

Motherwell, 23 September, 1998 at 11 am.

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

PRESENT

Councillor McElroy, Convener; Councillors Connelly, Coyle, Maginnis, J. Martin, Nolan, Russell, Scott and Shaw.

CHAIR

Councillor McElroy (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer, Head of Social Work Services, Principal Officer (Community Care) Principal Officer (Child Care), Principal Officer (Criminal Justice) and Senior Child-Care Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING

Mrs S. Burns and Mr and Mrs Harrison, Carers

APOLOGIES

Councillors McAlorum, McLaughlin, W. Martin, S. V. Murray, Ross and Smith

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL'S SHARED CARE SCHEME

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 September, 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising of progress in relation to the development of North Lanarkshire Council's Shared Care Scheme (1) outlining the background to the scheme; (2) informing that shared carers were recruited from the local community and that specific recruitment campaigns were held at local and authority wide level throughout the year; (3) intimating that all applicants were approved under the Boarding Out and Fostering Regulations 1985 by the Council's Adoption and Fostering Panel; (4) indicating that the Shared Care Scheme currently had 21 approved carers who provided placements to 12 children and 5 adults with varying levels of disability and 4 carers were awaiting linking or were on hold; (5) detailing the age range, level of disability and family circumstances of children and adults using the scheme; (6) setting out the allowances paid to providers of Shared Care from a budget of £97,170 which had been set aside to maintain and further expand the service.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that a report be brought forward to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee to review Shared Care allowances.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES: ACCOMMODATION, NATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND STANDARDS

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 August, 1998 by the Director of Social Work setting out the Council's response to the Scottish Office in relation to Draft National Objectives and Standards for Accommodation Services, (1) outlining the background to the Draft which had been prepared by a

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Working Group comprising the Judiciary, Association of Chief Police Officers, Parole Board, COSLA, SACRO, Chartered Institute for Housing and the Scottish Office; (2) outlining the content of the Draft which covered Standards for accommodation services for offenders; (3) advising that the Standards were divided into 3 sections, and (4) commenting on the draft as it affects North Lanarkshire.

Decided: that the Director of Social Work be authorised to respond to the Consultation Document in the terms outlined in the report.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES: ANNUAL PLANNING STATEMENT

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 August, 1998 by the Director of Social Work in respect of the Annual Planning Statement 1999/2000 for Social Work services in the Criminal Justice System (1) outlining the background to the statement; (2) advising of anticipated service levels in relation to offenders made subject of community based orders, offenders released from prison and all other services; (3) informing that this year's statement would only include basic details about outturns and trends in relation to core services, with a detailed 3 year plan being submitted to the Scottish Office in December 1998, and (4) indicating that the level of service had been costed at £1,994,447 compared to this year's grant allocation of £1,808,000.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the Planning Statement as outlined in the report be approved;
- (2) that the outcome of negotiations with the Scottish Office be reported to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee, and
- (3) that a more detailed 3 year strategic plan be reported to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES: SCOTTISH PRISON SERVICE - SUICIDE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 August, 1998 by the Director of Social work informing of the revised Suicide Risk Management Strategy recently introduced by the Scottish Prison Service (1) outlining the background to the revised strategy which had been produced as part of the process of ongoing review in the Scottish Prison Service; (2) intimating the key aims of the strategy; (3) advising that the 4 main issues addressed by the Strategy were Assessment, Care, Context and Team Work; (4) setting out the key principles involved in the implementation of the Strategy; (5) intimating that the revised strategy should be welcomed as it recognised the role of the Social Work Department in Suicide Risk Management, and (6) advising that the Suicide Risk Management strategy would be implemented with no additional cost to North Lanarkshire Council.

Decided: that the developments which has taken place in relation to Suicide Risk Management Strategy for the Scottish Prison Service be noted.

COMMUNITY CARE: APPROPRIATE ADULT SCHEME

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 August, 1998 by the Director of Social Work informing of the implementation of the Scottish Office Appropriate Adult Scheme in North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the establishment of an Appropriate Adult Scheme; (2) intimating that the Scottish Office had issued a circular on the Appropriate Adult Scheme encouraging the establishment of Schemes throughout Scotland and seeking periodic progress reports; (3) informing that a Steering Group had been set up to develop policy and consider the operational aspects of an

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Appropriate Adult Scheme, with the Strathclyde Police acting as lead agency in the initial stages; (4) informing that no new resources would be available for implementation of the scheme and that local agencies would require to agree joint funding from within existing resources, and (5) informing that training would be required of appropriate adults after recruitment to ensure consistency regarding philosophy and procedures.

Decided:

- (1) that the establishment of an Appropriate Adult Scheme in North Lanarkshire and the progress made to date be noted;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to advise the Scottish Office of the progress made to date, and
- (3) that a report be provided on the further progress of the scheme to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee.