



Council Offices, Almada Street
Hamilton, ML3 0AA

Tuesday, 16 February 2021

Dear Councillor

South Lanarkshire Council

The Members listed below are requested to attend a special meeting of the Council to be held as follows:-

Date: Wednesday, 24 February 2021
Time: 11:00 (or immediately following the Executive Committee, whichever is the later)
Venue: By Microsoft Teams,

The business to be considered at the meeting is listed overleaf.

Yours sincerely

Cleland Sneddon
Chief Executive

Members

Alex Allison, John Anderson, John Bradley, Walter Brogan, Robert Brown, Archie Buchanan, Jackie Burns, Janine Calikes, Stephanie Callaghan, Graeme Campbell, Andy Carmichael, Maureen Chalmers, Gerry Convery, Margaret Cooper, Poppy Corbett, Margaret Cowie, Peter Craig, Maureen Devlin, Mary Donnelly, Isobel Dorman, Fiona Dryburgh, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, Grant Ferguson, Alistair Fulton, Geri Gray, George Greenshields, Lynsey Hamilton, Ian Harrow, Eric Holford, Graeme Horne, Mark Horsham, Martin Grant Hose, Ann Le Blond, Martin Lennon, Richard Lockhart, Eileen Logan, Katy Loudon, Joe Lowe, Hugh Macdonald, Julia Marrs, Monique McAdams, Ian McAllan, Catherine McClymont, Kenny McCreary, Colin McGavigan, Mark McGeever, Jim McGuigan, Davie McLachlan, Gladys Miller, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, Carol Nugent, Mo Razzaq, John Ross, Graham Scott, David Shearer, Collette Stevenson, Bert Thomson, Margaret B Walker, Jim Wardhaugh, Jared Wark, David Watson, Josh Wilson

BUSINESS

1 Declaration of Interests

Item(s) for Decision

- | | | |
|----------|--|---------|
| 2 | Overall Position of Revenue Budget and Level of Local Taxation for 2021/2022
Report dated 9 February 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources). (Copy attached) | 3 - 12 |
| 3 | Recommendations Referred by the Executive Committee - Housing Revenue and Capital Account Budget 2021/2022
Report dated 24 February 2021 by the Chief Executive. (Copy to be tabled) | |
| 4 | Notice of Motion - Plug the Gap
Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 19 on 24 December 2020 proposed by Councillor Fagan and seconded by Councillor Convery. (Copy attached) | 13 - 14 |

Item(s) for Noting

- | | | |
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| 5 | Independent Review of Adult Social Care
Report dated 14 February 2021 by the Chief Executive. (Copy attached) | 15 - 30 |
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Urgent Business

- | | |
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| 6 | Urgent Business
Any other items of business which the Chair decides are urgent. |
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For further information, please contact:-

Clerk Name: Susan Somerville

Clerk Telephone: 01698 454197

Clerk Email: susan.somerville@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Report

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Report to:	South Lanarkshire Council
Date of Meeting:	24 February 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Overall Position of Revenue Budget and Level of Local Taxation for 2021/2022
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Council in relation to capacity for investment following the Finance Settlement for 2021/2022, present the Council Tax level for 2021/2022 for approval, and present the Revenue Budget for 2021/2022 including the base budget allocations to Resources, for approval.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Council is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the addition to the budget for the potential pay costs of £3 million (section 4.3) be agreed;
- (2) that the capacity for investment figure of £4.633 million, following the grant settlement for 2021/2022 (section 4.3), after taking account of the potential pay costs be noted;
- (3) that the inclusion of a budget for investments totalling £4.633million (section 4.4), be considered;
- (4) that the position on the General Capital Grant and the Specific Grants (detailed in sections 4.7 to 4.9), be noted;
- (5) that the proposed Council Tax freeze (section 5.2), which would set the Council Tax for Band D properties at £1,203, be approved; and
- (6) that the Revenue Budget for 2021/2022 including the base budget allocations to Resources, as shown in Appendix 1, be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. On 1 February 2021, the Scottish Government issued Finance Circular 1/2021 which detailed individual grant settlement figures to all councils for capital and revenue. A report was presented to the Executive Committee on 10 February providing Members with details of the Settlement, and how these affect the Council's budget position.
- 3.2. This report will provide a summary of the updated position following the settlement, seek approval for Council Tax levels for 2021/2022 and provide the total budget across Resources.

4. 2021/2022 Strategy Update

- 4.1. The report to the Executive Committee (Special) on 13 January 2021 provided a revised savings requirement of £17.530 million following Strategy updates. The potential increase in funding from a Council Tax increase of £6.810 million and Management and Operational Decisions totalling £5.762 million were then taken into account resulting in a potential **revised savings requirement of £4.958 million**. Following the Grant Settlement, received formally on 1 February, a report was presented to the Executive Committee on 10 February 2021, where the comparable figure is now a capacity for investment in the budget of **£7.633 million**, an **improvement in the budget position of £12.591 million**. The Executive Committee on 13 January 2021 agreed to defer consideration of the report to the Council. The pack submitted to Executive Committee can be accessed at the following link:-

[Report to Executive Committee on 13 January 2021](#)

- 4.2. Table 1 provides a summary of the position post settlement

Table 1: 2021/2022 Post Settlement Position (taken from Executive Committee - 10 February 2021) – Capacity for Investment

	£m
Original Savings Requirement	17.530
Adjustments per Settlement:	
Less: Reduction in grant per budget strategy	(10.259)
Less: Increase in grant per settlement	(7.521)
Less: Reduced commitments following settlement	(0.901)
Less: Benefit of reduced rates poundage	(0.720)
Revised Capacity for Investment	(1.871)
Less:	
Management and Operational Decisions	(5.762)
Capacity for Investment in Budget	(7.633)

- 4.3. **Potential Pay Costs:** As reported to the Executive Committee (10 February 2021), although the Scottish Government pay policy does not directly affect Local Government, the implications of a similar policy could mean that the level of pay award currently included in the Budget Strategy is insufficient. Early estimates on the costs of such a policy on our lower earners indicate a shortfall in our budget of up to £3 million. It is proposed that this be set aside in the Strategy, leaving a revised capacity for investment of **£4.633 million**.
- 4.4. **Capacity for Investment in Services:** The remainder of the report assumes that consideration will be given as to whether to invest the £4.633 million available. The figures shown within the remainder of this report include an investments line to that value, resulting in a balanced budget.
- 4.5. If any further savings are proposed and approved, it is assumed that these will be added to the £4.633 million (section 4.4) and will therefore have no net impact on the budget figure.

- 4.6. Should Members agree to invest the £4.633 million referred to in 4.4 above, they will require to agree how the investment will be made. The Council will agree the details of the final investments, and the details of these will be included in the first financial reports to Resource and Executive Committees in the new financial year.
- 4.7. **2021/2022 – Capital Grant:** As previously advised, the Finance Circular also details the Council's Capital Grant allocations for 2021/2022. The General Capital Grant allocation is **£21.362 million**. Compared to the level included in the Council's approved 2021/2022 General Services Capital Programme (**£21.300 million**), there is an **increase of £0.062 million** available for 2021/2022. A report covering proposals on the use of this minor amount of additional funding will be brought back to Members early in the new financial year.
- 4.8. In addition, there is also **£2.141 million** of specific grant for Vacant and Derelict land (£0.737 million) and Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (£1.404 million). These new allocations will be added to the programme in the new year. As in previous financial years, this will be used to undertake specific programmes of work in accordance with the grant conditions attached to this funding.
- 4.9. The Overall Capital settlement for 2021/2022 is therefore **£23.503 million**. An updated Capital Programme for 2021/2022 will be brought to committee early in the new financial year.
- 4.10. **Local Government Finance Order:** Although the Council received its grant settlement on 1 February 2021, the level of grant may change as the Finance Budget Bill progresses through Parliament to the Finance Order: Stages 1 to 3 of the Finance Budget Bill will be presented to Parliament for debate and approval between the 25 February and the 9 March 2021, culminating in the Local Government Finance Order being approved on 10 March 2021.
- 4.11. The Council has a statutory requirement to set its Council Tax by 11 March 2020. While the Council has not yet received final confirmation of its Budget as a result of the Finance Order, it can set its Budget for the coming year using the settlement information received to date, and it can set its Council Tax.
- 4.12. There is the possibility that there could be a change to the level of grant allocation as the Budget Bill process continues. If any further funds are received as part of the Budget Bill process, this will be brought to Council for consideration.
- 5. Council Tax 2021/2022**
- 5.1. The Finance Settlement for 2021/2022 includes funding available to those Councils who implement a Council Tax freeze in 2021/2022.
- 5.2. It is recommended that the Council approves the freeze on Council Tax at 2020/2021 levels. This would set the Council Tax Band D at £1,203. Further details on Council Tax are included in section 7.
- 6. Total Revenue Budget Summary**
- 6.1. The total budget for 2021/2022 proposed is now £795.527 million.

- 6.2. The detailed allocation of the budget to each Resource is shown at Appendix 1. The main figures from Appendix 1 are summarised below :-

Current Year Base Budget £m		2021/2022 Proposed Budget £m
1,037.765	Total Services' Gross Expenditure (App 1, page ii)	1,051.970
(318.711)	Deduct: Total Services Gross Income (App 1, page ii)	(318.709)
<u>719.054</u>	Net Service Spending	<u>733.261</u>
49.743	Add: Loan Charges	50.433
5.389	Add: CFCR	0.000
5.481	Add: Corporate Items	7.200
0.000	Add: Investments	4.633
<u>779.667</u>	Net Expenditure	<u>795.527</u>

7. Council Tax

- 7.1. The level of Council Tax is property based. All houses are classified into eight bands, A to H, with band H properties paying more than three times the level of band A. The Council's declared tax is for band D and all other rates are fixed using the following scale:

Table 2 : Property Ranges and Proportion of Band D Payable

Property Ranges in South Lanarkshire for Council Tax			
Property Value Range	Band	Proportion of Band D Tax Payable	Proportion of South Lanarkshire Property in each band January 2021
£27,000 and under	A	67%	23.44%
£27,001 to £35,000	B	78%	19.78%
£35,001 to £45,000	C	89%	17.08%
£45,001 to £58,000	D	100%	(Total A to C: 60.30%) 13.78%
£58,001 to £80,000	E	131%	12.95%
£80,001 to £106,000	F	162%	8.31%
£106,001 to £212,000	G	196%	4.29%
Over £212,000	H	245%	0.37%

- 7.2. The Council's declared tax will be at the Band D level but only around 21,298 properties (13.78%) are in band D. Over the past few years, there has been an upward movement in the valuation of properties. However, approximately 60.30% of properties still remain in Bands A, B and C, so the effect of any increase in Council Tax is reduced by 33%, 22% and 11% respectively for most properties.

- 7.3. The number of houses in the tax base for South Lanarkshire now exceeds 154,492 as advised by the Assessor for the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board. From this figure, an allowance is deducted for single person discounts, students, disabled, vacant premises etc. to produce an estimated yield for £1 on a Band D basis at 100% collection of £137,940.
- 7.4. The Council must set an appropriate level allowing for non-collection. Council Tax collection rates have improved markedly in recent years due to the number of changes initiated by the Council.
- 7.5. A yield of £133,974 for £1 tax at Council Tax Band D has been used in the 2021/2022 budget (an increase on 2020/2021 due to an increase in the number of properties). At an assumed 97.125%, this represents a continuation of the collection rate performance achieved in recent years.
- 7.6. A Council Tax freeze, as detailed in Section 5.2 sets the Council Tax Band D at £1,203.

8. Summary of Overall Budget Position

- 8.1. The overall budget for financial year 2021/2022, including income and expenditure is summarised in Table 3:

Table 3: 2021/2022 Revenue Budget Summary

Indicative Budget for 2021/2022 (appendix 1)	£795.527m
<u>Deduct:</u> Government Grant	£625.811m
<u>Deduct:</u> Use of Reserves and Underspends referred to in the Budget Strategy (June 2020/January 2021/February 2021)	£29.989m
Resultant Net Sum to be Funded Locally from Council Tax	£139.727m

- 8.2. The net sum to be funded from Council Tax (£139.727 million) is shown below :

Gross Council Tax 2021/2022	£161.171m
<u>Deduct:</u> Council Tax Reduction Scheme	<u>(£21.444m)</u>
Resultant Net Sum to be Funded Locally from Council Tax	£139.727m

Estimated Product of £1 Gross Council Tax at 97.125% collection £133,974

- 8.3. The net Council Tax figure comprises the 2020/2021 budget of £138.167 million, increased to reflect the additional property numbers included in the Strategy (£1.480 million) and a Settlement reduction in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (£0.080 million).
- 8.4. Should the Council approve the budget for 2021/2022 then the Band D Council Tax for 2021/2022 will be applied at the figure decided and necessary billing and collection mechanisms will be set in motion. The ten monthly Council Tax instalments will commence in April. Appropriate scrutiny will continue to ensure the process of reviewing budgetary performance is continued.

9. Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. As previously advised, due to the pandemic, this year's approach made more use of technology to facilitate participation and community engagement. The general consultation took place during December 2020 with a savings specific consultation

taking place for 4 weeks from 11 January 2021. Face to face consultation involving representatives from the Citizens' Panel and specific interest groups were replaced by online events where possible.

- 9.2. An online and community phase of consultation has also taken place. In advance of this meeting, a separate report has been issued to all Members summarising the outcome of the consultation exercises.

10. Position Beyond 2021/2022

- 10.1. This paper focuses on financial year 2021/2022 and reflects the Strategy reported to the Executive Committee in June 2020 and February 2021.
- 10.2. The position beyond 2021/2022 remains uncertain as there has been no further information on grant settlements beyond the one year settlement for 2021/2022. The 2021/2022 budget includes a number of solutions which are temporary in nature and will require to be re-instated in future years.
- 10.3. The Council has an approved long term strategy and this will continue to be updated to take account of any new information affecting the Council's finances.

11. Employee Implications

- 11.1. Further to the financial implications reported as part of budget reports in January, there are no further employee implications from this report.

12. Financial Implications

- 12.1. As detailed within this report.

13. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 13.1. There are no implications for climate change or sustainability in terms of the information contained in this report.
- 13.2. An exercise has been undertaken to consider the environmental impact of all of the savings that were proposed for approval. Details of this exercise are available on request.

14. Other Implications

- 14.1. The assumptions on which the budget is based are defined within the Financial Strategy for the Council as reported to the Executive Committee on 24 June 2020 and updated for corporate solutions and the Local Government Finance Settlement received on 1 February 2021. The Financial Strategy is a way of managing a number of key risks which directly impact on the funding available to deliver the Council's Objectives.
- 14.2. **Requirement to Set a Budget:** Council Members have duties around setting budgets. Failure to set a balanced budget would have serious implications, not just for the Council but also potentially for individual members who could incur personal responsibility for failure to comply with their statutory duty.
- 14.3. Any failure to set a balanced budget would almost certainly provoke intervention by Scottish Ministers and the Accounts Commission who have legislative powers to carry out investigations and make recommendations which could result in Scottish Ministers issuing binding directions to the Council. Under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, special reporting processes exist (Section 102) which, if the

Controller of Audit is not satisfied with the Council's steps to remedy such an issue then he/she can make special report to the Accounts Commission on the matter.

- 14.4. The Commission can then recommend that Scottish Ministers direct the Council to rectify the issue. Individual members who unreasonably contribute to the failure or delay in setting a budget could be ultimately censured, suspended or disqualified from standing for election for a prescribed period of time by the Standards Commission.
- 14.5. If a new budget is not set, then the Council could not enter into any new unfunded commitments including contracts, and spend would be restricted to meeting existing liabilities.

15. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 15.1. Where savings proposals had identified potential negative impact on service users, appropriate consultation and engagement was proposed to take place with those who may be affected.
- 15.2. In terms of consultation, the Trade Unions have been consulted. In addition, targeted Public Consultation on the budget has been carried out. Members have received a report covering the consultation.
- 15.3. Equality Impact Assessments have been undertaken for all relevant savings previously proposed and have been provided to Members. For details of work undertaken, please contact the Employee Development and Diversity Manager, Finance and Corporate Resources.
- 15.4. The Fairer Scotland Duty (Part 1 of Equality Act 2010) came into force in Scotland in April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on the Council to actively consider how it can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. It does not override other considerations such as equality or best value.
- 15.5. The Duty is set at a strategic level and is applicable to the key, high-level decisions that the public sector takes. Preparation of the annual budget is considered to be relevant for a Fairer Scotland Duty impact assessment. An assessment in line with the requirements of the Fairer Scotland Duty is available to Members.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

9 February 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, Effective, Efficient and Transparent

Previous References

- ◆ Local Government Finance Circular 1/2021
- ◆ Executive Committee, 10 February 2021 – 2021/2022 Grant Settlement and Impact on 2021/2022 Budget Strategy and Savings

- ◆ Executive Committee (Special), 13 January 2021 - Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/2022
- ◆ Executive Committee, 24 June 2020 - 2021/2022 Strategy and Savings Requirement

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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South Lanarkshire Council

2021/2022 Revenue Budget Summary

	2020/21 Base Budget	2021/22 Rollover	2021/22 Proposed Base Budget
	£m	£m	£m
Community and Enterprise Resources	109.217	1.648	110.865
Education Resources	383.992	8.531	392.523
Finance and Corporate Resources	32.625	0.197	32.822
Housing and Technical Resources	13.975	(0.713)	13.262
Social Work Resources	177.000	4.633	181.633
Joint Boards	2.245	(0.089)	2.156
Total of all Resources plus Joint Boards	719.054	14.207	733.261
Other Budget Items:			
Loan Charges	49.743	0.690	50.433
CFCR	5.389	(5.389)	0.000
Corporate Items	5.481	1.719	7.200
Investments	0.000	4.633	4.633
Total Base Budget 2020/2021	779.667		
Total Proposed Budget 2021/2022		15.860	795.527

The 2020/2021 base figures include budget adjustments approved during 2020/2021.

South Lanarkshire Council 2021/2022

Revenue Budget Summary

Budgetary Category	2020/2021 Base Budget £m	2021/2022 Proposed Base Budget £m
Employee Costs	519.492	528.592
Property Costs	51.017	50.753
Supplies and Services	57.274	59.007
Transport and Plant Costs	39.920	39.687
Administration Costs	14.747	14.290
Payments to Other Bodies	67.258	68.369
Payment to Contractors	210.440	215.227
Transfer Payments (Housing & Council Tax Benefit)	75.471	73.899
Financing Charges (Leasing Costs)	2.146	2.146
Total Expenditure	1,037.765	1,051.970
Total Income	(318.711)	(318.709)
Net Expenditure	719.054	733.261
Other Budget Items:		
Loan Charges	49.743	50.433
CFCR	5.389	0.000
Corporate Items	5.481	7.200
Investments	0.000	4.633
Total Base Budget 2020/2021	779.667	
Total Proposed Budget 2021/2022		795.527

‘Plug the Gap’

Notice of Motion

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 19 on 24 December 2020, proposed by Councillor Joe Fagan, seconded by Councillor Gerry Convery, as follows:-

“This council notes the Scottish Government’s recent announcement of "a package of financial flexibilities and extra funding for councils to address the financial pressures caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic over the next two years".

Whilst we welcome the recognition of the financial crises local government is in we remain concerned that this ‘financial package’ does not solve the problem.

Most of this was not ‘new’ money. Most of what was announced in the package is only available if local authorities make full use of the complicated set of ‘fiscal flexibilities’ set out.

These fiscal flexibilities are no substitute for a fair funding settlement. This council still faces a financial perfect storm of extra demand for services at a time of substantial loss of income which means impossible choices about the funding of services going forward.

This council notes that £2bn of ‘efficiencies’ have already been taken out of Scottish local government over the last decade. Throughout this period South Lanarkshire has had to make savings, reducing jobs and impacting on the services we provide. We also know that the financial impact of COVID-19 will not be confined to the next few months and with Brexit looming the effects of both on the wider economy are going to make the crisis in Local Government much worse.

This Council therefore pledges its support for the trade union campaign “Plug the Gap” and calls on the Scottish Government to Plug The Gap in Local Government finance in the 2021/2022 budget to:-

- ◆ **Reward Local Government Workers** - Local Government workers have been the hidden heroes of this pandemic. Their invaluable contribution to the Covid response should be recognised and rewarded. The government’s £500 for health and social care workers is welcome but many other council workers have made tremendous efforts during the pandemic.
- ◆ **Secure the long term financial stability of Local Government** – Local Government needs long term stability to protect essential jobs and services for the future. The salami slicing of services needs to stop. We call on the Scottish Government to deliver a fair financial settlement for councils in 2021/2022 to protect services, jobs and the viability of councils going forward.
- ◆ **Shape Local Government Fit for the Post-Pandemic Future** – It is a matter of fact that a number of roles undertaken by local government workers have changed as a result of the pandemic.

- ◆ **Fully Consolidate the Living Wage** –Enshrine in law the existing commitment to fully consolidate the living wage for all local government workers across Scotland.”

Report

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Report to:	South Lanarkshire Council
Date of Meeting:	24 February 2021
Report by:	Chief Executive

Subject:	Independent Review of Adult Social Care
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ♦ Provide information on the outcome and recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Council is asked to approve the following recommendation(s): -

- (1) note the contents of the report, the findings of the review and resultant recommendations – in particular:-
 - a. the proposed establishment of a National Care Service;
 - b. that the Council would no longer be responsible for adult social care including the commissioning and procurement of adult social care support but could continue to provide social care services commissioned by the reformed Integration Joint Boards; and
 - c. that the reformed Integrated Joint Boards would enable them to hold assets, employ staff, enter into contracts directly and take full responsibility for the commissioning and procurement of adult social care support, funded directly by and accountable directly to the Scottish Government.
- (2) Agree to further reports being presented once the Scottish Government outlines its response to the recommendations.

3. Background

3.1 The Scottish Government commissioned the Independent Review of Adult Social Care on the 1 September 2020. The principal aim of the Review was to “recommend improvements to adult social care in Scotland”, primarily in terms of the outcomes achieved by and with people who use services, their carers and families, and the experience of people who work in adult social care. This was to be informed by taking a human-rights based approach rather than a needs led approach. The scope of the review did not however include consideration of the full health and social care system.

3.2 The Scottish Government appointed Derek Feeley, former NHS Scotland Chief Executive to lead the review and also directly appointed an Advisory Panel to support his work. The Advisory Group did not have a representative of local government, COSLA, SOLACE or Social Work Scotland. The Review report was published on 5 February 2021 and will be debated by the Scottish Parliament this

month. A formal response to the review by the Scottish Government is awaited at the time of writing.

3.3 The Review report offered a definition of the purpose of adult social care to help bring people and organisations together. It has defined the purpose of adult social care as being that everyone in Scotland will get the social care support they need to live their lives as they choose and to be active citizens. We will all work together to promote and ensure human rights, wellbeing, independent living and equity.

3.4 To achieve this purpose, they believe that there needs to be: -

- i. A new narrative for social care support.
- ii. A redesign of the system of social care support (including the creation of a National Care Service).
- iii. Redefining quality and closing the gap between intent and lived experience (the implementation gap).
- iv. Protecting, promoting and ensuring human rights and equality.
- v. Greater empowerment of people who need support and unpaid carers at the level of the individual and the collective and
- vi. Valuing of the social care support workforce.

4. Social Care Support in South Lanarkshire - Context

4.1 In terms of the context in South Lanarkshire in relation to Adult Social Care: -

- a) In 2019, there were 3,605 Home Care clients in South Lanarkshire – the highest number since 2014. Four-fifths of clients receiving Home Care are frail older people, with two-thirds having Physical or sensory disabilities. Relative to Scotland as a whole nearly twice as many have Dementia and relatively more have Other vulnerabilities – substance abuse, palliative care, carers, etc. Over time, increasing numbers have Dementia and Mental Health problems. Nearly half of Home Care clients received 10 or more hours care a week – significantly above the Scottish average of 36%. Private providers accounted for 40% of Home Care in 2019 in South Lanarkshire which is comparable to Scotland as a whole.
- b) In 2018-2019 there were 2,150 Social work clients with Self-Directed Support arrangements. The Council delivered 52% of these needs and 30% involved a private provider, 12% a voluntary provider and 5% a Personal Assistant. At 31 March 2019, the position on the system would suggest SDS spending at approximately £4.86m with median spend of £2,150 per service user.
- c) there are currently 60 registered care homes in the South Lanarkshire area and most recent position reflects capacity of 2,771 beds. South Lanarkshire Council account for 6 (10%) of these care homes and 8% of the places. As at 31 March 2020, there were 2,049 social work service users in long stay care home placements and 89% of placements were in relation to service users aged 65 and over. The approximate net weekly cost for care home placements is £1.062m
- d) In terms of employment, in 2019, it is estimated that there were 2,225 employed in Residential social work establishments in South Lanarkshire – and a further 1,000 in providing Residential nursing care activities. There were 5,500 in South Lanarkshire employed in Non-Residential social work activities.
- e) In relation to finance, the current Social Work Budget is £127.134m or 16.3% of the Council's total budget of £781.540m and non-residential charging income is £2.5m. The latest total Social Work staffing figure is 2,944 – 18.6% of the workforce.

5. Findings and Recommendations

- 5.1 The review report makes a large number of observations local authorities would recognise as challenges that have been wrestled with over a considerable period of time and have remained unaddressed by the integration of health and social care services. These observations are founded on the basis of service user experience as expressed within the report. This references the challenges with needs assessment, care planning and rationing of care to those in only the greatest need which have been necessary to deal with the rapid increase in demographic related demand and limited funding available. The report highlights the priority to be given to preventative and anticipatory care supports to people who would benefit from them at a pre-crisis stage. This aspiration would be shared by every local authority and Social Work/Care Manager, however, over a decade of budget challenges has limited the ability of local government to meet these aspirations.
- 5.2 There is no extended recognition however, that these challenges arise as a result of the wider health and social care context outlined above, the current legislative landscape and most obviously, from the financial envelope afforded to local authorities to support adult social care.
- 5.3 A number of the recommendations reflect policy positions already taken by COSLA and supported by this Council – such as those related to workforce and Fair Work principles. The commentary about the continuing comparative low value and gender inequalities in relation to the social care workforce is recognised and there are positive suggestions, albeit with a resource consequence, to address the workforce planning instability in the system.
- 5.4 **Structural Change** - The Review believes that structural change in social care services is necessary as the structures themselves are impeding good care and support for people. The review notes that social work and social care support should be made more cohesive across age and professional groupings, should enable transitions between children's services and adult services, and that further work should be done to ensure that implementation of this and The (Care) Promise reports are mutually reinforcing. It has also raised the possibility of children services and criminal justice social work being included in the remit of the reformed Integrated Joint Boards.
- 5.5 It has recommended that a National Care Service (NCS) be established which would see accountability for social care support move from councils to the Scottish Government. This would be discharged through reformed Integrated Joint Boards funded directly by and accountable directly to Ministers – the Boards would be able to hold assets (including finance); employ staff directly and enter into contracts directly. The Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Social Security Council would also become part of the National Care Service. It would oversee local commissioning and procurement and lead on social care improvement and on issues such as workforce development and National Improvement programmes to raise standards of care and support. The recommendations of the review are contained in Appendix 1.
- 5.6 The review considered the nationalisation of all adult social care into public ownership and management as part of the NCS but concluded that the evidence suggests that nationalisation would not in and of itself improve the quality of outcomes for people using care. Notwithstanding quality and the lengthy legal proceedings that would ensue, nationalisation was held to also require an unaffordable level of public outlay, particularly in terms of investment in capital. It would also be hugely time-consuming - time that could be better spent working with providers and people who use services to improve care.

- 5.7 **Local Authorities and Integrated Joint Boards** - Local authorities would no longer be responsible for adult social care or be responsible for commissioning and procuring adult social care support. Councils could continue to provide social care services commissioned by the reformed Integration Joint Boards. The reformed IJBs would be responsible for delivering social care, implementing the Social Care Vision outcome measures, planning, commissioning and procuring services and local planning and engagement. Local Authorities would continue to have a key statutory role to play in supporting public wellbeing that is wider than provision of social care support, extending to, for instance, housing, transport and leisure and recreation. Although local authorities would remain an influence in Integration Joint Boards, the recommendation would be for all members of the Board to have voting rights reducing the level of influence of local authorities and Health Boards who currently exercise all voting rights between them. The review notes the distinction between social care and social work services and notes the latter would remain local authority functions albeit they may be commissioned by the Integration Joint Board from the council.
- 5.8 Whilst considering the Council's position in respect of the proposed structural changes and changes in accountability and role for local authorities, it is important to reflect that the lived experience testimony in the report were not new findings and are well recognised by everyone working in the sector. Council may however wish to consider the significant change in context that would arise from the suggested increase in resource investment (£0.660 billion) and whether this would allow for the outcomes sought could be delivered without the loss of local democratic accountability.
- 6. Finance Proposals**
- 6.1 The starting point of the review was not finance but it started from the perspective of people's experience of adult social care support, and the role adult social has to play in Scotland's wellbeing as a whole. This relates to how the review has gathered lived experience and testimonials to form the basis of its conclusions.
- 6.2 The review recommends that budgets for integrated health and social care support services should be determined nationally and distributed directly by the Scottish Government to Integration Joint Boards, as they are to currently to Local Authorities and NHS Boards.
- 6.3 A new distribution formula for Integration Joint Board budgets is needed to ensure equity and transparency, rather than relying on a blend of the existing NHS and Local Authority formulae as at present. Such a formula will need careful development with partners to ensure a fair outcome for Integration Joint Boards, Local Authorities and Health Boards. Consideration will need to be given to VAT in relation to the National Care Service.
- 6.4 In terms of the finance implications of their recommendations – based on a human rights approach - they indicate: -
- (a) that around £436m is needed to provide services to people who would benefit from but are not currently receiving services.
 - (b) that to implement the findings of the Fair Work Convention - including implementing a Real Living Wage of £9.50 an hour would cost £15mn p.a. if extended to all frontline staff and a further £4m p.a. if extended to all auxiliary staff. The review notes there have been calls for it to be raised to £15 an hour. Every one percent increase would cost to around £100m p.a.

- (c) that people should no longer be charged for non-residential social care support which generated £51m in 2019-20 for councils. The removal of charges is likely to lead to an increase in demand and add costs.
- (d) that the sums paid for Free Personal and Nursing Care for Self-Funders using care homes should be increased to the levels included in the National Care Home Contract, and that this would cost £116m p.a.
- (e) that in respect of accommodation costs, the review considered the issue of whether care home accommodation costs should be free at the point of use but decided that some charge should be made. This includes that the National Care Service should consider possible adjustments to the means tested arrangements to ensure that they are fair.
- (f) that the Independent Living Fund should be reopened but that the existing thresholds for access to it should be reviewed and adjusted. If the threshold was set at £600 a week, this would require an extra £32m p.a. in funding.
- (g) that a review of support for Unpaid Carers should be undertaken and the National Care Service should invest in a range of respite provision, including non-residential respite and short breaks and that councils should no longer charge the supported person for respite.

6.5 Overall, the review estimated the total cost of all its recommendations to be around £660m p.a. In terms of future funding, the ageing population will require more funding for social care support, and the review considers a starting point on this to be a 3.5% real increase in social care spending every year until 2035. This is a 20% increase in real terms over 2018/19 levels and twice the total real terms increase in adult social care expenditure over whole of the previous ten years (£3b). Even allowing for a phased introduction, an investment on these lines will require a long-term and substantial uplift in adult social care funding. The review believes that the scale of this increase in funding is warranted on a human rights basis and also that it should be viewed as a good investment in the Scottish economy and has a positive impact on women's employment and the gender pay gap.

7. Other Recommendations

- 7.1 It believes that the principles of the Christie Commission should apply to social care – a decisive shift towards prevention, greater integration of public services at a local level driven by better partnerships, collaboration and effective local delivery, greater investment in the people who deliver services through enhanced workforce development and effective leadership; and a sharp focus on improving performance through greater transparency, innovation and use of digital technology. In addition, the review calls for a stronger voice for the person requiring support and their advocates; a means to learn and improve across the country; a sharp focus on equity, equalities and human rights; fairness and consistency in relation to access, eligibility and outcomes; and transparency and accountability.
- 7.2 A human rights approach has been central to the work of the Review and would be central to its implementation. Effectively this means that access to and eligibility for services should no longer be needs led (as at present) but rather be provided to people in Scotland based on a more expansive set of rights. This relates closely to potential legislation in the next parliament to introduce a consolidated single rights Bill. This further expands access to services at an earlier and preventative stage and requires the scale of investment outlined above.

- 7.3 The review concluded that you cannot inspect quality into a service and inspection is too late and therefore you have to build in quality into the service in the first place. It has therefore put forward proposals for a workable definition of quality in social care:-
- a. **Accessible** – I get the support I have a right to receive when and how I need it.
 - b. **Personalised** – I am able to direct my support and I am a full partner in its planning.
 - c. **Integrated** – if I need care, it is joined up. I get the help I need to navigate.
 - d. **Preventative** – my needs are understood and addressed at lower levels, they are anticipated and I have a plan for the future.
 - e. **Respectful** – I can live with dignity and my voice is heard.
 - f. **Safe** – I feel safe in my environment and free from harm.
- 7.4 A National Improvement Programme for social care along the lines of the NHS Patient Safety Programme, should be introduced and seek to address the three following key areas:-
- 1) The experience and implementation of self-directed support must be improved, placing people using services' needs, rights and preferences at the heart of the decision making process.
 - 2) The safety and quality of care provided in care homes must be improved to guarantee consistent, appropriate standards of care.
 - 3) Commissioning and procurement processes must be improved in order to provide a vehicle for raising the quality of social care support and for enhancing the conditions and experience of the social care workforce.
- 7.5 The review highlighted a number of examples of models of care that reflect improvements being made to improve experience of care and support, but it believes that none have the ambition nor scale are they sufficient to address the challenges adult social care support needs to meet in order to improve the experience of people using them.
- 7.6 In terms of the Social Care workforce, material inconsistencies in terms and conditions, low pay, high turnover, lack of training and development, low esteem and long-standing gender-based unfairness need to be tackled consistently and fairly without undermining the arrangements that underpin good quality existing provision. A national approach – without nationalisation itself – is needed to resolve these unacceptable features of current employment arrangements, without removing the unquestionable value added by the diversity and specialism of the third sector in particular, and without dismantling organisations that are already doing a good job.
- 7.7 The review has recommended a Rapid delivery of all of the recommendations of the Fair Work Convention, with an ambitious timetable for implementation to be set by the Scottish Government. A national job evaluation exercise for work in social care should be undertaken to establish a fair and equitable assessment of terms and conditions for different roles. This should take account of skills, qualifications, responsibilities and contribution. This is in line with commitments made by local government and agreed by COSLA. Other recommendations include:-
- a. Putting in place national minimum terms and conditions as a key component of new requirements for commissioning and procurement by Integration Joint Boards. Specific priority should be given to pay, travel time, sick pay arrangements, training and development, maternity leave, progression pathways, flexible pathways and pension provision. The national evaluation of

terms and conditions should be undertaken to inform these minimum standards, and these should be reviewed as required.

- b. Establishing a national organisation for training, development, recruitment and retention for adult social care support, including a specific Social Work Agency for oversight of professional development. The current role, functions and powers of the SSSC should be reviewed and appropriate read-across embedded for shared and reciprocal learning with the NHS workforce.
- c. Establishing a national forum comprised of workforce representation, employers, Integration Joint Boards and the Scottish Government to advise the National Care Service on workforce priorities and to take the lead in creating national sector level collective bargaining of terms and conditions.
- d. National oversight of workforce planning for social work and social care, which respects the diversity and scale of employment arrangements while improving resilience and arrangements for mutual support should be a priority for a National Care Service.
- e. The recommendations listed above should apply to Personal Assistants employed by people using Option 1 of SDS, who should be explicitly recognised as members of the workforce, as well as employees of providers in the public, third and independent sectors. This recommendation should be delivered in full partnership with the independent living movement.

7.8 It also wants to see the decisions taken by social workers on people's care needs decoupled in the first instance from questions of affordability. It wants to see assessments as being the product of a full understanding of the individual's needs, rights and preferences, and that when that assessment is translated into a package of supports any unmet needs should be recorded.

7.9 An ethical, fair approach to commissioning and procurement must form the cornerstone of future contractual relationships, to help improve the experience of the workforce and help create sustainable, high quality provision. There should be a move towards long term whole system redesign commissioning decisions. Greater emphasis and focus are needed on prevention, early intervention and de-institutionalisation, which means decommissioning, disinvestment and redesign of current services must become a reality and not just an aspiration. Alongside this is the vital importance of recognising, valuing and linking people to local community assets, which should be commissioned and appropriately funded by Integration Joint Boards, potentially through grant aid, and working jointly with Community Planning Partners.

8. COSLA Position

8.1 Following publication of the report, COSLA convened a Special Leaders' meeting on 10 February 2021. The key elements of the report were debated and Leaders unanimously agreed a position that will inform further engagement with the Scottish Government as it considers its response to the recommendations within the report. A copy of the COSLA Leaders' decision is appended at Appendix 2.

9. Employee Implications

9.1 There are potentially significant employee implications arising from the recommendations of the review dependent on the subsequent Scottish Government actions however there are none directly associated with this introductory report.

10 Financial Implications

10.1 There are potentially significant financial implications arising from the recommendations of the review dependent on the subsequent Scottish Government actions however there are none directly associated with this introductory report.

11. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 11.1 There are no climate change, sustainability and natural environment implications directly arising from the content of this report.

12. Other Implications

- 12.1 There are potentially significant risks arising from the recommendations of the review dependent on the subsequent Scottish Government actions however there are none directly associated with this introductory report.

13 Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 13.1 This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.

- 13.2 There is also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

Cleland Sneddon
Chief Executive

14 February 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, Effective, Efficient and Transparent

Previous References

- None

List of Background Papers

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact: -

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Our recommendations are as follows:

A human rights based approach

1. Human rights, equity and equality must be placed at the very heart of social care and be mainstreamed and embedded. This could be further enabled by the incorporation of human rights conventions.
2. Delivering a rights based system in practice must become consistent, intentional and evident in the everyday experience of everyone using social care support, unpaid carers and families, and people working in the social care support and social work sector.
3. People must be able to access support at the point they feel they need it, including for advice and signposting to local community-based resources and help, and for barriers to this, such as the current eligibility criteria and charging regime, to be fundamentally reformed and removed, to allow a greater emphasis on prevention and early intervention.
4. People should understand better what their rights are to social care and supports, and “duty bearers”, primarily social workers, should be focused on realising those rights rather than being hampered in the first instance by considerations of eligibility and cost.
5. Where not all needs can be met that have been identified as part of a co-production process of developing a support plan, these must be recorded as unmet needs and fed into the strategic commissioning process.
6. Informal, community based services and supports must be encouraged, supported and funded to respond appropriately to the needs of local citizens, including for preventative and low level support.
7. A co-production and supportive process involving good conversations with people needing support should replace assessment processes that make decisions over people’s heads and must enable a full exploration of all self-directed support options that does not start from the basis of available funding. Giving people as much choice and control over their support and care is critical.
8. More independent advocacy and brokerage services, including peer services, must be made available to people to ensure that their voices are heard, and to help prepare for participation in planning and organising their support.
9. When things do not work well for people and their rights have not been upheld, they must have rapid recourse to an effective complaints system and to redress.
10. Packages of care and support plans must be made more portable and supported people should not have to fight to retain support because they have moved home.

Unpaid carers

11. Carers need better, more consistent support to carry out their caring role well and to take a break from caring with regular access to quality respite provision. Carers should be given a right to respite with an amendment to the Carers Act as required, and a range of options for respite and short breaks should be developed.
12. A new National Care Service should prioritise improved information and advice for carers, and an improved complaints process. It should take a human rights based approach to the support of carers.
13. Local assessment of carers' needs must, in common with assessment of the needs of people using social care support services and supports, better involve the person themselves in planning support.
14. Carers must be represented as full partners on the Integration Joint Boards and on the Board of the National Care Service.

The case for a national care service (NCS)

15. Accountability for social care support should move from local government to Scottish Ministers, and a Minister should be appointed with specific responsibility for Social Care.
16. A National Care Service for Scotland should be established in statute along with, on an equal footing, NHS Scotland, with both bodies reporting to Scottish Ministers.
17. The National Care Service should oversee local commissioning and procurement of social care and support by reformed Integration Joint Boards, with services procured from Local Authorities and third and independent sector providers. Integration Joint Boards should manage GPs' contractual arrangements, whether independent contractors or directly employed, to ensure integration of community care and support provision, to respect and support professional interdependencies, and to remove the current confusion about where responsibility for primary care sits.
18. The National Care Service should lead on the aspects of social care improvement and support that are best managed once for Scotland, such as workforce development and improvement programmes to raise standards of care and support.
19. The National Care Service should oversee social care provision at national level for people whose needs are very complex or highly specialist and for services such as prison social care that could be better managed on a once-for-Scotland basis.
20. The National Care Service's driving focus should be improvements in the consistency, quality and equity of care and support experienced by service users, their families and carers, and improvements in the conditions of employment, training and development of the workforce.

A National Care Service for Scotland – how it should work

21. The National Care Service in close co-operation with the National Health Service should establish a simplified set of outcome measures to measure progress in health and social care support, through which to oversee delivery of social care in local systems via reformed Integration Joint Boards and national care bodies.
22. A Chief Executive should be appointed to the National Care Service, equivalent to the Chief Executive of the National Health Service and accountable to Ministers.
23. Integration Joint Boards should be reformed to take responsibility for planning, commissioning and procurement and should employ Chief Officers and other relevant staff. They should be funded directly by the Scottish Government.
24. The role of existing national care and support bodies – such as the Care Inspectorate and Scottish Social Services Council – should be revisited to ensure they are fit for purpose in a new system.
25. The National Care Service should address gaps in national provision for social care and social work in relation to workforce planning and development, data and research, IT and, as appropriate, national and regional service planning.
26. The National Care Service should manage provision of care for people whose care needs are particularly complex and specialist, and should be responsible for planning and delivery of care in custodial settings, including prisons.

A new approach to improving outcomes – closing the implementation gap, a new system for managing quality

27. A National Improvement Programme for social care, along the lines of the NHS Patient Safety Programme, should be introduced by the National Care Service, and should address the three following key areas:
 - ▶ **The experience and implementation of self-directed support must be improved, placing people using services' needs, rights and preferences at the heart of the decision making process.**
 - ▶ **The safety and quality of care provided in care homes must be improved to guarantee consistent, appropriate standards of care.**
 - ▶ **Commissioning and procurement processes must be improved in order to provide a vehicle for raising the quality of social care support and for enhancing the conditions and experience of the social care workforce.**

Models of care

28. The Scottish Government should carefully consider its policies, for example on discharge arrangements for people leaving hospital, to ensure they support its long held aim of assisting people to stay in their own communities for as long as possible.
29. A national approach to improvement and innovation in social care is needed, to maximise learning opportunities and create a culture of developing, testing, discussing and sharing methods that improve outcomes. The future role of the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (IRISS) and its inclusion as part of the National Care Service must be considered.
30. There must be a relentless focus on involving people who use services, their families and carers in developing new approaches at both a national and local level.
31. Investment in alternative social care support models should prioritise approaches that enable people to stay in their own homes and communities, to maintain and develop rich social connections and to exercise as much autonomy as possible in decisions about their lives. Investment in, or continuance of, models of social care support that do not meet all of these criteria should be a prompt for very careful reflection both by a National Care Service and local agencies.

Commissioning for public good

32. Commissioners should focus on establishing a system where a range of people, including people with lived experience, unpaid carers, local communities, providers and other professionals are routinely involved in the co-design and redesign, as well as the monitoring of services and supports. This system should form the basis of a collaborative, rights based and participative approach.
33. A shift from competitive to collaborative commissioning must take place and alternatives to competitive tendering developed and implemented at pace across Scotland. Commissioning and procurement decisions must focus on the person's needs, not solely be driven by budget limitations.
34. The establishment of core requirements for ethical commissioning to support the standardisation and implementation of fair work requirements and practices must be agreed and set at a national level by the new National Care Service, and delivered locally across the country.
35. To help provide impetus and support to the adoption of a collaborative and ethical approach to commissioning, the idea from CCPS of pressing pause on all current procurement should be fully explored in the context of a National Care Service, with a view to rapid, carefully planned implementation.
36. The care home sector must become an actively managed market with a revised and reformed National Care Home Contract in place, and with the Care Inspectorate taking on a market oversight role. Consideration should be given by the National Care Service to developing national contracts for other aspects of care and support. A 'new deal' must form the basis for commissioning and procuring residential care, characterised by transparency, fair work, public good, and the re-investment of public money in the Scottish economy.
37. National contracts, and other arrangements for commissioning and procurement of services, must include requirements for financial transparency on the part of providers along with requirements for the level of return that should be re-invested in the service in order to promote quality of provision and good working conditions for staff.

38. A condition of funding for social care services and supports must be that commissioning and procurement decisions are driven by national minimum quality outcome standards for all publicly funded adult social care support.
39. A decisive and progressive move away from time and task and defined services must be made at pace to commissioning based on quality and purpose of care – focused upon supporting people to achieve their outcomes, to have a good life and reach their potential, including taking part in civic life as they themselves determine.
40. Commissioning decisions should encourage the development of mutually-supportive provider networks as described above, rather than inhibiting co-operation by encouraging fruitless competition.
41. Commissioning and planning community based informal supports, including peer supports, is required to be undertaken by Integration Joint Boards and consideration of grant funding to support these is needed.

Fair Work

42. Rapid delivery of all of the recommendations of the Fair Work Convention, with an ambitious timetable for implementation to be set by the Scottish Government.
43. Conduct a national job evaluation exercise for work in social care, to establish a fair and equitable assessment of terms and conditions for different roles. This should take account of skills, qualifications, responsibilities and contribution.
44. Putting in place national minimum terms and conditions as a key component of new requirements for commissioning and procurement by Integration Joint Boards. Specific priority should be given to pay, travel time, sick pay arrangements, training and development, maternity leave, progression pathways, flexible pathways and pension provision. The national evaluation of terms and conditions should be undertaken to inform these minimum standards and these should be reviewed as required.
45. Establishing a national organisation for training, development, recruitment and retention for adult social care support, including a specific Social Work Agency for oversight of professional development. The current role, functions and powers of the SSSC should be reviewed and appropriate read-across embedded for shared and reciprocal learning with the NHS workforce.
46. Establishing a national forum comprised of workforce representation, employers, Integration Joint Boards and the Scottish Government to advise the National Care Service on workforce priorities and to take the lead in creating national sector level collective bargaining of terms and conditions.
47. National oversight of workforce planning for social work and social care, which respects the diversity and scale of employment arrangements while improving resilience and arrangements for mutual support should be a priority for a National Care Service.
48. The recommendations listed above should apply to Personal Assistants employed by people using Option 1 of SDS, who should be explicitly recognised as members of the workforce, as well as employees of providers in the public, third and independent sectors. This recommendation should be delivered in full partnership with the independent living movement.

Finance

49. Prioritising investment in social care as a key feature of Scotland's economic plans for recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.
50. Careful analysis by a National Care Service, with its partners in the National Health Service, Integration Joint Boards and beyond, of opportunities to invest in preventative care rather than crisis responses, to avoid expenditure on poor outcomes such as those experienced by people who are delayed in hospital.
51. Additional investment in order to:
 - ▶ **expand access to support including for lower-level preventive community support;**
 - ▶ **implement the recommendations of the Fair Work Convention;**
 - ▶ **remove charging for non-residential social care support;**
 - ▶ **increase the sums paid for Free Personal and Nursing Care for self-funders using care homes to the levels included in the National Care Home Contract;**
 - ▶ **re-open the Independent Living Fund, with the threshold sum for entry to the new scheme reviewed and adjusted; and**
 - ▶ **review financial support made available to unpaid carers and increase investment in respite.**
52. Robustly factoring in demographic change in future planning for adult social care.
53. Careful consideration to options for raising new revenues to increase investment in adult social care support.

JANUARY 2021

COSLA Special Leaders

Wednesday, 10 February 2021

Amendments

Amendment – Labour and SNP Groups

Item 2 - Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland (paper LD/21/27)

(In response to recommendation ii) asking for comments.)

Leaders note the publication of the Feeley Report on the Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland.

Leaders express their grave concern at the recommendations on governance and accountability which would see the removal of local democratic accountability and a degree of centralisation that would be detrimental to the local delivery of social care and its integration with other key community services.

Leaders endorse the principles set out in the report of:

- Empowering people
- Valuing the workforce
- A human rights approach

Leaders strongly agree that the lived experience of those who rely on social care should be embedded within the system and that social care should move to a more person centred approach, recognising the value of not for profit provision. Social care should be:

- Accessible;
- Personalised;
- Integrated;
- Preventative;
- Respectful; and
- Safe

However, Leaders express particular concern at the recommendation 15 that states:

“Accountability for social care support should move from local government to Scottish Ministers, and a Minister should be appointed with specific responsibility for Social Care.”

This concern mirrors the findings of the report itself when it says:

“We asked what would worry people about a National Care Service, and the most frequently mentioned concern was that it would bring loss of local knowledge and expertise.”

Leaders also endorse the comments from SOLACE and from Directors of Finance in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report.

Leaders therefore restate COSLA’s position as expressed in the agreed Blueprint for Local Government that:

“Discussion on the future of social care has centred on the potential creation of a National Care Service. This can mean many different things to different people. Moving towards a National Care Service should not be merely accepted as the necessary means of reform without proper consideration of its scope, resourcing and, vitally, its implications for local decision making. Any National Care Service must be locally empowered, reflect the needs of our communities and recognise the vital role of the third sector. It must be outcome focussed with the principle of addressing health inequalities at its core, ensure that social care is on an even playing field and address the financial challenges facing the sector. This can only be achieved by Local Government that is rooted in the community and employs local people.”

Leaders mandate COSLA officers and spokespeople to undertake appropriate lobbying in relation to this report, based on this position.

Proposed by: Councillor Stephen McCabe (Inverclyde Council)

Seconded by: Councillor Douglas Reid (East Ayrshire Council)