

SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB - 18 February 1997

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Motherwell, 18 February 1997 at 11 am.

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

**PRESENT**

Councillor McElroy, Convener; Councillors Coyle, Lucas, McAlorum, McLaughlin, J. Martin, W. Martin, V. Murray, Scott and Shaw.

**CHAIR**

Councillor McElroy (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Griffin, H. McGuigan, Macleod, Nolan, Ross and Russell.

**CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) ACT 1995 - IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON DRAFT PANEL OF SAFEGUARDERS, REPORTING OFFICERS AND CURATORS AD LITEM (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1997 - RESPONSE TO SCOTTISH OFFICE**

1. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 7 January 1997 when the Committee endorsed formal responses to the Directions and Guidance in relation to certain key areas of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, there was submitted a further report (docketed) dated 4 February 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing the key elements of the Scottish Office Consultation Document relating to the draft Panel of Safeguarders, Reporting Officers and Curators ad litem (Scotland) Regulations 1997 which govern the appointment, qualifications and training of members of these panels, and (2) outlining the comments on the Document which had been passed to the Scottish Office as the Council's response.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted;
- (2) that the comments by the Director of Social Work, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be homologated as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office Consultation Document, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work report further on the financial implications.

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**"CARING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: REPORTING AND MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS FOR "UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES" FROM RESIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENTS" - SCOTTISH OFFICE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 February 1997 by the Director of Social Work in respect of a Consultation Document by the Scottish Office entitled 'Caring for Children and Young People: Reporting and Monitoring Arrangements for "Unauthorised Absences" from Residential Establishments' which set out guidance to alleviate the incidence of absconding and the management problems of children who were persistent absconders (1) advising that new guidance proposed that incidents involving young people who had "absconded", "failed to return" or "gone missing" should now be classified at the point of notification to the Police as "unauthorised absences"; (2) outlining the timetable for the implementation of the new proposals, and (3) detailing specific comments on the Consultation Document.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted and that the comments set out in the Appendix to the report be approved as the Council's formal response to the Consultation Document.

**SCOTTISH CRIME SURVEY 1993**

3. There was submitted a report dated 3 February 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) summarising the main findings of the Scottish Office Crime Survey 1993; (2) explaining that the Survey had been based on interviews with more than 5,000 people, aged 16 or over, in respect of their experiences and perceptions of crimes which did not involve murder or offences of a sexual nature, and (3) advising that the Survey had concluded that although the levels of crime had risen marginally since 1992, the number of offences against people and the number of incidents of vandalism had been reduced.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.