

SE19. FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND (FPP) – HEALTH AND OLDER PEOPLE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Social Work Adult Services which provided an update on the work of external organisations in receipt of funding to provide services relating to health for older people and who fall within the Following the Public Pound (FPP) reporting and monitoring arrangements. Colin Moodie provided an overview of the report.

The committee then heard from officers in relation to the individual reports.

(a) Independent Living Association Forth Valley – Forth Valley Self Directed Support Service

Members asked about the risk of the two other local authorities which provided funding to the organisation withdrawing their contribution. Margaret Petherbridge stated that the level of service provided could be affected if there was reduction in funding from the other authorities and that the organisation was looking at alternative funding streams to build security in the organisation.

The committee commented that the report did not highlight the respective contribution of each council. Margaret Petherbridge advised that the other councils provided slightly more direct funding but that Falkirk Council gives a significant contribution of in-kind support.

Members sought further information on the work of the organisation. Margaret Petherbridge stated that as well as offering expert advice in relation to self directed support community cafes were run once a month with the development officer and that there were different speakers invited. She advised that the organisation also worked closely with a variety of other organisations and partners.

The committee asked about the funding contribution from the Scottish Government. Margaret Petherbridge advised that in year one £171,000 had been received, £304,000 in year two and £171,000 in year three. £103,000 had been allocated for the current financial year with the level for next year unknown until after the spending review. She stated that there was enough money in the organisation's reserves to continue to provide services for two to three months.

Members discussed the recruitment of volunteers. Margaret Petherbridge stated that the recruitment of volunteers had been a challenge as the organisation finalised its vision for what was expected from volunteers. There had been an additional challenge around securing sufficient finance to ensure expenses could be paid. There were peer support groups in place nationally which had also been difficult to set up.

Decision

The committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by Independent Living Association Forth Valley – Forth Valley Self Directed Support Service in meeting Council priorities.

(b) Central Carers Association - Falkirk Carers Centre

The committee discussed the contribution of informal carers in Scotland and highlighted the work carried out by young carers in particular. Members commented that the average age of a young carer in Scotland was 12 years old. Nikki Harvey stated that the youngest carer the Council was aware of was 8 years old, she further advised that 47% of informal carers provided over 35 hours per week of care.

Members asked what level of demand the service experienced year on year. Nikki Harvey stated that she would get the information and provide to members after the meeting. In response to a question from the committee, Nikki Harvey confirmed that the organisation did receive funding from NHS Forth Valley.

Decision

The committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by Central Carers Association – Falkirk Carers Centre in meeting Council priorities.

Depute Provost Patrick left the meeting during consideration of the previous item.

(c) RVS – Meals on Wheels

Members asked what training was available to volunteers. Liz McGhee stated that the service level agreement stated that all volunteers required to be trained and PVG checked. Training was carried out by social work services, the Carers Centre and some by RVS itself.

The committee asked if the service could be expanded to cover the entire district. Liz McGhee advised that the Service was engaging with the organisation on the issues in specific areas where the meals on wheels service was not available. She also advised that meals on wheels was not appropriate for everyone and highlighted the impact of private competitors and microwave ready meals. Work was being carried out to improve the promotion of the service.

Decision

The committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by RVS – Meals on Wheels in meeting Council priorities.

In terms of Standing Order 25.1(x), the committee agreed that the time for the meeting be extended.

(d) Alzheimer Scotland – Alzheimer’s Scotland Day Care Provision

The committee discussed the level of information provided in the report and asked for more detail on how many staff were involved with the organisation and what services were provided. Susan Nixon stated that she would provide the information after the meeting.

Decision

The committee requested further information on Alzheimer Scotland – Alzheimer’s Scotland Day Care Provision on the services provided locally and the number of staff involved.

(e) Falkirk & District Association for Mental Health

The committee discussed waiting times for the service and increased pressure through increased demand. Nikki Harvey stated that the service aimed to see people within two to four weeks of their referral.

Decision

The committee approved the report and acknowledged progress by Falkirk & District Association for Mental Health in meeting Council priorities.