

THE MORAY COUNCIL
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH 2010
COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillors L Bell (Chairman), B Jarvis, G Leadbitter, A McDonald, G McIntyre, D Ross, J Sharp and A Wright.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Director of Community Services, the Acting Head of Community Care, Mr C McKerron, Service Manager, Mrs M Wilson, Head of Financial Services Mrs R Gunn, Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Licensing) and Mrs S Kennedy, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of A McKay J Cree, J Mackay, I Ogilvie and P Paul.

Apologies were also submitted on behalf of Mrs J Mackie, the Acting Head of Community Care and Mrs D Bosworth, the Principal Accountant.

1. DECLARATION OF GROUP INTERESTS

There were no declarations from group leaders or spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how members will vote on any item on the Agenda or any declarations of Members Interest in respect of any item on the Agenda.

2. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The meeting resolved that in terms of Section 50A(4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items of business appearing at the relevant paragraphs of this minute as specified below, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Para No of Minute

11

Para No of Schedule 7A

9

3. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The meeting noted the following written question submitted by Councillor Ross and the Council's response as undernoted:

QUESTION

To ask what decisions have been taken regarding the future of Luncheon Clubs in Elgin and Forres?

COUNCIL RESPONSE

The Council meeting on 17 March 2010 requested that officers look again at possible options for keeping lunch clubs open and that the outcome of the review be reported by the Chief Executive back to council group leaders as quickly as possible.

A meeting was subsequently held on 24 March 2010 which reviewed the options and agreed that luncheon clubs in Elgin and Forres would be given an opportunity to operate on the same basis as those at Cullen, Hopeman, Knockando and Aberlour.

At these locations, the luncheon clubs order meals from the local school kitchen with club members being responsible for collection, transport, servicing and clearing up after meals. Meals can be provided at a cost of £4.25 inclusive of VAT. Council staff will be available to assist luncheon clubs to form organised groups and take on this responsibility.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Councillor Ross advised that his motion submitted to the meeting of Full Council on 17/3/2010 was clearly supported and seconded by Councillor Paul, to look again at all the options and to seek assurance that the cook and service users at Elgin Luncheon Club would be fully consulted and this had been agreed through the chair.

As a supplementary question he asked for confirmation that this consultation did not take place and if not why not? He also sought confirmation that staff when informed by Group Leaders were not informed of what was being proposed in terms of catering through the schools and they did indeed find out through a poster which was placed in Elgin Community Centre? He further sought confirmation that the areas referred to in the response did not have the same Community and kitchen facilities as exist at Forres and Elgin? In light of the proposals put forward by the cook of Elgin Luncheon Club to continue the service that she has provided for many years, supported by service users, he asked would it not have been useful for Officers to say that they had received and reviewed the options and while they did not think they were workable, it was given a trial period of 3 months so that the Council could finally say that the officer's opinion was correct rather than this attempt which seems to have once again negated the views of the service users.

In response the Director of Community Services advised that discussion with staff had been undertaken and a reworked business plan provided by Councillor D Ross was considered by staff in Environmental Services, Financial Services and Community Services. However there were very significant gaps in the costs provided in the reworked plan that had not been factored in and the very strong opinion was that it did not make the proposals at all viable financially. This was considered as part of the group leaders overall considerations and was rejected. Therefore the position remains that the Council is determined to support communities to provide a service to ensure people have social contact and the support of the service that they have enjoyed and that remains the position of the Council.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor Ross that his question had not been answered, the Chair advised that in terms of Standing Orders one supplementary question was allowed and disagreed with Councillor Ross that he had not received an answer to his question.

4. COMMUNITY CARE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services informing the Committee of the current position regarding the Community Care and Criminal Justice Revenue and Capital budgets.

The Chair on behalf of the Committee congratulated staff who had done exceedingly well to achieve an underspend at this time.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the position of the revenue and capital budget for Community Care and Criminal Justice as at 28 February 2010 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) the virement of £200,000 from permanent care to homecare activities for 2010/11;
- (iii) the uplift and draw down of additional monies for the nursing and residential care home fees for 2010/11; and
- (iv) the uplift and draw down of additional monies for free personal and nursing care payments from 1 April 2010.

5. COMMUNITY CARE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 3 OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2009

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services asking the Committee to scrutinise progress made against priority areas and targets detailed in Community Services' Service Improvement Plan actioned by the Community Care and Criminal Justice Services to the end of quarter 3, December 2009. The Committee were also asked to scrutinise progress against Performance Indicators and Complaints to the end of quarter 3, December 2009.

In response to a request from Councillor Wright seeking assurance that Indicator CommS500 as detailed in paragraph 4.34 of the report would rise in the future the Director of Community Services gave that assurance.

In response to a request from Councillor Sharp with regard to indicator CommS539 as detailed in paragraph 4.36 of the report the Director of Community Services agreed to review this indicator.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the performance against Community Care and Criminal Justice Service Performance Indicators, at the end of Quarter 3 2009/10, December 2009;
- (ii) note the progress against priorities identified in the Community Care and Criminal Justice Service Improvement Plans 2009-2010, at the end of Quarter 3 2009/10, December 2009;
- (iii) note the performance in achieving the Community Care and Criminal Justice Complaint Targets, at the end of Quarter 3 2009/10, December 2009; and
- (iv) note the performance in those PIs which were published as being in the bottom quartile of the submissions to Audit Scotland for 2008/09 which will be presented to Audit and Performance Committee on 3 March 2010.

6. PROGRESSING PERSONALISATION

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services seeking Committee approval to progress the personalisation agenda by trialling alternative approaches to respite and short break services for adults with physical disabilities in Moray.

During discussions the Committee agreed to accept revised wording for recommendation 2.1, second bullet point to reflect that reports would come to the next meeting and subsequent meetings.

During discussions, Councillor Wright advised the meeting that BV2 should be an important part of delivering services and that the indicators need to match in with this.

In response to concerns expressed with regard to resources, the Director of Community Services advised that there was no additional funding available but that this was in effect a different way of working. A report will come back to Committee on how the pilot progresses.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to approve the planned progress of personalisation in Community Care; and
- (ii) that an update on progress/outcome report on this trial would be given to the next and subsequent meetings of this Committee.

7. DELAYED DISCHARGE FUNDING

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services asking the Committee to approve the changes made to Delayed Discharge Funding for current and future use.

During discussion members expressed concern about the additional staff and were of the view that it would be more appropriate for this report to be submitted to Policy and Resources Committee following the outcome of the study being carried out.

In response to a question from Councillor Ross with regard to surplus funding of £61,000, the Director of Community Services advised that he would ask the Acting Head of Community Care to provide clarification to Councillor Ross on this issue.

Thereafter, the Committee noted the recommendations as printed and agreed that this report be referred to Policy and Resources following the outcome of the current study.

8. TELEHEALTHCARE STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services presenting the Committee with an opportunity to review the draft Telehealthcare Strategy as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and approve it for wider consultation.

In response to concerns expressed with regard to funding the Director of Community services agreed to explore all areas of funding.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to approve the Draft Telehealthcare Strategy for public consultation.

9. IMPROVEMENTS TO INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

This report was withdrawn from the Agenda.

10. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Ross – Question

Councillor Ross raised a question relating to Luncheon Clubs as he was of the view that his earlier written question had not been answered. He referred to his motion to Full Council where it had been agreed that consultation would take place with the cook and service users at Elgin Community Centre and he asked why this did not take place? He stated that if there were problems with the proposals submitted then surely a consultation would have answered those concerns. He asked if it would not have been sensible to allow a 3 month trial of her proposals and then it could fundamentally be said that the Director and other Officers found that it was unworkable rather than saying we will not allow any of these discussions.

In response the Director advised that he was aware that the Service Manager had discussion with staff and in liaison with Legal Services his understanding was that Full Council had taken a decision to remit this issue to Group Leaders and the additional information referred to by Councillor Ross had been scrutinised and was found not to be viable. He further advised that Group Leaders had made a decision and he was not sure what authority or position this Committee had in terms of moving this forward when the process had been undertaken in line with what Full Council had agreed and that a formal process was now underway in relation to staff at risk.

Councillor Ross was still of the view that his question had not been answered and referred again to his request that there would be a consultation with the cook and services users at Elgin Community Centre. He accepted that he had passed on a business plan to the Deputy Convener; however that was not consultation and if Mr Riddell and other officers found problems with the plan then a consultation would surely mean that they would go back to the cook at Elgin Community Centre, look to alleviate these problems and find a workable solution. However the only discussion that had been held with staff at Elgin Community Centre and Forres was to remain with the decision taken by Full Council and that was not consultation.

The Chair advised that his recollection of Full Council was that it had been passed to Group Leaders to deal with the whole issue of luncheon clubs and his understanding was that they had dealt with it and the matter was now in hand.

Councillor Leadbitter – Question

Councillor Leadbitter also asked a question in relation to Luncheon Clubs although he accepted that a decision had been made by group leaders and he did not disagree with their decision made in terms of the information available to them. He

made the point that the budget was set by Full Council and service users were not concerned about who makes the meals, whether it be Community Centres, private businesses or school canteens, as any one of these options was reasonable provided that service users get a quality meal within the budget that is available. In light of this information he asked how extensive consultations were with other departments, most notably with the Education Department in relation to Community Centres, not so much in relation to schools?

The Service Manager advised that he had taken part in several meetings with Moray Catering and Community Centre staff prior to the decision being made, these meetings being chaired by the Acting Head of Community Care.

Councillor Leadbitter sought clarification as to whether the meetings were with Community Centre Staff or with Luncheon Club Staff who work in the Community Centre for the purpose of providing luncheon club meals as they were not the same staff.

The Service Manager clarified that the meetings were with the management of Moray Catering and the Management of Community Centres to look at alternatives to provision. The basic premise being that Community Services should not be providing unassessed services and alternatives to that provision were being explored.

Councillor Ross sought clarification about whether these meetings took place after the 17 March 2009 when Councillors were asking for all options to be reviewed and looked at again or were they discussing meetings which took place before Councillors became involved.

The Service Manager confirmed it was new consultation.

11. PLANS FOR EXPENDITURE OF NEW FUNDING 2010/2011 FOR TELECARE (PARA 9)

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to consider the proposed plans for the use of expenditure of the additional recurring funding of £50,000 awarded for Telecare in 2010/11.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to drawdown additional funding of £50,000 for Telecare funding for 2010/11 and agreed the specific recommendations and proposals for use of the funding set out in paragraph 4 of the report.