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Motherwell, 22 April 1997 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor W. Martin, Convener; Councillor Sullivan, Vice-Convener;
Councillors Beekman, Carmichael, Chadha, Connelly, Coyle, Craig, Curley,
Gordon, Griffin, Lunny, McCulloch, J. McGuigan, McKendrick, McLaughlin,
Macleod, J. Martin, Provost Mathieson, Murphy, V. Murray, Nolan,
Saunders
and Shaw.

CHAIR

Councillor W. Martin (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer, Director of Social Work, Head of Social
Work Services and Head of Social Work Resources.

APOLOGIES

Councillors McElroy, Leitch, Lucas, McAlorum, H. McGuigan, Maginnis and
Ross.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

(1) SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB-COMMITTEE

1. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work
(Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 8 April 1997.

Decided:that the terms of the Minute be approved.

(2) SOCIAL WORK (PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION)
SUB-COMMITTEE

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work
(Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 9 April
1997.

Decided:that the terms of the Minute be approved.

(3) SOCIAL WORK (PARENTAL RIGHTS) SUB-COMMITTEE

3. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work
(Parental Rights) Sub-Committee held on 27 March 1997.

Decided:that the terms of the Minute be approved and noted.

THE UNITED NATIONS' CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

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4. C There was submitted a report dated 24 March 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) summarising and commenting on the main Articles of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child and, in particular, the framework for the development of child care polices, procedures and strategies; (2) recommending that, as local authorities were one of the main providers of services for young people and children, it would be appropriate to adopt the Convention with a view to ensuring that the principles and standards embodied therein would be upheld, and (3) advising that there would be no legal, policy or financial implications for the Council should it decide to adopt the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Decided: that the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child be formally adopted.

HOME CARE CHARGING POLICY 1997/98

5. C There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 April 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) outlining details of the Home Care Charging Policy for 1996/97; (2) proposing that the Charging Policy be revised for 1997/98 by extending the charges for the Home Help Service to all Domiciliary Services, taking account of the client's ability to pay, and by increasing the charges in line with the inflationary cost of providing services; (3) advising that the revised charges would only be applied to clients once an individual financial assessment had been carried out, and (4) intimating that a review of all charges for Social Work Services was currently being carried out.

Decided:

- (1) that charges be applied to all Domiciliary Services, including those services provided by the independent sector, subject to individual financial assessments being carried out to determine the client's ability to pay;
- (2) that the charges for Domiciliary Services be revised in accordance with the details set out in Appendix 2 to the report, and

(3) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

A NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR CARE IN OLD AGE - GOVERNMENT
POLICY STATEMENT ON PAYING FOR LONG TERM CARE

6. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 4 June 1996, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 April 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) summarising and commenting on a Policy Statement by the Government entitled "A New Partnership for Care in Old Age" which had been issued along with a consultative draft of the Community Care (Residential Charges) Bill which would be introduced initially in England and Wales, and (2) advising that the Government intended to proceed with its proposals for asset protection under a partnership scheme for people who take out insurance protection against the cost of long term residential or nursing care and also to allow publicly funded residents to "top-up" the care arrangements by the local authority within which area the resident lives.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted and the comments set out therein be approved as the Council's formal response to the Policy Statement.

COMMUNITY CARE PLANS: DIRECTIONS ON INFORMATION -
SCOTTISH OFFICE CIRCULAR SWSG2/97

7. There was submitted a report dated 4 April 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) regarding the recent issue of Scottish Office Circular SWSG2/97 entitled 'Community Care Plans: Directions on Information', which required local authorities to ensure that key decision makers in Councils had the full range of financial information for the effective planning of Community Care Services; (2) intimating that Community Care Plans should include financial details of the planned level of residential care provided by the Council for older people and the level of care to be purchased from independent sector homes; (3) commenting on the implications of the new Directions in terms of the differences in current funding arrangements for residential care and of the likely problems which would require to be addressed before a proper comparison of costs of public and independent sector care could be made, and (4) indicating that a further report on the implementation of the Directions would be submitted to the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that a further report on the implementation of the Directions be submitted by the Director of Social Work to

a future meeting of this Committee.

CARE PROGRAMME APPROACH FOR PEOPLE WITH SEVERE AND
ENDURING MENTAL ILLNESS INCLUDING DEMENTIA

8. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 7 January 1997, when, inter alia, the Sub-Committee, having noted the revised guidance by the Scottish Office on joint arrangements for the implementation of the Care Programme Approach (CPA) as set out in Circular SWSG 16/96 entitled "Care Programme Approach for People with Severe and Enduring Illness Including Dementia", authorised the Director of Social Work, in terms of joint planning arrangements, to liaise with Lanarkshire Health Board, the Director of Housing and other key agencies to review existing CPA arrangements and practices and to submit evidence thereon to the Scottish Office, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 April 1997 by the Director of Social Work detailing the submission which had been forwarded to the Scottish Office on the current position regarding the implementation of the CPA in North Lanarkshire.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted and that the action taken in forwarding the submission to the Scottish Office within the required timescale be homologated.

MANAGEMENT OF RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING HOME CARE
TURNOVER BUDGET

9. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 January 1997, there was submitted a report dated 4 April 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) commenting on the progress made in respect of the transfer of responsibilities from long term hospital care to Social Work Services and the disaggregated resource transfer from Lanarkshire and Greater Glasgow Health Boards during 1996/97, and (2) setting out the proposed arrangements for the Management of Residential and Nursing Home Care Turnover Budget in 1997/98.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the proposed arrangements for the Management of Residential and Nursing Home Care Turnover Budget for 1997/98 be approved.

THE SCOTTISH HEALTH SERVICE: READY FOR THE FUTURE -
SCOTTISH OFFICE WHITE PAPER

10. There was submitted a report dated 1 April 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) summarising and commenting on the main

proposals set out in the Scottish Office White Paper entitled "The Scottish Health Service: Ready For The Future" which set out the Government's approach to the improvement of the Health Service to meet the changing needs of patients and health care staff, and (2) advising that it would be appropriate for the Council to respond to the proposed developments in the Health Service by (a) strengthening strategic planning activity with Lanarkshire and Greater Glasgow Health Boards, NHS Trusts and GP Fundholders; (b) continuing the practice of the Council acting as lead authority in the joint planning arrangements for Hospital Discharge Programmes for people with learning disabilities and mental health problems; (c) promoting opportunities for joint commissioning and the establishment of service standards and monitoring processes, and (d) developing liaison and joint working relationships with primary health care teams at local level.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

SCOTTISH OFFICE CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON THE DRUG PREVENTION INITIATIVE - ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) by the Director of Social Work (1) outlining the terms of a review of the Scottish Office Drug Prevention Initiative which had been launched in 1990; (2) detailing recommendations made by the Scottish Office Advisory Group arising from the review, and (3) setting out comments on the Advisory Group recommendations which had been prepared in consultation with the Directors of Education, Leisure Services and Environmental Services and which had been forwarded to the Scottish Office in accordance with the timescale for responses to the recommendations of the Advisory Group as detailed in its report.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the Drug Prevention Initiative Advisory Group Report be noted, and
- (2) that the comments, as detailed in the report by the Director of Social Work, be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Advisory Group Report and that the action taken by the Director of Administration in forwarding the comments to the Scottish Office be homologated.

RESIDENTIAL AND DAY CARE ESTABLISHMENTS - THE INSPECTION UNIT ANNUAL REPORT 1996/97

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated April 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) intimating that Scottish Office Circular SWSG 7/96 required the Council to prepare an annual report on

would the inspection functions of the Department; (2) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report the annual report by the Inspection Unit on the registration and inspection of Residential and Day Care Establishments for 1996/97, and (3) advising that the number of inspections which had been undertaken by the Inspection Unit did not meet the Scottish Office Guidance on inspection targets and that as a consequence, a review of the structure of the Unit be carried out, and a report thereon and on the interim progress made in the next quarter period in relation to inspection targets would be submitted to the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report and the Inspection Unit Annual Report 1996/97 as set out in Appendix 1 therein be noted, and
- (2) that a report on the review of the structure of the Inspection Unit be submitted by the Director of Social Work to a future meeting of this Committee.

SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE - STATUS REPORT
1996/97

13. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 26 November 1996, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated March 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) intimating that the Department had operated an interim complaints procedure since 1 April 1996; (2) outlining the managerial process for dealing with complaints about Social Work Services, and (3) setting out in Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 to the report a statistical analysis of the Department's performance in receiving, investigating and addressing formal complaints in 1996/97.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a status report on complaints to the Committee on an annual basis.

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 1997/98

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 9 April 1997 by the Director of Social Work setting out details of applications which had been received from voluntary organisations for funding, the grants which had been awarded in 1996/97, and the recommendations for grant awards for 1997/98.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the recommendations for grant awards to voluntary

organisations for 1997/98, as set out in Schedules 1 and 2 to the report be approved.

CONFERENCES ETC.

(1) THE CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) ACT - THE ROLE OF THE ELECTED MEMBER

15. There was submitted an invitation from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to the Council to be represented at a seminar entitled "The Role of the Elected Member" which had been held on Stirling on 21 March 1997.

Decided:that the attendance of Councillors J. McKenna and Sullivan at this seminar be homologated.

(2) FAMILIES, CRIME AND COURTS - FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

16. There was submitted an invitation from the British Juvenile and Family Courts Society to the Council to be represented at a seminar entitled "Families, Crime and Courts - Future Arrangements" which had been held on London on 18 April 1997.

Decided:that no attendance at this seminar be authorised.

(3) MEDIATION AND ADVOCACY SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

17. There was submitted an invitation from Children in Scotland to the Council to be represented at a seminar entitled "Mediation and Advocacy Services for Vulnerable and Young Children" to be held in London on 30 April 1997.

Decided:that no attendance at this seminar be authorised.

(4) THE CHALLENGE OF CONTACT - AN EXAMINATION OF THE PROBLEMS FACING FAMILIES AND PROFESSIONALS IN PRIVATE LAW PROCEEDINGS

18. There was submitted an invitation from the British Juvenile and Family Courts Society to the Council to be represented at a conference entitled "The Challenge of Contact - An Examination of the Problems Facing Families and Professionals in Private Law Proceedings" to be held in London on 8 and 9 May 1997.

Decided:that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

(5) MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

19. There was submitted an invitation from Cornerstone Community Care to the Council to be represented at a conference entitled "Moving in the Right Direction" to be held in Aberdeen on 9 May 1997.

Decided:that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

(6) ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL WORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1997

20. There was submitted an invitation from the Association of Directors of Social Work to the Council to be represented at the Association's annual conference to be held in Aviemore from 13 to 16 May 1997.

Decided:that the Council be represented at this conference by Councillor W. Martin, Convener.

The Convener being of the view that the following item of business was of an urgent nature authorised its consideration to enable the Council to progress the item timeously.

(7) LOOK, LISTEN AND LEARN

21. There was submitted an invitation (tabled) from Children in Scotland to the Council to be represented at a conference entitled "Look, Listen and Learn" to be held in Stirling on 9 May 1997.

Decided:that the Council be represented at this conference by Councillor Saunders and one member from the Minority Groups.