

Minutes of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

30th June, 2014 at 5.00 pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Dhallu (Chair);
Councillor Giles (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Ahmed, S Crumpton and Melia.

Apologies: Councillors P Davies and S Hosell.

3/14

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st March, 2014 were confirmed as a correct record.

Matter delegated to the Committee

4/14

Use of Resources held within Leonard Andrews Poole Trust

The Leonard Poole Trust was created in 1977 following a bequest to the local authority and a sum was invested in Charities Official Investment Fund Income Shares held by CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

The Trust was for the benefit of residents of Grafton Lodge residential care unit in accordance with the terms of the bequest.

The original managing trustees were members of the Social Services Committee and this responsibility was subsequently transferred to the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee. The managing trustees have authorisation to approve the use of income generated by the investments for the benefit of residents of Grafton Lodge, but not to utilise the capital sum.

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Approval was sought to utilise £11,700 of available resources held by the Leonard Andrews Poole Trust to invest in activity programmes, redecoration of the main lounges, garden furniture and equipment and craft materials/activities.

In considering the proposal, the Committee expressed concern in relation to the use of trust monies for the purposes of redecoration of two lounges, two corridors and two bedrooms, including flooring and conservatory blinds, to the value of £5,500.

The Operations Manager (Adult Social Care) informed the Committee that many residents of the home suffered with dementia and that decoration was important as the environment in which they lived was conducive to their wellbeing.

The Committee was minded to visit Grafton Lodge prior to giving approval to the release of funds towards redecoration. The visit would enable members to get a perspective on the size of the areas in question to ensure value for money and to ascertain if the spending of resources on redecoration was deemed to be appropriate.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Director - Legal and Government Services make arrangements for the Committee to visit Grafton Lodge, Grafton Road, Oldbury;
- (2) that the purchase of weekly extend classes (exercise to music), monthly entertainment, monthly pet therapy/ social therapy, at a cost of £3,400, be approved;
- (3) that the purchase of garden furniture and equipment to assist residents with gardening activities/stimulation, at a cost of £2,000, be approved;
- (4) that the purchase of craft materials/activities for utilisation by residents, at a cost of £800, be approved;

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- (5) that the redecoration of two lounges, corridors and bedrooms, including new flooring and conservatory blinds, to the value of £5,500 be approved, subject to the satisfaction of the Chair and Vice Chair following the outcome of the visit referred to in (1) above;
- (6) that, should the Chair/Vice Chair not give approval to (5) above, the Service Director - Adult Social Care submit a further report to the Committee.

(Meeting ended at 5.20 pm)

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