
Minute of Performance & Audit Committee

Date: Friday 26th August 2022

Time: 9.30am

Place: Via MS Teams

Present

Jean Ford (Vice Chair)
Councillor Julie Dettbarn
Ewing Hope
Billy Cooper, SAC Staff Side Union Rep Member

In Attendance

Tim Eltringham, Director/Chief Officer, Health & Social Care Partnership
Gary Hoey, Chief Social Work Officer
Mark Inglis, Head of Children's, and Justice Services
Lisa Duncan, Chief Finance Officer
Cecilia McGhee, Chief Internal Auditor
Pat Kenny, Auditor, Deloitte
Dawn Parker, Corporate Parenting Lead Officer
Claire Flannagan, Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer
Sharon Hackney, Mental Health, Service Manager
Chloe McRoberts, Student Social Work Officer
Laura Conaghan, Admin Assistant (Minute Taker)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were noted from Councillor Hunter, Phil White, Billy McClean, Sheila Tyeson and Stephen McCutcheon.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by members of the Board.

3. Minute of Previous Meeting

The minute of the meeting held on 30th June 2022 (as circulated) was approved by the Board, with one amendment to the recorded attendance noted.

4. Matters Arising/Action Log

It was noted that the frequency of meetings will be discussed at any other business.

5. Progress Report on Young Carers

Claire Flanagan, Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer was welcomed to the meetings.

G Hoey explained that the Carers Scotland Act (2016) was established to statutory requirements for all Local Authorities to develop local Carers and Young Carers Strategies with all legal duties delegated to the Health and Social Care Partnership.

G Hoey advised that the redesign of the young carers statement was created by young carers and ensured that they are appealing to get them completed. Young Carers statements created will focus on the age and stage of the young carer and training will be provided to Social Work and Education staff in relation to these. G Hoey confirmed that wider links will be made to ensure corporate staff have access to training also.

G Hoey explained that links have been made with colleges and apprenticeship providers to try and guide young carers into positive destinations. It was noted that considerable amount of progress has been made over the last year. Councillor Dettbarn expressed her gratitude for the progress being made and the effort to get young carers into positive destinations while allowing their voices to be heard with the redesigned statements.

T Eltringham thanked C Flanagan and her wider team for the work and significant progress being made. M Inglis explained that the young carers strategy had been a previous risk to the Partnership and is pleased to see significant work being done. M

Inglis added that Children and Families Services will be happy to collaborate on young carers statements to ensure all needs are captured and allows for wider issues to be addressed. C Flanagan welcomed the idea of collaborative working.

The report was approved by the Committee.

6. Parenting Promise

Dawn Parker, Corporate Parenting Lead Officer, was welcomed to today's meeting.

M Inglis explained that the Partnership has a statutory duty to look after children and the legal commitment is to them. It was noted that short, medium and long term plans have been created to allow for statutory duties to be upheld. M Inglis advised that this corporate parenting plan has been named South Ayrshire Parenting Promise in response to the children and young people requesting that language be more relatable. It was noted that work has been done with the South Ayrshire Change Team, who have a specific way of tracking actions and the benefits from achieving these actions.

D Parker highlighted that in the implementation of the new Parenting Promise, 53 benefits have been realised, which are highlighted fully at [appendix 1](#). D Parker gave examples of some of the benefits being achieved. It was noted that nature and trauma informed training will be expanded to include care based language and highlighted that through this, 6 benefits have been realised. D Parker added that all young carers will be given all they need to thrive at school and will be encouraged into positive destinations when they leave school. It was noted that 7 benefits have been realised from achieving these actions.

Councillor Dettbarn thanked D Parker and M Inglis for the update and highlighted that South Ayrshire is much further ahead than most local authorities in relation to young carers and stated she was pleased with the progress being made. T Eltringham echoed this statement and added that work has been evolving over the years and now feels like all the relevant people are working in the correct places to get work done.

M Inglis thanked Board members for their comments and stated that it is important for people to ask questions and challenge the information being presented as this ensures that the Parenting Promise is authentic and is able to evolve moving forward.

Councillor Dettbarn suggested that it may be beneficial to have a wider voting members briefing within County Hall to give the current and new councillors some trauma informed training. This will also allow for the strategy to reach the maximum amount of people. D Parker and M Inglis agreed and will organise this event for the future.

The Committee approved this report.

7. Adult Community Mental Health Strategy 2017-2022

Sharon Hackney, Service Manager for Mental Health was welcomed to today's meeting.

S Hackney advised that the current strategy is now coming to an end and significant work has been done within Mental Health Services. It was noted that a new strategy will be created in winter 2022. S Hackney noted that there is a significant difference in position than when the strategy was created four years ago. It was noted that although there have been pressures on services due to Covid-19, however there have been more investments in Mental Health Services from the Scottish Government.

S Hackney advised that there has been a service redesign and some development in relation to mental health officers. It was noted that a Mental Health Officers Team has been created with two officers and a MHO Co-Ordinator in place and a further two officers going through the recruitment process currently. S Hackney highlighted that there has been a good amount of recruitment in the community teams. This allows for preventative support to be provided and specialist support will only be required when necessary.

J Ford expressed that it was refreshing to see people engaged and enthusiastic about what they do. T Eltringham stated how exceptional S Hackney and her team have been in providing care and support which has allowed the Mental Health Team to move on significantly within South Ayrshire. It was noted that the team have been creative in how funds are used, which has allowed for a reduction in hospital bed usage. S Hackney confirmed that the collaborative work with housing to develop supported accommodation at Fort Street has helped take the pressure off hospital beds.

T Eltringham highlighted that there are currently no contingency plans in place if all providers were to go bust and confirmed that government intervention and action would be required.

The Board approved this report.

8. External Audit Report

Pat Kenny, External Auditor, Deloitte, was welcomed to today's meeting.

P Kenny explained that the audit report remains unmodified since the observations made in June 2022. P Kenny confirmed that this year will be last audit that Deloitte will carry out. T Eltringham thanked P Kenny and Deloitte for their engagement over the past 4 years and expressed how good it has been to see the progress over these years.

T Eltringham noted that there are funding concerns in all local authorities every year however, the Partnership is in a better position to handle what is coming in the next few years.

The Committee approved this report.

9. Internal Audited Accounts

L Duncan explained that the Integration Joint Board will be asked to approved the accounts at the meeting on 14th September 2022.

L Duncan stated that the pay award for staff remains outstanding and added that there was a possibility that money would be required to put aside for this. E Hope confirmed that the full pay award is being funded for NHS staff by the Government.

T Eltringham noted that a paper will be created to show the work being done and the impact that this is having on spends. This will include the reductions made and how this will have an ongoing impact on services.

The Committee agreed to approve this report.

10. Strategic Risk Register

T Eltringham explained that there has been a lot of work done in relation to risk management. The two biggest areas of focus remain as workforce and premises. T Eltringham confirmed that South Ayrshire Council staff remain as hybrid workers due to several buildings remaining closed. T Eltringham noted that there have been some staffing pressures recently and S Tyeson continues to cover posts (Co-Ordinator Policy & Performance and Co-Ordinator Contracts and Commissioning) as well as her own post as Senior Manager, Policy, Performance and Commissioning.

J Ford queried how the Performance and Audit Committee will reflect and on risks that could arise from the energy crisis. T Eltringham confirmed that these risks would be added and presented to the Integration Joint Board for attention and escalation as required.

E Hope highlighted the risk having staff working from home as this may not be cost effective. L Duncan confirmed that Chief Finance Officers have raised this issue at a national level but had no feedback of yet.

The Committee agreed to approve this report.

Any Other Business

T Eltringham noted that the Performance and Audit Committee will now be taking place every 2 months to allow for a programme of strategies to be created for review by the Committee. The Committee agreed to the change of meetings.

As there was no other business to discuss, the meeting was concluded at 11.15am.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 1st November 2022 at 2pm.