

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE OF
7 MAY 1997

CUMBERNAULD WOMEN'S AID

9. There was submitted a report dated 7 April 1997 by the Director of Housing in relation to funding of Cumbernauld Women's Aid (1) intimating that Cumbernauld Women's Aid was jointly funded by the Housing and Social Work Departments; (2) indicating that the £16,500 contribution to the project and which had been identified as a saving in the budget process, could now be found from elsewhere in the non-HRA budget, and (3) recommending that, since the Social Work Department had considerable expertise on Women's Aid issues, the Housing Department's contribution of £16,500 be transferred from the non-HRA budget to the Social Work budget.

Decided:

- (1) that the alternative savings in the Non-HRA budget be agreed;
- (2) that the transfer of £16,500 contribution to Cumbernauld Women's Aid from the Non-HRA budget to the Social Work budget be approved and that the Social Work Committee be advised accordingly, and
- (3) that the report be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: HOUSING COMMITTEE		Subject: CUMBERNAULD WOMEN'S AID
From: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING		
Date: 7 April 1997	Ref: GSW/PH/JM/4	

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request Committee's approval to transfer the budget allocated for Cumbernauld Women's Aid to the Social Work Department who presently part-fund and supervise the project.

2 Background

- 2.1 Cumbernauld Women's Aid operates in the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth area providing refuge and advice to women who have been subjected to domestic violence. The project has 2 refuges and employs 2 resource workers.
- 2.2 The funding of the project has historically been split between the Regional Council Social Work Department and the District Council Housing Department. The Housing Department's share of funding is £16,500 as reflected in the base estimates transferred over from the former District Council..
- 2.3 At the Council's 1996/97 budget meeting in March 1996 it was agreed that all grants to voluntary organisations would be approved at 95% of their 1995/96 level with the amount recharged to the appropriate department.
- 2.4 At this year's budget meeting the £16,500 contribution to Cumbernauld Women's Aid was identified as a saving in the Housing Department's non-HRA expenditure for 1997/98. However, this was on the assumption that the grant would be funded from the Chief Executive's Community Development budget. This has proved not to be the case and it is therefore proposed that an alternative saving of £16,500 be achieved by way of the reduced reliance as Bed and Breakfast accommodation for homeless applicants (£8,000) and an additional efficiency saving on the budget for Housing Benefit administration (£8,500).
- 2.5 The Social Work Department is responsible for administering grants to Cumbernauld Women's Aid and Monklands Women's Aid and has considerable experience in this area. In order to streamline the administration and monitoring of grants to Cumbernauld Women's Aid it is proposed to transfer the Housing Department's contribution of £16,500 from the non-HRA budget to the Social Work Department.

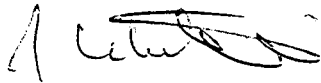
3 Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that Committee agree to:

- i) the alternative savings in the non-HRA budget;
- ii) transfer the Housing Department's £16,500 contribution to Cumbernauld Women's Aid from the non-HRA account to the Social Work Department.

4 Background Information

4.1 Background information is available from the Housing Department.



Gavin S Whitefield
Director of Housing

cc Director of Social Work