

EXCERPT OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE HELD ON
9 MARCH 1999

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK BUDGET TO FIND
PLACEMENTS AT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE**

17. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 22 February 1999 by the Director of Education (1) setting out proposals for the establishment of a joint Education and Social Work budget to fund residential school placements for vulnerable young people; (2) seeking authorisation for the transfer of an appropriate level of funds from the Education budget to the joint Education and Social Work budget for 1999/2000 and future years; (3) advising that budget monitoring reports be submitted to the Education and Social Work Committees at regular intervals, and (4) intimating that the funding would be made available to a joint consultative group comprising staff from both Departments for the purpose of recommending the placement of vulnerable young people in residential schools appropriate to their individual needs.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposal for the establishment of a joint Education and Social Work budget to fund residential school placements for vulnerable young people, as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, be approved;
- (2) that the Director of Education be authorised to transfer an appropriate level of funds from the budget of the Department of Education to the Joint Education and Social Work budget in 1999/2000 and future years, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Finance and Social Work Committees for consideration.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: Education Committee	Subject: Joint Education/Social Work Funding of Residential Schooling
From: Director of Education	
Date: 22 February 1999	
Ref: JMcG/LA	

Purpose of Report

This report advises committee of the proposal to create a mechanism and a process by which education and social work will jointly fund residential school placements for vulnerable North Lanarkshire youngsters whose needs require this.

Recommendations

The education committee is asked:

- (i) to note the contents of the report and to approve the proposals outlined
- (ii) to refer the matter to the social work and finance committees for their approval
- (iii) thereafter to authorise the director of education to take the necessary steps to implement the proposals in section 2.

Michael O'Neill

Members wishing further information about the paper should contact:

Michael O'Neill, Director of Education, on 01236 812337, or
Jim McGuinness, Head of Support for Learning, on 01236 812280.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL : DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Joint Education/Social Work Funding of Residential Schooling

Report by Director

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Since the inception of the council in April 1996, arrangements have been in place to allow education and social work to jointly identify residential school placements for young people whose needs required such provision.
- 1.2 A *Joint Consultative Group*, involving professional staff from both departments, currently approves such placements and identifies the specific school appropriate to the individual case. Subject to formal approval at senior manager level within both departments, each placement is then part-funded separately by each department.
- 1.3 This mechanism has proved highly effective in encouraging positive joint working and in avoiding potential conflict over departmental professional and financial responsibility at individual case level as well as achieving the best possible outcomes for the young people concerned.
- 1.4 The advent of the Children (Scotland) Act and the resultant development of the authority's *Children's Service Plans* has given new impetus to the requirement that all departments within the council operate co-operatively and corporately at both a strategic and operational level.
- 1.5 As a result, both education and social work wish to create a more corporate process for funding such placements; one which - apart from its efficiency and effectiveness - highlights by its structure this corporate responsibility and accountability.
- 1.6 The measures proposed will place North Lanarkshire at the forefront of truly joint developments in the interests of its children and young people.

2 PROPOSALS

- 2.1 It is proposed that a joint education/social work budget be established, managed by Social Work, into which both education and social work will transfer appropriate funding to allow placement decisions to be made.
- 2.2 The resultant funding would be available to the *Joint Consultative Group* so that residential school placements can be made as appropriate, subject to senior management approval. In the event of a placement terminating, the allotted funding should be retained in the joint fund to support further collaborative developments.
- 2.3 That both departments be authorised to transfer further funds as deemed appropriate to this joint budget.
- 2.4 That budget monitoring reports be presented at regular intervals to both education and social work committees.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The education committee is asked:
- (i) to note the contents of the report and to approve the proposals outlined in section 2.

- (ii) to refer the matter to the social work and finance committees for their approval.
- (iii) thereafter to authorise the director of education to take the necessary steps to implement the proposals.

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