

FALKIRK COUNCIL

SUBJECT: FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND - MONITORING REPORT 2008/2009
MEETING: HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE COMMITTEE
DATE: 2nd FEBRUARY 2010
AUTHOR: ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the work of the organisations who are funded principally or in part by Social Work Services and who are subject to “Following the Public Pound” monitoring arrangements. The report makes proposals for the continuation or renewal of joint working agreements with 17 of the organisations, the partial renewal of a joint working agreement with 1 organisation and the discontinuation of joint working agreements relating to services provided by 2 organisations.

2 THE ORGANISATIONS

- 2.1 Appendices 1 and 2 contains details of the services provided by the organisations referred to above. These organisations have been monitored in accordance with the Following the Public Pound arrangements and, in the main, their performance has been found to be satisfactory and the work they have undertaken remains a high priority for Social Work Services. The arrangements outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 reflect a strong partnership between Social Work Services and the Voluntary Sector, who are key partners in the delivery of services to our communities.

3 PROPOSED FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

- 3.1 The majority of the organisations outlined in Appendix 1 are coming to the end of existing Joint Working Agreements (JWAs) with only four having existing JWAs that take them to 2012.
- 3.2 Where we do not already have JWAs which extend to 2012 we are recommending that either existing arrangements are rolled forward for a year (up to 31st March 2011) or if required new JWAs are in place up to this same date. This reflects the uncertainty surrounding anticipated Local Government budget levels from 2011 onwards.
- 3.3 The only exception where we are recommending a two year JWA from 2010 to 2012 is for Princess Royal Trust – Central Carers Association. This is explained in the report on that service (see Appendix 1) and reflects the critical role of carers in our community.

4 FINANCIAL ISSUES

- 4.1 The 20 services covered in this report have received a total value of £2,364,042 through grant funding (cash or in-kind) from Social Work Services. This represents a significant level of investment in the voluntary sector in the Falkirk area.

- 4.2 It is proposed that the organisations outlined in Appendix 1 continue to receive funding in the next financial year and that funding levels for 2010/11 are considered as part of the overall budget setting process for the Council. There are, however, three organisations, outlined in Appendix 2, where it is proposed that funding for some service elements should cease and these are summarised below.

5 PROPOSED DISCONTINUATION OF SERVICES

5.1 Barnardo's Matrix Service

This service has provided support to a maximum of 6 young people and their families at a cost of £93,450 for the current year. The service operates across Forth Valley and the operational base is in Stirling. The focus of this service has been to provide support to families with younger children (aged 8 – 11) who are at risk of developing anti-social offending behaviour with the aim of reducing risk factors. Barnardo's also provides 2 other Family Support Services for younger children within the Falkirk Council area, the Bo'ness Family Centre and the New Beginnings Family Support Service.

Plans are now being developed for the introduction of a locality model for Children's Services in Falkirk and for the introduction of an Intensive Support Service. In light of these developments, it is proposed that the continuation of the Matrix Service will not represent Best Value and that the needs of the children and families who have been referred to Matrix in the past can be met in other ways through local family support services.

5.2 Children 1st Family Group Conferencing Service

This service has been provided by Children 1st since January 2006 and has been jointly funded by Falkirk Council to the amount of £77,895 per annum. Family Group Conferencing is a model of working with families which facilitates family members, extended family members and friends to develop plans designed to protect and support their children. While the work undertaken by Children 1st has undoubtedly been positive, there are now opportunities to incorporate this model of working into the developing Intensive Family Support Service. It is therefore considered that this service is no longer required as a dedicated, stand alone service.

5.3 F.D.A.M.H – Time Out Service

The service was established in 2005 on a pilot basis, using ringfenced "Choose Life" funding. Funding in the last year has amounted to £89,146. The service was set up to provide out of hours support, advice and information for individuals in a Mental Health Crisis. The service operates between the hours of 6.00pm and 11.00pm, 7 days a week with 2 members of staff working each evening.

Over the last 2 years, the average number of calls per night has been 8 ie. 4 per employee with call times varying from under 5 minutes to over an hour. The majority of callers to this service are known to and supported by other services.

Since the inception of this service, a number of similar services have developed, most of which receive extensive national funding. These include Breathing Space, Saneline, Cruse and Samaritans. NHS Forth Valley have also developed an Intensive Home Treatment Service that provides intensive support to people as an alternative to hospital admission and operates between the hours of 9.00am to 9.00pm, Monday to Friday and 10.00am to 6.00pm at weekends.

In the view of these wider developments and the relatively low levels of daily calls to Time Out, it is considered that the continuation of this service will not represent Best Value and that other services are available which can meet the needs of people who have used this service to date.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is asked to:

- 6.1 Note the report made in accordance with “Following the Public Pound” monitoring framework for the financial year 2008/2009, and endorse the satisfactory performance of these Organisations:**

Table 1

Organisations	JWA proposals
Aberlour Child Care Trust	2009/12 (existing)
Addictions Support & Counselling (ASC) – Forth Valley	2010/11
Advocacy into Action	2010/11
Alzheimer Scotland	2009/11
Barnardo’s Cluaran Service	2010/11
Crossroads	2010/11
Independent Living Association Forth Valley	2009/12 (existing)
Falkirk & District Association for Mental Health (except Time Out Service)	2010/11, subject to service review of In Touch
Forth Valley Advocacy	2010/11
Forth Valley Sensory Centre	Rolling Agreement
Open Secret	2010/11
Princess Royal Trust – Central Carers Association	2010/12
Quarriers Children's Rights Service	2009/11
Relationship Scotland	2010/11
SACRO Restorative Justice Service	2010/11
Signpost Recovery	2010/11
Tayavalla NCH	Moved to full contract
WRVS	2009/12 (existing)

- 6.2 Acknowledge and recognise the work undertaken by the organisations described in Appendices 1 and 2 in supporting and assisting local people.
- 6.3 Endorse the proposals, as outlined in Table 1 for extension of Joint Working Agreements, mainly being one year extensions only at this time and refer consideration of funding levels for these organisations to Falkirk Council as part of the 2010/11 budget setting process.
- 6.4 Endorse the proposals outlined in Section 3 to discontinue funding to the 3 services outlined i.e Barnardo's Matrix, Children 1st Family Group Conferencing Service and FDAMH Time Out Service, on the basis that the needs of service users can be appropriately met through alternative existing service provision and that due notice will be provided to these organisations and refer this to Falkirk Council for approval as part of the 2010/11 budget considerations.
- 6.5 Ask the Acting Director of Social Work Services to ensure that all grant funded activity is reviewed in the next 12 months, where necessary in conjunction with other Council Services, to ensure financial and strategic fit from 2011 onwards.

Margaret Anderson.

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Acting Director of Social Work Services

Date: 11th January 2009

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS