

Motherwell, 12 August 1998 at 11 am.

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

PRESENT

Councillor McElroy, Convener; Councillors McAlorum, McLaughlin, Maginnis, J. Martin, W. Martin and Sm.

CHAIR

Councillor McElroy (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer, Head of Social Work Services and Principal Officer (Criminal Justice).

APOLOGIES

Councillors S. V. Murray, Ross, Russell and Scott.

INTRODUCTION OF RESTRICTION OF LIBERTY ORDERS - ELECTRONIC MONITORING

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 July 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising of the introduction of Restriction of Liberty Orders in part of North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the use of Restriction of Liberty Orders by means of Electronic Monitoring which will be introduced by the Scottish Office on a pilot basis in Hamilton, Aberdeen and Peterhead Sheriff Courts from 24 August 1998; (2) detailing the operational aspect of Restriction of Liberty Orders; (3) informing that the contract for the service at Hamilton Sheriff Court had been awarded to General Security Services Corporation an American based company with a history of involvement in electronic monitoring; (4) advising that additional funding of £11,000 had been provided to North Lanarkshire to implement the project and that the financial position would be carefully monitored to ensure that the financial implications for North Lanarkshire would be reflected in future negotiations with the Scottish Office, and (5) proposing that a briefing meeting on Restriction of Liberty Orders be arranged for the benefit of elected Members.

Decided:

- (1) that the introduction of Restriction of Liberty Orders by means of Electronic Monitoring in North Lanarkshire be noted;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee to informing of the progress in this area of work, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to arrange a briefing meeting on the matter for all Members of the Council.

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WOMEN OFFENDERS - A SAFER WAY - A REVIEW OF COMMUNITY DISPOSALS AND THE USE OF CUSTODY FOR WOMEN OFFENDERS IN SCOTLAND - CONSULTATION DOCUMENT FROM THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 22 July 1998 by the Director of Social Work (1) commenting on the Consultation document from the Scottish Office entitled "Women Offenders: A Safe Way, A Review of Community Disposals and the use of custody for Women Offenders in Scotland" which sought the Council's views on issues which surround offending by women including health, social and economic factors and how women offenders were dealt with within the criminal justice system, and (2) informing that a Review of Criminal Justice Services in relation to Women Offenders was currently being undertaken by the Department, the outcome of which would be reported to the Scottish Office by the end of November 1998.

Decided:

- (1) that the comments set out in Section 4 of the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office in relation to the Review of Community Disposals and the Use of Custody for Women Offenders in Scotland;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee the results of the Review of Services to Women Offenders in North Lanarkshire, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Equal Opportunities) Sub-Committee for their interest.

YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK - ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROJECT

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 July 1998 by the Director of Social Work informing of the developments in work with young offenders within North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the circumstances where young people were dealt with by the Social Work Department; (2) proposing the establishment, on a pilot basis, of revised structures in two of its Area Teams, Cumbernauld and Wishaw, to provide and improve management of young people at risk; (3) indicating that the pilot project would establish a Sub-Team (Criminal Justice/Bridging Teams) in the two Area Teams which would bring together the skills of both Childcare and Criminal Justice staff and allow both Area Teams to evaluate the effectiveness of the revised arrangements compared with existing departmental structures; (4) outlining the work which the Sub-Teams would be involved in and the areas in which the young people would be involved, and (5) informing that the proposals outlined in the report would be met from existing resources.

Decided:

- (1) that the development of revised structures within two of the Social Work Area Teams to provide and improve management with young people on a pilot basis be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee a report on the progress of the pilot project.

SOCIAL SERVICES INSPECTORATE REPORT: INSPECTION OF COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES FOR BLACK AND ETHNIC MINORITY OLDER PEOPLE

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 July 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising of the contents and recommendations contained in the Social Services Inspectorate Report: Inspection of Community Care Services for Black and Ethnic Minority Older People (1) advising that
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the Inspectorate which had inspected the Community Care Services of eight local authorities v significant ethnic minority groups; (2) detailing the contents and recommendations of Inspectorate's report which covered six main headings Policies, Strategies and Planni Communication and Information, Assessment, Care Management and Review, Service Delive Protection of Abuse and Equality of Opportunity, and (3) indicating that as a consequence of t Inspectorate's report, the Director would seek to improve ethnic record keeping and monitoring enable the analysis of referrals, assessments and service information and also to develop and targ training strategies for staff who work directly with minority elders to improve the department performance in this area.

Decided:

- (1) that the report from the Social Services Inspectorate be noted;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to present a report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on receipt of a report from the West of Scotland (SWD) "Race Equality Means Quality" Working Group;
- (3) that the action taken by the Director of Social Work to improve its performance in relation to Community Care Services for Black and Ethnic Minority Older People as detailed in the report be noted, and
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Equal Opportunities) Sub-Committee for their interest.

EVENING TIMES CARING CUP AWARD 1998

5. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 1 April 1998 when, *inter alia*, it had been agreed that the Council jointly sponsor the 1998 Evening Times Caring Cup Awards at a total cost to the Council of £5,600 and that the Council explore the possibility of hosting the Caring Cup Awards in 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated March 1998 by the Director of Social Work informing of the progress in respect of the Evening Times Caring Cup Award 1998 (1) advising that the Director of Social Work had nominated four groups of young volunteers from North Lanarkshire for the 1998 Caring Cup Awards; (2) intimating that the judging ceremony for this year's Caring Cup would take place on 17 September 1998 at which Councillor Sullivan would represent this Council, and (3) advising that it had been agreed that this Council would host the Award Ceremony in the year 2000 at a cost of £1,000 approximately.

Decided:

- (1) that the hosting of the Evening Times Caring Cup Award in 2000 by North Lanarkshire Council at a cost of £1,000 approximately be approved, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to submit progress reports on the Evening Times Caring Cup to future meetings of the Sub-Committee.