

Motherwell, 2 March 1999 at 11.20 am.

An Adjourned Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor W. Martin, Convener; Councillors McElroy and Sullivan, Vice-Conveners; Councillors Beekman, Chadha, Connelly, Cox, Coyle, Craig, Gordon, Heberton, Lunny, McCulloch, J. McGuigan, McLaughlin, Macleod, Maginnis, Murphy, M. Murray, S.V. Murray, Nolan, Robertson, Scott and Shaw.

CHAIR

Councillor W. Martin (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

Councillors Curley, Leitch, McAlorum, McCabe, McKendrick, Ross 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 16 February 1999.

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 17 February 1999.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be approved.

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

3. There were submitted reports dated 17 February 1999 by Director of Finance advising of the spending levels for the Department of Social Work and Sheltered Workshops for the period from 1 April 1998 to 31 January 1999 and providing a comparison with the approved budgets.

Decided: that the terms of the reports be noted.

YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE - EMBEDDED CHIP INVESTIGATIONS

4. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 January 1999, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 February 1999 by the Director of Social Work in relation to the progress made in identifying problems arising from the potential failure of control systems with embedded chips at the start of year 2000; (1) intimating that within the Department's operational settings, there was a wide range of equipment controlled by embedded chips; (2) outlining that following consultation with the Head of IT Services, a Survey Form was sent to all Social Work Units in December to be followed up by site visits; (3) detailing progress made to date in identifying problems in equipment controlled by embedded chips; (4) informing that to date heating systems at Herbison House, Shotts and Meadowside, Airdrie had been identified as not being compliant and would fail at the start of year 2000; (5) indicating that potential problems would be investigated at Hallcraig Day Care Centre, Airdrie and Buchanan Centre, Coatbridge, and (6) advising that the cost of replacing heating control systems would be approximately £3,000 per unit.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to establish a programme for the replacement of control systems as may be required.

BUDGET REALIGNMENT 1998/99 - SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

5. With reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of the meeting of the Personnel Services Committee held on 28 January 1999 when, inter alia, approval was given to the transfer of the expenditure and income budget in relation to the Supported Employment Programme from the Personnel Services Division of the Department of Administration to the Department of Social Work with effect from 1 April 1998, there was submitted the said report dated 15 January 1999 by the Head of Personnel Services thereon.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL CHILDCARE PARTNERSHIP (LCP)

6. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 26 January 1999 when, inter alia, that Committee noted the action taken to progress the audit of Childcare Services, the provision of a Childcare Information Service and the establishment of a Local Childcare Partnership and remitted the report to this Committee for its interest, there was submitted the said report dated 22 February 1999 by the Director of Education thereon.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE: A NEW POLICY AND FUNDING FRAMEWORK FOR SUPPORT SERVICES

7. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing Committee held on 27 January 1999 when the Government's proposal to rationalise the funding of Support Services was noted and it was agreed that the Director of Administration respond to the consultation document following full consideration of the proposals by the Directors of Housing and Social Work, there was submitted the said report by the Directors of Housing and Social Work thereon.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

8. With reference to paragraph 31 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 2 February 1999 when that Committee, *inter alia*, referred to this Committee, for its information, a report dated 22 January 1999 by the Chief Executive in respect of the submission to the Scottish Office of a funding bid for the establishment of a pilot project for a New Community School based at Castlehill Primary School, Wishaw, there was submitted the said report by the Chief Executive thereon.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 February 1999 by the Director of Social Work in relation to the review of services for people with learning disabilities undertaken by the Scottish Office; (1) detailing in Section 3 of the report the purpose and content of the review, and (2) intimating that following agreement with the Joint Planning Partners a joint response was submitted to the Scottish Office on behalf of partner agencies.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) that the submission to the Scottish Office as set out in the Appendix to the report in response to the review of services for people with learning disabilities by the Joint Planning Partners be noted, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Housing Committee for information.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT - SERVICE PLAN MONITORING REPORT

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated February 1999 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.

CHARTER MARK AWARD

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 February 1999 by the Director of Social Work advising that Burngreen Lodge Residential Home in Kilsyth had been awarded a Charter Mark Award (1) outlining the background to the Department's involvement with Charter Mark Award; (2) detailing the criteria required for achieving Charter Mark, and (3) intimating that the Department's Cumbernauld Area Team used Charter Mark as an effective tool for improving services.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARER RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN - LAUNCH 15 FEBRUARY 1999

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 16 February 1999 by the Director of Social Work in relation to the launch of a National Foster Care Recruitment Campaign on 15 February 1999 (1) outlining the background to and content of the recruitment campaign; (2) setting out details of North Lanarkshire Council's recruitment campaign; (3) advising that a joint advertising venture had been undertaken with South Lanarkshire Council; (4) intimating that the cost of the national campaign was £100,000 and would be funded by the Scottish Office on the basis that each local authority was committed to ensuring that a local response was available to all enquiries, which could be met at no additional financial costs to the Council, and (5) indicating that the Council welcomes the launch of the recruitment campaign in response to the current shortfall in foster care resources within the authority area.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

JOINT REGULATION WORK INVOLVING NORTH LANARKSHIRE AND SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCILS' SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENTS AND LANARKSHIRE HEALTH BOARD

13. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 February 1999 by the Director of Social Work in relation to the joint initiative between this Council, South Lanarkshire Council and Lanarkshire Health Board to develop more effective joint working arrangements in the regulation of residential care establishment and nursing homes (1) outlining the background to, and the potential of, joint inspection arrangements being developed between Local Authorities and Health Boards; (2) indicating that a Working Group had been set up to consider how joint working might be improved pending the outcome of expected legislation; (3) detailing the areas which were currently under consideration; (4) intimating that an initial audit of roles, responsibilities and resources across all three agencies had been carried out together with an examination of joint models currently in operation in Scotland, and (5) informing that the Working Group would conclude its findings at the end of March 1999.

Decided:

- (1) that the joint initiative with South Lanarkshire Council and Lanarkshire Health Board to develop more effective joint working arrangements be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work report to a future meeting of the Committee on the outcome of the initiative.

CLOSURE OF LENNOX CASTLE HOSPITAL

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 February 1999 by the Director of Social Work in relation to the request from Greater Glasgow Health Board to close Lennox Castle Hospital (1) advising that this Council had responsibility for delivering 1.8% of the discharge programme from Lennox Castle Hospital; (2) intimating that the Council has agreed a level of resource transfer for the proportion of the discharge programme; (3) detailing the criteria which have to be met before there can be any reduction in hospital bed places, and (4) intimating that the Secretary of State has confirmed in writing to Greater Glasgow Health Board the closure of Lennox Castle Hospital and has subsequently notified all local authorities accordingly.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work continue to have an input into the closure programme for Lennox Castle Hospital on the basis of the conditions outlined in paragraph 2.3 of the report.

REDUNDANCY SUPPORT PACK

15. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 February 1999 by the Director of Social Work in relation to the production of a redundancy support pack which would represent a key element of the Council's corporate approach to providing advice and assistance to local people who have been made redundant or were facing redundancy (1) outlining the background to the protocol adopted by the Council in response to a recent spate of redundancies in North Lanarkshire; (2) detailing in Section 3 of the report the content of the redundancy support pack; (3) intimating that the support pack would be distributed by the Council in the course of working with local companies and workforces, and also to the public through Council offices, partner organisations and selected public information points, and (4) informing that an initial print run of 3,000 copies would be required with the printing and publication costs being met by the Economic Development Unit of the Planning and Development Department.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Council's corporate response to mass redundancies, company closures and receiverships in North Lanarkshire be noted.

ST. PHILIP'S SCHOOL, PLAINS - MAINTENANCE RATE 1998/99

16. There was submitted a report dated 23 February 1999 by the Director of Social Work regarding the setting of a maintenance rate for St. Philip's School, Plains for 1998/99 (1) outlining the background work undertaken at St. Philip's School; (2) intimating that in discussions the organisation had been unwilling to provide full financial information, therefore requiring further negotiation, and (3) proposing that an interim rate be set to reflect the national pay award in 1998/99, as detailed below:-

Name of Organisation	Current Rate per Week £	New Rate per Week £	Effective Date
St. Philip's School, Plains	1,085	1,109	1 April 1998

Decided: that the proposed interim maintenance rate, as detailed within the report be approved.

CONFERENCES

(1) THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS: DELIVERING BEST VALUE IN COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES THROUGH VOLUNTARY/STATUTORY PARTNERSHIPS

17. There was submitted an invitation from the Scottish Local Government Information Unit to attend a conference entitled "The Best of Both Worlds: Delivering Best Value in Community Care Services Through Voluntary/Statutory Partnerships" which had been held in Glasgow on 18 February 1999.

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

(2) HEALTH ACTION ZONES CHALLENGES, PROGRESS AND THE FUTURE

18. There was considered an invitation from the Health Care Medical Journal to attend a conference entitled "Health Action Zones Challenges, Progress and the Future" which had been held in London on 24 February 1999.

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

(3) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE: EXTENDING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR ROLE

19. There was considered an invitation from Tulip to attend a conference entitled "Mental Health Service: Extending the Voluntary Sector Role" which had been held in London on 1 March 1999.

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

(4) CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY - SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SCOTTISH SERVICES

20. There was considered an invitation from Children in Scotland to attend a conference entitled "Child and Family Policy - Shaping the Future of Scottish Services" to be held in Edinburgh on 19 March 1999.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

(5) CARE AND REPAIR FORUM CONFERENCE

21. There was considered an invitation from Big Bright Star to attend a conference entitled "Care and Repair Forum Conference" to be held in Perth on 9 April 1999.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference be authorised.