

Motherwell, 18 January 2000 at 2 pm.

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

PRESENT

Councillor Selfridge, Convener; Councillors Cassidy, Cox, Curley, Gorman, Irvine, McLaughlin and Morris.

CHAIR

Councillor Selfridge (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

Councillors Chadha, Coyle, H. McGuigan, Ross, Shaw and Valentine.

COSLA DRAFT GUIDANCE ON FOSTER CARE

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated December 1999 by the Director of Social Work advising of the response which had been submitted by the Council to COSLA on the Draft Guidance on Foster Care (1) outlining the background to and the content of the Guidance; (2) detailing the current position in North Lanarkshire with regard to foster care; (3) indicating that should the draft guidance be implemented in full there would be financial and resource implications for the Council, and (4) setting out in the Appendix to the report the Council's response to the draft Guidance.

Decided:

- (1) that the action taken by the Director of Administration to advise COSLA of the Council's comments on the Draft Guidance on Foster Care be noted, and
- (2) that reports on any financial and resource implications arising from the implementation of guidance on foster care standards and other issues arising from the final report be submitted to future meetings of the Sub-Committee.

OCCUPANCY RATES IN RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING HOMES

2. There was submitted a report dated January 2000 by the Director of Social Work advising of comparative statistical information from the Scottish Executive showing occupancy rates per Council area for Local Authority Residential Homes, Independent Sector Residential Homes and Nursing Homes (1) outlining the background to the implementation of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 which empowered local authorities with a wide range of responsibilities and required local authorities to assess and arrange services to meet the community care needs of individuals; (2) advising that in April 1996 there were 550 funded placements in residential care and nursing homes at a cost of £5 million per annum; (3) intimating (a) as at December 1999, the Council had used care element transfer monies to increase the amount of placements to 1,026 at a cost of almost £10 million per annum, and (b) that the Council directly provided care for 387 people in its own residential care establishments; (4) outlining the work undertaken by the Council in the field of

SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB – 18 January 2000

Community Care, and (5) informing that occupancy rates achieved by the Council in all three types of establishment were higher than the national average in 1998/99.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES: SURVEY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADDICTION SERVICES RELATED TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

3. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 9 November 1999 when, *inter alia*, proposals for the spending of grant to supplement services in the Criminal Justice System for the current financial year were approved, subject to the approval of the Scottish Executive, there was submitted a report dated 7 January 2000 seeking approval to commission research from the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health (1) outlining the background to the research into proposals for development in the field of addiction services; (2) intimating that the cost of the research of £20,000 would be shared equally between North and South Lanarkshire Councils, and (3) advising that following consideration of five Organisations, the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health was considered the most competent organisation to undertake the research.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given for the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health to undertake the research, and
- (2) that the outcome of the research and proposals for the development of services be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

SURVEY OF SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF OLDER PEOPLE IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

4. There was submitted a report dated January 2000 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to commission Hamilton Associates to undertake a public consultation survey of social care and health care needs of older people in North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the survey; (2) detailing the specification for the survey which had been agreed between the Council and Lanarkshire Health Board; (3) advising that following careful consideration of three bids, Hamilton Associates were considered the most competent organisation to undertake the research, and (4) intimating that the cost of the survey of £20,000 would be split equally between the Council and Lanarkshire Health Board.

Decided:

- (1) that Hamilton Associates be authorised to undertake the public consultation survey of social care and health care needs of older people in North Lanarkshire, and
- (2) that the outcome of the public consultation survey be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

THE BEATTIE COMMITTEE: IMPLEMENTING INCLUSIVENESS

5. With reference to paragraph 20 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Inclusion Committee held on 25 November 1999 when, *inter alia*, that Committee authorised the Director of Administration to submit the Council's formal response to Scottish Executive and remitted the matter to this Sub-Committee for

SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB – 18 January 2000

its interest, there was submitted a report dated 10 November 1999 by the Director of Education thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.