager (Planning Performance) agreed the Pandemic had significantly impacted domestic violence and advised that he would provide a briefing note related to Court work timescales for Health and Social Care services to offer further assurance.

The Head of Children's Health (Care and Justice Service) HSCP stated that he would request an update from Faye Murfet (ADP Lead Officer) related to Drug Deaths for this year and provide an update to Members.

Having considered the report, the Panel

Decided: to note the contents of the report.

The meeting concluded at 11:41 a.m.