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Motherwell, 3 March 1998 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor W. Martin, Convener; Councillors McElroy and Sullivan, Vice-Convener; Councillors Beekman, Brooks, Carmichael, Chadha, Cox, Coyle, Craig, Curley, Gordon, Lunny, McAlorum, McCulloch, J. McGuigan, Maginnis, J. Martin, Murphy, S.V. Murray, Nolan, Robertson, Ross, 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, Head of Social Work Resources and Principal Officer (Criminal Justice); Principal Officer (Early Years) Education Department; and Senior Accountant.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Leitch, McCabe, H. McGuigan, McLaughlin, Macleod, Russell, Scott, Smith and Wallace.

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 17 February 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 18 February 1998.

Decided:that the terms of the Minute be approved.

REVENUE ESTIMATES 1997/98 - FINANCIAL MONITORING

STATEMENTS FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT AND
SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

3. There were submitted reports dated 17 February 1998 by the Director of Finance advising of departmental spending levels for the Department of Social Work and Sheltered Workshops for the period from 1 April 1997 to 1 February 1998 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.

REFUSAL OF CHILD MINDING REGISTRATION APPLICATION

4. There was submitted a report dated 9 February 1998 by the Director of Education (1) outlining the circumstances which had led to the issue by the Director of a Notice of Intent to Refuse an application for registration under the Children Act 1989 for the provision of child minding services, and (2) advising that the applicant had not indicated her wish to be heard against the Notice within the statutory timescale.

Decided:

- (1) that the action taken by the Director of Education under the Scheme of Delegation be noted;
- (2) that the recommendation by the Director of Education be affirmed, and
- (3) that the Director of Administration be authorised to issue a Notice of Refusal of the application for registration under the Children Act 1989 for the provision of child minding services.

SOCIAL WORK (COMPLAINTS REVIEW) SUB-COMMITTEE -
APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

5. C There was submitted a report dated 25 February 1998 by the Director of Administration proposing the appointment of a nominee Rev. Fr. Thomas Gibbons as an Independent Person to serve as and when required on the Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee.

Decided: that Rev. Fr. Thomas Gibbons be appointed as an Independent Person for the purpose of serving on the Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee as and when required.

SCHEME OF DELEGATION

6. C There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 February 1998 by the Director of Social Work (1) proposing amendments for the Scheme of Delegation for Social Work functions principally to take account of the statutory obligations imposed on the Council by the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, and otherwise to take account of the rate of inflation and revised procedures, all as set out in Appendix 1 and summarised in Appendix 2, and (2) advising that the Notes of Guidance on the exercise of delegated financial responsibility under the Scheme were currently being revised and a report thereon would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the revisions to the Scheme of Delegation for Social Work functions, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved, and
- (2) that a report on procedures and Notes of Guidance relating to the delegation of financial responsibility be submitted by the Director of Social Work to the next meeting of the Committee.

MOTHERWELL AND DISTRICT WOMEN'S AID

7. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing Committee held on 28 January 1998 when, that Committee had, inter alia, approved, in principle, to provide premises for a Women's Aid Refuge in the South District and to remit the matter to this Committee for its information, there was submitted a report dated 12 January, 1998 by the Director of Housing (1) outlining the support given to Motherwell and District Women's Aid; (2) indicating that the organisation were now seeking the provision of accommodation to create a Refuge, along with a one-off capital grant to cover setting-up costs, and (3) advising that the Directors of Housing and Social Work were meeting with Women's Aid to develop a detailed proposal.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGY FOR OLDER PEOPLE

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated February 1998 by the Director of Social Work (1) setting out the key principles of a strategy for older people being developed by a Joint Working Group comprising representatives of the Council, South Lanarkshire Council, Lanarkshire Health Board, Lanarkshire Healthcare NHS Trust and Scottish Homes; (2) detailing draft eligibility criteria for NHS continuing care, nursing home and residential care for older people, as set out in Appendix 1, and (3) outlining details of an Intensive Home Care Project including staffing proposals at Merrystone House, Coatbridge, which would

provide a community based service for vulnerable older people in North Lanarkshire at an estimated cost of \$430,000 funded by resource transfer from the Health Board.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in the development of a framework for a joint care strategy for older people in Lanarkshire be noted;
- (2) that the key principles which underpin the approach to the development of the strategy, as set out in paragraph 3 of the report, be endorsed;
- (3) that the draft eligibility criteria for NHS continuing care, nursing home and residential care for older people, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be endorsed;
- (4) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to continue consultations with Lanarkshire Health Board to finalise a care strategy for older people in North Lanarkshire;
- (5) that the staffing proposals for the Intensive Home Care Project, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report, be approved;
- (6) that the Intensive Home Care Project be evaluated and a report submitted to a future meeting of the Committee, and
- (7) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for consideration.

INVESTIGATION INTO ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL'S HANDLING OF
THE CASE OF STEVEN LEISK

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated March 1998 by the Director of Social Work (1) summarising and commenting on the main findings of the report commissioned by the Director of Social Work, Aberdeen City Council, following the conviction of Steven Leisk for the murder of Scott Simpson, on the handling of the Case, and (2) highlighting the implications of the findings of the report for this Council's Social Services, and the action which had been taken thereon.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the actions taken by the Director of Social Work in light of the findings of the investigation into Aberdeen City Council's handling of the case of Steven Leisk be homologated.

BELTANE SHELTERED WORKSHOP, WISHAW

10. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 23 April 1996, when, inter alia, the Committee authorised the Director of Social Work to proceed with the implementation of a Business Plan for Beltane Sheltered Workshop, Wishaw, which contained proposals for the diversification and expansion of the product range and for an increase in the workforce, there was submitted a report dated 17 February 1998 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that since the implementation of the Business Plan at the Workshop there had been a marked increase in employee skills, greater efficiency in order processing, an increase on the range of products manufactured and the customer base had been widened;

(2) outlining plans for the employment of a further six Production

Operatives, the cost of which would be funded by Sheltered Employment Procurement and Consultancy Services (SEPACS) and by productivity improvement, and (3) setting out details for a revised management structure for the Workshop.

Decided:

- (1) that the changes proposed to Beltane Sheltered Workshop Business Plan be approved;
- (2) that the employment of six additional Production Operatives funded by SEPACS be noted;
- (3) that posts of Assistant Manager and Supervisor/Trainer (Sewn Products) be deleted;
- (4) that posts of Production Supervisor (Upholstered Products) and Production Supervisor (Sewn Products), both at salary grade AP4, be created;
- (5) that the post of Office Supervisor be regraded AP1, and
- (6) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for consideration.

FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES

- (1) UPGRATING OF APPROVED NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME RATES FOR 1998/99
11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 February 1998 by the Director of Social Work regarding the uprating of the Council's rates for voluntary and private Nursing and Residential Care Homes, in line with Department of Social Security (DSS) benefit upratings for 1998/99 (1) detailing the DSS residential rates; (2) intimating the Council approved rates for private and voluntary Nursing and Residential Care Homes, and (3) proposing that the standard weekly Council funded client contribution for respite care in private and voluntary Nursing and Residential Care
- Care Homes be \$107.75.

Decided:

- (1) that the uprated levels of DSS Residential Care Allowances which would apply from 13 April 1998 be approved;
 - (2) that the payment of the Very Dependant Elderly rate for all elderly people and people with a mental health problem in private/voluntary residential care funded in part or in full
- by
- the Council with effect from 13 April 1998 be approved, and
- (3) that a standard charge of \$107.75 per week for Council funded clients for respite care in private and voluntary Nursing Homes and Residential Care Homes be approved.

(2) STANDARD CHARGE FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION OPERATED BY THE COUNCIL FOR 1998/99

12. There was submitted a report dated 23 February 1998 by the Director of Social Work regarding the uprating of standard charges

in respect of residential accommodation operated by the Council for elderly people and people with learning disabilities in line

with

COSLA guidelines; (1) advising that the standard charge contribution of a resident would be based on a financial assessment of the clients' ability to pay as determined by legislation; (2) proposing charges for long term care per week

per

resident in a Residential Home for the elderly for 1998/99 of \$316

and charges per week for Residential Homes for people with learning disabilities for 1998/99 of \$465, and (3) indicating

that

a standard weekly client contribution for respite care in local authority establishments for 1998/99 be \$50.25.

Decided:

- (1) that the standard weekly charge for long term care for the elderly for 1998/99 be set at \$316, with effect from 13 April 1998;
 - (2) that the standard weekly charge for people with learning disabilities in local authority residential homes for
- 1998/99
- be set at \$465, with effect from 13 April 1998, and
- (3) that the flat rate weekly client contribution towards the costs of respite care in local authority establishments for 1998/99 be set at \$50.25, with effect from 13 April 1998.

13. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 February 1998 by the Director of Social Work proposing the reshaping of child care services (1) intimating that child care services in line with the requirements of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, had been making more use of family and young peoples support services within the community and less use of Residential Schools and Children's Homes; (2) outlining a number of proposals and budgetary details for the development of better targeted services;

(3) recommending the establishment of a Parents and Family Support team, details of which were set out in Appendix 2, and

(4) suggesting the closure of Bellshill Children's Home in view of the fall in the number of children who require to be accommodated within Residential Children's Units and in line with the Residential Action Plan to replace large units with small homely units, and

(5) setting out in Appendix 1, staffing proposals for the Residential Child Care Unit at Leslie Street, Motherwell.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposal to close Bellshill Children's Unit be approved;
- (2) that the staffing proposals for the Residential Child Care Unit at Leslie Street, Motherwell, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (3) that the Director of Social Work prepare a report on the staffing levels of the remaining Children's Units;
- (4) that the proposal to establish a peripatetic team of residential staff who could staff small units where required on an emergency basis be approved, in principle, and that a further report outlining the details of the project, and the proposed staffing establishment be submitted by the Director of Social Work to a future meeting of the Committee.
- (5) that a Parents and Family Support Team be established.
- (6) that the staffing proposals for the Parents and Family Support Team, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved;
- (7) that the Director of Social Work prepare a report on the proposal to commission Community Service Volunteers to provide a befriending service;
- (8) that the Children's Hearing Over Sixteen Initiative (CHOSI) be continued and extended to include 15 year olds from all areas of North Lanarkshire;
- (9) that the proposals to expand the Community Service Volunteers "Give and Take" Service be approved;

- (10) that the Scheme for the provision of day care and young people's support services in the Cumbernauld area be expanded;
- (11) that the Young Carers Project for young people who care for adults with a disability be extended;
- (12) that the financial implications of the proposals, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report be approved, and
- (13) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for consideration.

"A COMMITMENT TO PROTECT" - SUPERVISING SEX OFFENDERS:
PROPOSALS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE PRACTICE - SCOTTISH OFFICE
CONSULTATION PAPER

- 14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 January 1998 by the Director of Social Work in respect of a consultation paper which has been received from the Scottish Office entitled "A Commitment to Protect - Supervising Sex Offenders: Proposals for More Effective Practice" which set out the Government's proposals for the improvement of arrangements for the supervision of sex offenders, and detailing comments on the consultation paper, 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 consultation paper and that the action taken by the Director of Administration in forwarding the response to the Scottish Office be homologated.

CONFERENCES ETC.

- (1) "CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES - RISK ASSESSMENT"

- 15. There was submitted an invitation from the Association of Directors of Social Work to attend a seminar entitled "Criminal Justice Services - Risk Assessment" which was held in Dundee on 30 January 1998.

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

- (2) "PROMOTING PEOPLE'S ABILITY"

- 16. There was submitted an invitation from Unity Enterprise to attend a conference entitled "Promoting People's Ability" which had been held in Glasgow on 20 February 1998.

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

(3) "MAKING JUDGEMENTS ABOUT LONG TERM CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA"

17. There was submitted an invitation from Dementia Services Development Centre and the Scottish Health Advisory Service to attend a conference entitled "Making Judgements about Long Term Care for Older People and People with Dementia" which had been held in Glasgow on 26 and 27 February 1998.

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

(4) "RAISING THE FAMILY - FAMILY POLICY AND A SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT"

18. There was submitted an invitation from Children in Scotland and the Centre for Scottish Public Policy to attend a conference entitled "Raising the Family - Family Policy and A Scottish Parliament" to be held in Edinburgh on 6 March 1998.

Decided:that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

(5) "PROMOTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT"

19. There was submitted an invitation from the Scottish Local Government Unit to attend a conference entitled "Promoting Children and Young People's Participation in Local Government" to be held in Kilmarnock on 10 March 1998.

Decided:that Councillors Brooks and Russell be authorised to attend the conference.

(6) ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR THE SCOTTISH DEVELOPMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

20. There was submitted an invitation from the Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health Services to attend the annual conference for the Scottish Development for Mental Health Services to be held in Dundee on 17 and 18 March 1998.

Decided:that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

(7) "SUPPORTING WORKING PARENTS"

21. There was submitted an invitation from Children in Scotland to attend a conference entitled "Supporting Working Parents" to be held in Glasgow on 18 March 1998.

Decided:that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

- (8) "THE CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) ACT 1995 - THE ACT IN PRACTICE - HAS IT MADE A DIFFERENCE?"

22. There was submitted an invitation from the Scottish Child Law Centre to attend a conference entitled "The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 - The Act in Practice - Has it Made a Difference?" to be held in Edinburgh on 21 March 1998.

Decided:that Councillor Scott be authorised to attend the conference.