

**MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN PERFORMANCE REVIEW****AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House,

Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Wednesday 27 November 2013 at 2.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillors Muirhead (Chair), Bennett, Imrie, Rosie, Russell and Wallace.**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Milligan, Baxter and Pottinger.**1 Chair**

In the absence of Councillor Milligan, Councillor Muirhead was appointed to the Chair.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were intimated.

**3 2013/14 Performance Reports – Quarter 2**

There were submitted Performance Reports for 2013/14 in respect of the Plans for Education; Children and Families; Communities and Support; Planning and Development Adult and Community Care; Housing and Community Safety. Each report contained a summary of the progress in delivering Strategic Outcomes; a summary of emerging challenges and risks. Thereafter, the Committee received verbal updates in respect of each of the reports.

**Decision**

- (a) To note that a Transitions Team had been established to prepare packages in respect of care and employment for young people leaving school who had more complex needs;
- (b) To note that a benefits advice service for carers had been established and that the Head of Adult and Community Care would review the dissemination of information in this respect;
- (c) To note that instances where home care visits were restricted to 15 minutes related to cases where the purpose of the visit was to ensure that essential medication had been taken/administered;
- (d) To note that Care at Home contracts were due to be retendered and that consultation with users would form part of the tendering process;
- (e) To note that discussions were ongoing with housing associations in respect of further care facility provision in Midlothian;

- (f) To note the positive effect of the Family Resilience pilot project to date;
- (g) To note that Midlothian had a higher than national average number of children on the Child Protection Register;
- (h) To note that a number of preventative measures including an increase in the number of foster carers and the provision of respite care had contributed to the avoidance of the use of residential establishments for children;
- (i) To note that the recently published Children's Bill contained proposals in respect of Kinship Care which the Council would need to address in due course;
- (j) To note that within the Education Service, work was continuing to provide an "Improving Attainment" plan and to improve partnership working;
- (k) To note that the Head of Education was addressing the issue of pupils failing to smoothly transfer from P7 to S1;
- (l) To note that both the land sale at Sheriffhall and the Section 75 agreement in respect of a development site at this location had been completed;
- (m) To note that discussions had been initiated by Easter Bush Development Board with Transport Scotland with a view to improving transport links to the development site;
- (n) To note that officials would be unlikely to recommend approval of any planning application which proposed the use of the site at Salters Park, Dalkeith solely for housing but that there was possibly scope for a mixed development on this site; and
- (o) To otherwise note the reports.

The meeting terminated at 3.38pm.