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Motherwell, 20 January 1998 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor W. Martin, Convener; Councillors McElroy and Sullivan, Vice-Convener; Councillors Beekman, Carmichael, Chadha, Connelly, Cox, Craig, Curley, Gordon, Lunny, McAlorum, McCulloch, J. McGuigan, Macleod, Maginnis, J. Martin, Robertson, Russell, Scott, Shaw and Wallace.

CHAIR

Councillor W. Martin (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Committee Services Officer and Head of Central Services; Director of Social Work, Head of Social Work Development and Head of Social Work Resources; Assistant Chief Executive (Operations); Head of Construction Resources and Accounting Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Coyle, Leitch, H. McGuigan, McLaughlin, Murphy, Nolan and Ross.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

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

1. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 6 January 1998.

Decided:that the terms of the Minute be approved.

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

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 7 January 1998.

Decided:that the terms of the Minute be approved.

BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT 1996/97

3. There was submitted a report dated 5 January 1998 by the

Director of Finance detailing the outturn expenditure for the financial year 1996/97 for the Social Work Department and Sheltered Workshops providing a comparison of actual expenditure and income against budgeted expenditure and income.

Decided:that the terms of the report be noted.

REVENUE ESTIMATES 1997/98 - FINANCIAL MONITORING
STATEMENTS FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT AND
SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

4. There were submitted reports dated 7 January 1998 by the Director of Finance advising of departmental spending levels for the Department of Social Work and of Sheltered Workshops for the period from 1 April to 7 December 1997 and providing a comparison with the approved budget excluding loan charges, central administration recharges and the central repairs accounts.

Decided:that the terms of the reports be noted.

COSLA DRAFT GUIDANCE ON PREPARING AND IMPLEMENTING A
MULTI-AGENCY STRATEGY TO TACKLE VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN

5. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 9 December 1997 when it had been agreed, inter alia, that the Chief Executive respond to COSLA and that the matter be remitted to this Committee for its interest, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 2 December 1997 by the Chief Executive setting out the Council's response to COSLA on its draft guidance document entitled "Preparing and Implementing a Multi-Agency Strategy to Tackle Violence against Women".

Decided:that the terms of the Council's response to COSLA on its draft guidance document entitled "Preparing and Implementing a Multi-Agency Strategy to Tackle Violence Against Women" be noted.

PRIORITIES IN PLANNING GUIDANCE WITHIN THE NHS IN
SCOTLAND 1998/99

6. With reference to paragraph 22 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 9 December 1997, when that Committee, having considered a report dated 26 November 1997 by the Chief Executive regarding Priorities and Planning Guidance for the NHS in Scotland for 1998/99, agreed, inter alia, (1) to note the national priorities for the NHS in Scotland; (2) to welcome the inclusion of the tackling of inequality as a strategic aim; (3) that the commitment by the Council to work collaboratively on plans to tackle health inequality be

intimated to the Health Boards, and (4) that the report be remitted to this Committee for its interest, there was submitted the report by the Chief Executive thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

PUBLIC INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY CARE

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 January 1998 by the Director of Social Work (1) intimating that a series of draft Community Care leaflets and a Directory of all Residential and Nursing Homes in North Lanarkshire had been produced to provide information to individuals who required access to Community Care Services, details of which were set out in the report; (2) advising of the recent publication of a report by the Scottish Consumer Council, which had been commissioned by the Scottish Office, entitled "Informed Choices" which set out good practice guidelines on the provision of information to individuals on Community Care Services and associated charges, and (3) proposing that the draft leaflets and draft Directory be issued for consultation to a range of local providers, user and carer representative organisations and that, thereafter and in light of the responses and the recommendations of the Scottish Consumer Council, the material be amended, if appropriate, for publication and circulation by April 1998.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to issue the draft Community Care leaflets and the draft Directory of Residential and Nursing Homes to local providers, user and carer organisations for consultation, details of which were set out in the Appendices to the report,
- (2) that thereafter the Director of Social Work be authorised to amend the material in light of any comments received and of the recommendations of the Scottish Consumer Council, for future publication and circulation.

REVIEW OF HOME CARE SERVICES

8. There was submitted a report dated 20 January 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising (1) that a review of Home Care Services was currently being undertaken with a view to providing a more efficient, competitive service which would meet the needs of vulnerable people, particularly frail older people; (2) that the feedback received from a recent consultation exercise involving employees, trade unions, users, carers, and the Lanarkshire Health

Board had indicated (a) that there was an increase in the demand for the provision of care at home by many community care client groups; (b) that a full range of social care support was required, and (c) that closer joint working relations with health professionals, particularly community nurses, was needed; (3) that accordingly an Officer Working Group had been set up to look at the eligibility criteria for services, the definition of home care tasks, the future management arrangements for home care and community care, and the Out-of-Hours Service, with a view to formulating recommendations for the rationalisation of Home Care Services, and (4) that Briefing Meetings would be organised to advise Members on the recommendations of the Officer Working Group.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work arrange Briefing Meetings for Members of the Social Work Committee on the Officer Working Group's recommendations for the rationalisation of Home Care Services, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work thereafter prepare a report on the rationalisation of Home Care Services for submission to the Committee.

NEW GUIDELINES ON THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY CARE HOUSING IN SCOTLAND - RESPONSE TO SCOTTISH OFFICE CONSULTATION

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 January 1998 by the Director of Administration in respect of a draft circular which had been received from the Scottish Office which provided revised guidance on preparing estimates of aggregate housing and support needs for certain community care client groups, and detailing comments on the revised guidance which had been prepared following consultation with the Directors of Social Work and Housing and which had been forwarded to the Scottish Office, as set out in the Appendix to the report.

Decided: that the comments set out in the Appendix to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office on the revised guidelines on the provision of community care housing, and that the action taken by the Director of Administration in forwarding the response to the Scottish Office be homologated.

"A FRAMEWORK FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SCOTLAND" - SCOTTISH OFFICE GUIDANCE

10. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on

7 January 1997, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 December 1997 by the Director of Social Work summarising and commenting on detailed guidance which had been received from the Scottish Office on the planning and implementation of a local Mental Health Strategy in line with its framework for Mental Health Services in Scotland (1) providing the background to the guidance; (2) intimating the progress already made in North Lanarkshire; (3) advising that a Joint Implementation Plan to put in practice existing plans and new plans developed in response to the service review was required to be submitted to the Scottish Office by April, 1998, and (4) indicating that in view of the

tight

timescale for response it may be necessary to seek an extension from the Scottish Office.

Decided: that the Director of Social Work submit further reports to the Committee on implementation of the plans for Mental Health Services.

PLANNING AND PROVISION OF DRUG MISUSE SERVICES -
SCOTTISH OFFICE GUIDANCE

11. There was submitted a report dated 12 January 1998 by the Director of Social Work summarising and commenting on guidance which had been received from the Scottish Office on the planning and provision of Drug Misuse Services which set out the national strategic objectives and also the key principles which Health Boards and local authorities required to take into account when planning the provision of effective care and treatment services for drug misusers (1) intimating the critical role of

Drug

Action Teams as a focal point for local action on drug misuse;

(2)

referring to the instruction by this Committee at its meeting on

10

June, 1997 that the Director of Social Work undertake a strategic review of additional services provided and funded by the Council in association with Turning Point, and (3) concluding that the Council was obliged to take account of the Scottish Office guidance in planning the services.

Decided:

(1) that it be noted that the Director of Social Work would submit a report on the review of addiction services being carried out in association with Turning Point to a future meeting of the Committee, and

(2) that, thereafter, the Director of Social Work prepare a report for submission to the Committee detailing how the review of the Addiction Services could complement the Scottish Office strategy document.

RE-APPOINTMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF SAFEGUARDERS

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12. C There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 January 1998 by the Director of Administration setting out recommendations for the re-appointment and appointment of Safeguarders in terms of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, the Children Act 1975 and the Social Work (Panels of Persons to Safeguard the Interests of Children) (Scotland) Regulations 1984.

Decided:

- (1) that Ross Brown and Mhairi Mactaggart be re-appointed as members of the Panel of Safeguarders for North Lanarkshire until 31 December 1999;
- (2) that the individuals specified in Appendix 3 to the report be appointed as members of the Panel of Safeguarders until 31 December 1999, and
- (3) that the Panel of Safeguarders for North Lanarkshire shall comprise:

Kenneth Baddon, 2 Wamphray Place, East Kilbride
Ross Brown, 2 Lochaber Road, Strathaven
Francis Carolan, 90 Kirkfield Road, Kirkfieldbank, Lanark
Elaine Grant, 1 North Grange Road, Bearsden, Glasgow
Michael Higgins, 12 Leesland, Tannochside, Uddingston
Mary MacLennan, 18 St. Thomas' Well, Cambusbarron,
Stirling
Mhairi Mactaggart, 5 Lochknowe Street, Braidwood,
Carluke
Brian Mohan, 58 Caldercuilt Road, Maryhill Park, Glasgow
Jacqueline Young, 43 Marywood Square, Strathbungo,
Glasgow

PROJECTED TENDER RETURN IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS
BETWEEN COMMITTEE MEETINGS

13. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 May 1997, when, inter alia, approval had been given to the delegation of powers to the Director of Administration after consultation with the Convener to allow the acceptance of tenders between meetings, there was submitted a report dated 22 December 1997 by the Director of Construction Services providing a list of tenders to be returned prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the projected return, prior to the next meeting of the Committee, of tenders as detailed within the report be noted, and
- (2) that in accordance with the decision of the Policy and Resources Committee and subject to the whole provisions thereof, approval be given for acceptance of the tenders prior to the next Committee.

CONFERENCES ETC.

- (1) "LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND EARLY YEARS SERVICES - DEVELOPING NEW APPROACHES"

14. There was submitted an invitation from Children in Scotland to attend a conference entitled "Local Authorities and Early Years Services - Developing New Approaches" which was held in Edinburgh on 16 January 1998.

Decided:to note that no member of the Council had attended the conference.

- (2) "THE CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) ACT 1995 AND THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD - ARE THEY COMPATIBLE WITH THE EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980?"

15. There was submitted an invitation from Scottish Child Law Centre to attend a conference entitled "The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child" to be held in Stirling on 3 March 1998.

Decided:that no attendance at this conference be authorised.