

Motherwell, 25 January 2000 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor H. McGuigan, Convener; Councillors Selfridge and Sullivan, Vice-Conveners; Councillors Chadha, Cox, Curley, Gordon, Gorman, Irvine, Jones, Love, Lunny, McKinlay, McLaughlin, Morris, Saunders, Shields and Valentine.

CHAIR

Councillor H. McGuigan (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, Principal Officer, Planning and Development, Education Officer, Support for Learning, Depute General Manager, Construction Services and Accounting Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors McCabe, McElroy, J. McGuigan, McKendrick, Robertson, Ross and Shaw.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

(1) MINUTE OF MEETING OF 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 11 January 2000.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be approved.

(2) MINUTE OF MEETING OF 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 18 January 2000.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be approved.

REVENUE ESTIMATES 1999/2000 - FINANCIAL MONITORING STATEMENT FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT AND SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT

3. There were submitted reports dated 28 and 29 December 1999 by the Director of Social Work advising of Department spending levels for respectively the Department of Social Work and Sheltered Employment for the period from 1 April to 5 December 1999 and providing a comparison with the approved budget.

Decided: that the terms of the reports be noted.

COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1999/2000 MONITORING REPORT - 1 APRIL TO 5 DECEMBER 1999

4. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 23 November 1999 when the financial position of the Capital Programme for the Social Work Department was noted, there was submitted a report dated 12 January 2000 by the Director of Social Work (1) regarding the current progress being made on individual projects included in the Capital Programme as at 5 December 1999; (2) advising that the approved Capital Programme for the financial year 1999/2000 which amounted to £962,000 had been subsequently enhanced by £50,000 as a result of funding from the Health Board for the alterations at Stewarton House, Wishaw, and (3) intimating that expenditure and commitments against approved budget amounted to £504,000 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Decided: that the progress of the Capital Programme for the Social Work Department as at 5 December 1999 be noted.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT MILLENNIUM CONTINGENCY PLANS - UPDATE

5. With reference to paragraph 17 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 23 November 1999 when, it was agreed that the Director of Social Work would report to a future meeting of the Committee on the level of service maintained for users of Social Work Services over the millennium holiday period, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated January 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the outcome of the Social Work Department Contingency Plans over the millennium holiday period (1) advising that following an audit of embedded chip equipment there were no reported system failures in any of the Department's offices or establishments; (2) indicating that arrangements had been made for a small team of staff at Merrystone Centre, Coatbridge to supplement the West of Scotland Standby Service, and (3) intimating that the team dealt with approximately 32 referrals and a further 45 home care referrals from existing clients, with no disruption to service provision over the millennium holiday period.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work on behalf of the Social Work Committee convey thanks to all staff who had worked in the Merrystone Centre, Coatbridge over the millennium holiday period.

POLICY ON "LOOKING FORWARD: RESPONDING TO CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND INDIVIDUAL EDUCATIONAL NEED"

6. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 30 November 1999 when, *inter alia*, that Committee had approved the policy "Looking Forward: Responding to Children's Rights and Individual Educational Need" and remitted the report to this Committee for its interest, there was submitted the said report dated 10 November 1999 by the Directors of Community Services and Education thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

CONTRACT - 167/169 LOMOND ROAD, COATBRIDGE - DILAPIDATION

7. With reference to paragraph 22 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 August 1999 when the report submitted by the Acting Director of Construction Services regarding the reinstatement of property at 167/169 Lomond Road, Coatbridge was approved and the Director of Administration was authorised to accept the tender from Alistair Burnett & Company Limited, Coatbridge in the sum of £43,856.63, there was submitted a report dated 13 January 2000 by the General Manager, Construction Services (1) indicating that Building Warrant and Planning Applications had been made in May 1999 and following initial observations from the Building Control Manager in June revisions to the specification of the contract were required; (2) advising that following a revised application being submitted on 7 September 1999 a Building Warrant was granted on 12 November 1999; (3) intimating that following negotiations with the three lowest tenderers to incorporate the additional works Alistair Burnett & Company Limited, Coatbridge were unable to maintain their original rates; (4) advising that the lowest tender for the contract for reinstatement of property at 167/169 Lomond Road, Coatbridge, was now that of A. Cooper & Sons, Cumbernauld in the corrected amount of £51,574.46, and (5) proposing that that tender be accepted.

The Convener orally advised the Committee that further investigation was required and requested that the Director of Administration in consultation with the Convener be authorised to undertake the investigation and in the event of the alternative proposal being unacceptable, that the delegated powers available for the acceptance of contracts by the Director of Administration in consultation with the Convener be exercised.

Decided: that the Director of Administration in consultation with the Convener investigate, as an alternative, the demolition of the property at 167/169 Lomond Road, Coatbridge and in the event that this was not a feasible option the Director of Administration, in consultation with the Convener be authorised to accept the tender from A. Cooper & Sons, Cumbernauld in the sum of £51,574.46 for the reinstatement of the property.

AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE - REGULATION OF WORKFORCE

8. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 June 1999 when it was agreed that more detailed reports on the White Paper "Aiming for Excellence", be submitted to future meetings of the Committee for consideration, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 January 2000 by the Director of Social Work (1) intimating that the Scottish Executive proposed to create a Scottish Social Services Council which would be responsible for registering staff in certain key groups as a pre-condition to employment; (2) setting out the key functions of the Scottish Social Services Council; (3) providing details of the Groups of staff who would be involved in the introduction of registration of staff employed in Social Services; (4) advising that the Scottish Social Services Council would be empowered to designate mandatory qualifications for certain occupations and would publish Codes of Conduct for all staff, and (5) advising that there would be training implications for staff in residential child care, and significant financial implications in the proposed legislation for local authorities.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted;
- (2) that further reports on the resource implications and training requirements arising from the proposed legislation be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for its interest.

HOME CARE CHARGES

9. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the Special meeting of this Committee held on 5 March 1998 when, *inter alia*, the Home Care Charging Policy for 1998/99 was approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) by the Director of Social Work recommending amendments to the existing home care charging policy (1) setting out the background to the policy and the proposed charge arrangements as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; (2) outlining the charging system as set out in Appendixes 2 and 3 of the report; (3) indicating the issues surrounding the recovery of charges, and (4) concluding (a) that the home care service is subject to variation in numbers and the application of charges from the date of benefit rather than date of award both of which contribute towards the under recovery of income; (b) that new procedures have been designed and issued to staff to improve income maximisation and recovery of charges, and (c) that there is a requirement to introduce a client mandate to improve access with external agencies.

Decided:

- (1) that the recommendations as detailed within the report be approved, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to introduce the application of charges as proposed in the report.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CENTRAL RESEARCH UNIT REPORT: "IF YOU DON'T ASK YOU DON'T GET" - REVIEW OF SERVICES TO PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated December 1999 by the Director of Social Work advising of the content of the Scottish Executive Central Research Unit Review of Services to People with Learning Disabilities - "If You Don't Ask You Don't Get" (1) outlining the background to the Review which consulted both users and providers of services to people with learning disabilities; (2) setting out the main findings of the Review which had focused on seven main topics, and (3) indicating that the Council had been embarking on a major programme of development activity which had resulted in increasingly diversified housing and support options and that a range of employment options and citizen advocacy services were currently being developed in line with the findings.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee when the Scottish Executive Review of Learning Disabilities Services was complete.

SECTION 10 FUNDING

11. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 30 March 1999 it had been agreed (1) that the funding recommendations for Section 10 grants set out in the Schedule to the report be approved and that the Director of Social Work be authorised to make appropriate payments subject to monitoring requirements being satisfied, and (2) the Director of Social Work bring forward a further report (a) following the outcome of a review of the Women's Aid Organisations, and (b) when the Community and Voluntary Organisations Council's (CAVOC) lottery application had been determined, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated December 1999 by the Director of Social Work regarding the allocation of the balance of the Section 10 grant budget of £55,589 (A) indicating the outcome of the review of Women's Aid in North Lanarkshire, the success of the application for lottery funding by CAVOC and that services from the Community Service Volunteers Give and Take Project would be purchased on a contractual basis; (B) setting out in the Schedule to the report the proposals for providing or increasing Section 10 grant amounting in total to

£8,850 to 10 organisations; (C) intimating that following the review of Women's Aid Services in North Lanarkshire it was proposed to increase funding by £4,565 to Women's Aid Organisations, and (D) recommending that the balance of £42,174 of the Section 10 funding be set aside to fund the development of a Carers Network in North Lanarkshire.

Decided:

- (1) that the funding recommendations set out in the Schedule to the report be approved and that the Director of Social Work be authorised to make appropriate payment subject to monitoring requirements being satisfied, and
- (2) that the balance of the Section 10 funding of £42,174 be set aside to fund the development of a Carers Network in North Lanarkshire and that the Director of Social Work submit to a future meeting of the Committee, details of the nature and cost of services which will be developed.

STRATEGY FOR CARERS IN SCOTLAND

12. With reference to the previous paragraph of this minute when, *inter alia*, it was agreed that £42,174 be set aside to fund the development of a Carers Network in North Lanarkshire, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 January 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the "Strategy for Carers in Scotland" produced by the Scottish Executive and seeking approval to fund the development of a carers network in North Lanarkshire (1) setting out the priorities of the strategy which had been produced following consultation with carers' organisations; (2) intimating that all local authorities are now required to report in detail through Joint Community Care Plans and annual reviews on the use of resources allocated to them for carer services; (3) advising that the Scottish Executive expected the strategy to lead to an increase in the provision of services to carers; (4) informing that the Scottish Executive had announced that for the year 2001 there was £10m of grant aided expenditure (GAE) identified for carers services, and (5) recommending funding of £42,174 which had been identified through Section 10 funding be set aside to develop and establish a Carer's Network in North Lanarkshire.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposals to establish a Carers Network in North Lanarkshire be approved, and
- (2) that the allocation of £42,174 from the Section 10 budget for the purpose of establishing a Carer's Network in North Lanarkshire be approved.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE

13. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated December 1999 by the Director of Social Work regarding a new scheme of Transitional Housing Benefit which would be introduced from April 2000 to fund support services (1) intimating that the Transitional Housing Benefit scheme would become the main source of funding through the benefit system for charges for support services; (2) advising that the new scheme would broadly meet the same support services covered by the current housing benefit regulations, and (3) advising that the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work had begun the corporate task of identifying all properties which would fall within the criteria.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

LANARKSHIRE DRUG SERVICE

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated December 1999 by the Director of Social Work regarding an offer from Lanarkshire Drug Service to provide a half day seminar for Members and Officers of the Council on the operational work of the Lanarkshire Drug Service (1) outlining the background to Lanarkshire Drug Service which has been operational since 1998; (2) advising that the briefing session would cover the range and extent of the work undertaken by the service, and (3) intimating that the location and date of the seminar would be arranged to suit the members of the Council and that the seminar would not result in the Council incurring any expenditure.

Decided:

- (1) that the offer made by Lanarkshire Drug Service to convene a half day seminar on the work and operation of their service be accepted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to arrange, in consultation with Lanarkshire Drug Service, a suitable time and location for the seminar.

SCOTTISH PRISON SERVICE - CLOSURE OF LONGRIGGEND REMAND UNIT

15. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 December 1999 by the Director of Social Work regarding the closure of Longriggend Remand Unit at the end of March 2000 (1) outlining that the Unit provides accommodation for those under 21 who are remanded to prison by Court; (2) advising that following the closure of the unit young people Under 16 would be located at Polmont Young Offenders Institution, and those aged between 16 and 21 would be located at a refurbished wing in Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow; (3) intimating that the Social Work Services at Longriggend Remand Unit are purchased directly by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) with no cost to the Council; (4) informing that the SPS are required to give 12 months notice of any proposed change for staffing to minimise any adverse affects the closure may have and that on this occasion the SPS on giving only 5 months notice had failed to meet the requirement, and (5) intimating that arrangements were required to relocate Social Work staff to suitable alternative posts within the department and that further discussions would be held with the SPS concerning the financial impact on the Council.

Decided:

- (1) that the closure of Longriggend Remand Unit, Airdrie and the failure of the SPS to adhere to the agreement on the notice for such proposals be noted with concern;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work seek clarification on the proposal for the use of Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow for 16-21 year old men;
- (3) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to put in place arrangements to find alternative posts for the Social Work staff within the terms laid down in the Council's Redeployment Policy;
- (4) that the Director of Social Work enter into negotiations with the SPS concerning the financial impact to the Council following the closure of the Unit;
- (5) that the Director of Social Work raise with the Director of Planning and Environment the issues surrounding the economic impact the closure will have on the community, and
- (6) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for its interest.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM - ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE DELIVERY OF SERVICES

16. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 6 January 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the announcement by the Scottish Executive Minister for Justice on the arrangements for the future delivery of Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice system (1) outlining the background to the future of Criminal Justice services which have been uncertain since the publication of the consultation document "The Tough Option"; (2) advising that the Council, along with other local authorities, ADSW and COSLA had indicated in response that Criminal Justice services should remain integrated within the range of other services provided by local authorities; (3) indicating that the Minister for Justice had announced that Criminal Justice services would remain within local authority control but services would be required to be delivered through groupings of authorities; (4) intimating that the groupings had been debated through COSLA and that there had been acceptance of the principle of delivery of services through these Grouping, which envisaged North and South Lanarkshire Council acting together to deliver those services.

Decided:

- (1) that the announcement by the Scottish Executive Minister for Justice be noted;
- (2) that the response made by the Council through COSLA be approved, and
- (3) that proposals for the service delivery arrangements be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

JOINT FUNDED ADDICTION COUNSELLOR - NORTHERN CORRIDOR

17. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 30 March 1999 when, inter alia, the staffing implications of the development of addiction services in North Lanarkshire were approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated January 2000 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to appoint a part-time Addiction Counsellor to cover the Northern Corridor area of North Lanarkshire (1) advising that the management arrangements for the post had been agreed with Greater Glasgow Health Board; (2) intimating that Greater Glasgow Health Board would contribute £8,000 towards the funding of the post with similar match funding being met from the Social Work budget, and (3) proposing that the grade for the post be AP2/3, and in the event of the postholder requiring to work irregular hours a further report be submitted in respect of that cost.

Decided:

- (1) that the implementation arrangements outlined in the report be approved, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for approval.

PLANNING FOR YOUNG SCHOOL LEAVERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS - DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP PROPOSALS

18. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated December 1999 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to enter into a partnership with the National Development Team to improve planning and promote social inclusion for school leavers with special needs in North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the National Development Team; (2) detailing the key elements of the proposal which reflects feedback received from parents during the learning disability framework consultation process; (3) indicating that one of the key proposals of the Initiative related to community inclusion which was concerned with developing services for young people at the point of

transition between school and adult services; (4) recommending that a Project Management Group be established to tailor a scheme to meet the needs of the Council; (5) advising of the benefits which the Council would receive from entering into the Development Partnership for a three year period at a cost of £8,000 per year, and (6) providing the specific proposals for the partnership with the National Development Team.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposal to establish a Project Management Group to improve planning and promote social inclusion for young school leavers with special needs in North Lanarkshire be approved, and
- (2) that a partnership with the National Development Team to support the project at a cost of £8,000 per year for a three year period be approved.

RESPONSE TO SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CARE COMMITTEE - REVIEW OF COMMUNITY CARE

19. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 23 November 1999 when it was agreed (1) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to prepare in consultation with the Convener, the Council's comments on the Review of Community Care for submission to Scottish Parliament Health and Community Care Committee, and (2) that the comments be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, there was submitted the response which had been sent by the Director of Administration on behalf of the Council to the Scottish Parliament Health and Community Care Committee.

Decided: that the action taken by the Director of Administration to advise the Scottish Parliament Health and Community Care Committee of the Council's comments on the Review of Community Care be homologated.

CONFERENCES

(1) "EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY"

20. There was considered an invitation from COSLA to attend a conference entitled "Excellence and Equity" which had been held in Edinburgh on 9 December 1999.

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

(2) "PROBATION 2000"

21. There was considered an invitation from Neil Stewart Associates to attend a conference entitled "Probation 2000" to be held in London on 27 January 2000.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

(3) "GIVING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE A CHANCE"

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22. There was considered an invitation from the Scottish Local Government Information Unit to attend a conference entitled "Giving Children and Young People a Chance" to be held in Glasgow on 22 February 2000.

Decided: that two Majority Group Members and two Minority Group Members be authorised to attend.

(4) "ADSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE"

23. There was considered an invitation from the Association of Directors of Social Work to attend a conference entitled "ADSW Annual Conference" to be held in Dunblane from 9 to 12 May 2000.

Decided: that Councillor H. McGuigan as Convener and Councillor Selfridge as Vice-Convener be authorised to attend.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

24. The Convener intimated that the Head of Social Work Services was leaving the Council to take up the post of Director of Housing and Social Work in West Dunbartonshire Council and on behalf of the Council thanked her for her valuable service to the Council and to the Social Work Committee and wished her well in her new post.