

SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB - 5 August 1997

Motherwell, 5 August 1997 at 11 am.

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

PRESENT

Councillors Coyle, McAlorum, McCabe, McLaughlin, Maginnis, J. Martin, W. Martin, V. Murray, Russell and Scott.

CHAIR

In the absence of Councillor McElroy (Convener) Councillor W. Martin presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

Councillor McElroy, Convener; Councillors Connelly, H. McGuigan, Nolan and Ross.

SOCIAL SERVICES INSPECTORATE - AN INSPECTION OF SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 July 1997 by the Director of Social Work advising on a report by the Social Services Inspectorate on Services for Young People Leaving Care in England and Wales (1) outlining the background to the inspection of these services which had taken place between January and July 1996; (2) summarising the main findings of the inspection along with relevant comments from the North Lanarkshire perspective; (3) informing that any financial and personnel implications for the Council, of this inspection, would be subject of a separate report to Committee, and (4) intimating that if any proposals were implemented, changes to current policies and procedures would be required and reported to the Sub-Committee as appropriate.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on any policy, financial and personnel implications arising from the Inspectorate's report, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the progress of throughcare teams.

SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB - 5 August 1997

YOUTH HOUSING STRATEGY JOINT ASSESSMENT

2. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing Committee held on 18 June 1997 when, *inter alia*, a joint assessment procedure between the Housing and Social Work Departments for dealing with young single homeless or potentially homeless people had been agreed, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 July 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing the circumstances where the Council had a duty to provide accommodation for young people, and (2) advising that the joint assessment would be a major factor in ensuring that a consistent quality service was offered to young people in North Lanarkshire.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE YOUNG CARERS PROJECT - SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 July 1997 by the Director of Social Work regarding the establishment of a three year service level agreement with National Children's Home (NCH), Action for Children (Scotland) and North Lanarkshire Council to extend the period of operation of NCH's Young Carers Project within North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to and the aims and objectives of the project; (2) indicating that the cost of the project was £97,500 of which North Lanarkshire Council would contribute £50,860 (exclusive of VAT), and (3) providing details on the future development of the project.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to conclude a service level agreement with the Director of the National Children's Home, and
- (2) that the payment of a grant of £50,860 per annum exclusive of VAT towards the recurring revenue of the project be approved.

DEVELOPMENT OF SUPERVISED ATTENDANCE

4. There was submitted a report dated 22 July 1997 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval for arrangements for the development of a Supervised Attendance Scheme within North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to and the need for the Scheme; (2) proposing that the development of the Scheme be undertaken in conjunction with APEX, a voluntary organisation which worked with offenders; (3) advising that the Scheme would be operational from 1 January 1998 at a full year cost of £100,000, which would be met in full by the Scottish Office.

Decided: that the development of a Supervised Attendance Scheme within North Lanarkshire in conjunction with APEX be approved.

SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB - 5 August 1997

A STUDY OF CRIME IN RURAL SCOTLAND - THE SCOTTISH OFFICE CENTRAL RESEARCH UNIT

5. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of this Committee held on 18 February 1997 when the main findings of Scottish Office Crime Survey 1993 had been noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 22 July 1997 by the Director of Social Work regarding the contents of the Scottish Office's research study 'A Study of Crime in Rural Scotland' and its relevance to North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the Study, and (2) detailing the content, research base and findings of the Study relevant to North Lanarkshire.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

A POSITIVE PENALTY - COMMUNITY SERVICE PLACEMENTS IN ABERDEENSHIRE, DUNDEE AND FALKIRK - REPORT BY THE SOCIAL WORK SERVICES INSPECTORATE

6. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of this Sub-Committee held on 2 July 1996 when the findings of an inspection of the Social Enquiry Reports conducted by the Social Work Services Inspectorate was noted and the practice within this authority was reviewed, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 22 July 1997 by the Director of Social Work regarding the contents of the report by the Social Work Services Inspectorate on Community Service Placements in three Schemes within Scotland and its relevance to North Lanarkshire Council (1) outlining the background to the report by the Social Work Services Inspectorate; (2) detailing the content of the Inspection Report in respect of the basis of inspection, the findings and the recommendations relevant to all authorities, and (3) intimating the recommendations relevant to the Scottish Office.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the report be approved and form the basis of the Council's response to the Inspectorate Report.