

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Thursday, 24 August 2023 at 10.30am.

Present:

Mr C Aitken (remote)	Ms L Kraft
Dr C Birt	Mrs I MacKenzie
Mrs M Cockburn	Mrs A MacLean
Mr D Fraser	Ms K MacLean
Mr R Gunn	Mr T MacLennan (remote)
Mrs B Jarvie (remote)	Mrs M Reid (remote)
Ms L Johnston	Mrs T Robertson
Ms E Knox	Mrs L Saggars (remote)

Non-Members present (remote):

Mr M Baird	Mr J McGillivray
Ms M Hutchison	Mr D Millar
Mr R Jones	

NHS Highland representatives:

Dr T Allison, Director of Public Health, NHS Highland (remote)
Ms L Bussell, Director of Nursing, NHS Highland (remote)

Third sector representatives in attendance:

Ms J Douglas, Care and Learning Alliance
Mr H Tedstone, Highland Hospice

Also in attendance:

Ms S Steer, Director of Adult Social Care, NHS Highland

Participating Officials:

Ms F Duncan, Executive Chief Officer Health and Social Care and Chief Social Work Officer
Ms F Malcolm, Head of Integration Adult Social Care, Health and Social Care
Mr I Kyle, Head of Performance and Improvement, Health and Social Care
Ms J Park, Strategic Lead Child Health, Health and Social Care
Ms M McIntyre, Head of Children and Justice Social Work, Health and Social Care
Ms M Murray, Principal Committee Officer, Performance and Governance
Ms F MacBain, Senior Committee Officer, Performance and Governance

**An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council.
All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to Committee.**

Mr D Fraser in the Chair

1. Calling of the Roll and Apologies for Absence Gairm a' Chlàir agus Leisgeulan

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs P Munro and Mrs M Paterson.

**2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statement
Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt/Aithris Fhollaiseachd**

There were none.

**3. Recess Powers
Cumhachdan Fosaidh**

The Committee **NOTED** that the recess powers granted by the Council at its meeting on 29 June 2023 had not been required to be exercised in relation to the business of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Committee.

**4. Service Achievements
Coileanaidhean Seirbheis**

Updates were provided on the following issues:

- community events had been held over the summer by Child Health Visitors as part of Family Health Promotion and Child Development;
- work was being undertaken with NHS Highland colleagues to ease pressure in Raigmore Hospital, especially around recruitment and delayed discharge;
- the Handyperson scheme, which supported people to live safely and independently in their own homes, had been reviewed to assess needs and establish how to deliver services from 2024 onwards. The scheme would form part of the Strategic Plan for Adult Services 2024-27;
- in relation to The Orchard Care Home, an apology was issued for the cessation of respite care during the summer months. Work was being undertaken to resolve the situation as soon as possible, and assurance was provided on the commitment to this key area of service provision;
- a report on disability, including Self-Directed Support and respite care, would be presented at the next meeting of the Committee;
- consultation on the Strategic Plan for Adult Services 2024-27 was underway, with four public engagement events planned; and
- the Committee Chair and the Executive Chief Officer, Health and Social Care, had recently visited Inverness Women's Aid and would report back in due course on joint work being undertaken.

During discussion, Members sought assurance that sufficient publicity was being undertaken in relation to consultation on the Strategic Plan for Adult Services, particularly in relation to community councils and the public. It was clarified that NHS Highland was the lead agency for the Plan, the dates of public events would be forwarded to the Committee, and the publicity measures would be reviewed.

The Committee **NOTED** the updates and **AGREED** to review the publicity being undertaken in relation to the Strategic Plan for Adult Services and undertake further engagement if required.

**5. Revenue Budget Monitoring and Performance Reporting for Q1 2023/24 –
01 April 2023 to 30 June 2023 and Final Outturn 2022/23
Sgrùdadh Buidseat Teachd-a-steach – Suim Dheireannach 2022-23 agus
Sgrùdadh is Coileanadh Cairteil a h-Aon**

There had been circulated Report No HCW/12/23 by the Executive Chief Officer Health and Social Care.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- the reported understaffing was a key concern, especially in relation to supporting families undertaking kinship care, and dealing with children with challenging behaviour. This was acknowledged as a risk area, and resources were being targeted on a priority basis. A summary was provided of measures being undertaken to address the social worker shortage, and thanks were expressed to staff who were working under pressure;
- the reduced number of out of Highland foster care placements was welcomed, as were the efforts being made to implement 'The Promise'. Both these achievements had positive outcomes for the children and their families, and often resulted in reduced pressure on the budget;
- assurance was sought and provided that support for kinship carers was a key focus, including helping carers to maximise any income to which they were entitled;
- it was welcomed that staffing challenges, especially in remote and rural areas, were being looked at across all Council services, and these challenges had been drawn to the attention of Scottish Government officials at a recent National Care Service event in Strathpeffer;
- there was a need to rebrand the social care industry to make careers in this area more attractive, to consider offering jobs with accommodation, and to look at other Scottish local authorities for comparison. These issues were being addressed in the Strategic Plan, work was being undertaken with the Housing Service, and a report covering staffing was due to be presented to the next meeting of the Committee;
- the invoicing team were thanked for their work on timely payments;
- it would be helpful if more could be done to integrate children's and adult services to allow care staff to work in both sectors. Ms J Douglas gave a brief summary of work being undertaken to improve integrated multi-generation services, with a pilot proposal being worked on;
- it would be helpful if more flexibility could be built into SVQ care qualifications to provide more transferable skills. It was disappointing that some staff with considerable experience might leave because of an unwillingness to undertake qualifications;
- information was sought on outcomes from a recent campaign to recruit more foster carers, and this would be provided to Mrs M Reid once the figure were available; and
- the benefits of improved diet and nutrition for children was summarised, and more action on this was urged.

The Committee **NOTED**:

- i. the forecast revenue position as at Quarter 1 of the 2023/24 financial year and the final out-turn position in terms of the financial year 2022/23;
- ii. the progress update provided in relation to budget savings delivery; and
- iii. the Service's performance and risk information.

6. Integrated Children's Service Plan 2023-2026 Plana Seirbheis Chloinne Amalaichte 2023-2026

There had been circulated Report No HCW/13/23 by the Chair of the Integrated Children's Services Planning Board.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- reference was made to the issues raised during Item 5 about the importance of diet and nutrition to child development and health, and information was provided on the joint strategic needs assessment being carried out, public health work being undertaken in this area, and key pieces of work being undertaken from a Health, Social Care and Wellbeing perspective. It was proposed that Dr Birt meet with the Strategic Lead Child Health outwith the meeting to discuss the issue further;
- the event planned for the following day to officially launch the Plan was welcomed. It was suggested the voice of young people was missing, and a summary was provided of the participation strategy that was being developed to ensure participation and co-design by young people. Reference was also made to the intention to produce a child-friendly version of the Plan;
- information was sought and provided on the extent to which various groups and third sector organisations had been included in the development of the Plan, including the Highland Youth Network. Assurance was provided on the collaborative approach taken to developing the Plan and third sector involvement in the process;
- in relation to the 'Voice and Participation of Children and Young People' section of the Plan, the role of the youth work strategy was queried;
- there were concerns that the Highland Poverty Group, referenced in the section of the Plan named 'Integrated Planning Our Themes', and the Highland Youth Work Development Group, were not meeting, or were not meeting frequently enough. It was suggested that, at times, it might be appropriate for third sector representatives to take a lead role in some groups, rather than relying on the Council. This would facilitate giving a stronger voice to communities;
- it was welcomed that Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC), and Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included (SHANARRI) Indicators were underpinning the work of the Plan and, although there was room for improvement, the work being undertaken was praised;
- national strategies to encourage breastfeeding were welcomed, and a recent article in the Lancet reported an increase in breastfeeding in mothers under 25, and lowering of tobacco-related deaths, since the introduction of baby boxes. It was suggested that more could be done to support mothers expressing milk, and that more data was required on the reasons for mothers ceasing breastfeeding. A summary was provided of the key issues used to promote breastfeeding, including the benefits for the child, benefits for the relationship with the mother, and personal benefits for the mother;
- it was disappointing that efforts to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scottish law had been turned down by the UK Government. It was due to be amended and a further attempt to incorporate into Scottish law was anticipated and, in the meantime, it was welcomed as a principle to which the Council adhered;
- NHS Highland was a key partner, and had endorsed the Plan;
- a workshop for Members to go through the detail of the Plan was sought;

- it was important to identify children with additional support needs at an early stage, and particular reference was made to the importance of tackling bullying. It was suggested that Education officials might have more information on strategies and policies in this area;
- the acknowledgement of the importance of play in the Plan was welcomed, and the need for flexible play spaces for families was emphasised. Information was sought and provided on collaborative discussions taking place around commissioning; and
- the key role of the third sector in the delivery of the Plan was summarised, and the importance of capturing and recognising all key outcomes was reiterated.

The Committee:

- NOTED** the work undertaken by the Integrated Children's Service Plan Board in producing the Highland Integrated Children's Services Plan 2023 – 2026; and
- NOTED** the plan which has been approved by the Community Planning Partnership Board; and
- AGREED** to hold a workshop for Members to consider in more detail the issues contained in the Integrated Children's Service Plan 2023-2026.

7. **Highland Children and Young People's Needs Assessment** **Measadh Feumalachdan Chloinne is Dhaoine Òga na Gàidhealtachd**

There had been circulated Report No HCW/14/23 by the Executive Chief Officer Health and Social Care.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- attention was drawn to the need to support children and young people to maintain a healthy weight throughout childhood, and it was pointed out that the prevalence of obesity had increased in 2021 but had reduced again in 2022. The Employee of the Year award had this year been awarded to a cook at Croy Primary School for her work to promote good nutrition to pupils;
- it was welcomed that the importance of early identification of support needs was being acknowledged, and a further update was sought and provided;
- information was sought on whether the immunisation programme being taken out of the GP contract had impacted on the number of vaccinations being undertaken in remote and rural areas. Substantive data on this was not yet available from Public Health, and might require a report in future. Attention was drawn to recent publicity around the increase in prevalence of measles across Europe and the need to encourage uptake of the MMR immunisation. Ms J Douglas offered to share publicity material around this;
- information was sought and provided on access to dentistry and support for children's oral health;
- concern was expressed at the proportion of pupils aged 15-17 reporting having used substances in Highland (2018) and reference was made to the work of Planet Youth, which it was hoped would have a positive impact;
- it was felt the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation did not properly take into account the effect of rural deprivation and poverty;
- the third sector data in the report was welcomed;

- shared accessible language use was vital; and
- in response to concern about the waiting times for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, attention was drawn to the service's strategic improvement plan, following the reshaping of the service delivery model, on which more information could be provided outwith the meeting if required.

The Committee **NOTED**:

- i. the work undertaken by the Integrated Children's Service Plan Board in commissioning the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to support the development of the Highland Integrated Children's Services Plan 2023 – 2026; and
- ii. the detail of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

8. Health and Social Care Service Plan 2023/24 Plana Seirbheis Slàinte is Cùraim Shòisealta 2023/24

There had been circulated Report No HCW/15/23 by the Executive Chief Officer Health and Social Care.

The Committee **APPROVED** the Service Plan for 2023/24.

In terms of Standing Order 9, the Committee **AGREED** to consider Item 10 at this stage.

10. Champions Updates Cunntasan nan Curaidhean

Brief updates were provided by the following Champions on their work:

Adult: Isabelle MacKenzie

A short presentation was provided covering the new national dementia strategy for Scotland, how to improve dementia-friendly communities in Highland, and Age Scotland's About Dementia project.

The Committee thanked Mrs MacKenzie, **NOTED** the update, and **AGREED** to:

- i. circulate the presentation to the Committee; and
- ii. liaise with Corporate Communications about providing publicity to the groups mentioned during the presentation.

Children's: Lyndsey Johnston

- regular meetings were being held with the Youth Convener and Highland Youth Voice, which had provided valuable insights and a deeper understanding of issues;
- an inspirational meeting of the Highland Youth Parliament had been attended;
- the Youth Convener was commended for encouraging engagement;
- Highland Third Sector Interface children and young people's seminars had been attended; and
- as part of The Promise Board, Ms Johnstone hoped that her own experiences as a Looked After Child would be of assistance.

The Committee thanked Ms Johnston and **NOTED** the update.

Trauma: Liz Kraft

- the background to trauma informed practice, and the definition of trauma, were summarised;
- it was important not to add to trauma through service delivery practices, and organisational leaders should be trauma-informed;
- NHS Education for Scotland trauma training was available, and attention was also drawn to the development of training the trainer programmes and how to inform newly qualified social workers; and
- plans for a trauma summit in January 2024 were outlined and funding was being sought for a Trauma Lead.

The Committee thanked Ms Kraft, **NOTED** the update, and **AGREED** the Member briefing 'Trauma is Everyone's Business' be re-circulated to the Committee.

9. Residential Children's Services & After Care Services Seirbheis Chloinne Chòmhnaidheach & Seirbheis Cùrain Às Dèidh Làimhe

There had been circulated Report No HCW/16/23 by the Executive Chief Officer Health and Social Care.

A presentation was provided covering residential care in Highland, Highland Homes, models of care, Highland Star, transformation and change, bringing children home to Highland, challenges, improvements, achievements and plans for the future.

The Chair thanked everyone involved in the improvements to the service and, during discussion, the following issues were raised:

- the support being provided to keep children with their families was welcomed, as was the move towards small, safe, nurturing environments which, it was believed, would reduce the number of Looked After Children who went missing;
- the number of 'good' and 'excellent' gradings for Highland care homes from the Care Inspectorate was commended;
- the public apology at the start of the meeting for the cessation of respite care at The Orchard was welcomed, and it was hoped full services would be reinstated as soon as possible; and
- it was suggested that detailed briefings be provided at Ward level on what Member support could be offered to children's homes. However, the importance of protecting confidentiality and not crossing operational lines of responsibility was emphasised.

The Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the content of the report which aimed to offer transparency and accountability for Highland Council's Residential Services; and

- ii. **AGREED** an annual report be presented to Committee from the Residential and Aftercare Service to enable continuous scrutiny and assurance of improvements to the service.

11. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

The following Minutes had been circulated and were **NOTED**:-

- i. Highland Council / NHS Highland Joint Monitoring Committee held on 29 March 2023; and
- ii. Highland Violence Against Women Partnership Group held on 7 March 2023 and 22 May 2023.

The meeting ended at 2.25pm.