

AGENDA ITEM No.13(a).....**CONFERENCE REPORT**

Committee: Education, Housing and Social Work

Subject: Children (Scotland) Act 1995
Seminar on the Role of the Elected Member

Conference Organiser: Convention of Scottish Local Authorities

Venue: Stirling Council Offices

Conference Fee: £

Date (s): 21 March 1997

Recommendation: Suitable for members to attend
6 Places :
3 Social Work
2 Education
1 Housing

20 February 1997

Your Ref:

To: Delegates attending Children (Scotland) Act seminar

Our Ref: SW/15

Dear Delegate

CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) ACT 1995 - SEMINAR ON THE ROLE OF THE ELECTED MEMBER

I have pleasure in confirming that you are registered for the forthcoming seminar on the role of the elected member in the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

The event will be held on Friday 21 March 1997 in Viewforth, Stirling (Stirling Council Offices).

A programme is enclosed along with information on the afternoon workshop. A full delegate pack and details of the morning workshops will be available on your arrival at the event.

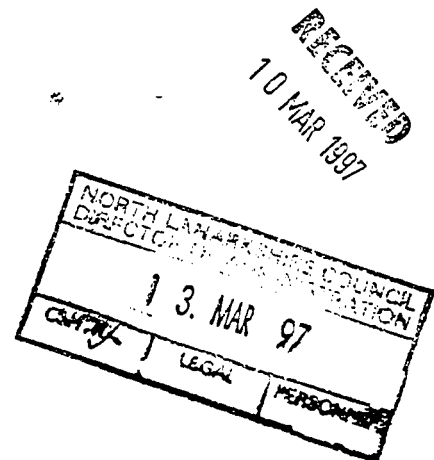
I would be grateful if you would advise me of any special requirements you may have in terms of access, diet or audio-visual.

In the meantime I look forward to seeing you at the seminar.

Yours sincerely



Elisabeth J Manson
Policy Officer



WHEN CALLING PLEASE ASK FOR: Liz Manson (0131 474 9252)

Document 1
COSLA

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Role of the Elected Member in the Children (Scotland) Act 1995
Outline Programme

- 10.00am Introduction and Welcome
- 10.05am Main Provisions of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- 10.20am Working together to Implement the Act
- 10.40am Learning from Experience - the implementation of the Children Act in England
- 11.00am Coffee
- 11.20am Workshops on Specific Issues
- Leaving Care, Services for Children in Need and Children Affected by Disabilities, Services for Children Looked After
- 1.00pm Lunch
- 1.45pm Views of the Child
- 2.00pm Study Groups on Possible Complaints Scenarios
- 3.20pm Closing Remarks

REQUEST FOR HELP SCENARIO

1 April 1997

YOUNG PERSON REQUESTING HELP: You are 14 years old and living at home with your mum and 3 younger brothers and sisters. Your parents split up 5 years ago and your dad now lives and works in England - you phone him occasionally but have not seen him for a couple of years. Your mum has got multiple sclerosis (MS) and is in a wheelchair. She needs help getting in and out of bed and getting to the toilet. You and your brothers and sisters do all the shopping and most of the cooking. A home help comes in once a week and does 3 hours cleaning but this is not really enough. You end up doing all the washing and ironing. Over the last 6 months, you have gradually stopped going to school and you feel your mum needs you at home. You are frightened she will have a fall if she is on her own all day. Although there is a downstairs toilet in your house, the doorway is too narrow for your mum's wheelchair. There is a rail which she hangs onto but she is very unsteady on her feet. The occupational therapist who visits, says that an extension needs to be built but she cannot predict when that might happen as there is a long waiting list and the council has not got enough money.

Your 12 year old brother is getting into more and more trouble at school and now he has been excluded for threatening to hit a teacher. He is very cheeky to your mum and it is not fair that she is left on her own to try and look after him all day.

Someone came round from the education department the day before yesterday to find out why you were not at school. She said she did not think your mum could cope any more and that maybe she would be better off in a home, and you and your brothers and sisters could be "looked after", when you asked what she meant she said "in care in a children's home". You and your mum were really upset. You were still feeling upset when you went to youth club last night. When one of the youth leaders asked what was the matter, you burst into tears and poured out everything that had been happening. He told you that the local councillors have a surgery every other week at the church hall and that they should be able to help you. He mentioned something about a new children's law which give children more rights in decisions that are made about them. Although you feel rather nervous you decide to go and see the councillors.