

SCOTTISH SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

**Unconfirmed minutes of the Scottish Social Services Council held on
Friday 25 March 2022 at 10:00 am by Teams meeting.**

Present: Sandra Campbell, Convener
Theresa Allison, Council Member
Professor Alan Baird, Council Member
Paul Edie, Council Member
Lynne Huckerby, Council Member
Rona King, Council member
Russell Pettigrew, Council Member

In attendance: Maree Allison, Director of Regulation
Laura Lamb, Acting Director of Development and Innovation
Lynn Murray, Interim Director of Finance and Resources
Laura Shepherd, Director of Strategy and Performance
Anne Garness, Head of Legal and Corporate Governance
Audrey Wallace, Corporate Governance Coordinator

Observing: The meeting was live streamed

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

1.1 Sandra Campbell welcomed those present and noted apologies were received from Julie Grace, Linda Lennie and Peter Murray, Council Members and also from Lorraine Gray, Chief Executive.

1.2 Sandra Campbell confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

2. Declarations of interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Draft budget 2022/23 and indicative budgets 2023/24 and 2024/25

3.1 Lynn Murray presented report 15/2022. She confirmed that Members were being asked to approve the 2022/23 budget which Scottish Government had agreed would be funded as a deficit budget of £1.638 million. Lynn Murray also confirmed that the balance of reserves was £2.6 million, which is considerably higher than the target range and indicated a reasonable budget position for 2022/23.

3.2 Lynn Murray also addressed the Members on the indicative budgets and funding position for the following two years, 2023/24 and 2024/25. She advised that there were ongoing discussions with the property owner of the organisation's offices at Compass and Quadrant House and Scottish Government to negotiate the lease and we are likely to

reduce our office footprint by around 50%. As the costs will not necessarily reduce proportionately, we have not made an assumption on the potential saving in the budget. She also advised that discussions were ongoing with Scottish Government to secure more sustainable grant in aid funding of future years' budgets.

3.3 Discussion then focussed on the following issues.

- The impact that appointing people into temporary posts is having on the future work of the organisation. Lynn Murray advised that where and as necessary, the Executive Management Team would consider and reprioritise expenditure according to available funding.
- Presentations and regular discussions on the financial position have taken place with our Sponsor Team and the Chief Executive has met with Michael Chalmers, Director of Children and Families at Scottish Government to discuss the future funding position.
- Alan Baird thanked officers for the clarity of the report, particularly referring to the information contained in Appendix 3 to the report. This set out the implications of any funding gaps and the work that will not be done if funding is not secured for future years, the efficiencies that have already been made within the organisation and the limited scope to make further savings without compromising delivery of the strategic objectives.
- Maree Allison confirmed that a fee review was due to be carried out and if fees are not increased to improve income, there will be an impact on the work which can be carried out.
- Sandra Campbell referred to the outcome of the National Care Service review as this was creating an unknown impact. While it was not known when the Scottish Government would release the review outcome, it was anticipated that a discussion session on the outcome of the review and the impact for the SSSC would be held in June. Currently this uncertainty added another level of risk to the impact on the budget.

3.4 Lynn Murray closed off the discussion confirming that regular discussions will be held with management and Scottish Government and regular updates reported to the Audit and Assurance Committee and the Council.

3.5 The Council:

1. considered and approved the draft budget for 2022/23 (Appendix 1 to the report) that includes draft changes to staffing establishment (paragraphs 16 to 18 of the report), subject to written confirmation from Scottish Government. Scottish Government has agreed to fund a deficit budget of £1.638m as an unfunded pressure this year and that we can use the balance of our reserves as working capital in 2022/23
2. noted the indicative budgets for 2023/24 of £0.787m deficit and 2024/25 £0.319m deficit (Appendix 1 to the report)

3. noted that specific grant funding and associated expenditure is currently excluded from the draft 2022/23 and indicative budgets for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

4. Date and time of next meeting

- 4.1 The date of the next Council meeting will be Thursday 26 May 2022 at 10.00am. It is anticipated that this will be a hybrid meeting where Members may attend by teams or in person.

Private Session

Item 5 was taken in private and minuted separately.

Council: 25 March 2022
Start time: 10am
Finish time: 10.30am

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Sandra Campbell
Convener