

SOCIAL WORK – 24 November 1998

Motherwell, 24 November 1998 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor W. Martin, Convener; Councillors McElroy and Sullivan, Vice-Conveners; Councillors Chadha, Connelly, Coyle, Curley, Gordon, Heberton, Lunny, McAlorum, McCulloch, McKendrick, McLaughlin, Macleod, Maginnis, J. Martin, Murphy, S.V. Murray, Robertson, Ross, Saunders and Scott.

CHAIR

Councillor W. Martin (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Committee Services Officer, Director of Social Work, Head of Social Work and Development, Head of Social Work Resources, Head of Social Work Services, Development Manager and Accounting Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Beekman, Craig, Leitch, McCabe, J. McGuigan, Nolan, Russell, Shaw and Wallace.

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 10 November 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 11 November 1998.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be noted.

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

3. There were submitted reports dated 16 November 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 to 11 October 1998 and providing a comparison with the approved budget.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

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REMIT FROM EDUCATION COMMITTEE - MEETING THE CHILD CARE CHALLENGE

4. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 20 October 1998 when that Committee, *inter alia*, referred to this Committee for information a report dated 21 September 1998 by the Director of Education advising of the funding which had been made available by the Government in the current financial year to begin implementation of its National Child Care strategy as set out in the Green paper "Meeting the Childcare Challenge", there was submitted the report by the Director of Education thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT - SERVICE PLAN MONITORING REPORT

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 November 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising of the implementation of the Department Service Plan for 1998-2001 and setting out in the Appendix to the report details of the progress of the ten key strategic development tasks identified therein.

Decided: that the progress of the key strategic development tasks as detailed in the Appendix to the report be noted.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT'S - BEST VALUE PLAN

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated November 1998 advising of the progress which had been achieved to date on the Social Work's Department's Best Value Plan (1) intimating that in line with other Council Services Social Work was required to produce a Best Value Plan and proposals to compare its services and performance against other appropriate agencies; (2) informing that a requirement of the first year of the Plan was for the Director of Social Work to undertake a detailed study of Child Care Services; (3) indicating that the Department had been involved in other aspects of work associated with best value which covered a range of current services, and (4) setting out in the Appendix to the report details on the progress of the key development tasks identified in the Departmental Best Value Plan.

Decided: that the progress of the key development tasks as detailed in the Appendix to the report be noted.

MODERNISING COMMUNITY CARE - AN ACTION PLAN

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 November 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising of the publication of a Government Action Plan for Community Care entitled "Modernising Community Care - An Action Plan" proposing that community care be modernised and the need to improve joint working across all organisations; (1) intimating that statutory organisations by December 1999 will require to introduce new approaches to improve decision making and that this would be reflected in the new requirements for community care plans for 1999 and onwards; (2) detailing the areas that must have effective local structures in place and working by March 2000; (3) setting out details for caring for people at home and working together locally; (4) advising that the document deals with assuring quality and effectiveness and sets out the steps to be taken at a national level to improve the infrastructure for community care; (5) summarising the areas of the action plan on which views are sought; (6) indicating that the document has been circulated to Local Authorities, Health Boards and NHS Trusts and Scottish Homes with a covering statement to assist authorities in implementing the action plan and identifying £5 million in 1999/2000 to be made available to local authorities committed to taking forward the recommendations, and (7) intimating

that

the Scottish Office had requested a statement of commitment, in principle, by 19 November 1998 in order that allocations of the additional money could be included in next year's grant aided expenditure allocations.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report and the action plan be noted;
- (2) that the statement of commitment submitted by the Director of Social Work in consultation with the Conveners of Social Work and Housing Committees to meet the deadline of 19 November 1998 be homologated, and
- (3) that the implementation of the action plan be subject to further discussion with other agencies and reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING OF NURSING HOME AND RESIDENTIAL CARE PLACEMENTS FOR OLDER PEOPLE

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 November 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising of the issues concerning the management and funding of Nursing Home and Residential Care Placements for older people (1) outlining the background to the implementation of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990;(2) advising that funded placements in Nursing Home and Residential Care was currently 944 placements at a cost of over £9 million; (3) summarising in Section 4 of the report the main issues faced by the Social Work Department with regard to residential care placements which at present was funding the maximum number of people within the allocated budget; (4) intimating that the Social Work Department together with other Community Care Partners had identified one off monies and re-phased expenditure to create additional funding in the current financial year for Nursing Home and Residential Placements and that they would continue to work towards eliminating the waiting list for placements by the end of the financial year, and (5) indicating that the proposed action would seek to alleviate the serious problems facing the Council in placing older people within Nursing Homes and Residential Care Placements.

Decided:

- (1) that the issues concerning Nursing Home and Residential Care Placements be noted;
- (2) that the proposed action to eliminate waiting lists be approved, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work report to a future meeting of the Committee updating the position.

MENTAL HEALTH FRAMEWORKS - DRAFT STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

9. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 20 January 1998 when, inter alia, it was agreed that the Director of Social Work submit further reports on the implementation of the plans for mental health services in North Lanarkshire, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 November 1998 by the Director of Social Work setting out a draft strategy for developing mental health services in North Lanarkshire for submission to the Scottish Office (1) outlining the background to the draft strategy which was prepared by joint planning partners led by Lanarkshire Health Board to address the needs of people with mental health problems, including those with dementia and their carers; (2) enclosing as an Appendix to the report the draft strategy, and (3) advising that the document required to be submitted to the Scottish Office by 31

December 1998 and that, subject to Scottish Office approval, it was proposed to issue it for wider public consultation with a view to initial implementation in April 1999.

Decided:

- (1) that the submission of the strategy for developing mental health services in North Lanarkshire to the Scottish Office be approved, subject to final editing, and
- (2) that subject to Scottish Office approval the draft document thereafter be issued for a period of consultation.

EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTATIONS UPDATE

10. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 10 June 1997 when, inter alia, it had been agreed to approve new procedures for providing aids and adaptations, as recommended by a Joint Social Work/Housing Working Group, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 November 1998 by the Director of Social Work updating the progress being made on implementing the new procedures (1) advising that requests for adaptations to homes for disabled people and their carers had increased by 15% per year since 1990 as public awareness of community care had grown; (2) intimating the performance following implementation of the new procedures, and (3) detailing current developments and future considerations which may lead to other procedures being reviewed.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

MONITORING REPORT - INCOME MAXIMISATION BY WELFARE RIGHTS OFFICERS

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 November 1998 by the Director of Social Work informing of the positive work carried out by Welfare Rights Officers in tackling poverty in North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the key tasks carried out by the Council's twelve Welfare Rights Officers; (2) intimating that since January 1998 the Director of Social Work had monitored the work undertaken by Welfare Rights Officers; (3) detailing in Section 3 of the report the outcome of the monitoring returns for a 22 week period, and (4) advising that approximately £3.4 million had been generated in weekly benefits for residents in North Lanarkshire during the current financial year and £795,000 in lump sum backdated payments.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

HOME CARE REVIEW - CREATION OF AN OUT OF HOURS SERVICE AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT STRUCTURE

12. With reference to paragraph 11 of the meeting of this Committee held on 6 October 1998 when, inter alia, it was decided that further reports be brought forward to Committee on the proposed changes in (a) organisational structure of assessment and care management, and (b) the creation of an out of hours home care service, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 November 1998 by the Director of Social Work proposing the creation of an out of hours home support service and management support structure; (1) outlining the background to the Council's review of home care services; (2) detailing in Section 3 of the report the current position of home care services; (3) proposing that the intensive home care service, the out of hours home care service, the alert switchboard and the management of the alert mobile teams would be based in and managed from Merrystone House in Coatbridge; (4) intimating the staffing implications for the creation of the new services and the management of the Intensive Home Care Project; (5) indicating in Appendix 1 the cost of creating the management infrastructure which would be funded from savings arising from the rationalisation of various management elements of stand alone projects operating within the current system and from monies set aside in the Care Element Transfer to fund the implementation of the

home care review, and (6) advising that the proposed changes would ensure that the services are provided in a systematic and cost effective way, whilst providing a better quality for the client and in line with the current Government's objectives of creating more flexible home care services.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposals for the creation of an out of hours service be approved;
- (2) that the proposed changes to the structure as outlined in paragraph 5 of the report be approved, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee.

COMMUNITY CARE (DIRECT PAYMENTS) ACT 1996 - PILOT PROJECT IN COATBRIDGE - UPDATE REPORT

13. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 18 February 1998 when, inter alia it was agreed that the Director of Social Work be authorised to carry out a pilot project on a direct payment scheme within North Lanarkshire for a six month period at a full year cost of £60,000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 November 1998 by the Director of Social Work on the progress made in establishing the direct payments pilot project and seeking approval to authorise payments to Monklands Association of Voluntary Services (MAVS) to undertake the management of an audited payroll system and an employment support and advice service to users of the direct payments pilot project at a cost of £2,985 including £1,173 start up costs; (1) proposing (a) that the initial start up cost be paid to MAVS, with other project costs being paid monthly in arrears, and (b) that monthly payments be made in advance to MAVS in respect of wages to be paid to direct payment users employees, and (2) intimating that the project was one of only four direct payments pilot projects currently operational in Scotland and would assist in determining structures needed to successfully implement direct payments.

Decided:

- (1) that the appointment of MAVS as agents for the pilot project be approved;
- (2) that the start up and other costs of £2,985 for the pilot project be approved;
- (3) that approval be given for monthly payments in advance in respect of wages being made to MAVS, and
- (4) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report on the outcome of the pilot project to a future meeting of the Committee.

DRAFT SCOTTISH OFFICE GUIDANCE: PROTECTION OF THE FINANCES AND OTHER PROPERTY OF PEOPLE INCAPABLE OF MANAGING THEIR OWN AFFAIRS

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 November 1998 by the Director of Social Work setting out the Council's response to the draft Scottish Office Guidance on the protection of the finances and other property for people incapable of managing their own affairs (1) outlining the background to the draft guidance which sets out a comprehensive reform to current legislation; (2) setting out in the Appendix to the report the Council's response to the guidance which was drafted in consultation with the Director of Housing and the Head of Legal Services, and (3) advising that to meet the deadline of 11 November 1998, following consultation with the Convener, the response had been returned to the Scottish Office.

Decided:

- (1) that the comments set out in the Appendix to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the draft Scottish Office guidance on protection of the finances and other property for people incapable of managing their own affairs;
- (2) that the action taken to respond to the Scottish Office by the deadline be homologated, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Housing Committee for information.

MENTAL HEALTH OFFICER SURVEY

15. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 November 1998 by the Director of Social Work advising of the publication of a report by the Scottish Office Social Work Services Inspectorate detailing the results of a survey of Mental Health Officers (MHOs) in Scotland (1) outlining the background to the work of MHOs and to the legislation which affects their duties; (2) intimating that the survey addressed several areas of MHOs operation the most significant of which were deployment, workload, joint working with health and training; (3) setting out in Section 3 of the report the main findings of the survey and the current position within North Lanarkshire, and (4) advising that of all the conclusions the issue of significance for this Council was on-going training which would be pursued with health colleagues.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report and the mental health officers survey report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work following discussions with health care colleagues provide a further report on the future MHO training needs.

CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

16. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 October 1998 by the Director of Social Work setting out the Council's response to the Scottish Office Guidance on the introduction of Sex Offender Orders (1) outlining the background to the Crime and Disorder Act; (2) informing that the areas in the Act relevant to Scotland were Sex Offenders, Sex Offender Orders, Extended Supervision, Anti-Social Behaviour, Race Related Crime, Offending Associated with the Use of Drugs and Violent Offenders; (3) intimating that while dates for full implementation of the Act were not known at present, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders would be implemented from 1 April 1999; (4) advising that the Council would require to work in close co-operation with the police in relation to the provisions associated with Anti-Social Behaviour and Sex Offenders, and (5) setting out in the Appendix to the report the Council's comments on the Guidance on Sex Offender Orders.

Decided:

- (1) that the measures contained within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 be noted, and
 - (2) that the comments set out in the Appendix to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office on Guidance on Sex Offender Orders.
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CONFERENCES

(1) THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES "QUALITY PROTECTS"

17. There was considered an invitation from CAPITA Initiative to attend a conference entitled The Future of Children's Services "Quality Protects" which had been held in London on 29 October 1998.

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

(2) UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUES AND PRIORITIES IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES

18. There was considered an invitation from Lancaster University to attend a conference entitled "Understanding the Issues and Priorities in Children's Services" which had been held in Manchester on 30 October 1998.

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

(3) JOINED AT THE HImP

19. There was considered an invitation from the University of Birmingham to attend a conference entitled "Joined at the HImP" which had been held in Birmingham on 11-12 November 1998.

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

(4) SPECIAL CITIZENS

20. There was considered an invitation from Children in Scotland and Capability Scotland to attend a conference entitled "Special Citizens" which had been held in Glasgow on 23 November 1998.

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

(5) EXPLORING DEVELOPMENTAL DYSPRAXIA

21. There was considered an invitation from Children in Scotland to attend a conference entitled Exploring Developmental Dyspraxia to be held in Perth on 30 November 1998.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference be authorised.