

## Minute of Special Meeting Council

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 30 August 2017	15:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

**Present:** Councillor Jennifer Marion Adam-McGregor, Councillor Tom Begg, Councillor Derek Bibby, Councillor Bill Binks, Councillor Bill Brown, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Jacqueline Cameron, Provost Lorraine Cameron, Councillor Michelle Campbell, Councillor Carolann Davidson, Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Andy Doig, Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Natalie Don, Councillor Alison Jean Dowling, Councillor Edward Grady, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Jim Harte, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Karen Kennedy, Councillor Scott Kerr, Councillor Paul Mack, Councillor James MacLaren, Councillor Kenny MacLaren, Councillor Mags MacLaren, Councillor Eileen McCartin, Councillor Colin McCulloch, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor John McIntyre, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Kevin Montgomery, Councillor Will Mylet, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jim Paterson, Councillor Emma Rodden, Councillor Jim Sharkey, Councillor John Shaw, Councillor James Sheridan, Councillor Andy Steel, Councillor Jane Strang

### In Attendance

P MacLeod, Director of Children's Services; S MacDougall, Director of Community Resources; A Morrison, Acting Director of Development & Housing Services; A Russell, Director of Finance & Resources; D Leese, Chief Officer, S Lavers, Chief Finance Officer and I Beattie, Head of Health & Social Care (all Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership); K Graham, Head of Corporate Governance, M Conaghan, Legal & Democratic Services Manager, L Belshaw, Democratic Services Manager and A McNaughtan, Senior Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources).

### Chair

Provost L Cameron presided.

## **Apology**

Councillor Mackay.

## **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

### **1 Motion**

There was submitted a motion in the following terms:

"Council notes with grave concern the decision by Capability Scotland to cease providing the learning disability service at West Lane Gardens Johnstone and Whitehaugh Day Centre, Paisley which they provide on behalf of Renfrewshire Council.

Council further notes the distress and anxiety this has caused to users of this much loved service and their carers who have benefited from the security, care and companionship it has provided over many years and who believe that it is in their best interests that the service continues in its present form. These centres of excellence are providing an encouraging environment from which service users fulfil their potential and are empowered and enabled to go out into the community.

Council accepts it is the choice of users to continue to meet as a group and to continue to benefit from the service and will therefore take the necessary action to ensure that the service continues to be provided beyond the 20th October."

Councillor Bibby, seconded by Councillor Sharkey, then moved the motion.

Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor J Cameron, moved as a first amendment that the following be inserted after group: Council agrees that all measures necessary should be taken by all respective organisations to ensure services in their current locations continue until such time as necessary in order that a structured and considered approach is taken with regard to the future of these services.

Renfrewshire Council finds the way this matter has been handled as unacceptable. The primary consideration should be providing support to service users and a long term planned approach on the future provision of services which could have a material impact on individuals concerned.

Councillor Binks, seconded by Councillor Graham, moved as a second amendment that the motion include: The decision taken for the continuation of services at Whitehaugh and West Lane Gardens is to be Client and Carer led with any interruption to the client/carer relationship kept to the absolute minimum. Any future outcome should include a minimum renewable three-year working contract for the carer so as to establish some stability for the carer/client partnership.

In terms of Standing Order 27, following clarification by Councillor Binks that reference to 'carer' referred to caring staff and not to family members, the second amendment was accepted by the mover and seconder of the motion.

Thereafter, in terms of Standing Order 27, the first amendment was withdrawn by the mover and seconder of the first amendment.

**DECISION:** That the Council notes with grave concern the decision by Capability Scotland to cease providing the learning disability service at West Lane Gardens Johnstone and Whitehaugh Day Centre, Paisley which they provide on behalf of Renfrewshire Council.

Council further notes the distress and anxiety this has caused to users of this much loved service and their carers who have benefited from the security, care and companionship it has provided over many years and who believe that it is in their best interests that the service continues in its present form. These centres of excellence are providing an encouraging environment from which service users fulfil their potential and are empowered and enabled to go out into the community.

Council accepts it is the choice of users to continue to meet as a group and to continue to benefit from the service and will therefore take the necessary action to ensure that the service continues to be provided beyond the 20th October.

The decision taken for the continuation of services at Whitehaugh and West Lane Gardens is to be Client and Carer led with any interruption to the client/carer relationship kept to the absolute minimum. Any future outcome should include a minimum renewable three-year working contract for the carer so as to establish some stability for the carer/client partnership.