

Motherwell, 19 January 1999 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor W. Martin, Convener; Councillors McElroy and Sullivan, Vice-Conveners; Councillors Carmichael, Chadha, Connelly, Cox, Coyle, Craig, Curley, Gordon, Hebenton, McAlorum, McCulloch, J. McGuigan, McLaughlin, Maginnis, J. Martin, Murphy, Robertson, Russell and Saunders.

CHAIR

Councillor W. Martin (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer, Director of Social Work, Head of Social Work Development, Head of Social Work Resources, Head of Social Work Services, Education Officer, Support for Learning and Accounting Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Beekman, Leitch, McCabe, McKendrick, Macleod, Nolan, Ross, Shaw, Smith 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 5 January 1999.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be approved subject to an apology being recorded on behalf of Councillor Chadha.

(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 6 January 1999.

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 11 December 1998.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be approved.

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

4. There were submitted reports dated 11 and 12 January 1999 by the Director of Finance advising of spending levels for the Department of Social Work and Sheltered Workshop for the period from 1 April to 6 December 1998 and providing a comparison with the approved budgets.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

REVENUE ESTIMATES 1999/2000 - BASE SUBMISSIONS FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT AND SHELTERED WORKSHOP

5. There were submitted reports (docketed) dated 22 December 1998 by the Director of Finance summarising the Base Revenue Estimates of the Department of Social Work and Sheltered Workshop for the financial year 1999/2000.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

NEW POLICY ON SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

6. With reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 1 December 1998 when that Committee, *inter alia*, had agreed that a comprehensive review of the current framework and context for the provision and delivery of services in respect of special educational needs be undertaken to take account of recent legislative and policy developments and to formulate a special educational needs policy and that the report be referred to this Committee for its interest, there was submitted the said report dated 8 November 1998 by the Director of Education thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE

7. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 3 December 1998 when that Committee, *inter alia*, agreed that all Service Committees be requested to include on their agenda from now until the Millennium an item headed "Year 2000 Compliance" in order that each Committee was fully aware of progress being made in this area, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 January 1999 by the Director of Social Work in relation to the action being taken to ensure that all Social Work Systems and Equipment were Year 2000 Compliant (1) intimating three areas where the Director of Social Work would require to take action to ensure that IT Systems were Year 2000 compliant; (2) advising of the current position in relation to computer software and hardware within the Department; (3) indicating that a survey of equipment with embedded chips was being undertaken to ensure it was Year 2000 compliant; (4) advising (a) that £217,000 would be required to upgrade IT Systems, and (b) that discussions were ongoing with the Director of Finance to ascertain whether resources were available from a Central Fund, and (5) indicating that the cost of replacing or upgrading equipment controlled by Micro Processors would be calculated once the survey of equipment had been completed.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and

- (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for information.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF SCOTTISH OFFICE ACTION PLANS FOR SOCIAL WORK:
IMPROVEMENT OF CHILD CARE SERVICES AND MODERNISING COMMUNITY CARE**

8. **C** There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 14 January 1999 by the Director of Social Work advising of the action which required to be taken in order to implement the Scottish Office Action Plans to improve child care services and modernise community care (1) outlining the background to the two Scottish Office initiatives which were launched as part of the Government's agenda for modernising social work services in Scotland; (2) indicating that the Scottish Office had made available for the whole country £5 million for modernising community care and £9.2 million for improving children's services and that the share for this Council is £303,000 and £667,000 respectively; (3) indicating the three areas which the Scottish Office had identified for the additional allocation for modernising community care and the amount of funding allocated; (4) intimating the areas identified for improvement in children's services and the amount of money allocated for each project, and (5) detailing in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 the Council's proposals for spending the additional allocations from the Scottish Office.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given in principle to the spending priorities for additional Social Work allocations for modernising community care and the children's services development fund as set out in the Appendices to the report;
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Housing and Education Committees for their interest;
- (3) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to submit detailed action plans to the Scottish Office following consultation with Lanarkshire Health Board and the Director of Education, and
- (4) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT SERVICE PLAN 1999 - 2002

9. With reference to paragraph 18 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 5 May 1998 when the revised guidelines for the production of Service Plans for 1999/2002 were approved, there were submitted (1) a report dated 22 December 1998 by the Chief Executive setting out the purpose and action required in respect of Service Plans, and (2) a report dated 6 January 1999 and the Service Plan for 1999-2002 (docketed) by the Director of Social Work as part of the Council's annual corporate planning process.

Decided:

- (1) that the Social Work Service Plan be noted;
- (2) that the strategic aims, objectives and priorities for the Social Work Department be endorsed, and
- (3) that the Service Plan be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for further consideration.

REVIEW OF IN-HOUSE RESIDENTIAL PROVISION FOR OLDER PEOPLE - PROGRESS REPORT

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated January 1999 by the Director of Social Work in relation to progress made in reviewing in-house residential provision for older people and seeking approval for the next stage of the review (1) outlining the background to the review of residential

homes run by the Council; (2) indicating that the key elements of the review were, a building audit, an analysis of costs, projection of future needs, an audit of independent sector resources, citizen consultation and the development of options; (3) intimating that to make further progress it would be necessary for public consultation to be undertaken with current and prospective users of the service and citizens of North Lanarkshire, and (4) advising that discussions were currently underway with Lanarkshire Health Board to jointly fund the consultation exercise at a total cost of £10,000.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in the review of in-house residential provision for older people be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to carry out a public consultation exercise at a maximum cost to the Council of £10,000 from the Community Care budget.

DEMAND FOR WINTER PERIOD PLACES ON ACUTE BEDS IN HOSPITALS - FUNDING PROPOSALS

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 January 1999 by the Director of Social Work advising of funding secured from Lanarkshire Health Board to ease the pressure on demand of the winter period places on acute beds in hospitals and seeking approval for the proposed use of that funding (1) outlining the background to the funding which the Scottish Office had made available to Lanarkshire Health Board; (2) intimating that the Health Board had invited bids from the Council for £300,000 of the funding, and (3) informing that the Council had been successful in securing £300,000 which was divided equally between proposals for residential and nursing home placements and occupational therapy equipment and adaptations.

Decided:

- (1) that the funding made available by Lanarkshire Health Board under the Winter Bed Pressures Initiative be noted, and
- (2) that the proposal (a) to use £150,000 of the funding to reduce waiting lists for placements in nursing homes and independent sector residential care homes be approved, and (b) to utilise to utilise £150,000 for the occupational therapy aids and adaptation service be approved.

THE FUTURE OF ALERT COMMUNITY ALARM SERVICE - CREATION OF A NORTH LANARKSHIRE CENTRAL CONTROL CENTRE AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT STRUCTURE

12. **C** With reference to the Minute of the meeting of this Committee of 10 June 1997 when it was agreed inter alia to establish a joint service review group to consider departmental responsibility regarding the service, control centre options and charging policy, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated January 1999 by the Director of Social Work in relation to the proposed creation of a North Lanarkshire Alert Community Alarm Service and proposing that the Council should consider the creation of a North Lanarkshire Alert Community Alarm Service; (1) advising of the proposed operational arrangements for the Service; (2) indicating that the initial set up costs of a Management System would require a capital cost of £64,000 approximately; (3) detailing the personnel implications of the proposals, and (4) setting out in Appendices 2 and 3 of the report the financial implications of the Alert Community Alarm Service.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposal for the creation of a North Lanarkshire Alert Control Centre be approved;
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- (2) that the proposals for the management system and the posts identified in Section 5.2 of the report be approved and that the capital cost of approximately £64,000 for the initial set up of the Management System be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval;
- (3) that approval be given for officers to enter into negotiations with South Lanarkshire Council in order to ensure an orderly handover, and
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for consideration.

INFORMATION SERVICES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

13. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated January 1999 setting out the proposals for the development of a new baseline information service for people with disabilities in North Lanarkshire (1) detailing the current position in relation to information services within North Lanarkshire; (2) indicating that there was a need for high quality, accurate and up-to-date information on all aspects of disability to cover all areas of North Lanarkshire with staff working in partnership with the voluntary sector to build on areas with previous good practice in line with the national strategy; (3) outlining the proposals for setting up the service at an estimated cost of £40,000 which would be recovered from existing care element transfer resources, and (4) detailing in Section 7 of the report the personnel implications of setting up the service.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposals for the development of a new baseline information service for people with disabilities in North Lanarkshire as detailed in the report be approved;
- (2) that the establishment of two Disability Information Officer posts, graded AP3, at a total annual cost of £40,000 be approved, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for consideration.

CONFERENCES

14. There were considered invitations from
- (1) COSLA to attend a conference entitled "Cracking the Childcare Challenge Partnerships Not Conflict" which had been held in Edinburgh on 4 December 1998;
 - (2) COSLA to attend a conference entitled "Best for the Child" which had been held in Edinburgh on 18 January 1998;
 - (3) BT Scotland to attend a conference entitled "The Big Issue in Scotland Childcare Seminar" to be held in Glasgow on 28 January 1999;
 - (4) the Association of Directors of Social Work to attend a conference entitled "Sex Offenders Conference" to be held in Dunblane on 22 February 1999;
 - (5) the Association of Directors of Social Work to attend a conference entitled "Working Together for Health in Scotland" to be held in Perth on 12 March 1999, and
 - (6) the Association of Directors of Social Work to attend a conference entitled "Association of Directors of Social Work Annual Conference" to be held in Dunblane from 13 to 16 April 1999.
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Councillor W. Martin, seconded by Councillor Sullivan, moved that the Convener be authorised to attend the “Sex Offenders Conference”, Councillor Curley be authorised to attend the “Working Together for Health in Scotland” conference, Councillor Sullivan be authorised to attend the “Association of Directors of Social Work Annual Conference”, and that no attendance be authorised at the other conferences.

Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor McAlorum, moved as an amendment that no attendance at the conferences/seminars be authorised.

On a vote taken 5 Members voted for the amendment and 14 Members for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that no attendance at the “Cracking the Childcare Challenge Partnership Not Conflict” conference had been authorised;
- (2) that it be noted that no attendance at the “Best for the Child” conference had been authorised;
- (3) that no attendance at “The Big Issue in Scotland Childcare Seminar” be authorised;
- (4) that the Convener be authorised to attend the “Sex Offenders Conference”;
- (5) that Councillor Curley be authorised to attend the “Working Together for Health in Scotland” conference, and
- (6) that Councillor Sullivan be authorised to attend the “Association of Directors of Social Work Annual Conference”.