

Motherwell, 7 January, 1998 at 11 am.

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

PRESENT

Councillor McElroy, Convener; Councillors Connelly, McAlorum, McLaughlin, J. Martin, W. Martin, S.V. Murray, Nolan, Scott and Smith.

CHAIR

Councillor McElroy (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer, Head of Social Work Services, Principal Officer, Criminal Justice, Principal Officer, Community Care and Senior Child Care Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Coyle, H. McGuigan, Maginnis, Ross and Shaw.

ADVOCACY - A GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICE : A REPORT BY THE SCOTTISH HEALTH ADVISORY SERVICE

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 December 1997 by the Director of Social Work advising on the content of the Scottish Health Advisory Service Report "Advocacy - A Guide to Good Practice" (1) outlining the background to the compilation of the guide; (2) intimating that the aims of the guide were to explain what advocacy was, why it was important, what the essential features of good advocacy were and to provide practical advice about funding, supporting and monitoring advocacy projects; (3) detailing service providers which it is proposed to enter into negotiations with to develop advocacy, and (4) advising that the main priority in developing advocacy within North Lanarkshire was hospital discharge programmes for mental health and learning disability.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given for the provision of advocacy services by Lanarkshire Community Care Forum for the Hartwoodhill Discharge Programme over an 18 month period at an estimated cost of £51,360 to be funded jointly by Lanarkshire Health Board, South Lanarkshire Council and North Lanarkshire Council, with this Council's share being £19,260, and
 - (2) that a contribution of £17,386 be made towards the Kirklands/Birkwood Hospitals Discharge Programme Advocacy Services for people with learning disabilities, negotiated with Enable by South Lanarkshire Council jointly on behalf of this council and Lanarkshire Health Board, be approved.
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SCOTTISH OFFICE WORKING GROUP CONSULTATION PAPER ON TIME INTERVALS IN CHILDREN'S HEARING CASES

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 December, 1997 by the Director of Social Work advising of the consultation document issued by a Scottish Office Working Group on time intervals in Children's Hearing cases (1) outlining the background to the setting up and purpose of the Working Group; (2) informing that the consultation document was divided into three sections which dealt with the diagnosis of the most significant delays, the wider implications of the variation in service across Scotland and issues relating to operational targets; (3) indicating that any personnel and financial implications would be dependent on the targets set for the Social Work Department staff completing reports, and (4) intimating that it would be unlikely that any financial implications could be met from within existing resources.

Decided: that the response to the Scottish Office Working Group consultation paper in respect of time intervals in Children's Hearing Cases as set out in the Appendix to the report be endorsed and its submission to the Scottish Office be homologated.

SCOTTISH OFFICE CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDS REVIEW

3. There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work dated 15 December, 1997 regarding the Scottish Office report on the Children's Safeguard Review (1) intimating the background to the commissioning of the report; (2) outlining the 61 recommendations made in the report in respect of the safeguarding of children; (3) detailing the proposed comments on all 61 recommendations as the Council's response; (4) informing that there would be financial implications should the proposals detailed within the report be accepted the costs of which could not be quantified at present, and (5) indicating that if all staff working with children were required to work with a probationary period, changes would require to be made within the department's personnel procedures.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) that the comments set out in Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office Children's Safeguard Review, and
- (3) that the report be referred to the Education Committee for its interest.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE FOSTERING AND ADOPTION PANEL - REPORT ON WORK UNDERTAKEN IN 1997

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 December, 1997 regarding the work undertaken by the Fostering and Adoption Panel in 1997 (1) detailing the primary and specific functions of the panel; (2) outlining the remit of the Adoption and Fostering Review Group; (3) advising of the current membership of the Fostering and Adoption Panel and seeking to extend membership to include an adoptive parent or foster carer; (4) informing of the work undertaken by the Adoption Panel from January - December 1997, and (5) indicating that it was proposed to review the fostering allowances paid to foster carers.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) that approval be given to extend the membership of the Panel to include an adoptive parent or foster carer;
- (3) that approval be given to the proposal to review fostering allowances paid to foster carers;
- (4) that the Committee record their appreciation of the work undertaken by the Fostering and Adoption Panel.