

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: REFERRAL FROM HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE COMMITTEE – 1
SEPTEMBER 2009**
Meeting: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Date: 8 SEPTEMBER 2009
**Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES
AND ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following Reports were submitted to the Housing and Social Care Committee at its meeting on 1 September 2009. The purpose of this Report is to refer recommendations made by the Housing and Social Care Committee to Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

2. MIXED TENURE CHARGING ARRANGEMENTS

- 2.1 Committee considered the Report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services on a review of mixed tenure charging arrangements involving owners and presenting options for members to consider.

- 2.2 Committee was invited to:-

- (1) note the planned introduction of improved arrangements for incorporating owners' feedback and monitoring cases passed to Finance Services, in respect of mixed tenure work;
- (2) consider the options available to the Council regarding recharging owners and the financial implications for the Council, tenants and owners; and
- (3) refer the report to Policy and Resources Committee to consider the implications of any decisions made by members in relation to discounts to owners.

- 2.3 Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill, moved that the recommendation to be made to Policy and Resources Committee should be:-

“that the discounted pricing structure is discontinued with the exception of the refurbishment of High Rise Flats.”

- 2.4 By way of an amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor McNally moved that the discounted pricing structure should be retained including that for the refurbishment of High Rise Flats.

- 2.5 On a division, 6 Members voted for the Motion and 4 Members for the Amendment.

2.6 Accordingly, Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the discounted pricing structure is discontinued with the exception of the refurbishment of High Rise Flats, and
- (2) to refer to the Policy and Resources Committee.
- (3) to note the planned introduction of improved arrangements for incorporating owners' feedback and monitoring cases passed to Finance Services, in respect of mixed tenure work.

2.7 In accordance with paragraph 2.6 above, Policy and Resources Committee is invited to agree that the discounted pricing structure is discontinued with the exception of the refurbishment of High Rise Flats.

3. REVIEW OF DISTURBANCE ALLOWANCES FOLLOWING REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT WORK

3.1 Committee considered the Report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services on the review of arrangements through which the Council recompenses tenants for disturbance/redecoration arising from internal works.

3.2 Committee was invited and agreed to:-

- (1) approve the proposed arrangements detailed in paragraph 4.2 and authorise officers to develop the required procedural arrangements to allow implementation from April 2010;
- (2) Index link allowances to the Retail Price Index (RPI) of February each year. (However, this will not be reduced if there is a reduction in the RPI); and
- (3) refer the proposals outlined in paragraphs 4.2 to Policy and Resources Committee.

3.3 In accordance with paragraph 3.2 above, Policy and Resources Committee is invited to approve the proposed arrangements as detailed in Paragraph 4.2 of the Report and to authorise officers to develop the required procedural arrangements to allow implementation from April 2010.

4. ROLE OF THE CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER – IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL GUIDANCE

4.1 Committee considered the Report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services referring to the contents of the National Guidance on the Role of the Chief Social Work Officer and to the Council's draft Policy Statement.

4.2 Committee was invited and agreed to:-

- (1) note the content of the National Guidance on the Role of the Chief Social Work Officer;
- (2) endorse the Draft Policy Statement as outlined in Appendix 2 of the Report; and
- (3) refer the Policy Statement to Policy and Resources Committee for final approval.

4.3 In accordance with paragraph 4.2 above, Policy and Resources Committee is invited to approve the Draft Policy Statement on the Role of the Chief Social Work Officer.

5. DELIVERING SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: INTENSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

5.1 Committee considered the joint Report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services, and the Directors of Education Services and of Community Services detailing the work carried out by the Children's Commission to develop more integrated approaches to delivering services to children and families in the Falkirk Council area.

5.2 Committee was invited and agreed to:-

- (1) endorse the establishment of the permanent posts as outlined in paragraph 4.6 of the Report, and
- (2) agree that the Report should be referred to Policy and Resources Committee for establishment of the posts.

5.3 In accordance with paragraph 5.2 above, Policy and Resources Committee is therefore invited to approve the establishment of the permanent posts as outlined in Paragraph 4.6 of the Report.

6. INTERIM RESIDENTIAL PROVISION

6.1 Committee considered the Report by the Acting Director of Social Work seeking approval to continue to contract with Care Visions for the provision of 4 local medium term placements for Falkirk young people, on an interim basis.

6.2 Committee was invited to:-

- (1) endorse the proposal to continue to contract with Care Visions on an interim basis to provide medium term care within the Council area for 4 young people and refer this to Policy and Resources Committee for approval, and

- (2) request that the Acting Director of Social Work provide an update and options appraisal in relation to the longer term plans for a medium term/therapeutic unit at the earliest opportunity.
- 6.3 Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved the recommendations as contained within the Report.
- 6.4 By way of an amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Coleman moved that recommendation 2 above, be substituted with the following:-

“Reaffirm commitment to a third therapeutic unit and to request the Acting Director of Social Work Services to bring forward a Report on possible new build sites to Committee before the end of this year.”
- 6.5 On a division, 6 Members voted for the Motion and 4 Members for the Amendment.
- 6.6 Accordingly, Committee agreed to:-
 - (1) endorse the proposal to continue the contract with Care Visions, on an interim basis, for the provision of medium term care within the Council area for 4 young people and the matter be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval, and
 - (2) request that the Acting Director of Social Work Services provide an update and options appraisal in relation to the longer term plans for a medium term/therapeutic unit at the earliest opportunity.
- 6.7 **In accordance with paragraph 6.6(1) above, Policy and Resources Committee is invited to approve the continuation of the contract with Care Visions for the provision of medium term care for 4 young people.**

7. FUTURE PROVISION OF FOSTERING SERVICES

- 7.1 Committee considered the Report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services on changes in the nature of fostering provision over recent years.
- 7.2 Committee was invited and agreed to:-
 - (1) endorse the increase of allowances to carers to the Fostering Network levels, on a phased basis as outlined in the Report and to refer the matter to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval;
 - (2) endorse the proposal to undertake a procurement exercise in relation to external foster care placements, on the basis that the outcome is referred to Policy and Resources Committee for approval; and
 - (3) request that the Acting Director of Social Work to provide Members with updates on the progress of the development of the fostering service.

- 7.3 In accordance with paragraph 7.2(1) above, Policy and Resources Committee is invited to approve the increase of allowances to carers to the Fostering Network levels, on a phased basis.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is invited to:-

- (1) agree that the discounted pricing structure is discontinued with the exception of the refurbishment of High Rise Flats;
- (2) approve the proposed arrangements as detailed in Paragraph 4.2 of the Report and to authorise officers to develop the required procedural arrangements to allow implementation from April 2010;
- (3) approve the Draft Policy Statement on the Role of the Chief Social Work Officer;
- (4) approve the establishment of the permanent posts as outlined in Paragraph 4.6 of the Report;
- (5) approve the continuation of the contract with Care Visions for the provision of medium term care for 4 young people; and
- (6) approve the increase of allowances to carers to the Fostering Network levels, on a phased basis.

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Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services

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Acting Director of Social Work Services

Date: 3 September 2009

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
NIL