Minute of questions raised by members of the public.

**Question 1:**

Councillor Strong raised her concerns regarding the lack of availability of nursing home places on the Island for people who are vulnerable and where the level of care they require is too great to be delivered safely at home. She asked if there are plans to provide more nursing care beds for people on the island. At present people requiring nursing care are admitted into nursing homes in Dunoon or Inverclyde which means family members, who themselves can be frail, have to travel off the island to visit their loved one. She also advised that there are proposed plans for a care centre for people with Aspergers Syndrome being put forward by the private sector, which is favourable with the Community, however this may not go ahead as the Council and the NHS will not commit to using this service.

Ms Tyrrell confirmed that work is being carried out at present to improve care in the community services to allow people to be cared for in their own homes. She did acknowledge that some people, who cannot be looked after safely in their own homes, do have to go into nursing homes off the island.

Mr Leslie confirmed that he would discuss nursing home requirements with Argyll & Bute Council as this is a partnership arrangement however the CHP will look at ways to have people looked after closer to their homes. He advised that unfortunately there were no representatives from the Council attending the meeting who could address this question from a Council perspective.

**Question 2:**

Ms Aileen Fitzgerald, who was Marie Curie Nurse for 29 years and is now a Marie Curie Support worker, highlighted her concerns about the lack of registered nursing support overnight when someone is at end of life and highlighted a recent incident which took place.

Mr Leslie asked Ms Fitzgerald to speak to him at the end of the meeting to get specific details to enable the incident to be investigated.

**Question 3:**
Questioner 3 raised concerns about the level of care for some older people within the community being too great for this to be delivered safely at home. This person advised that she appears to be the responsible person for two neighbours both of whom have dementia. Both of her neighbours receive regular visits from care staff however there are gaps of several hours in between these when they are left on their own and can require assistance at any time.

Mr Leslie advised that Community Team Staff should be picking up this responsibility. He advised that a member of the CHP Management Team would speak to her at the end of the meeting to get specific details as she should not be the person responsible for her neighbours.

**Question 4:**

The Committee was asked why facilities at the Victoria Annexe had been closed and why this was done before alternative facilities had been put in place.

Ms Tyrrell confirmed the Victoria Annex was not fit for purpose with the surroundings being less than suitable. She confirmed that the vast majority of people have said that they want to be cared for at home and it is important that people get the right level of care. Ms Tyrrell confirmed that 15 to 20 people sharing rooms is not the right type of facility in 2012 and that Care in the Community will be the future model of care. The CHP are still developing this model of care and will look at all concerns raised.

The questioner confirmed that when she had worked in the annex people had received wonderful care in that facility and again asked why it cannot be re-opened.

Mr Leslie confirmed that the Annex facility was not fit for purpose to give the quality of care required and highlighted that the CHP had upgraded Rothesay Hospital extending its working life. Mr Leslie confirmed that discussions are ongoing with the Council regarding the proposals at Ascog and also confirmed that any problems with the Care in the Community model of care will be looked at and addressed.

Dr Shelley asked if members of the public will be given the opportunity to hear about the changes in the model of care within their community.

Ms Tyrrell advised that local events will be running throughout the month of May on the Reshaping Care for Older People and all people involved in providing care for older people will be invited to attend. These events will have displays and member of the public will also be invited to attend these.