

SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB – 20 May 1998

Motherwell, 20 May 1998 at 11 am.

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

PRESENT

Councillor McElroy, Convener; Councillors Coyle, McAlorum, Maginnis, W. Martin, S.V. Murray, Ross, Russell and Scott.

CHAIR

Councillor McElroy (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer, Head of Social Work Services, Principal Officer (Child Care), Senior Child Care Officer and Project Manager (Young Carers Project).

APOLOGIES

Councillor McCabe, H. McGuigan, Macleod, J. Martin, Shaw and Smith.

PARTNERS IN PLANNING: APPROACHES TO PLANNING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 April 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising of the Inspectorate Report on Partners in Planning Social Services (1) outlining the background to the Children's Service Plan Project Team which had been established by the Social Work Services Inspectorate for England to conduct a programme of policy monitoring and implementation work; (2) advising that the Project Team had prepared a report which was designed to encourage greater inter-agency planning and work; (3) informing that local authorities were invited to comment on relationships with planning partners for ten need groups identified in the Children's Services Plan Guidance; (4) detailing the main findings of the report which concluded that progress on the various strands of Children's Services Planning in England was mixed, and (5) indicating that within North Lanarkshire there was a clear corporate commitment to the planning processes for Children's Services.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

SCOTTISH OFFICE DRAFT CHILD STRATEGY STATEMENT

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 April 1998 by the Director of Social Work setting out the Council's response to the Scottish Office's Draft Child Strategy Statement (1) outlining the background to the Draft Statement which was produced to ensure that all Scottish Office Departments identified and took proper account of the interests of children when developing policy; (2) highlighting the main issues of the Draft Statement, and (3) detailing in the Appendix to the report the proposed response to the Statement.

Decided:

- (1) that the comments set out in Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed as the Council 's formal response to the Draft Child Strategy Statement, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work prepare a report on the final Statement for a future meeting of the Sub-Committee for consideration.

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN: NEW GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR INTER AGENCY CO-OPERATION: CONSULTATION PAPER

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 April 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising of the consultation document which had been issued by the Department of Health Social Care Group for consultation in England (1) outlining the background to the report which emphasised the Government's commitment that all children within the community were safeguarded and protected from abuse; (2) advising that the consultation document concentrated on 8 key areas in relation to Child Protection; (3) indicating that the Government wished to promote a new emphasis on looking at the needs of the most vulnerable children and their families, and (4) advising that final guidance on the Draft Consultation Document issued by the Scottish Office on Protecting Children - A Shared Responsibility, Guidance on Inter-Agency Co-operation would be issued in the autumn of 1998.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE YOUNG CARERS PROJECT - PROGRESS REPORT

4. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 5 August 1997 when, *inter alia*, the Director of Social Work was authorised to conclude a service level agreement with the Director of National Children's Homes (NCH) to extend the period of operation of the North Lanarkshire Young Carers Project, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 April 1998 advising of the progress of the Young Carers Project in North Lanarkshire; (1) intimating that the Project was the only publicly funded project of its kind within Scotland; (2) indicating that the Project had developed a comprehensive range of services to meet the needs of young carers and their families; (3) detailing the staffing, management and accommodation arrangements for the project, and (4) informing that NCH and North Lanarkshire Social Work Department would continue to work together to review current service provision and examine future strategies to overcome current constraints and to extend services further.

Decided: that the Director of Social Work report to a future meeting the further progress of the NCH Action for Children (Scotland) Young Carers Project.

PROPOSALS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ADOPTION ALLOWANCE SCHEME

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 April 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising of the requirement to revoke the existing adoption allowance scheme under Section 51(5) of the Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978 and requesting approval to implement a revised adoption allowance scheme as required by the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and the Adoption Allowances (Scotland) Regulations 1996 (1) outlining the background to the adoption allowance scheme currently operating in North Lanarkshire; (2) detailing the criteria for payment of adoption allowances which had not changed significantly under the Adoption Allowances (Scotland) Regulations 1996; (3) detailing the criteria which had to be met to satisfy entitlement to an adoption allowance; (4) intimating that there would be no additional costs attached to the implementation of the new adoption allowances scheme; (5) advising of the process for approval of adoption allowances, and (6) intimating that the purpose of

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the review of the adoption allowances was to ascertain whether there was a need for the allowance to continue.

Decided:

- (1) that the current adoption allowance scheme for payment of adoption allowances under Section 51(5) of the Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978 be revoked;
- (2) that the implementation of the adoption allowances scheme under the Adoption Allowances (Scotland) Regulations 1996 as contained in the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 be approved with effect from 1 April 1998, and
- (3) that approval be given for existing recipients to continue to receive payments under the revoked scheme if they wished to do so.