

SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB - 7 January 1997

Motherwell, 7 January 1997 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB-COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor McElroy, Convener; Councillors Connelly, Coyle, Lucas, McAlorum, Macleod, Maginnis, J. Martin, W Martin, V. Murray, Nolan, Scott and Shaw.

CHAIR

Councillor McElroy (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Committee Services Officer; Director of Social Work, Principal Officer (Child Care), Principal Officer (Community Care) and Principal Officer (Criminal Justice).

APOLOGIES

Councillors Griffin, H. McGuigan, McLaughlin and Ross.

CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) ACT 1995 - IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - DRAFT GUIDANCE AND REGULATIONS

- (1) REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF CERTAIN SCHOOLS;
- (2) CHILDREN'S HEARINGS (TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION ETC) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1997;
- (3) SECURE ACCOMMODATION (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS;
- (4) REFUGES FOR CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS;
- (5) CHILDREN'S RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF PRESCRIBED ORDERS ETC (ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1997;
- (6) SHORT TERM REFUGES FOR CHILDREN AT RISK OF HARM; AND
- (7) CHILDREN AND THEIR NEEDS - SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- 1. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 12 November, 1996 when consideration was given to certain key areas of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and the likely implications of the implementation of the Act for the Council, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 19 December 1996 by the Director of Social Work setting out observations on further guidance from the Scottish Office relating to (1) Registration and Inspection of Certain Schools; (2) Draft Children's Hearings (Transmission of Information Etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1997; (3) Draft Secure Accommodation (Scotland) Regulations; (4) Draft Refuges for Children (Scotland) Regulations; (5) Draft Children's Reciprocal Enforcement of Prescribed Orders Etc (England and Wales and Northern Ireland) (Scotland) Regulations 1997; (6) Short Term Refuges for Children at Risk of Harm, and (7) Children and Their Needs - Supporting Children and Families.

Decided

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted;

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- (2) that the comments by the Director of Social Work set out in the Appendices to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Directions and Guidance, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work report further on the financial implications of the implementation of the relevant sections of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS OF MENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS' SERVICES

2. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 1 October 1996 when inter alia the Sub-Committee had noted (1) new Directions by the Secretary of State under Section 9 of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 in respect of the training and deployment of Mental Health Officers, and (2) the request by the Scottish Office that each local authority assist in its review of the development of Mental Health Officers' Services by submitting details on the numbers of Mental Health Officers employed, the ways in which they were managed, organised and deployed, and any other relevant information, together with details of any plans for the training of the Officers; there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 16 December 1996 by the Director of Social Work setting out a response to the Scottish Office on Mental Health Officers' Services.

Decided:

- (1) that the comments set out in the report by the Director of Social Work be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work report further on the general approach being developed locally in relation to Mental Health Officer's Services.

***A FRAMEWORK FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SCOTLAND* - CONSULTATION DOCUMENT BY THE SCOTTISH OFFICE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 16 December 1996 by the Director of Social Work in respect of a consultation document by the Scottish Office Department of Health entitled "A Framework for Mental Health Services In Scotland" which set out proposals for a multi-agency approach towards the provision of Mental Health Services and described the essential features of a joint strategy, (1) advising that the Scottish Office had established a Reference Group to monitor the development and implementation of local strategies and had recommended that a Multi-Agencies Steering Group be set up for each Health Board area to develop a Local Plan and Framework for Mental Health Services; (2) explaining that the consultation document set out a timetable for the development and implementation of the proposals, and (3) setting out comments on the proposals and seeking approval for a joint response to be submitted to the Scottish Office in association with Lanarkshire Health Board.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted and that the comments set out in paragraph 4 therein be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the consultation document, and
 - (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to liaise with the Lanarkshire Health Board in terms of joint planning arrangements to prepare a joint response on the consultation document to the Scottish Office.
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CARE PROGRAMME APPROACH FOR PEOPLE WITH SEVERE AND ENDURING MENTAL ILLNESS INCLUDING DEMENTIA

4. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of the Sub-Committee on 21 May 1996 when inter alia the Sub-Committee endorsed the implementation of a Care Programme Approach (CPA) for people with serious mental illness by local authorities and Health Boards, there was submitted a report dated 16 December 1996 by the Director of Social Work regarding a recent Scottish Office Circular (SWSG16/96) entitled "Community Care: Care Programme Approach for People with Severe and Enduring Mental Illness including Dementia" which provided revised guidance on the joint arrangements for the implementation of the CPA with a view to ensuring that it was targeted at those people most in need and that the implementation of CPA arrangements were given a high priority, and which invited local authorities and Health Boards to review their existing CPA arrangements and practices and to submit evidence thereon to the Social Work Services Group by 30 April 1997.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work be authorised in terms of joint planning arrangements to liaise with the Lanarkshire Health Board, the Director of Housing and other key agencies on the matter with a view to preparing a joint response on CPA arrangements and practices for submission to the Scottish Office, subject to a report thereon being submitted to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

SOCIAL WORK UNITS WITHIN PRISONS IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE - MANAGEMENT PLANS

5. There was submitted a report dated 12 December 1996 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Management Plans and Arrangements for the delivery of Social Work Services within prisons in North Lanarkshire for 1997/98, and advising (1) until recently, the Department of Social Work had provided all welfare services to prison inmates but that the Scottish Prison Service had indicated that it wished to provide these services in-house which, in effect, had meant that the role of Social Workers based within prisons was changed from that of a "service provider to prisoners" to that of a "consultant to staff" within the Scottish Prison Staff to enable them to provide welfare services, and (2) that the Scottish Prison Service had neither consulted the Association of Directors of Social Work nor the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities on the matter.

Decided:

- (1) that concern be expressed at the lack of consultation by the Scottish Prison Service with the Association of Directors of Social Work and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities regarding their plans on the provision of welfare services for prison inmates, and
- (2) that otherwise the arrangements for the provision of Social Work Services within Prisons in North Lanarkshire for 1997/98 be approved.

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CRIME AND PUNISHMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL - RESTRICTION OF LIBERTY AND ELECTRONIC MONITORING OF YOUNG OFFENDERS

6. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee on 27 August 1996, when it had been agreed to approve the action taken by the Director of Social Work in responding to the Scottish Office in respect of the White Paper entitled "Crime and Punishment", there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 16 December 1996 by the Director of Social Work in respect of a further consultation document by the Scottish Office entitled "Restriction of Liberty and Electronic Monitoring of Young Offenders" which set out proposals for electronic monitoring to be made available to Children's Hearings when considering compulsory measures of care for children under 16 who had been referred to them on offence grounds and where "public interest" considerations applied.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposals set out in the consultation document be strongly opposed, and
- (2) that the comments by the Director of Social Work set out in the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE SHOOTINGS AT DUNBLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL ON 13 MARCH 1996

7. With reference to paragraph 33 of the meeting of the Council held on 7 November 1996 when, inter alia the Council decided that, in view of the number of issues raised by the Cullen Report on the Public Inquiry into the Shootings at Dunblane Primary School on 13 March 1996, and the Government's response thereto and the impact on services for which the Council was responsible, detailed consideration of the issues arising should be taken up by the appropriate Service Committees, there was submitted a report dated 16 December 1996 by the Director of Social Work regarding the recommendations which were relevant to Social Work Services and commenting on the implications thereof.

Decided:

- (1) that the action which had been taken by the Director of Social Work in relation to procedures for emergency situations, matters involving risk to children and violence to staff be noted;
- (2) that the implications of the recommendations of the Public Inquiry in relation to the use of information concerning individuals who may pose a risk to others, security within public buildings, and the need for authority-wide policy procedures in relation to violence to staff be noted as a corporate issue for the Council, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work report further on the results of the review of the arrangements for the protection of children in care.