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Motherwell, 10 June 1997 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor W. Martin, Convener; Councillors McElroy and Sullivan, Vice-Conveners; Councillors Beekman, Carmichael, Chadha, Connelly, Coyle, Craig, Gordon, Griffin, Leitch, Lucas, Lunny, McAlorum, McCulloch, J. McGuigan, McLaughlin, Maginnis, J. Martin, Murphy, V. Murray, Robertson, Russell, Saunders and Shaw.

CHAIR

Councillor W. Martin (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Committee Services Officer, Director of Social Work, Head of Social Work Services, Head of Social Work Development, Principal Officer (Community Care) and Director of Housing.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Brooks, Curley, H.McGuigan, Macleod, Provost Mathieson, Nolan 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 27 May 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 28 May 1997.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be approved.

"MATERNITY SERVICES STRATEGY - PRINCIPLES FOR THE  
PROVISION OF MATERNITY SERVICES" - CONSULTATION PAPER BY  
GREATER GLASGOW HEALTH BOARD (GGHB)

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated June 1997 by the Director of Social Work summarising and commenting on a Consultation Paper by Greater Glasgow Health Board (GGHB) entitled "Maternity Services Strategy - Principles for the Provision of Maternity Services" which set out principles for the implementation of the Board's Maternity Services Strategy and which had considerable reference to North Lanarkshire in view of the number of mothers from this area who receive maternity services from the GGHB.

Decided:

- the
- (1) that the comments set out in Section 4 to the report by Director of Social Work be endorsed as the Council's formal response to Greater Glasgow Health Board;
- into
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to enter consultations with Lanarkshire, Greater Glasgow and Forth Valley Health Boards, the Scottish Office and other appropriate bodies to express the Council's concern at the level of provision of maternity services in North Lanarkshire, particularly in light of the Lanarkshire Health Board's proposal to close Bellshill Maternity Hospital and to centralise maternity services in the proposed new hospital at Wishaw.
- (3) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to seek assurance from Lanarkshire Health Board that it would liaise with Greater Glasgow and Forth Valley Health Boards in order to ensure choice, information and a high quality of maternity care for women in North Lanarkshire, particularly relating to those in the Cumbernauld/Kilsyth area, and
- (4) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

#### REVIEW OF ADDICTION SERVICES

4. There was submitted a report dated May 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) proposing that a review of Addiction Services be undertaken to establish a policy framework to improve the effectiveness of such services and any contribution that the Council might make in relation to inter- agency work; (2) recommending that Turning Point, a specialist voluntary organisation in the field of alcohol and drug addiction be commissioned to assist in the review, at a maximum cost of \$12,000 over a six month period commencing in August 1997; (3) advising that consultation would be carried out with Lanarkshire Health Board and associated agencies to ensure the provision of a range of well co-ordinated Addiction Services within local communities with emphasis being placed on prevention and harm reduction, and (4) intimating that on completion of the review, further consultation would be

carried

out with Lanarkshire Health Board to establish a joint strategy  
on  
Addiction Services and to develop joint initiatives.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposal for a review of Addiction Services, be approved, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to commission Turning Point to undertake the requisite survey work and supervise the review over a six month period at a fee no greater than \$12,000.

"SEX OFFENDERS: A BAN ON WORKING WITH CHILDREN" -  
JOINT CONSULTATION PAPER BY THE HOME OFFICE AND THE  
SCOTTISH OFFICE

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 19 May 1997 by  
the Director of Administration in response to a Consultation  
Paper  
by the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Scotland  
entitled "Sex Offenders: A Ban on Working with Children" (1)  
in outlining the background to the proposals, and (2) setting out  
the Appendix to the report an interim reply based on comments by  
had the Directors of Social Work and Education on the Consultation  
Paper which, to meet the consultation timescale for response,  
been forwarded to the Home Office.

Decided: that the comments set out in the Appendix to the  
report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to  
the Consultation Paper and that the action taken by  
the Director of Administration in forwarding the  
response within the timescale for consultation be  
homologated.

"A SECURE REMEDY - A REVIEW OF SECURE CARE IN  
SCOTLAND" - SCOTTISH OFFICE DOCUMENT

6. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of  
the  
Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on  
27 August 1996, when inter alia, it was agreed to note the  
Scottish Office document entitled "A Secure Remedy: A Review of  
Secure Care in Scotland" and that the Director of Social Work  
should liaise with the Director of Education to formulate an  
action  
difficulties plan in assessing and treating children with behavioural  
as required within the document, there was submitted a report  
(docketed) dated 29 May 1997 by the Director of Social Work  
indicating that a review had been completed and setting out in  
Appendix B to the report an interim response by the Chief

Executive which had been forwarded to the Scottish Office.

Decided: that the comments set out in Appendix B to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office on the action taken by the Council to comply with Recommendation 24 of the document entitled "A Secure Remedy", and that the action taken by the Chief Executive in forwarding the response to the Scottish Office be homologated.

COMMUNITY CARE, CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CHILD CARE -  
BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME 1997/98

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 May 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that a review of Social Work Services for 1997/98 had been undertaken in the light of the funding available, including resource transfer from Glasgow and Lanarkshire Health Boards, and approved budgetary savings, and of the Council's statutory responsibilities and its obligations to other agencies; (2) intimating that although some services had been terminated or reduced as a result of the review, every effort had been made to ensure that alternative services to clients were put in place and that any staff affected would be given opportunities for redeployment; (3) setting out service development proposals and budgetary details, and (4) seeking authorisation to enter into contracts with providers, establish and develop new services, and to create new posts.

Decided:

- (1) that the recommendations and financial proposals in respect of services for children, older people, people with mental health problems, people with learning disabilities, and services in relation to criminal justice for this financial year as detailed in the report, be approved;
- (2) that the recommendations for the creation of additional posts, as detailed in the report, be approved, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for consideration.

REGISTRATION OF RESIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENTS FOR ADULTS  
AND CHILDREN - DRAFT SCOTTISH OFFICE GUIDANCE

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated June 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) summarising and commenting on draft guidance from the Scottish Office relating to the registration

of residential establishments for adults and children, taking account of recommendations of the National Working Group which had been set up to examine registration procedures, and (2) advising that, in addition to comments on the draft guidance, the Scottish Office had also invited specific comments on the Working Group's recommendations (a) that a National Consultative Committee, comprising representatives of local authorities, providers and users, be set up with the primary task of devising and promoting nationally recommended guidelines and quality of care standards, and (b) that a National List be formulated comprising details of people who had been refused registration or who had their registration cancelled.

Decided:

- (1) that the publication of draft guidance from the Scottish Office be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work in consultation with the Chief Executive prepare a detailed response on the draft guidance and thereafter that a reply be sent to the Scottish Office.

#### ALERT COMMUNITY ALARM SCHEME

9. C With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 4 June 1996, when, inter alia, it was agreed that the Council continue to participate in the present arrangements for the Alert Community Alarm Scheme for 1997/98 and that the Director of Social Work be requested to examine the feasibility of establishing a separate Community Alarm Service for this authority, there was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated 21 May 1997 by the Directors of Social Work and Housing arising from the different approaches which had been taken by former local authorities in respect of the Alert Community Alarm Scheme;

of (1) regarding the strategic, operational and financial issues need to expand the service to meet community care requirements; as set (2) advising that as six user authorities had now withdrawn from the Scheme, this authority's share of central support costs had increased by 13.5%; (3) detailing the level of current provision the out in Appendix 2 to the report; (4) outlining the future development of the service within North Lanarkshire, and (5) indicating revised operational procedures for the services (6) setting out proposals for

(7) proposing that a Joint Service Review Group be established to consider departmental responsibility regarding the service, control centre options and charging policy.

Decided:

- (1) that the revised operational procedures for the Alert Community Alarm Service, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved;
- (2) that payment of telephone line rental for clients who were in receipt of the Alert Community Alarm Service prior to 1994 should cease, thereby requiring all clients to be responsible for their own telephone line rental payments;
- (3) that a Joint Service Review Group be established to consider departmental responsibility regarding the service, control centre options and charging policy, and
- (4) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

Councillor Sullivan declared an interest in the following item of business and took no part in the consideration thereof.

#### ADAPTATIONS TO HOUSING

10. C With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing Committee held on 7 May 1997 there was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated 3 April 1997 by the Directors of Housing and Social Work in relation to Adaptations to Housing

- (1) advising of the current arrangements for the provision of adaptations to houses occupied by disabled people; (2) detailing the budget provision in both departments; (3) indicating the occupational therapist staffing position within the Social Work Department, and (4) summarising the main recommendations of a joint Social Work/Housing Working Group.

Decided:

- (1) that the recommendations of the joint Social Work/Housing Working Group as detailed within the report be approved;
- (2) that it be noted that the prioritisation and scoring system in place for Council housing would also be applied to the private housing sector;
- (3) that a further joint report on the following issues be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee and the Housing Committee:-

- (a) financial information regarding service provisions;
  - (b) occupational therapy staffing levels;
  - (c) performance indicators on waiting times for assessments to be undertaken and work completed, and
  - (d) provision of assistance to disabled people who live in private sector housing which requires to be adapted, and
- (4) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY 1997

11. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of the  
the  
Housing Committee held on 19 March 1997 when, inter alia, the Committee authorised the Director of Housing to carry out a Housing Needs Survey for North Lanarkshire, there was submitted a report dated June 1997 by the Director of Social Work  
proposing  
that the survey be extended to include data and information relevant to certain Social Work service needs.

Decided: that the proposal for an extension to the Housing Needs Survey for 1997 to include information on (a) the level of ill health and disability; (b) the number  
and  
profile of people who care for others in the community; (c) the volume and needs of those cared for, and (d) types of equipment and adaptations required, at an additional cost of \$3,000, be approved.

CUMBERNAULD WOMEN'S AID

12. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of the  
the  
Housing Committee at its meeting held on 7 May 1997, when it had been agreed that this Committee be advised of funding proposals for Cumbernauld Women's Aid there was submitted a report dated 7 May 1997 by the Director of Housing (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 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: that the transfer of \$16,500 contribution to

Cumbernauld Women's Aid from the Housing  
non-HRA budget to the Social Work budget be noted.

CRAIGNEUK DAY CENTRE, WISHAW - STAFF RE-STRUCTURE  
PROPOSALS

13. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated May 1997 by the  
Director of Social Work proposing the restructuring and  
regrading of the staffing of Craigneuk Day Centre, Wishaw following merger  
with the day care services at St. Andrew's Church Hall,  
Forgewood, Motherwell (1) outlining the background; (2)  
detailing the resource implications, and (3) indicating that the new  
structure will be used as a model for other similar centres.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed staffing restructure for Craigneuk Day  
Centre, as set out in the report, be approved;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to place  
the staff on appropriate grades for residential workers, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services  
Committee for consideration.

BRANCHAL HOUSE, WISHAW - STAFF RE-STRUCTURE PROPOSALS

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 May 1997 by  
the Director of Social Work proposing the restructuring of  
current staffing levels at Branchal House, Wishaw (1) detailing the  
background for restructuring; (2) outlining the current staffing  
levels; (3) proposing that the changes be phased firstly to  
address Inspection Team requirements and secondly to jointly review the  
future role of learning disability residential services to  
ensure a well focused quality provision, and (4) indicating that the cost  
of implementation could be met from Health Board monies and Care  
Element Transfer.

Decided:

- (1) that the interim proposals for the restructure of the  
establishment at Branchal House, Wishaw, as set out in  
the report, be approved;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report  
to this Committee on the future role of learning disability  
residential services, and

- (3) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for consideration.

CONFERENCES ETC.

(1) "BEYOND CCT - ENSURING HOUSE QUALITY"

15. There was submitted an invitation from Chapman Hendy Associates for the Council to be represented at a conference entitled "Beyond CCT - Ensuring House Quality" which was held in Glasgow on 30 May 1997.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference had been authorised.

(2) ANNUAL FORUM OF DEAFBLIND UK"

16. There was submitted an invitation from Deafblind UK for the Council to be represented at its Annual Forum which had been held in Edinburgh on 2 June 1997.

Decided: that approval for the attendance at this conference by Councillor Murphy be homologated.

(3) "WHAT FUTURE FOR FOSTER CARE"

17. There was submitted an invitation from the National Foster Care Association to be represented at a conference entitled "What Future for Foster Care?" which was being held in Musselburgh on 10 June 1997.

Decided: that approval for attendance at this conference by Councillor Macleod be homologated.

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.

(4) "MAKING A DIFFERENCE"

18. There was submitted an invitation from the Convener of the Social Work Committee of the City of Edinburgh Council to the Convener to be represented at a working seminar with the new Minister entitled "Making a Difference" to be held in the City Chambers, Edinburgh on 27 June 1997.

Decided: that Councillor W. Martin, Convener, be authorised to attend the seminar.