

Minute

Orkney Health and Care Committee

Thursday, 4 February 2021, 14:15.

Microsoft Teams.



Present

Councillors Rachael A King, Stephen Sankey, Stephen G Clackson, Alexander G Cowie, J Harvey Johnston, W Leslie Manson, John T Richards, James W Stockan and Heather N Woodbridge.

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- Jim Lyon, Interim Head of Children and Families and Criminal Justice and Chief Social Work Officer.
- Pat Robinson, Chief Finance Officer.
- Georgette Herd, Solicitor.

Observing

- Joan Jones, Finance Assistant, Orkney Health and Care.
- Rebecca McAuliffe, Press Officer.

Declarations of Interest

- Councillor Rachael A King – Item 4.
- Councillor W Leslie Manson – Item 4.

Chair

- Councillor Rachael A King, Chair – for Items 1 to 3.
- Councillor Stephen Sankey, Vice Chair – for Items 4 and 5.

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 service areas for which the Orkney Health and Care Committee was responsible, for the period 1 April to 31 December 2020, attached as Annex 1 to the joint report by the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care and the Head of Finance, indicating a budget overspend position of £226,800.

1.2. The revenue financial detail by service area statement, in respect of service areas for which the Orkney Health and Care Committee was responsible, for the period 1 April to 31 December 2020, attached as Annex 2 to the joint report by the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care and the Head of Finance.

The Committee scrutinised:

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, and obtained assurance that action was being taken with regard to significant budget variances.

2. Orkney Childcare and Young People's Partnership

After consideration of a report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Senior Committees Officer, the Committee:

Noted:

2.1. That membership of the steering group of the Orkney Childcare and Young People's Partnership comprised two elected members as follows:

- One representative from the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.
- One representative from the Orkney Health and Care Committee.

2.2. That, in June 2019, the following appointments were made to the steering group of the Orkney Childcare and Young People's Partnership:

- Education, Leisure and Housing Committee – Councillor John T Richards.
- Orkney Health and Care Committee – Councillor Kevin F Woodbridge.

2.3. That, following the death of Councillor Kevin F Woodbridge, a vacancy existed in respect of the Orkney Health and Care Committee's representative on the steering group of the Orkney Childcare and Young People's Partnership.

2.4. That the nomination to fill the vacancy in respect of the Committee's representative on the steering group of the Orkney Childcare and Young People's Partnership would last for the remainder of the term of this Council, namely until May 2022.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

2.5. That Councillor Heather N Woodbridge be nominated as the Orkney Health and Care Committee's representative on the steering group of the Orkney Childcare and Young People's Partnership.

3. Orkney Health and Care – Directorate Support Service

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 Chief Finance Officer, the Committee:

Noted:

3.1. That Orkney Health and Care was working to establish posts on a permanent basis in order to improve stability of services and support effective staff recruitment and retention.

3.2. That the existing staffing establishment currently included 1.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) posts of Directorate Secretary, which had been supplemented by 0.5 FTE on a temporary basis.

3.3. The proposal that the temporary 0.5 FTE post of Directorate Secretary be made permanent and combined with the permanent 0.5 FTE post, thereby increasing the staffing establishment to 2 FTE posts of Directorate Secretary.

3.4. That the costs associated with making the 0.5 FTE post of Directorate Secretary permanent could be met within existing resources.

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

3.5. That the 0.5 FTE temporary post of Directorate Secretary be made permanent and thereafter combined with the existing 0.5 FTE permanent post to create 1.0 FTE permanent post of Directorate Secretary, G5.

4. Care and Support Charging Policy

Councillors Rachael A King and W Leslie Manson declared non-financial interests in this item, in that close family members were in receipt of social care support services, and left the meeting at this point.

Councillor Stephen Sankey, Vice Chair, took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Signed: R A King.

After consideration of a report by the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Chief Finance Officer, the Committee:

Noted:

4.1. That, on 14 November 2019, the Orkney Health and Care Committee recommended that consideration of introducing charging for Day Care and Telecare services be deferred, to enable the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care to submit a Strategic Charging Policy for social care services, in line with COSLA guidance and best practice.

4.2. That, should the Council determine to introduce charges in respect of care and support services, and therefore a requirement to undertake financial assessments for people in receipt of multiple services, that would require additional ongoing staffing resources, estimated at £32,800.

4.3. That it was not possible to estimate income which could be received from implementing new charges for care and support services.

4.4. The proposed Care and Support Charging Policy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care, which had been drafted in accordance with the COSLA national strategy and guidance in respect of charges applying to social care support for people at home.

4.5. That the proposed policy included a proposal to increase the percentage taper, applied to available income over the threshold to determine a maximum contribution from the service user, from 15% to 75%.

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

4.6. That the percentage taper, referred to at paragraph 4.5 above, be retained at 15%.

4.7. That the Care and Support Charging Policy, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, incorporating the percentage taper being retained at 15%, be approved.

5. Conclusion of Meeting

At 12:45 the Vice Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: S Sankey.