

Minute of Meeting

Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday 20 June 2023
Item No: 4.1



Performance Review and Scrutiny

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 14 March 2023	11.00 am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House

Present:

Councillor Milligan (Chair)	Councillor Curran
Councillor Imrie	Councillor McEwan
Councillor McManus	Councillor Pottinger
Councillor Russell	Councillor Smail
Councillor Winchester	Councillor Virgo

In attendance:

Grace Vickers	Chief Executive
Kevin Anderson	Executive Director Place
Fiona Robertson	Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships
Joan Tranent	Chief Social Work Officer & Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities
Derek Oliver	Chief Officer Place
Saty Kaur	Chief Officer Corporate Solutions (Acting)
Nick Clater	Head of Adult and Social Care Services
Alan Turpie	Legal and Governance Manager
Janet Ritchie	Democratic Services Officer (Minute)

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Drummond.

2 Order of Business

The Order of Business was as detailed in the Agenda.

3 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 4.1 The Minute of the Meeting of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee held on the 12 December 2022 was submitted and approved as correct record.
- 4.2 The Action Log was noted and it was clarified that the comment 'Recommend for Closure' referred to the action points.

5. Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Inspection of Midlothian Council's Young People's Care Home	CSWO & Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>A report dated 24 January 2023 was submitted to draw Performance, Review and Scrutiny's attention in relation to the inspection of our two local Care Homes for young people and the grades awarded. All care inspection reports are published on the Care Inspectorate website and available to the public.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities highlighted the excellent report and the grades awarded and expressed her thanks to the staff in both houses, Gorebridge and Woodburn for their excellent work. She further highlighted that the positive feedback was extensive and it was noted that the young people also gave very positive feedback and commented that they felt loved and cared for.</p> <p>In response to a question with regards to after care for these young people the Chief Officer provided feedback on the Midlothian Housing Programme and that some young people had taken up their own tenancy whereas others returned home but that outreach support was always available for them.</p> <p>Councillors commented positively on this excellent report and expressed their thanks and congratulations to the staff involved and the young people.</p>		

Decision

The Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee noted the report and passed on their thanks and congratulations to the staff and young people.

Action

Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Adult Health and Social Care Q3 Performance Report 2022/23	Head of Adult and Social Care Services

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Head of Adult Health and Social Care provided an overview of the Q3 Performance Report 2022/23 providing an overview of the key highlights and challenges as contained within the report and thereafter responded to questions and comments raised by Elected Members.

In responding to a question and comments regarding the seasonal Covid booster programme and closure of Penicuik centre, the Head of Adult Health and Social Care highlighted that centres had closed due to lack of footfall but Grace Cowan could provide a more detailed update.

The Chair also asked if numbers could be provided on leisure centre memberships as the leisure centres seemed very quiet even at peak times and the actions managers were taking to encourage membership to these centres and this could be reported back to Members.

In responding to an enquiry regarding the challenges and how these are addressed, the Head of Adult Health and Social Care advised that transformational work is required across NHS and that within the IJB they were looking at the budget pressures and ways to address the many challenges not just in Midlothian but the wider community.

There followed a discussion regarding the work at Hillend and the Executive Director Place confirmed that the work had commenced and advised that he would share the programme of work with Members.

The difficulty in reading some pages of the report was highlighted due to the size of the font, this was noted as an action to take away.

Decision

- a) The Head of Adult Health and Social Care Services would liaise with the Head of Primary Care and Older People's services to provide an update to members on the Covid seasonal booster programme and why some of the centres had been closed in particular Penicuik.
- b) The number of leisure centre memberships and the actions managers were taking to encourage this would be reported back to Members.
- c) To review the format of the report in particular the size of font used.
- d) To otherwise note the contents of the report.

Action

Adult Health and Social Care

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3	Children Services, Partnerships and Communities Q3 Performance Report 2022/23	Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities provided an overview of the Q3 Performance Report 2022/23 highlighting the progress and achievements in the delivery of the strategic outcomes and provided a summary of the emerging challenges as contained within the report and thereafter responded to questions and comments raised by Elected Members.

In responding to comments the Chief Officer advised on the peak in complaints and the some of the challenges in corresponding to these. It was also highlighted the number of sick days and the Chief Officer advised this was an ongoing challenge and provided an update on the supports in place for staff and the service. An update on the Foster Carer campaign was also provided to Members advising this was delivered in consultation with East Lothian Council to ensure best of uses across both local authorities.

Further comments were noted with regards to the positive work by the voluntary sector and the Chief Officer advised that meetings took place regularly to maintain relationships and work through challenges going forward. An update was also provided on the number of Afghanistan families and Ukrainian families and the good work done by the team to accommodate the large families. It was also noted there was still no decision if Children's Service or Justice Services would be part of the National Care Service.

In responding to a comment from the Chair with regards to the increase in children's services referrals, budgets and staffing, the Chief Officer advised that a report would be brought back on referrals providing more details of the number of repeat referrals and the amount of financial requests. She further advised on the work of the Family Wellbeing Service and highlighted that the number of child protection referrals were still going down and it was the cases below this that were on the increase and the vast majority was finance.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

Action

Adult Health and Social Care

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.4	Corporate Solutions Q3 Performance Report 2022/23	Chief Officer Corporate Solutions (Acting)

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Chief Officer Corporate Solutions (Acting) provided an overview of the Q3

Performance Report 2022/23 highlighting some of the key successes and provided a summary of the emerging challenges as contained within the report and thereafter responded to questions and comments raised by Elected Members.

In responding to a question regarding the Procurement Strategy and what was involved in encouraging local companies to tender for procurement, Mr Turpie highlighted that stakeholders must identify at least 3 local companies for quick quotes and also the procurement team worked with the economic development team to encourage local firms to get on the National framework.

The Chief Officer (Acting) in responding to a question with regards to Scottish Welfare Fund and benchmarking against other local authorities, advised that although she did not have this to hand she would circulate this information to members. The Chief Officer also provided a further update on the transformation piece of work around procurement that was going on in the background and an update would be brought back to Members on the current work and also the transformation work to support local businesses.

The Chief Officer in responding to a question with regards to the flexi system and staff managing their own time, advised on the flexi system which was part of the existing payroll system and the background work with staff and how they are supported.

Decision

- a) The Chief Officer (Acting), Corporate Solutions to circulate to Members information on Scottish Welfare Fund benchmarking against other local authorities.
- b) To otherwise note the contents of the report.

Action

Chief Officer (Acting), Corporate Solutions

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.5	Education Q3 Performance Report 2022/23	Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships

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The Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships provided an overview of the Q3 Performance Report 2022/23 highlighting that the Q4 will cover the key senior phase performance, also highlighted raising attainment with primary schools, the success of Equipped for Learning, Digital inclusion and Learning Team who have been invited to a UK conference to share practice.

The Executive Director also provided an update on attendance which has not returned to pre-pandemic and some of the work in addressing these challenges.

Thereafter responded to questions and comments raised by Members with regards to Teacher's strike and the resources in place supporting children and confirmed that more details will be included in Q4 with regards to the supports. Also in responding a question with regards to attendance provided further details on

supporting children with the increase in levels of stress and anxiety and the supports in place. It was also confirmed that the figures were off attendance in school but it was also highlighted that the data could be drilled down to get more details. The Executive Director also provided an update to the limit of their duty with regards to home schooling and that they legally do not have to meet with a child so it is difficult to assess if receiving education appropriate to their age

In responding to a question raised by the Chair with regards to Early Learning funding, the Executive Director confirmed she had met with Scottish Government officials and highlighted two aspects putting further pressure on this budget, the 22% increase in deferrals for children starting school in Midlothian and the 2 year olds access to early learning childcare, she further advised that although there was an increase in both budgets it is not sufficient to cover the numbers in Midlothian.

The Chair asked that if figures on the shortage can be circulated and provide Members with the response on how the Scottish Government will address this.

A further question was asked with regards to home schooling and examinations and the Executive Director advised it is up to the individual families.

Decision

- a) The Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships to provide figures on the shortage in the early learning budget and also to provide Members with any response regarding this from the Scottish Government.
- b) To otherwise note the contents of the report.

Action

The Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.6	Place Q3 Performance Report 2022/23	Chief Officer Place

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Chief Officer Place provided an overview of the Q3 Performance Report 2022/23 outlining some of the challenges as Place continues to support post-pandemic recovery and progress a range of transformation projects. He also outlined some of the key highlights as contained within the report in particular Midlothian was one of the first Councils to sign Scotland’s Climate Charter Declaration and the positive work of the Planning team.

The Chief Officer thereafter responded to questions and comments and advised that a public report would be presented to Council on the carriageway resurfacing and details of the streets being resurfaced and he would ensure it would be publically visible. The Chief Officer provided details on the green transition fund, the recycling within campus areas and the issues and challenges with this and advised that a 6 month trial will take place in identified locations using solar compacted bins and a report would be brought back on how successful this is. He also provided an update on PPE requirement and on the pot hole repairs and the new equipment purchased which will make repairs permanent rather than temporary, although highlighted there will always be the need for temporary repairs. Further discussion took place on this with regards to capital and revenue

and the Chief Officer provided some clarity on the aspects of the operation and that a paper would go to Council on the pot hole strategy and the pot hole classification.

The Chair then highlighted a number of PIs off target in particular invoices not paid within 30 days and the percentage of building warrants processed within the timescale, in response the Chief Officer provided clarity on the building warrants and the change in legislation but this change will show in Q4. He provided a further update on the invoices not paid within target.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

Action

Chief Officer Place

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.7 &	Midlothian Council Q3 Performance Report 2022/23 and Half Year Balanced Score Card	Executive Director Place

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Chief Executive in presenting this report highlighted that each of these reports provide a summary of actions in line with the Single Midlothian Plan and complements each of the reports from the individual services also presented today.

The Chief Executive highlighted the three indicators off target as shown and provided a brief update on these.

The Chief Executive also with regards to demographic growth advised that the figures for projected growth and population would be updated and advised that the population was 94,680 and with 9.4% increase in births in 2021, it was estimated by 2028 the population would rise from 94,680 to just under 104,000. The next updated figures will be available in June and an update would be provided to members.

Further discussion followed on the population growth and the growth in every single age group and households and more details can be shared if required.

Decision

To note the contents of the reports.

6 Private Reports

No items for discussion

7 Date of the Next

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 20 June 2023 at 11.00 am

The meeting terminated at 12.38 pm