

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a city skyline with a diagonal beam of light. The top-right quadrant depicts a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a three-masted sailing ship on wavy water. The bottom-right quadrant features a grizzly bear standing on a rocky outcrop. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom of the shield contains the motto "A NE FOR A".

Agenda Item 3

Minute

Draft

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Minute of meeting of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (EXTERNAL) held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Thursday 1 December 2016 at 9.30 a.m.

COUNCILLORS:

David Balfour
Gordon Hughes
Steven Jackson (Convener)
Charles MacDonald
Brian McCabe
John McLuckie

OFFICERS:

Fiona Campbell, Head of Policy, Technology and Improvement
Matthew Davies, Service Manager
Jack Frawley, Committee Services Officer
Nikki Harvey, Service Manager
Iain Henderson, Legal Services Manager
Sara Lacey, Senior Service Manager
Joe McElholm, Head of Social Work Adult Services
Vivien Thomson, Service Manager

SE17. Apologies

An apology was intimated on behalf of Depute Provost Patrick.

SE18. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

SE19. Minute

Decision

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny Committee (External) held on 6 October 2016 was approved.

SE20. Police Scotland Update

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided, as an appendix to the report, a briefing from the Chief Superintendent. A note of meeting between Police Scotland and the Council held on 19 August 2016 was also appended. Fiona Campbell provided an overview of the report.

Decision

The committee noted the update on the matters for which information was previously requested.

SE21. Following the Public Pound

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which sought agreement to bring proposals to a future meeting relating to the reporting of organisations monitored through the Following the Public Pound (FPP) framework. Fiona Campbell provided an overview of the report.

The committee asked what involvement Audit Scotland may have in the development of the revised reporting framework. Fiona Campbell stated that the Council applied guidance from Audit Scotland in the development of its procedures. She advised that Falkirk's approach had previously been held up as best practice.

Decision

The committee agreed that a new reporting template for Following the Public Pound reports would be submitted to a future meeting for consideration.

SE22. Following the Public Pound: Services to Children & Young People – 2015/16 Monitoring Report

The committee considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the work of external organisations in receipt of funding in whole or in part, who provide early intervention services to children and young people, and who fall within the Following the Public Pound (FPP) reporting and monitoring arrangements. Sara Lacey provided an overview of the report. The committee then heard from officers in relation to the individual reports.

(a) Barnardo's Axis Service

Matthew Davies provided an overview of the report considering the performance of Barnados – Axis Service. He advised that a direct grant of £137,443 was received by the organisation in the reporting period.

Members asked if there was a risk to the organisation of receiving a reduction in funding from the Council and the Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership. Matthew Davies advised that there was a risk of such funding reductions occurring but commented that this was a large service which could offset some reduction through changes to the model of service delivery. There would however, likely be a reduction in the number of young

people who could be seen by the service and the amount of intensive support would also need to decrease.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for Barnardo's Axis Service and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.

(b) Barnardo's - Cluaran Service

Matthew Davies provided an overview of the report considering the performance of Barnados – Cluaran Service. He advised that a direct grant of £345,297 was received by the organisation in the reporting period.

The committee discussed the reported performance. It noted that improvements had been made to service users in the areas of the key outcomes but noted limited progress in some areas such as relationships. Matthew Davies stated that the young people who were engaged with the service were on the cusp of becoming looked after away from home and therefore likely had poorer relationships than those in other services. The client group were extremely vulnerable and at risk. He advised that the steering group would look at case studies and ensure progress was being made.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for Barnardo's - Cluaran Service and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.

(c) NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Clinical Psychologist for Looked after Children

Frank Kennedy provided an overview of the report considering the performance of NHS Forth Valley CAMHS Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children. He advised that a direct grant of £70,704 was received by the organisation in the reporting period.

The committee sought information on the achievements which had been made and asked if figures were available to support this. Frank Kennedy advised that there was evidence of success in terms of feedback from the Care Inspectorate but highlighted that it was difficult to attribute outcomes specifically to mental health work. He stated that in future reports it may be possible to include the feedback which was received from young people relating to the service.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for NHS Forth Valley CAMHS – Clinical Psychologist for Looked After Children and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.

(d) Quarriers Scotland Falkirk Children's Rights Service

Vivien Thomson provided an overview of the report considering the performance of Quarriers Scotland – Falkirk Children's Rights Service. She advised that a direct grant of £86,200 was received by the organisation in the reporting period. Following comments she advised that more quantitative information relating to performance would be included in future reports.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for Quarriers Scotland Falkirk Children's Rights Service and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.

(e) Signpost Recovery Time 4 Us

Matthew Davies provided an overview of the report considering the performance of Signpost Recovery – Time 4 Us. He advised that a direct grant of £45,000 was received by the organisation in the reporting period.

Following discussion, Matthew Davies provided confirmation that the Big Lottery Funding received by the organisation was time limited. He further clarified that no Falkirk Council funding was used to purchase toys for service users which money came from other sources.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for Signpost Recovery Time 4 Us and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.

(f) "Who Cares?" Scotland Children's Rights Service

Vivien Thomson provided an overview of the report considering the performance of Who Cares? Scotland – Children's Rights Service. She advised that a direct grant of £27,970 was received by the organisation in the reporting period.

The committee asked if there was good partnership working between the service and Quarriers Scotland. Vivien Thomson stated that there was a good joint working relationship operating within current financial restrictions.

The services were co-located. Members discussed whether there was a need for two similar services or if one organisation could meet demand.

Members asked what the level of demand was for these services. Vivien Thomson advised that she would provide the information after the meeting as it would be split across Quarriers Scotland and Who Cares? Sara Lacey stated that there was some responsibility on the organisations to create demand through ensuring their services were well promoted. She commented that the national profile of Who Cares? was positive.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for “Who Cares?” Scotland Children’s Rights Service and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.

SE23. Following the Public Pound: Health & Older People

The committee considered a report by the Head of Adult Services which provided an update on the work of external organisations in receipt of funding in whole or in part, who provide early intervention services to children and young people, and who fall within the Following the Public Pound (FPP) reporting and monitoring arrangements. Joe McElholm provided an overview of the report.

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

(a) Princess Royal Trust for Carers

Joe McElholm provided an overview of the report considering the performance of Princess Royal Trust for Carers. He advised that a direct grant of £141,898 was received by the organisation in the reporting period.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for Princess Royal Trust for Carers and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.

(b) Alzheimer’s Scotland

Joe McElholm provided an overview of the report considering the performance of Alzheimer’s Scotland. He advised that a direct grant of £57,768 was received by the organisation in the reporting period.

The committee asked if the demand on the service was increasing. Joe McElholm advised that there were more people accessing the service and that increases in life expectancy would result in more demand being placed on the service. There had also been significant work carried out on

encouraging earlier diagnosis of dementia which would result in people receiving support for longer periods of time. He stated that over time the Falkirk Health & Social Care Partnership would need to decide how to best respond to local demographic pressures.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for Alzheimer's Scotland and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.

(c) Falkirk & District Association for Mental Health

Joe McElholm provided an overview of the report considering the performance of Falkirk & District Association for Mental Health. He advised that a direct grant of £177,777 was received by the organisation in the reporting period.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for Falkirk & District Association for Mental Health and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.

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

Joe McElholm provided an overview of the report considering the performance of Independent Living Association Forth Valley – Forth Valley Self Directed Support Service. He advised that a direct grant of £29,604 was received by the organisation in the reporting period.

The committee asked if the level of funding available was a limiting factor on self directed support (SDS) uptake. Joe McElholm advised that money was available and that sometimes the process of getting a SDS package in place was slower than desired. However, he stated that he did not think this was a limiting factor in terms of uptake. The service continually looked at how to improve the number of people engaging with SDS. In Falkirk less people used Option 1, which requires that the service user takes on employer responsibilities, when compared with the national figures but caution was required in terms of comparison. Some areas showed particularly high numbers due to how they had carried out their re-tendering of home care.

Members discussed the number of contacts and referrals which the service had been involved with. Joe McElholm advised information contacts were often from people just seeking information who did not then pursue formal support as well as existing service users and people who made multiple enquires.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for Independent Living Association Forth Valley – Forth Valley Self Directed Support Service and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.

(e) RVS – Meals on Wheels

Joe McElholm provided an overview of the report considering the performance of RVS – Meals on Wheels. He advised that a direct grant of £10,400 was received by the organisation in the reporting period.

Members highlighted that previous discussions by the committee had asked why the service was not made available across the council area. Joe McElholm advised that where people had a clear need for support for their nutritional needs then RVS could not deliver this. Their service delivery model was for operation on a limited number of days and this was not suitable for people who need daily support.

Decision

The Committee approved the report for RVS – Meals on Wheels and acknowledged progress towards meeting Council priorities.