

Agenda Item	10.
Report No	CLH 07/19

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Care, Learning and Housing

Date: 24 January 2019

Report Title: **Care & Learning and Housing & Building Maintenance Remit and Responsibilities**

Report By: Interim Director of Care and Learning and Director of Community Services

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this joint report is to outline the remit and responsibilities of the Care and Learning Directorate and the Housing & Building Maintenance element of the Community Services Directorate.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are invited to:

- i. Note the remit and responsibilities of the Care and Learning Directorate and the Housing & Building Maintenance element of the Community Services Directorate and therefore the implications for agenda-setting of the Care, Learning and Housing Committee.

3. Remit of the Care, Learning and Housing Committee

3.1 The remit of this committee in relation to Care and Learning is:-

- develop and review charges, policies, strategies and service plans for the delivery of the services within the Committee's remit.
- approve the Revenue and Capital Budgets for the services included in the Committee's remit and to monitor and control these budgets including dealing with over-expenditure.
- scrutinise performance relating to service delivery and implementation of strategy, policy and service plans.
- review the effectiveness of the standard and level of services provided in accordance with the Council's commitment to Best Value and continuous improvement.
- make decisions about entering into partnerships including consultation with other agencies and organisations, as appropriate, in order to achieve a collaborative and effective approach to service delivery.
- consider representations, consultations etc from Government and statutory bodies and to make representations to Ministers and those bodies regarding services included in the Committee's remit.
- promote sustainable development and equal opportunities in the conduct of Council business and the delivery of services.
- consider the impact of decisions on communities, specifically taking into consideration the issues of equality, poverty and rurality.
- ensure that all decisions take into account the Resource, Legal, Climate Change/Carbon Clever, Risk and Gaelic implications that need to be considered

In relation to housing & building maintenance functions the committee's remit is to:-

- determine the Local Housing Strategy
- approve housing and homelessness policies.
- consider HRA and non-HRA budgets and make recommendations to the Council on Housing Revenue Account Estimates, setting revenue and capital budgets and associated rents and service charges.

4. Structure of the Care and Learning Directorate

4.1 The current structure chart is attached as Appendix 1.

4.2 The structure is based on a matrix, with a central senior management team and an area based structure under four Care and Learning Managers.

5. Services delivered by Care and Learning.

5.1 Care and Learning as a Directorate has evolved through a number of different structures over recent years, the most significant changes being:

- The separation of social work services into adult services, now delivered by NHS Highland through a Partnership Agreement.
- Through the same Partnership Agreement, health services for children are now delivered by Highland Council on behalf of NHS Highland.
- The Education Department was subsequently combined with Children's Services to create Care and Learning.

5.2 The key services delivered by Care and Learning include:

- All education services, including school-based services, Additional Support Needs and quality improvement.

- All children's social care services, including residential care, fostering, adoption, child protection, out-of-hours social work emergency services, Throughcare and Aftercare services for Looked After Children, respite services for children with a disability, Youth Action (young offenders) and early intervention support.
 - Health services including school nurses, health visitors, Allied Health Professionals, Primary Mental Health Workers, health services for Looked After Children and Child Protection Advisers.
 - Criminal Justice Services.
 - Additional Support Needs services include individual support to pupils, statutory duties regarding ASN, Education Psychology, Transition support and Health Development.
 - Early Learning and Childcare and Early Years provision.
- 5.3 There are a number of underpinning functions which support service delivery; these include budget support, ICT services, complaints and FOIs, performance management, statutory planning for children's services, workforce planning, business continuity, health and safety, quality improvement, and capital planning for education.
- 5.4 Care and Learning provides grant funding to the Third Sector through a number of separate sections, not co-ordinated across the Directorate. These cover a very wide range of services including family support, parenting, children with a disability, sport and leisure services, violence against women, community groups and culture. It is also responsible for a number of service level agreements with a range of providers. Another significant responsibility is the Highland Council responsibility for HighLife Highland
- 5.5 Care and Learning supports the Child Protection Committee which is a statutory multi-agency body with responsibility for the oversight of child protection duties across health, social work, education, Police and voluntary sector services.
- 5.6 The strategic plan for children is called For Highland's Children and can be found at the following link, along with the supporting Improvement Groups.
<http://forhighlandschildren.org/> There are 13 Improvement Groups in total, including the Child Protection Committee. The terms of reference for each can be found on the For Highland's Children website. The other 12 groups are:
- Schools
 - Early Years
 - Looked After Children
 - Youth Action
 - Mental Health
 - Additional Support Needs
 - Young Carers
 - Play
 - Transitions
 - Equalities
 - Supporting Parents
 - Practice Model (GIRFEC).
- 5.7 Whilst some functions have transferred to Community Services, Care and Learning retains a client function for school buildings, transport and support services for schools.
- 5.8 Care and Learning also supports Community Learning Development through HighLife Highland and has the statutory lead.

5.9 Despite the breadth of service responsibility, the major focus of Care and Learning senior management is delivery of direct services to children and families, which can lead to a lack of recognition of the wider range of responsibilities, some of which are statutory in nature.

6. Housing & Building Maintenance – Structure and Services Provided

6.1 Housing and Building Maintenance functions are managed as a part of the Community Services Directorate. Structure charts in relation to these functions are attached as Appendices 2 and 3.

6.2 Community Services is currently responsible for the delivery of the Council's statutory housing functions. This involves developing and implementing a Local Housing Strategy. The Strategy is available at: http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/18724/local_housing_strategy

The service is also responsible for:

- Undertaking the Council's landlord role
- Providing repairs and improvements to Council housing
- Providing housing options and advice
- Dealing with applications for housing and the allocation of Council housing.
- Preventing and assisting people who are homeless.
- Providing and managing Sheltered Housing
- Undertaking adaptations to help people stay at home and prevent hospital / care home placement.
- Managing the Council's Gypsy/Traveller Sites
- Leading partnership work on resettlement of Syrian Refugees.

6.3 The Council landlord functions are funded within the Housing Revenue Account. This is a "ring fenced" account within which income from rents and other charges are used to fund expenditure on housing management, repairs and maintenance and loan charges. The Council's Building Maintenance function principally involves undertaking repairs, maintenance and improvements to Council housing.

6.4 The service involves working with people in housing need and trying to ensure that they are able to access good quality, secure homes that meets their needs. This might involve supporting people to live independently for as long as possible in their own homes through providing housing adaptations or preventing people from becoming homeless.

6.5 Good quality, affordable housing helps people to enjoy better health and achieve their full potential. Good housing also contributes to stronger communities that benefit everyone living in them.

7. Implications

7.1 Resource – none identified.

7.2 Legal – none identified.

7.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – none identified.

7.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever – none identified.

7.5 Risk - none identified.

7.6 Gaelic – none identified.

Designation: Interim Director of Care and Learning and Director of
Community Services

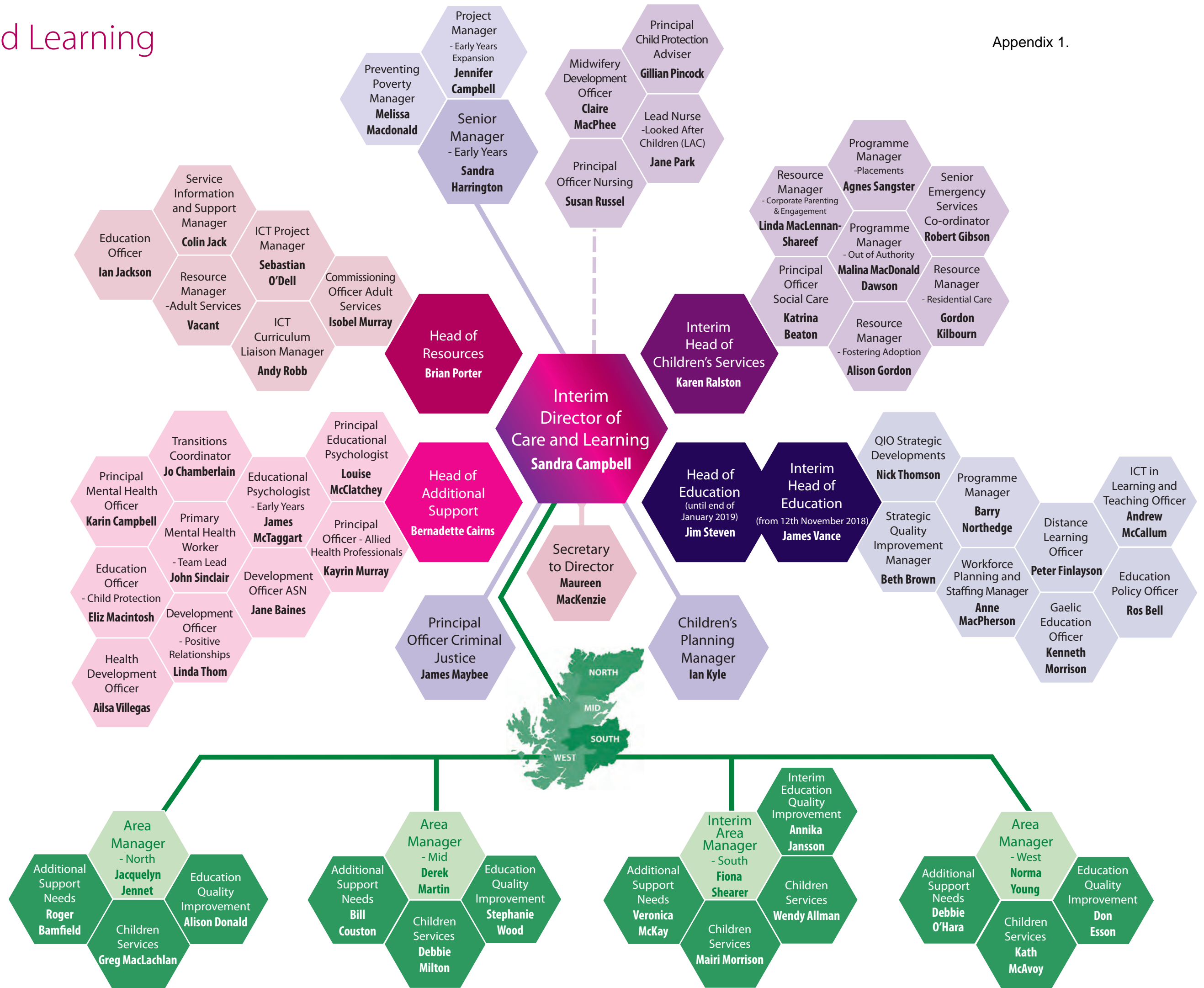
Date: 11 January 2019

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Background Papers:

Care and Learning

Appendix 1.



Appendix 2.

