

SOCIAL WORK – 2 June 1998

Motherwell, 2 June 1998 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor W. Martin, Convener; Councillor Sullivan, Vice-Convener; Councillors Carmichael, Chadha, Craig, Gordon, Lunny, McAlorum, McCulloch, J. McGuigan, McKendrick, McLaughlin, Maginnis, J. Martin, Murphy, S.V. Murray, Robertson, Ross, Scott, and Wallace.

CHAIR

Councillor W. Martin (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Committee Services Officer, Head of Social Work Services, Head of Social Work Development, Head of Social Work Resources and Principal Officer (Strategy).

APOLOGIES

Councillors Beekman, Brooks, Connelly, Cox, Coyle, Curley, Leitch, McCabe, McElroy, H. McGuigan, Macleod, Nolan, Russell, Saunders, Shaw and Smith.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF SUB-COMMITTEES

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

1. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Planning Administration) Sub-Committee held on 19 May 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 20 May 1998.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be approved.

SCHEME OF DELEGATION - NOTES OF GUIDANCE

3. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of this Committee held on 3 March 1998 when it had been agreed, *inter alia*, that a report on revised procedures and Notes of Guidance relating to the delegation of financial responsibility be submitted by the Director of Social Work to a future Committee, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 14 May 1998 by the Director of Social Work providing Notes of Guidance relating to Sections 12, 27 1 (b) and (c) and 29 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and Sections 22, 29 and 30 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 (1) detailing within Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, the relevant sections of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, relative to the Notes of Guidance, and (2) intimating that the

financial implications which take account of proposals for work with children, families and criminal justice were contained in the Social Work budget for the financial year 1998/99.

Decided: that the Notes of Guidance for Sections 12, 27 1 (b) and (c) and 29 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, Sections 22, 29 and 30 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 be approved.

ADDICTION SERVICES, STRATEGIC REVIEW OF SOCIAL WORK PROVISION

4. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 10 June 1997 when, inter alia, it had been agreed to commission Turning Point to review addiction services inclusive of the necessary survey work over a six month period at a fee not exceeding £12,000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 6 May 1998 by the Director of Social Work in respect of the outcome of the strategic review and the draft strategy for the delivery of an effective and improved addiction service in North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to and the need for the review; (2) detailing within Appendix 1 to the report, a summary of issues identified by Turning Point which required to be addressed; (3) intimating that to establish a comprehensive addiction strategy for the area, the Director of Social Work had produced a draft Action Plan which required to be debated and agreed with Lanarkshire Health Board and the Directors of Education and Housing; (4) advising that staff, service users, and the relevant trade unions required to be consulted, and (5) detailing the key elements of the draft Action Plan.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position and proposed action be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to present a finalised report on the addiction strategy to a future meeting of the Committee.

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS - SECTION 10 FUNDING

5. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of this Committee held on 21 April 1998 when, inter alia, it had been agreed that, pending the submission of a full report by the Director of Social Work on the criteria used in the assessment of Funding applications under Section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, grants at a level of 50% of that recommended be approved meantime and the balance of funding be reconsidered thereafter, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 May by the Director of Social Work regarding three applications seeking Section 10 Funding (1) intimating that the organisations, Rape Crisis Centre, Victim Support, Motherwell and Cumbernauld Women's Aid had been excluded from the decision on interim funding, pending further information, and (2) proposing interim funding arrangements for the three organisations.

Decided:

- (1) that a grant at a level of 50% of that requested be approved in respect of the Rape Crisis Centre meantime;
- (2) that a grant representing three months funding in respect of Cumbernauld Women's Aid be approved, and that monthly payments thereafter be made subject to the satisfactory monitoring reports, and
- (3) that no grant be awarded to Victim Support, Motherwell as the organisation had received equipment from other sources and no longer required grant funding.

JOINT COMMUNITY CARE PLAN 1998/2001

6. **C** With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 26 August 1997 when, *inter alia*, it had been agreed that the Draft North Lanarkshire Joint Community Care Plan, the Summary Document and the draft Accommodation Strategy 1997/2000, be approved and the Director of Social Work be authorised to liaise with the other joint planning partners to arrange for the draft documents to be made available for public consultation, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 May 1998 by the Directors of Social Work, Education and Housing, regarding the issuing of a final version of the North Lanarkshire Joint Community Care Plan 1998/2001 and Joint Accommodation Strategy which had both been revised following a period of consultation (1) advising that the Joint Accommodation Strategy explained the Joint Planning Partners' aims and objectives, in relation to accommodation issues and identified specific gaps in accommodation provision; (2) detailing those consulted, the main issues raised, and key areas where housing providers and care agencies wished to participate with the main planning partners in future joint working; (3) outlining within the Appendix to the report, the Needs and Resources Fact File which detailed the present and projected needs of the North Lanarkshire population; (4) informing that the Scottish Office had indicated the timescale for Plans had now been changed to cover the period 1998-2001 rather than 1997-2000; (5) indicating that it would now be necessary to include revised purchasing intentions to cover the new timescale, and (6) advising that the total cost of £12,920 for the distribution and printing of the final Plan, North Lanarkshire Joint Accommodation Strategy, and the Needs and Resources Fact File Summary would be shared by the Council, Lanarkshire Health Board and Scottish Homes as detailed in the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the issue of the Joint Community Care Plan 1998-2001, Accommodation Strategy and Needs and Resources Fact File document be approved subject to
 - (a) final editing;
 - (b) a short period of consultation with provider organisations on revised purchasing intentions, and
 - (c) the endorsement of the final documents by joint planning partners through the North Lanarkshire Joint Planning Forum, and
- (2) that the arrangements for the printing and distribution of the above-mentioned documents be noted.

COMPLAINTS - STATUS REPORT - PERIOD 1 APRIL 1997 - 31 MARCH 1998

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated May 1998 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Social Work Department's performance in receiving, investigating and addressing formal complaints during the period from 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998 (1) outlining the background to the Social Work Department's Complaints Procedure; (2) detailing the handling of complaints regarding Social Work services and services provided on behalf of the Social Work Department; (3) advising of the timescales set out by the Scottish Office used for dealing with complaints; (4) intimating in Appendix 1 to the report, numbers, locations and timescales in which complaints were addressed and the outcome and categories of care group relevant to the complaint; (5) highlighting in Appendix 2 to the report, complaints received by the Director regarding private and voluntary sector providers, and (6) indicating that senior managers were required to review the Annual Complaints Return relevant to their area of authority and assess any implications for the quality of services.

Decided: that the terms of the report and the Appendices attached be noted.

RESPONSE TO MASS REDUNDANCIES AND CLOSURES

8. **C** There was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated May 1998 by the Directors of Social Work and Planning and Development regarding the establishment of an effective protocol attached as Appendix 1 to this report which would determine the approach by the Council in dealing with large scale redundancy situations, plant closures and company receiverships (1) outlining the background to and the need for the provision to establish a protocol which would promote effective inter-departmental co-operation; (2) advising that the protocol would ensure an effective and efficient corporate response; (3) intimating the operational details of the protocol and guidelines, and (4) indicating the importance of other public agencies who required to be informed of the protocol and consulted on the joint implementation of arrangements.

Decided:

- (1) that the protocol detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved, and
- (2) that the Directors of Planning and Development and Social Work be authorised to approach relevant public agencies to seek co-operation with the Council's protocol.

RECRUITMENT OF SOCIAL WORKERS

9. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Policy and Resources (Vacancy Control) Sub-Committee held on 20 May 1998 when, *inter alia*, it had been agreed that the Social Work Department be authorised to recruit three Social Workers above the Department's approved establishment, subject to approval of the Social Work and Personnel Services Committees, there was submitted the said report dated 19 May 1998 by the Director of Social Work (1) outlining the background to and the need for the recruitment of new qualified Social Workers, and (2) intimating that the Social Work Department had a statutory obligation to provide services which could not be met if recruitment was delayed.

Decided: that the Committee, for its interest, authorise the Social Work Department to recruit three Social Workers above the Department's approved establishment.

JOINT EDUCATION/SOCIAL WORK CONTRACT: NOTRE DAME CENTRE, GLASGOW

10. There was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated 6 May 1998 by the Directors of Social Work and Education proposing that the Council contract jointly with the Notre Dame Centre, Glasgow for therapeutic support to vulnerable children and young people in North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the existing contract with the Notre Dame Centre, Glasgow for the provision of therapeutic support; (2) detailing proposals for a new contract which would develop arrangements to allow a more efficient, effective, diverse and localised service than had previously been available; (3) intimating that the strategic, operational and financial collaboration between the two Departments would progress the corporate approach for children who were a joint responsibility and a shared source of concern, and (4) indicating that the cost of the new contract would be met from existing budgets.

Decided: that the proposals for a new contract with the Notre Dame Centre, Glasgow for therapeutic support to vulnerable children and young people in North Lanarkshire as detailed within the report be approved.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH COUNCILS “PUTTING PEOPLE IN THE PICTURE”

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 May 1998 by the Director of Social Work regarding the publication of a report by the Scottish Association of Health Councils “Putting People in the Picture” which dealt with information for patients and the public regarding illness and treatment (1) outlining the background to the report, and (2) detailing the action proposed by the Scottish Association for Health Councils for implementation to ensure that patients and the general public were fully informed about illness and treatment.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting regarding the role of the Scottish Association for Health Councils within Lanarkshire.

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH DRUGS IN GREATER GLASGOW - DRAFT STRATEGY FOR 1998/2001

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated May 1998 by the Director of Social Work regarding a report by the Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team produced for the Greater Glasgow Health Board and entitled “Getting to Grips with Drugs in Greater Glasgow - Draft Strategy for 1998/2000”, inviting comments from the Council (1) outlining the background to the establishment of the Drug Action Team (DAT); (2) intimating the two main aims of the Draft Strategy were to reduce overall levels of drug misuse and to minimise drug related harm; (3) informing that in pursuit of these aims, the Strategy proposed specific action on understanding the problem, prevention, reducing drug availability and enforcing the law, treatment and care, training, employment, co-ordination and communication; (4) detailing within Appendix 1 to the report, six options for the distribution of services, and (5) indicating that the Department had expressed support for Option 2.

Decided:

- (1) that the Draft Strategy of the Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team be endorsed, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to respond to the Greater Glasgow Health Board expressing support for Option 2 of the options for the distribution of services in relation to drugs problems.

LANARKSHIRE HEALTH BOARD AND GREATER GLASGOW HEALTH BOARD: THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DISSOLUTION OF NHS TRUSTS

13. With reference to paragraph 27 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 3 February 1998 when it had been agreed that the Chief Executive communicate the Council's views on the White Paper “Design to Care - Renewing the National Health Service in Scotland” to the Scottish Office Department of Health, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 May 1998 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that both Lanarkshire Health Board and Greater Glasgow Health Board had invited comments on their plans from a range of organisations including the Council; (2) outlining the existing structures of the NHS Trusts; (3) detailing the changes associated with the dissolution of existing trusts and the establishment of new NHS Trusts to be known as Primary Care and Acute Trusts; (4) intimating the roles and responsibilities of Primary Care and Acute Trusts; (5) informing that the proposals suggested by the Health Boards for the restructuring of the NHS Trusts, appeared to be in line with the White Paper guidelines and provided opportunities for creating the conditions for better planning, co-ordination and delivery of services,

and (6) advising that subject to primary legislation, the new Trusts would become operational from April 1999.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for its interest, and
- (2) that the Director of Administration be authorised to respond to the Health Boards in terms of the Director of Social Work's report.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK AND RELATED SERVICES FOR MENTALLY DISORDERED OFFENDERS IN SCOTLAND

14. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 11 November 1997 when, *inter alia*, approval had been given to advise Lanarkshire Health Board of the Council's concern that there should be early joint discussion on the future development of services including forensic services for offenders with Mental Health problems and/or learning difficulties, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 May 1998 by the Director of Social Work in respect of comments to be forwarded to the Scottish Office, in relation to Health and Social Work and Related Services for Mentally Disordered Offenders in Scotland (1) outlining the background to the Scottish Office Consultation Document; (2) detailing the contents of the document, the overall objective of which was to promote the provision of a sufficient and effectively co-ordinated range of services to meet the individuals needs and the public interest; (3) intimating proposals relating to all aspects of working with Mentally Disordered Offenders; (4) indicating that the overall recommendations and proposals within the consultation document recognised the need for structured and organised work between agencies in this field, and that the formation of multi-agency planning groups would help address the issues and agree on priorities and strategies at a local level, and (5) informing that the consultation document was useful in making proposals which would strengthen the framework for more effective planning, assessment and intervention with the client group, and that the document supported the concepts of care and maximisation of community safety and was welcomed by the Department.

Decided: that the Director of Administration be authorised to respond to the Scottish Office in terms of the Director of Social Work's report.

PETITION AGAINST LOSS OF DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE THROUGHOUT NORTH LANARKSHIRE

15. There was submitted a report dated 27 May 1998 by the Director of Social Work in response to a Petition received regarding the loss of the Disability Information Service throughout North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the Petition, and (2) intimating that as part of the budget process for the financial year 1998/99, the Social Work Committee and the Council had considered and accepted certain saving proposals in relation to Social Work Services amongst which was the redeployment of the five posts involved in providing Disability Information Services in Coatbridge and Motherwell.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the signatories of the Petition be advised accordingly.

CONFERENCES

(1) CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME SPRING 1998

16. There was considered an invitation from the Scottish Child Law Centre to attend a conference entitled "Continued Professional Development Training Programme Spring 1998" to be held in Glasgow in Spring 1998.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

(2) JOINT WORKING STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH SEX OFFENDERS AND PAEDOPHILES

17. There was considered an invitation from INFOLOG Training to attend a conference entitled "Joint Working Strategies for Dealing with Sex Offenders and Paedophiles" to be held in London on 5 May 1998.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

(3) MAKING CONNECTIONS - POSITIVE APPROACHES TO TRANSITIONAL PLANNING FOR YOUNG DISABLED PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

18. There was considered an invitation from the National Children's Bureau to attend a conference entitled "Making Connections - Positive Approaches to Transitional Planning for Young Disabled People and their Families" to be held in York on 19 May 1998.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

(4) JOINED-UP PLANNING GETTING IT RIGHT FOR THE FUTURE

19. There was considered an invitation from the National Development Team to attend a conference entitled "Joined-up Planning Getting it Right for the Future" to be held in London on 1 June 1998.

Decided: that the attendance of Councillor McElroy at this conference be homologated.

(5) CHILDREN'S SERVICES - THE WAY AHEAD

20. There was considered an invitation from Children in Scotland and COSLA to attend a conference entitled "Children's Services - The Way Ahead" to be held in Edinburgh on 5 June 1998.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

(6) CHILD WELFARE : POLICY AND PRACTICE EMERGING ISSUES FROM CURRENT RESEARCH

21. There was considered an invitation from the Queens University of Belfast to attend a conference entitled "Child Welfare : Policy and Practice Emerging Issues from Current Research" to be held in Glasgow on 3/4 September 1998.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference be authorised.