

Minute

Orkney Health and Care Committee

Thursday, 4 April 2019, 14:15.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Councillors Rachael A King, Kevin F Woodbridge, Stephen G Clackson, David Dawson, J Harvey Johnston, W Leslie Manson, John T Richards and James W Stockan.

Clerk

- Angela Kingston, Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- Sally Shaw, Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care.
- Lynda Bradford, Interim Head of Health and Community Care.
- Scott Hunter, Head of Children and Families and Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer.
- Pat Robinson, Chief Finance Officer.
- Peter Trodden, Solicitor.

Observing

- Andrew Hamilton, Performance and Best Value Officer (for Items 1 and 2).

Apology

- Councillor Stephen Sankey.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor Rachael A King.

1. Revenue Expenditure Monitoring

After consideration of a joint report by the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care and the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Chief Finance Officer, the Committee:

Noted:

1.1. The revenue financial summary statement in respect of Orkney Health and Care for the period 1 April 2018 to 28 February 2019, attached as Annex 1 to the joint report by the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care and the Head of Finance, indicating an overspend position of £228,900.

1.2. The revenue financial detail by Service Area statement in respect of Orkney Health and Care for the period 1 April 2018 to 28 February 2019, attached as Annex 2 to the joint report by the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care and the Head of Finance.

1.3. The explanations given and actions proposed in respect of significant budget variances, as outlined in the Budget Action Plan, attached as Annex 3 to the joint report by the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care and the Head of Finance.

2. Local Government Benchmarking Framework

After consideration of a report by the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Noted the performance of Orkney Health and Care against the Local Government Benchmarking Framework Indicators for 2017 to 2018, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care.

3. Child Poverty in Orkney

After consideration of a joint report by the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care and the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Children and Families and Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer, the Committee:

Noted:

3.1. The research into child poverty in Orkney and its pernicious effect on children, young people and families, as well as the broader fabric of the community, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the joint report by the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care and the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

3.2. The new statutory reporting requirements for local government to address child poverty, as set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

3.3. That a Local Child Poverty Working Group would be established to take forward the recommendations from the 2018 research into child poverty, commissioned by Orkney Children and Young People's Partnership, as detailed in the executive summary attached as Appendix 1 to the joint report by the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care and the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

4. Social Work in Scotland Impact Report

After consideration of a report by the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Children and Families and Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer, the Committee:

Noted:

4.1. The Social Work in Scotland Impact Report, prepared by Audit Scotland and published in December 2018, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care.

The Committee resolved to **recommend to the Council:**

4.2. That the undernoted workstreams, which addressed local issues identified within the Social Work in Scotland Impact Report, particularly the move to early intervention and exploration of generalist practice, be supported:

- Sustainability.
- Financial Pressures.
- Governance.
- Role of the Chief Social Work Officer.

5. Self-Directed Support – Direct Payments

After consideration of a report by the Chief Finance Officer, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, the Committee:

Noted:

5.1. That hourly rates paid in respect of Direct Payments were dependent on the assessment within the Indicator of Relative Need, with existing rates being as follows:

- Low – £10.85.
- Medium – £11.95.
- High – £13.03.

5.2. That the rates, referred to at paragraph 5.1 above, were agreed prior to introduction of the Living Wage and Workplace Pensions.

5.3. That an independent consultant had stated that the Indicator of Relative Need provided a framework to recognise different needs, however it did not provide a measure of the skills and competencies of Personal Assistants required to work with those needs, as detailed in section 3.5 of the report by the Chief Finance Officer.

5.4. That, at its meeting in January 2019, the Self-Directed Support Group noted that a single hourly rate in respect of Direct Payments was the most appropriate way forward, as detailed in section 3.6 of the report by the Chief Finance Officer.

5.5. That any single hourly rate agreed should take into consideration the Living Wage and pension contributions, as detailed in section 7.3 of the report by the Chief Finance Officer.

The Committee resolved to **recommend to the Council:**

5.6. That, with effect from 1 April 2019, a single rate of £12.48 per hour in respect of Direct Payments be adopted.

5.7. That service users currently on the higher rate should receive preserved rights until such time as the hourly rate increased to that amount, namely £13.03.

5.8. That one-off payments be made to facilitate the setting up of pension schemes, to those who implemented the scheme.

5.9. That the additional payment regarding the annual cost of employer's insurance in respect of public liability, currently £135 per year, should continue.

5.10. That authority be delegated to the Allocation of Resources Committee in respect of one-off costs associated with Service Users who had additional requirements, where the local authority had a duty to cover such costs.

5.11. That the annual uplift be linked in accordance with the Living Wage, which was agreed nationally.

Councillor J Harvey Johnston left the meeting during discussion of this item.

6. Conclusion of Meeting

At 15:40 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: R A King.