

Motherwell, 1 April 1998 at 11 am.

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

PRESENT

Councillor McElroy, Convener; Councillors Connelly, Coyle, McAlorum, McLaughlin, Maginnis, J. Martin, W. Martin, Russell, Scott and Smith.

CHAIR

Councillor McElroy (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer, Director of Social Work, Principal Officer, (Child Care), Principal Officer (Criminal Justice), Senior Child Care Officer and Children's Rights Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillors McCabe, H. McGuigan, Macleod, S. V. Murray, Nolan, Ross and Shaw.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM - GRANT ALLOCATION 1998/99

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 11 March 1998 by the Director of Social Work regarding the level of grant secured from the Scottish Office for funding Social Work services in the Criminal Justice system for 1998/99 (1) intimating that the majority of services provided by Social Work within the Criminal Justice system were funded on a 100% basis by the Scottish Office; (2) indicating that the bid made for funding for 1998/99 was to maintain the current level of provision in the main services and also to provide for a number of additional service developments; (3) intimating that the Scottish Office Grant Allocation for 1998/99 was £1,753,000; (4) advising that the Director of Social Work had made representation to the Scottish Office to reconsider the allocation of grant in relation to the Mediation and Reparation and Supported Accommodation projects which were given no additional funding, and (5) advising that the expected number of offenders to be placed on probation would rise from 316 to 370 in 1998/99 and that funding had been provided to cover that expected increase.

Decided:

- (1) that the Scottish Office Grant Allocation of £1,753,000 for Social Work services in the Criminal Justice system be noted, and
- (2) that the action taken by the Director of Social Work in pursuing additional grant from the Scottish Office be homologated.

EVENING TIMES CARING CUP AWARD 1998

2. There was submitted a report dated March 1998 (docketed) by the Director of Social Work proposing that North Lanarkshire Council jointly sponsor the 1998 Evening Times Caring Cup Awards (1) outlining the background to the Caring Cup Awards which were introduced as a joint initiative between the Evening Times and the former Strathclyde Regional Council; (2) informing that the 1997 initiative had been sponsored by the Evening Times, South Lanarkshire Council, Glasgow City Council, East Ayrshire Council and The Princess Royal Trust for Carers; (3) indicating that the awards

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were given annually for outstanding voluntary work by community groups with regard to support for older people in the community, promoting community and racial harmony, promoting inter-generational harmony and working in the community by people with learning difficulties; (4) advising of a proposal that the Evening Times Caring Cup Awards for 1998 be hosted by East Ayrshire Council and be sponsored jointly with the Evening Times by North Lanarkshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council, Glasgow City Council, East Ayrshire Council and The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, and (5) indicating that the cost of sponsorship of the awards would be £5,000 plus an additional £600 for promotional gifts bearing the Council's insignia.

Decided:

- (1) that North Lanarkshire Council jointly sponsor the 1998 Evening Times Caring Cup Awards at a total cost of £5,600;
- (2) that further update reports be submitted to future meetings of the Sub-Committee, and
- (3) that the Council seek to explore the possibility of hosting the Caring Cup Awards in 2000.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS SERVICE: ROLE OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS OFFICER

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) by the Director of Social Work dated 9 March 1998 (1) advising of the services provided by the Department's Children's Rights Officer; (2) outlining the background to the post which now takes in added responsibilities as a result of the implementation of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995; (3) informing of the role of the Children's Rights Officer and the work undertaken to date, and (4) outlining the areas of work proposed for the Children's Rights Officer.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM

4. There was submitted a report dated 5 March 1998 (docketed) by the Director of Social Work detailing the services provided by the Family Support Team within the Department of Social Work (1) informing of the background to the Family Support Team which had been operational since August 1995; (2) outlining the nature of service provided for children and families by the Family Support Team; (3) intimating that the Family Support Team intended to consult with families in relation to contact with the Department of Social Work on Child Protection matters, and (4) intimating that the effectiveness of the Family Support Team had been shown by the increase in demand for its services across North Lanarkshire and by the reduction in numbers of children being looked after and accommodated by the Department.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

INTEGRATED OFFENDERS PROJECT: DRINK RELATED OFFENCES PROGRAMME

5. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 12 November 1997 when it had been agreed that the Sub-Committee visit the Integrated Offenders Project in Coatbridge to view the Drink Related Offences Programme Project, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 March 1998 by the Director of Social Work (1) informing the Sub-Committee of the arrangements for the visit to the Project in Coatbridge; (2) outlining the background to the Drink Related Offences Programme, and (3) advising that the visit would take place on Monday, 27 April 1998.

Decided: that the arrangements for the visit to the Integrated Offenders Project to view the Drink Related Offences Programme Project be noted.
