

Lothian Mineworkers Convalescent Home**Report by Eibhlin McHugh, Joint Director Health and Social Care****1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the review of the previous service level agreement between Midlothian Council and the Lothian Mineworkers Convalescent Home.

2 Background**2.1 Council Meeting, 12 May 2015**

The funding arrangements for Lothian Mineworkers Convalescent Home has previously been considered at the Council meeting on the 12 May 2015, when the following motion was presented:-

“In light of the invaluable service it offers to former mineworkers, their families and friends and any other Lothians resident in need of respite, Council agrees to restore the annual grant to Lothian Mineworkers Convalescent Home in Gullane”

2.2 Council Meeting, 23 June 2015

On 23 June 2015, Council agreed that:-

- the block grant should be continued for one year only;
- thereafter, funding for the service should be provided either through Self Directed Support or alternative sources of funding, including the “Wee Breaks Scheme”;
- the Service should also seek alternative sources of funding, including through an application to the Council’s grant process when this becomes available.

2.3 Council Meeting, 15 December 2015

On 15 December 2015, Council approved funding of £1,000 for the Miners Convalescent Home under the Midlothian Council Small Grants Scheme

2.4 Council Meeting, 23 March 2016

Council agreed a motion at the 22 March 2016 meeting seeking a review of the previous service level agreement between Midlothian Council and the Lothian Mineworkers Convalescent Home, including consideration of whether or not it provides value for money and meets Midlothian Council’s priorities.

The motion is set out below:-

“In light of the invaluable service it offers to former mineworkers, their families and friends and any other Lothians resident in need of respite, Council agrees to reinstate the previous Service Level Agreement with the Lothian Mineworkers Convalescent Home Trust.

Council also agrees, within a 12 month period, that officers should prepare a report on “Value for Money” on this agreement in terms of the benefits to the citizens of Midlothian using this facility.

At this meeting, the Council also received a deputation representing the Mineworkers Home.

3 Service Provision

- 3.1** In 2015, a total of 84 people from Midlothian accessed the service for periods ranging from 2 to 7 weeks each. This amounts to 63% of the total numbers who access the service. The cost of the service to guests is £10 per day, if guests have associations with the mining industry, and is £15 per day for other guests. It is considered that this represents extremely good value for money for the individuals accessing the services. For this cost, guests receive accommodation with full board, entertainment and assistance with transport. Some guests used the service more frequently because they were able to take up, at short notice, vacancies that arose because of cancellations.
- 3.2** Legislative and policy changes have required different approaches as to how social care services are funded and have impacted on the funding of the Mineworkers Convalescent Home. The Council’s requirement to “follow the public pound” resulted in a move from grant funding arrangements for voluntary organisations receiving more than £10,000 to service level agreements, which gave greater transparency of the services that are provided under such agreements.
- 3.3** The introduction of eligibility criteria in 2007-8 sought to ensure that Council services are prioritised for those in greatest need who meet strict eligibility criteria.
- 3.4** More recently, legislative and policy developments in relation to the support of carers have resulted in the needs of carers for respite being prioritised for funding support. The Midlothian Integrated Joint Board has affirmed the support of family carers as a priority across service delivery in its Strategic Plan.
- 3.5** The introduction of Self Directed Support has resulted in significant changes in how funding is allocated for services. Funding is allocated to individuals who meet assessed criteria related to identified outcomes. Individuals are therefore given greater control over the services that they use to meet their needs. Support for holidays and the respite needs of carers are now met through the Wee Breaks project.

- 3.6** These policy developments have required service providers to change their model of delivery to meet the new requirements. Because of these changes, the previous service level agreement that was in place for the Lothian Mineworkers Home is no longer compliant with Council's eligibility criteria and funding for respite under Self Directed Support legislation
- 3.7** In 2014, service managers worked intensively with the Lothian Mineworkers Home to encourage greater uptake of funding through the Wee Breaks project. This generated 15 applications for individuals using this service. In 2015, the Home did not continue to pursue this funding stream. To make better use of this funding stream, the Home would require to alter their pricing policy and promote the scheme amongst guests who are likely to meet the eligibility criteria.

4 Lothian Mineworkers Convalescent Home

- 4.1** Whilst there is no case for further funding under a service level agreement between Midlothian Council and the Midlothian Mineworkers Convalescent Home, in view of the history of the organisation, consideration may be given to transitional funding whilst the Home reviews its pricing policy for the 2017 intake of guests.

5 Report Implications

5.1 Resource

The Lothian Mineworkers Home's service agreement was terminated last year. Council Officers have worked with the managers to support them to access alternative funding through the Wee Breaks project as well as provide information on other funding opportunities. Although the Mineworkers Home accessed an additional £5,000 through this scheme in 2014, there has been limited success in 2015 because the Home did not actively support guests to seek the funding. However, the Home did access a grant of £1,000 through the Council's small grant fund last year as set out in para 2.3. On examination of accounts for the past two years, the Trust was retaining a balance of £50,371 at 31/12/15 while the annual running costs, based on last year, 2015, are £60,535.

The Trust's donations (Miners' Welfare Schemes, fundraising and rent) amounted to around £30,000, so Midlothian Council funding is not considered critical to the continuation of the service in the short to medium term. Changes to charging policy for guests could provide a source of additional funding to ensure the future sustainability of the service.

5.2 Risk

Entering into a further service level agreement involving block funding of this service would not be consistent with Council policy on the funding of care services, nor the strategic direction of the Midlothian Integrated Joint Board.

5.3 **Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

The implementation of Self Directed Support has required significant changes to contractual arrangements with providers in order to provide service users and family carers with more choice over the services that they receive.

- ☐ Community safety
- X ☒ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

5.4 **Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

The report relates to adult health and care community planning theme. A major priority for adult health and care planning theme is the support of family carers to enable them to continue caring.

5.5 **Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

Supporting family carers is a priority for the Health and Social Care Directorate. The new funding arrangements that are in place ensure greater access and choice for family carers to short breaks.

5.6 **Adopting a Preventative Approach**

Supporting family carers to access breaks enables them to continue caring for longer and support the rebalancing of care.

5.7 **Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

Older people and their carers are regularly consulted with through a variety of forums on the development of strategy and their wider experience of services. No specific consultation has been carried out in relation to this specific service.

5.8 **Ensuring Equalities**

This report relates to the operational implementation of Self Directed Support (Scotland) Act 2012. The legislation is accompanied by an Equalities Impact Assessment.

5.9 **Supporting Sustainable Development**

This report does not address the longer term sustainable issues faced by the Lothian Mineworkers Convalescent Home arising from their current model of care and the changing needs of older people.

5.10 **IT Issues**

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

6 **Summary**

Recent legislative and policy changes have required Council to change its approach to the procurement of services. Council officers have sought to work with the Lothian Mineworkers Convalescent Home to adapt to these changes and increase its capacity to provide a more

targeted service to carers in Midlothian and ensure that access to the service is compliant with the Council's eligibility criteria. The Home can ensure financial sustainability in the longer term by making appropriate adjustments to its pricing policy.

7 Recommendations

Council is asked to agree:-

- i. The Lothian Mineworkers Convalescent Home provides good value for Midlothian residents who use the service;
- ii. The re-instatement of a service level agreement is not consistent with Council policy on the funding of health and social care services.
- iii. The granting of transitional funding of £4,000 for 2016/17 to facilitate appropriate amendments to the Home's pricing policy to ensure the service's financial sustainability.

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Background Papers:

