

REPORT TO: FULL COUNCIL COMMITTEE 7 JULY 2010

SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT ON CONCORDAT COMMITMENTS

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to consider the progress towards meeting the commitments agreed to within the concordat signed with the Scottish Government in November 2007.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising the statutory power of the Council to advance well being under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee approves the progress made towards meeting the Single Outcome Agreement concordat commitments for reporting back to the Scottish Government as required.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The concordat agreed by the Scottish Government and local government in November 2007 forms the basis of a new relationship based on mutual respect and partnership working and covers the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.
- 3.2 Each council developed an annual Single Outcome Agreement, based upon an agreed set of national indicators tailored to reflect the local context. In addition to these national and local outcomes, the Scottish Government and local governments will work together to facilitate the delivery of key government policies and programmes. These policies and programmes are set out as concordat commitments and are outlined in **Appendix I**.
- 3.3 Of the 12 commitments, 4 are either long term or more nationally based, and so do not require reporting on at an individual local authority level as yet. Those commitments that do require comment are as follows:

- Commitment 4: school estate, Curriculum for Excellence, class sizes and access to teacher for pre-school pupils
- Commitment 5: expanding pre-school provision for 3 and 4 year olds
- Commitment 7: free school meals for all primary and secondary pupils of families in receipt of maximum child tax credit and maximum working tax credit.
- Commitment 8: vocational education/skills
- Commitment 9: kinship care
- Commitment 10: improving care home quality
- Commitment 11: free personal care
- Commitment 12: carers' support

3.5 **Appendix 2** provides a full account of the progress to date; the following provides a summary:-

Commitment 4 – In improving the learning experience for children and young people, the Council is on schedule for replacing Elgin Academy and Keith Primary School by the end of 2011 through a Public Private Partnership project; has received positive and complimentary feedback from the Area Advisor for Learning and Teaching Scotland on its progress with the Curriculum for Excellence; is committed to at least a 7% increase in the numbers of pupils in P1 to P3 classes of 18 or less from August 2010; and is involved in planning to increase access to teachers for children in pre-school settings.

Commitment 5 – Some increases in pre-school provision will be implemented as a result of earlier post 3rd birthday entry.

Commitment 7 – Entitlement to free school meals has been extended to all primary and secondary pupils of families in receipt of maximum child tax credit and maximum working tax credit from August 2009.

Commitment 8 – All 8 secondary schools in Moray utilise the vocational opportunities offered by both Moray College and Banff and Buchan College, with the main focus of provision being on S3/4.

Commitment 9 – A Kinship Care Worker has been appointed, and draft Kinship Care Procedures developed.

Commitment 10 – All 15 care home providers are compliant with the National Care Home Quality Award.

Commitment 11 – The Council is increasing current standard payments in line with inflation, as set by CoSLA and the National Care Home Standards. The standard weekly payment for 2010/11 is £227.

Commitment 12 – In 2009/10 the Council provided 1948 weeks of respite care. This is an increase of 124 weeks since 2007/08, 28

weeks above the concordat commitment of an additional 96 weeks above the baseline.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

The commitments discussed in this report relate directly to the Single Outcome Agreement as it is also an integral part of the concordat. The Single Outcome Agreement informs the Corporate and Community Plans, which in turn inform the Service Improvement Plans.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Concordat is a legally binding document signed with the Scottish Government.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The Concordat underpins the funding to be provided to local government over the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

(d) Consultations

Lead officers responsible for delivering against the Concordat Commitments provided the progress reports.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 The Council must show progress towards meeting the Concordat Commitments.

Author of Report: Amanda Walker, Project Officer
Background Papers:
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