

Motherwell, 18 February 1998 at 11 am.

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

**PRESENT**

Councillor McElroy, Convener; Councillors Connelly, McAlorum, McLaughlin, Macleod, Maginnis, W. Martin, S. V. Murray and Russell.

**CHAIR**

Councillor McElroy (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Coyle, McCabe, H. McGuigan, J. Martin, Ross, Scott and Shaw.

**COMMUNITY CARE (DIRECT PAYMENTS) ACT 1996 - A GUIDE FOR PEOPLE WHO RECEIVE DIRECT PAYMENTS - CONSULTATION PAPER**

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated February 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising of a Consultation Paper issued by the Scottish Office in relation to potential users of direct payments (1) detailing the background to the Community Care (Direct Payments) Act 1996 which empowered but did not require Local Authorities to make direct cash payments to disabled people under the age of 65 years in lieu of provision of services; (2) outlining the contents of the Consultation Paper; (3) proposing that the Director of Social Work carry out a pilot project on a Direct Payments Scheme in North Lanarkshire comprising of a maximum of six people and would cover a period of six months with full year costs of approximately £60,000, and (4) setting out in the Appendix to the report the Council's response to the Consultation Paper.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the comments set out in the Appendix to the report by the Director of Social Work be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office on the Consultation Paper regarding people who received Direct Payments and that the action taken in submitting those comments be homologated;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to carry out a pilot project on a Direct Payments Scheme within North Lanarkshire Council for a six month period at a full year cost of £60,000, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work report to a future meeting on the outcome of the pilot project.

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CHILDHOOD MATTERS - A REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated February 1998 by the Director of Social Work regarding a report by the National Commission of Inquiry into the Prevention of Child Abuse and its relevance to North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the National Commission of Inquiry report which was funded independently and was set up by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; (2) detailing the findings of the report; (3) advising that the Commission considered five areas as detailed in the report which required the development of an effective strategy to focus on the whole child, and (4) indicating that the Council would be the statutory regulating body for social services and would have the task of setting up and enforcing standards of good conduct and practice.

**Decided:** that the contents of the report be noted.

PROPOSED RELOCATION OF SERVICES FROM CHARING CROSS CLINIC, GLASGOW - CONSULTATION PAPER

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 February 1998 by the Director of Social Work informing of the Consultation Paper received from Greater Glasgow Health Board on the proposed re-location of services from Charing Cross Clinic, Glasgow to other services within Glasgow (1) outlining the background to the production of the Greater Glasgow Health Board Consultation Paper; (2) advising of the Greater Glasgow Health Board and the NHS Trust's intention to redeploy and disaggregate current staffing and services provided by the Charing Cross Clinic to other services and other areas of the City, and (3) indicating that the Consultation Paper did not affect people from the Northern Corridor area of North Lanarkshire as they received their health care services at Woodilee Hospital, Lenzie.

**Decided:** that the Director of Administration be authorised to respond to the Greater Glasgow Health Board in terms of the Director of Social Work's report.

INCREASE IN ALLOWANCES PAID TO FOSTER PARENTS AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS

4. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 7 January 1998 when, inter alia, it was proposed to review the fostering allowances paid to Foster Carers, there was submitted a report dated 10 February 1998 by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing the recommendations made by COSLA for fostering allowances which took into account the need for a substantial increase to reflect more accurately the real cost of bringing up a child and which would bring allowances into line with those proposed by the National Foster Carers Association, and (2) informing that these allowances would be paid on the basis of a 56 week year and the increase of 3% would require an additional budget allocation of £35,885.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee approve the new rates as detailed within the report with effect from 1 April 1998, and
- (2) that it be noted that the necessary resources to meet the increased costs were included within the 1998/99 Social Work Department budget.

FUNDING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 February 1998 proposing that for pocket money and recreational allowances paid to children and young people within North Lanarkshire Residential Units be increased (1) advising that the proposed rates had been recommended by "Who Cares?" Scotland; (2) outlining the current procedure for payment of allowances, and (3) indicating that if the proposals of "Who Care? Scotland" were implemented the additional costs of £9,910 would be met from within the Social Work Child Care budget.

**Decided:** that the new rates for pocket money and recreational allowances for children and young people within North Lanarkshire Residential Units as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved with effect from 1 April 1998.