

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

Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Wednesday 4 September 2013 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors Milligan (Chair), Baxter, Bennett, Imrie, Montgomery, Muirhead and Pottinger.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Rosie, Russell, de Vink and Wallace.

1. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

2. 2012/13 Performance Report

There were submitted Performance Reports for 2013/14 in respect of the Corporate Plan for the Council and the Plans for Education; Children and Families; Communities and Support; 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; and recommendations in respect of changes to priorities. Thereafter, the Committee received verbal updates in respect of each of the reports.

Decision

- (a) To note that in respect of the Family Resilience Project, that there was no longer any operational input from Police Scotland but in lieu of that input, Police Scotland had contributed £15,000 to assist in funding a replacement, who had been secured from within the Council's own workforce;
- (b) Having noted the procedures and policies in place to deal with rent arrears and those rent arrears solely attributable to the effects of Welfare Reform to convene a Seminar of the Committee, to which all members of the Council would be invited, to consider (i) the effects of both the reforms and a policy on non eviction in respect of arrears solely attributable to "bedroom tax"; and (ii) the effects of the reforms on the payment of Council Tax;
- (c) To note the adverse effects that increases in rent arrears could have on the Council's House Building Programme and the existing rent levels;
- (d) To note that the publication of a number of protocols from Police Scotland was awaited;

- (e) To note that only limited progress had been made in securing property for use by Dunedin Canmore Housing Association via the Empty Homes Fund;
- (f) To note that there remained two children in secure accommodation;
- (g) To note that the total number of children in care had reduced from 42 to 30;
- (h) To note that new residential units provided at Dalkeith and Penicuik, were ready for use;
- (i) To note that the proportion of children on the Child Protection Register had reduced from 10.1 per thousand of population to 7.5 per thousand;
- ((j) To note Lothian Health were now locating Health Visitors in areas of greatest demand;
- (k) To note that there were presently no waiting lists for Children and Families services and that the option remained for parents etc to self refer for assistance remained;
- (l) To recommend to the Cabinet that it reverse its decision to amend the target Csu.131.4.s.03.3a in respect of PPP maintenance issues to 90% and reinstate the original target figure of 100%;
- (m) To note that a leadership programme overseen by the Head of Education had been introduced for Head Teachers;
- (n) To note that the Care facility at Cowan Court, Penicuik, was now open ; and
- (o) To note that eight staff previously employed at Pentland House, Penicuik, would be placed in the Switch Programme.

(Action: (b) Head of Housing and Community Safety/Legal and Secretariat Manager; (l) Legal and Secretariat Manager).

Sederunt

Councillor Pottinger left the meeting during discussion of the foregoing items of business (3.40pm).

The meeting terminated at 3.55 pm.