February blog:

The weekend weather was fantastic with a glimmer of hope that spring was on its way with the crocus and daffodils in full bloom. Today we are alerted that we are heading for another cold snap and that more snow is on its way. Even with that forecast it is lovely to see the lighter mornings and evenings isn’t it.

Welcome to another update and in this blog I’m going to be talking about progress with out transport initiative, SVQ registration, & our SVQ level 3 training programme.

**Travel initiative:** We have spoken about the travel initiative over the past few months and we are so pleased to let you know that we are underway with this initiative. We have engaged a consultant, Sara Fellows, who is working with James Thomson and Angie McGuire to get us on the move. The idea is that we will be working with a group of people that use a taxi and receive escort support to attend a Fair Deal activity. We are proposing to replace the taxi with a people carrier leased by Fair Deal and driven by Fair Deal staff. So far we have met with Fair Deal staff who work at Nethercraigs, written to all families and guardians and have a meeting set for Thursday to discuss our approach. We are planning to set up a focus group involving people we are working with, families and staff to ensure that we get it right. We continue to identify funding to take forward the independent travel aspect of this work. Watch this space.

**SVQ level 3 Health and Social Care.**

We were successful in securing funding to support 18 candidates through their SVQ level 3. We have also secured 5 modern apprenticeship places. Induction for the candidates is taking place on Monday and Tuesday the 26th & 27th of February. Everyone has been notified and a Candidate Understanding and Training Cost Agreement will be sent to each candidate prior to starting the course outlining the terms and conditions which will have been discussed at the induction session 26th & 27th. The agreement will also include how much each candidate would have to pay if they leave or don’t complete the award. We are looking for commitment from our staff to match ours.

**SSSC registration**: a significant number of you have signed up and registered with the SSSC. Many thanks for taking the time with this and please encourage your colleagues.

Ann Marie Docherty

CEO