

**SOCIAL WORK – 25 August 1998**

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**Motherwell, 25 August 1998 at 11 am.**

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT**

Councillor W. Martin, Convener; Councillors McElroy and Sullivan, Vice-Conveners; Councillors Beekman, Carmichael, Chadha, Connelly, Cox, Craig, Gordon, Heberton, Lunny, McAlorum, McCabe, McCulloch, J. McGuigan, McLaughlin, Maginnis, J. Martin, Murphy, S.V. Murray, Nolan, Robertson, Ross, Russell and Wallace.

**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, Principal Officer (Inspection and Registration), Accounting Manager.

**ALSO ATTENDING**

Mr R. Thomson, Chair of Advisory Committee on Inspection.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Coyle, Leitch, H McGuigan, MacLeod, Saunders and Shaw.

**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 11 August 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 12 August 1998.

**Decided:** that the terms of the Minute be approved.

**(3) SOCIAL WORK (REGISTRATION) SUB-COMMITTEE**

3. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Registration) Sub-Committee held on 28 May 1998.

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**Decided:** that the terms of the Minute be approved.

### **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT 1 APRIL 1997 - 31 MARCH 1998 - 1997/98 OUTTURN REPORT**

4. There was submitted a report dated 12 August 1998 by the Director of Finance advising of Departmental spending levels for the Department of Social Work and Sheltered Workshop for the period from 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998 and providing a comparison with approved budgets for the year 1997/98.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

### **REVENUE ESTIMATES 1998/99 - FINANCIAL MONITORING STATEMENTS FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT AND SHELTERED WORKSHOPS**

5. There were submitted reports dated 12 August 1998 by the Director of Finance advising of Departmental spending levels for the Department of Social Work and Sheltered Workshop for the period from 1 April 1998 to 19 July 1998 and providing a comparison with the approved budget.

**Decided:** that the terms of the reports be noted.

### **SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT - SERVICE PLAN MONITORING REPORT**

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 3 August 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising of the progress on the implementation of the Department Service Plan for 1998-2001 and setting out in an Appendix to the report details of the progress of the ten key strategic development tasks identified in the Departmental Service Plan for 1998-2001.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the progress of the key strategic development tasks as detailed in the Appendix to the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work make appropriate arrangements for the Committee to meet with representatives of carers Groups in order that they be informed of the issues affecting this group.

### **NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL INSPECTION UNIT: ANNUAL REPORT 1 APRIL 1997 - 31 MARCH 1998**

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated August 1998 by the Director of Social Work (1) intimating that the Scottish Office Circular SWSG 7/96 required the Council to prepare an annual report on inspection functions of the Department; (2) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report the annual report by the Inspection Unit on the registration and inspection of residential and day care establishments for 1997/98; (3) summarising in Appendix 2, the main findings of the report; (4) advising that the number of inspections which had been undertaken by the Inspection Unit had risen to 85% of the target in 1997/98 and that the position would be monitored on a monthly basis, and (5) indicating that consideration has been given to the employment of temporary staff to assist in achieving the performance indicators as set by the Scottish Office.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the report and the Inspection Unit Annual Report 1997/98 as set out in the Appendices therein be noted, and
- (2) that the action proposed to ensure inspection targets are met in 1998/99 be noted.

**CHAIR AND MEMBERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION**

8. There was submitted a report dated 11 July 1998 by the Director of Social Work informing of the changes to the Chair and membership of the Advisory Committee on Inspection (1) outlining the background to the Scottish Office Guidance SWSG 7/96 which gives guidance on the establishment of and proposed membership mix and chair arrangements of an Advisory Committee on Inspection; (2) advising that following a meeting of the Committee in March 1998 four members resigned from the Committee; (3) informing that two new members had been appointed to the Committee; (4) setting out in Appendix 1 of the report a listing of the current membership, and (5) advising that the Advisory Committee had elected Roderick Thomson as Chair for the period of 12 months.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the changes in membership and chair arrangements of the Advisory Committee on Inspection be noted and
- (2) the measures taken to recruit additional members be noted.

**DEATH OF A CHILD IN CARE**

9. There was submitted a report dated 17 July 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising of the circumstances of the death of a child who had been made subject of a Home Supervision Order in terms of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**COUNCIL TAX: CARERS DISCOUNT AND DISABILITY REDUCTION SCHEME**

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 July 1998 by the Director of Social Work informing of the potential to increase the weekly income of families with carers in North Lanarkshire by launching a Council Tax Carer's Discount Campaign and a Council Tax Disability Reduction Campaign (1) outlining the background to the Council Tax Carer's Discount Scheme which amounts to a reduction of 25% or in certain cases 50% of the overall Council Tax bill; (2) detailing the criteria which had to be met to satisfy entitlement to Council Tax Carers Discount and Council Tax Disability Reduction; (3) setting out the proposals to highlight the campaign in North Lanarkshire, and (4) intimating that Campaign Officers would monitor the initiative to identify any potential policy implications for the Council.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted;

- (2) that approval be given in principle for a Council Tax carer's discount campaign and a Council Tax disability reduction campaign in North Lanarkshire;
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Finance and Housing Committee for their interest and consideration, and
- (4) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on completion of the campaign in the event of any policy implications for the Council being identified.

**TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT**

11. There was submitted a report dated 7 August 1998 by the Director of Social Work requesting an additional Scottish Vocational Qualification Assessor/Verifier to the Staffing Establishment of the Social Work Training Section (1) outlining the background to and the need for this additional post; (2) intimating that the additional cost for a full year to employ one additional Assessor/Verifier would be £16,000 with the cost being met fully from the Specific Grant Allocation from the Scottish Office, and (3) proposing that the additional post of Assessor/ Verifier be added to the Training Establishment for a period of 18 months.

**Decided:**

- (1) that approval be given for one additional temporary post on the Training Team for a period of 18 months, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for its consideration.

**ADAPTATIONS: STANDARD SECURITY**

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 July 1998 by the Director of Social Work proposing a legal process whereby owner/occupiers, who receive financial assistance in certain circumstances to adapt their home in order to meet needs of residents with disabilities would be obliged to repay the money to the Council (1) outlining the background to the circumstances in which a local authority may provide grants to owner/occupiers to make adaptations to houses where there is an occupant who has a disability; (2) advising that the predecessor authority established a policy whereby money provided in these circumstances would be subject of recovery through Standard Security and was set at £4,000; (3) informing that there had been no case were it had been necessary to seek recovery through Standard Security; (4) intimating that if a homeowner has an adaptation to their house to which the Director of Social Work makes a contribution it is proposed that the Council reserve the power to recover the money invested using Standard Security, and (5) proposing that Standard Security apply to amounts awarded over £10,000 and that the award be subject to repayment on a sliding scale if the property is disposed of within 10 years of the work being completed.

**Decided:**

- (1) that for the proposal that grant aid to modify an owner/occupied house be subject to registration of the Council's interest where the amount of grant is £10,000 or more be approved;
- (2) that the arrangement whereby a Standard Security must be granted by the owner of the house specifying that repayment of the grant shall be required, on a sliding scale if the property is disposed of within 10 years, be approved, and

- (3) that the Director of Administration secure Standard Securities in appropriate cases.

**APPLICATION TO THE ECOS - OUVERTURE PROGRAMME FOR A TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT WITH THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

13. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 7 October 1997 when, *inter alia*, the action taken by the Director of Social Work in association with other partners, in submitting an application for funding from the ECOS - Ouverture Programme for a project for the development of child care services in the republic of Moldova was endorsed, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 August 1998 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that the bid to the ECOS - Ouverture Programme was unsuccessful; (2) informing that the application would be resubmitted to the next round of bids and that emphasis of activity would be more focused between Romania and Moldova, and (3) detailing the benefits for the Council which would be derived from involvement in such a programme.

**Decided:** that the re-submission of a modified application to the ECOS - Ouverture Programme be approved.

**SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN GLASGOW HOSPITALS - CHARGE FOR NORTH LANARKSHIRE RESIDENTS**

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 August 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising of Glasgow City Council's decision to levy a charge for Social Work services provided within Glasgow Hospitals to patients who are residents from other local authority areas outwith Glasgow (1) outlining the background to the charging for cross boundary services; (2) informing that as part of budget savings agreed, Glasgow City Council had decided to levy a charge for Social Work services provided within Glasgow Hospitals to patients who were residents from other local authority areas outwith Glasgow; (3) intimating that the Director of Social Work for Glasgow City Council had carried out a workload analysis of the Hospital Social Work Service to establish a basis for apportioning costs to user authorities; (4) detailing the proposal that Glasgow City Council would provide a screening service to North Lanarkshire patients in Glasgow Hospitals; (5) advising that the current indicative charge by Glasgow City Council for the screening service was £27,947 rising to £30,000 for work carried out in Psychiatric Hospitals, and (6) informing that no budget exists within the Social Work Department budget for this expenditure.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted;
- (2) that the proposals as outlined in Section 4 of the report be approved, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee seeking additional resources as outlined in Section 5 of the report.

**REVIEW OF HOMECARE SERVICES - UPDATE**

15. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 20 January 1998, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 August 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising of the progress being made in the review of Homecare Services (1) setting out the background; (2) intimating that consultation had taken place with the three main Trade Unions on specific proposals emerging from the review, and (3) detailing in the appendix to the report proposals for changes in conditions of service for homecare staff.

**Decided:** that the report be remitted simpliciter to the next meeting of the Council.

**CONFERENCES**

**(1) FORUM ON DEAFBLINDNESS**

16. There was considered an invitation from Deafblind UK Limited to attend a conference entitled Forum on Deafblindness which had been held in Glasgow on 2 June 1998.

**Decided:** that it be noted that no attendance at this conference had been authorised.

**(2) ADVOCACY - WHERE NOW?**

17. There was considered an invitation from the Patients Council/Edinburgh Health Care Trust to attend a conference entitled "Advocacy - Where Now?" which had been held in Edinburgh on 10 June 1998.

**Decided:** that it be noted that no attendance at this conference had been authorised.

**(3) WELFARE REFORMS - THE RIGHTS AND WRONGS - ENABLES VIEW**

18. There was considered an invitation from Enable to attend a conference entitled "Welfare Reforms - The Rights and Wrongs - Enables View" which had been held in Glasgow on 25 June 1998.

**Decided:** that it be noted that no attendance at this conference had been authorised.

**(4) MEETING THE CHILD CARE CHALLENGE: A CHILDCARE STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND**

19. There was considered an invitation from COSLA to attend a conference entitled "Meeting the Child Care Challenge: A Childcare Strategy for Scotland" which had been held in Edinburgh on 26 June 1998.

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

**(5) FOUR NATIONS FORUM**

20. There was considered an invitation from NCVCCO to attend a conference entitled "Four Nations Forum" which had been held in London on 2-3 July 1998.

**Decided:** that it be noted that no attendance at this conference had been authorised.

**(6) THE SACCS EXPERIENCE**

21. There was considered an invitation from SACCS to attend a conference entitled "The SACCS Experience" which had been held in Shropshire on 13 July 1998.

**Decided:** that it be noted that no attendance at this conference had been authorised.

**(7) CHILDREN AND MENTAL HEALTH**

22. There was considered an invitation from LSA Seminar Mental Health Legal Representation Projects to attend a conference entitled "Children and Mental Health" to be held in Edinburgh on 23 September 1998.

**Decided:** that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

**(8) POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER**

23. There was considered an invitation from LSA Seminar Mental Health Legal Representation Projects to attend a conference entitled "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder" to be held in Glasgow on 5 October 1998.

**Decided:** that no attendance at the conference be authorised.

**(9) WOMEN AND MENTAL HEALTH**

24. There was considered an invitation from LSA Seminar Mental Health Legal Representation Projects to attend a conference entitled "Women and Mental Health" to be held in Edinburgh on 28 October 1998.

**Decided:** that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

**(10) HEALTHY, WEALTHY AND WISE**

25. There was considered an invitation from Children in Scotland to attend a conference entitled "Healthy, Wealthy and Wise" to be held in Inverclyde on 5-6 November 1998.

**Decided:** that no attendance at this conference be authorised.