

Strathclyde Regional Council
Chief Executive's Department
Strathclyde House, 20 India Street, Glasgow G2 4PF

AGENDA ITEM No. 14



Strathclyde
SCOTLAND



A nuclear-free zone authority



An equal opportunities authority

Tel: Direct Line 0141-227-3356
Telex: 77428 Fax: 0141-227 2870
Our Ref: PS/SW/CP/19
Your Ref:
Date: 25 May 1995
If phoning or calling please ask for Mr Hill

Mr Andrew Cowie
Chief Executive
North Lanarkshire Council
Civic Centre
Motherwell
ML1 1TW

Dear Mr Cowie

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1994 - CHILDREN'S PANEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

I am writing to seek your cooperation in speeding up the formation of a Children's Panel Advisory Committee (CPAC) for your authority's area. These Committees, which are formed in terms of Schedule 3 (3) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, as reaffirmed in Schedule 1 of the Children's (Scotland) Bill, are charged with the following remit

- (1) to submit names of possible Children's Panel Members to the Secretary of State for Scotland;
- (2) to advise the Secretary of State as required of the suitability of persons referred to him as possible members; and
- (3) to advise the Secretary of State in such matters relating to the general administration of panels as he may refer to the Committee.

You will shortly be receiving formal notification from the Secretary of State regarding the establishment of the CPAC, but given his intention that the shadow CPACs should work in tandem with the current Regional CPAC in the latter part of 1995, there is an urgent need to create these new bodies, and any degree of acceleration which can be achieved will be welcomed.

It is likely that each CPAC will consist of 5 members, 3 appointed directly by the Secretary of State for Scotland and 2 to be nominated by your own authority. It is however possible that larger Authorities will have more members and no doubt the Secretary of State will advise on that in due course.

LCESP451/ES5



265

The members nominated by your authority need not be elected members. When considering nominations for the CPAC it is worth noting the nature of the committee's duties, as described above, and the substantial commitment in terms of time necessary to execute those duties, (eg attendance at committee meetings once a cycle, monitoring of panel members at hearings, (2 afternoons a month), attendance at training, annual selection procedures, etc).

In the past, persons have also been nominated who have had experience or interest in childcare issues or a background in working with young people (eg Ex-Social Workers, Ex-panel members, or local people from the business or trade union communities).

In the shadow year, the Regional CPAC will be offering the Secretary of State informal advice on his appointments and intends to do so by mid June. It would be of value to the current CPAC if you were in a position to do so at around the same time, so that the shadow committees can be constituted quickly, and duly involved in the recruitment programme for panel members in the Autumn.

The current CPAC Chairman, Miss Maeve McDonald and Avril Lewis of my staff will be glad to offer any support in getting the new committees into operation. We shall be happy to arrange any meetings required, and I hope that these will be effective in promoting a smooth transition and resolving any problems

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Iain Hill

Iain Hill
Assistant Chief Executive
(Personal Services)