

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

At a Hybrid Meeting of the West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership Board held in the Civic Space, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Monday, 24 March 2025 at 2.00 p.m.

**Present:** Michelle Wailes, Libby Cairns and Lesley McDonald, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Councillors Fiona Hennebry, Michelle McGinty and Martin Rooney, West Dunbartonshire Council.

**Non-Voting** Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer; Julie Slavin, Chief Financial Officer; Lesley James, Head of Children's Health, Care and Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer; Helen Little, MSK Manager; Kim McNab, Service Manager - Carers of West Dunbartonshire; Dr Saied Pourghazi, Clinical Director; Selina Ross, Chief Officer - West Dunbartonshire CVS; David Smith, Unpaid Carers Representative, Barbara Barnes, Chair of the Locality Engagement Network – Alexandria and Dumbarton and Val Tierney, Chief Nurse.

**Also Attending:** Peter Hessematt, Chief Executive of West Dunbartonshire Council; Michael McDougall, Manager of Legal Services; Margaret-Jane Cardno, Head of Strategy and Transformation; Sylvia Chatfield, Head of Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Addiction; Gillian Gall, Head of Human Resources - HSCP; and Lynn Straker and Natalie Roger, Committee Officers.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of John Kerr, Housing Development and Homeless Manager, Diana McCrone, Staff Representative (NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde); and Andi Priestman, Chief Internal Auditor.

**Michelle Wailes in the Chair**

**VALEDICTORY**  
**GILLIAN GALL, HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES - HSCP AND DIANA MCCRONE, STAFF REPRESENTATIVE (NHS GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE)**

Michelle Wailes advised that this was the last meeting Gillian Gall and Diana McCrone would be attending. On behalf of all Members of the Committee, she

thanked Gillian Gall and Diana McCrone for all their work for West Dunbartonshire and wished them well in their future role and retirement respectively.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was noted that there were no Declarations of Interest in any of the items of business on the Agenda however Councillors Martin Rooney, Michelle McGinty and Fiona Hennebry made Transparency Statements noting a connection to matters discussed at Item 12, however, noting that having applied the objective test, it does not amount to an interest.

### **RECORDING OF VOTES**

The Board agreed that all votes taken during the meeting would be carried out by Roll Call vote to ensure an accurate record.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of Meeting of the Health and Social Care Partnership Board held on 28 January 2025 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

### **ROLLING ACTION LIST**

The Rolling Action list for the Health and Social Care Partnership Board was submitted for information and relevant updates were noted and agreed.

### **VERBAL UPDATE FROM CHIEF OFFICER**

Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer, provided a verbal update on the recent business of the Health and Social Care Partnership highlighting the complexity of the agenda and explaining that almost since budget setting last year the Management Team have been developing the proposals presented today, considering greater effectiveness and efficiency balanced with quality of service and consideration of impact on patients and service users, as well as staff.

The Chief Officer explained that this process will be started again next week, developing a new strategic plan, ensuring it reflects the resources that are available and the impact of this on abilities to provide a service that meet the needs of West Dunbartonshire's communities including the most vulnerable members of society.

The Chief Officer explained that the Management Team are committed to providing the best possible services with the resources that are available and noted that the savings presented for consideration had been debated at length to ensure that the Management Team were professionally satisfied that they do not compromise professional or statutory standards.

There were no questions and the Chair thanked the Chief Officer for the update.

### **LEARNING DISABILITY REVIEW**

A report was submitted by Sylvia Chatfield, Head of Addictions, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health, on the review of Work Connect, and to seek approval for closure of the service.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Addictions, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed:-

- (1) to instruct the Head of Addictions, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health to engage further with service users highlighting the options available to the Board;
- (1) to note the proposal to close Work Connect;
- (2) to note the alternative service provision options for service users impacted by this closure as outlined in paragraph 4 of this report; and
- (3) to note the staff and service user engagement as outlined in Appendix III of this report.

### **FAIR ACCESS TO COMMUNITY CARE (ADULT SERVICES AND CHILDREN SERVICES)**

A report was submitted by Margaret-Jane Cardno, Head of Strategy and Transformation, providing an update on the HSCP Self Directed Support (SDS) Policy by introducing a fair access approach to community care which will enhance the HSCP Self Directed Support (SDS) Policy by providing greater transparency in relation to the local mechanism for the calculation of the "relevant amount", ensuring equity of service across the HSCP and promoting further opportunities for service users to exercise choice and control.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Strategy and Transformation in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed:-

- (1) to approve the implementation of Self-Directed Support Equivalent Service Rates. Indicative rates are outlined in Appendix 1 of this report;
- (2) that HSCP Officers will update the indicative rates in Appendix 1 once the external provider rates are known for 2025/26;
- (3) that these service rates be applied from the 1 April 2025; and

- (4) that the Indicative Self-Directed Support Equivalent Service Rates be appended to the current Self Directed Support Policy noting that a full review of this Policy is scheduled for the first half of the 2025/26 financial year.

## **KINSHIP ALLOWANCES FOR CARERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE**

A report was submitted by Lesley James, Head of Children's Health, Care and Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer, considering eligibility and allowances to Kinship Carers who support children and young people in West Dunbartonshire.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Children's Health, Care and Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed:-

- (1) to note the allowances aligned to the Scottish Recommended Allowance (SRA) which was implemented by the Scottish Government in August 2023;
- (2) entitlement to Kinship allowances at SRA rate for all formal kinship carers where the child has a looked after status and where the child was looked after on his/her 16th Birthday up until age of 18 years old;
- (3) entitlement to Kinship allowances at SRA rate for all informal kinship carers, where the child is a non-looked after child and is subject of a Kinship Care Order, and was previously looked after by virtue of having been placed in Kinship care with involvement from the local authority; or is assessed through a multi-agency assessment using GIRFEC Wellbeing Indicators as being at risk of becoming looked after up until the child's 18th Birthday.
- (4) for young people aged between 18 and 21 years old who remain within a Kinship Care placement and who are eligible for Continuing Care due to having been looked after on their 16th Birthday receive a Continuing Care allowance of £200;
- (5) for young people aged between 18 and 21 years old who remain within a Kinship Care placement and had been the subject of an order under Section 11 of the Children's (Scotland) Act 1995 and who also remain in full time education receive a Continuing Care allowance of £200 which will be payable to the young person;
- (6) that officers review the additional allowances currently payable to Kinship carers following consultation with both Kinship carers and young people who this relates to and the completion of a further Equalities Impact Assessment; and
- (7) implementation of eligibility criteria and allowances will be effective from 1st July 2025.

## **BUDGET ENGAGEMENT UPDATE**

A report was submitted by Margaret-Jane Cardno, Head of Strategy and Transformation, updating the HSCP Board on the findings of the 2025/26 Budget Engagement Survey published by the West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership in December 2024.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Strategy and Transformation and Head of Addictions, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed to note the content of this report and to take it forward within a future Informal Session

## **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE UPDATE REPORT**

A report was submitted by Julie Slavin, Chief Financial Officer, providing information on the financial performance as at period 10 to 31 January 2025 and a projected outturn position to 31 March 2025.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Financial Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed:-

- (1) to note the updated position in relation to budget movements on the 2024/25 allocation by West Dunbartonshire Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board and approve the direction for 2024/25 back to our partners to deliver services to meet the HSCP Board's strategic priorities;
- (2) to note the reported revenue position for the period to 31 January 2025 is reporting an adverse (overspend) position of £1.316m (0.76%);
- (3) to note the projected outturn position of £1.565m overspend (0.75%) for 2024/25 including all planned transfers to/from earmarked reserves;
- (4) to note that the impact of recovery planning actions taken to date by the Senior Management Team to address the projected overspend;
- (5) to note the update on the monitoring of savings agreed for 2024/25;
- (6) to note the current reserves balances and the impact the projected overspend has on unearmarked balances;
- (7) to note the update on the capital position and projected completion timelines; and

- (8) to note that the progress to date on the budget planning process for 2025/26 to 2027/28 is detailed in a separate report within the agenda for this HSCP Board meeting.

## ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting for a short recess. The meeting reconvened at 3.41 p.m. with all Members listed in the sederunt present.

## REVENUE BUDGET SETTING REPORT

A report was submitted by Julie Slavin, Chief Financial Officer, providing information on the above.

Following discussion, the Chair agreed to write to Scottish Government regarding the funding of Community Link Workers.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Financial Officer and Head of Strategy and Transformation in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed to:-

- (1) **Accept** the flat cash offer from West Dunbartonshire Council of the roll forward of the 2024/25 recurring base allocation of £89.830m plus share of Scottish Government funding for social care policy commitments;
- (2) **Accept** the additional funding offer from the Council for Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) Indicator changes of £0.517m and Employer's National Insurance of £0.681m;
- (3) **Accept** a total Council allocation for 2025/26 of £93.442 based on (a) and (b) above;
- (4) **Note** that funding of £13.138m related to Children's Social Care Pay remains unallocated at this time. The HSCP's share is anticipated to be £0.227m which would increase the funding allocation from the Council to £93.669m (Refer to Table 5 and Appendix 1);
- (5) **Note** the 2025/26 funding for Justice Social Work Services of £2.838m (Refer to Appendix 2);
- (6) **Accept** the indicative 2025/26 budget allocation from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board (NHSGGC) of £115.831m, subject to confirmation of the final month 12 recurring base and indicative set aside budget of £46.348m (refer to Table 6 and Appendix 3);
- (7) **Note** that 60% of the cost relating to the Employer's National Insurance increase for Health Care, totalling £0.500m, is anticipated to be funded by the Scottish Government;

- (8) **Note** that the remaining 40% cost relating to Employer's National Insurance increases for Health Care, totalling £0.334m, is anticipated to be funded from the NHSGCC sustainability fund. This brings the total indicative recurring base allocation to £116.665m;
- (9) **Note** that the remaining 40% cost relating to Employer's National Insurance increases for Health Care, totalling £0.334m, is anticipated to be funded from the NHSGCC sustainability fund. This brings the total indicative recurring base allocation to £116.665m;
- (10) **Approve** an overall indicative funding allocation to the Partnership of £210.334m based on (c), (d), (f), (g) and (h), excluding set aside for delegated health and social care services for 2025/26; and
- (11) **Note** the analysis of the reserves position and projected balances as at 31 March 2025.

### **STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER (APPROVAL)**

A report was submitted by Margaret-Jane Cardno, Head of Strategy and Transformation, presenting the Strategic Risk Register to the West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership Board for approval.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Strategy and Transformation in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed:-

- (1) to note the comments offered by the HSCP Board Audit and Performance Committee on 18 February 2025; and
- (2) to approve the Strategic Risk Register, subject to any required amendments.

### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

A report was submitted by Margaret-Jane Cardno, Head of Strategy and Transformation, confirming the constitutional membership of the Integration Joint Board, known locally as the Health and Social Care Partnership Board.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Strategy and Transformation in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed:-

- (1) to note the Voting members from the Elected Members of West Dunbartonshire Council as detailed in paragraph 4.2 of this report;
- (2) to note the Voting members from the Non-Executive Directors of Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board as detailed in paragraph 4.2 of this report;

- (3) to appoint the Non-Voting members of the HSCP Board, including the confirmation of the designated professional advisors as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of this report, noting that the final appointment of Carolyn Ralston (Stakeholder Member) is subject to the receipt of suitable references; and
- (4) to note the forthcoming retirement of Diana McCrone and thank Diana for her many years of dedicated service to the HSCP Board.

### **CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER REPORT**

A report was submitted by Lesley James, Head of Children's Health, Care and Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer, providing information on the statutory work undertaken on the Council's behalf, including a summary of governance arrangements, service delivery, resources and workforce.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Children's Health, Care and Criminal Justice and the Chief Social Work Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Board agreed to note the contents of the report.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted that the next meeting of West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership Board would be held on Tuesday 27 May 2025 at 2.00 p.m. as a Hybrid Meeting in the Civic Space, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton G82 1QL.

The meeting closed at 5.05 p.m.