

Motherwell, 7 March 2000 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor H. McGuigan, Convener; Councillors Selfridge and Sullivan, Vice-Conveners; Councillors Cassidy, Chadha, Coyle, Curley, Gordon, Gorman, Irvine, Jones, Love, Lunny, McElroy, J. McGuigan, McKendrick, McLaughlin, J. Martin, Morris, M. Murray, Robertson, Ross, 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, Principal Officer Criminal Justice, Principal Officer, Registration and Inspection, Principal Officer, Welfare Rights, Director of Housing and Property Services, Head of Personnel Services and Accounting Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors McCabe, McKinlay, Nolan, Saunders 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 22 February 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 29 February 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 17 and 22 February 2000 by the Director of Social Work advising of Departmental spending levels for respectively the Department of Social Work and Sheltered Employment for the period from 1 April 1999 to 30 January 2000 and providing a comparison with the approved budget.

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Decided: that the terms of the reports be noted.

COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1999/2000 MONITORING REPORT - 1 APRIL 1999 TO 30 JANUARY 2000

4. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 January 2000 when the financial position of the Capital Programme for the Social Work Department was noted, there was submitted a report dated 25 February 2000 by the Director of Social Work (1) regarding the current progress being made on individual projects included in the Capital Programme as at 30 January 2000; (2) advising that the approved Capital Programme for the financial year 1999/2000 which amounted to £891,000 had been subsequently enhanced by £164,000 from resource transfer; (3) intimating that the expenditure and commitments against the approved budget amounted to £487,000 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and (4) indicating that the projected expenditure for the current financial year amounted to £933,000 which falls short of commitments by £122,000.

Decided: that the progress of the Capital Programme for the Social Work Department as at 30 January 2000 be noted.

The Convener exercised his discretion to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE - PROGRESS TO DATE

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 22 February 2000 by the Director of Social Work advising of the progress in the Council's Supported Employment Initiative (1) outlining the background to the Initiative which had been launched in January 1999; (2) intimating that the Council currently supported two separate Supported Employment Strategy Projects (a) Employment Choice Hope Opportunity (ECHO), Wishaw, and (b) Partnership Employment Project (PEP), Bellshill; (3) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report an analysis of supported employment activity in 1999 for the two Projects, and (4) detailing the future plans for the Supported Employment Strategy and the North Lanarkshire Supported Employment Partnership.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted;
- (2) that a joint Personnel Services and Social Work Member/Officer Working Group be set up to review the development of supported employment within the Council, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for consideration.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS - JULY TO SEPTEMBER 1999

6. With reference to paragraph 19 of the Minute of the meeting of the Personnel Services Committee held on 3 December 1998 when it had been agreed, *inter alia*, that each department of the Council when providing statistics for absence management provide a commentary detailing the breakdown of the figures to enable effective monitoring to be carried out, there was submitted a report dated 12 January 2000 by the Head of Personnel Services providing absence statistics together with a commentary detailing the breakdown of figures within departments of the Council for the period from July to September 1999 for manual and craft employees, non manual staff and teachers.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT FUND

7. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Community Services (Community Development) Sub-Committee held on 29 February 2000 when that Committee approved the submission of a bid for funding to the Scottish Executive Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund subject to the identification of matching funding and referred the report to the Housing and Property Services, Personnel Services, Social Inclusion and Social Work Committees for their interest and information, there was submitted the said report dated 9 February 2000 by the Director of Community Services thereon.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that full consultation be undertaken with Women's Aid Organisations.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COALITION OF DISABLED GROUPS - REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

8. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of the Community Services (Community Development) Sub-Committee held on 29 February 2000 when that Committee, (1) approved a request from North Lanarkshire Coalition of Disabled Groups to provide funding of £3,000 to support the running costs of the Coalition; (2) agreed a grant of £2,500 to enable a feasibility study into the long term viability and sustainability prospects of the Coalition, and (3) referred the report to the Social Inclusion and Social Work Committees for their information and interest, there was submitted the said report dated 17 February 2000 by the Director of Community Services thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

CONTRACT - WINDOW REPLACEMENT (PARTIAL) AT CHILTERN HOME FOR THE ELDERLY, CHRYSTON, OCHILVIEW HOME FOR THE ELDERLY, CUMBERNAULD AND HERBISON HOME FOR THE ELDERLY, SHOTTS

9. There was submitted a report dated 27 January 2000 by the General Manager, Construction Services advising that (1) the lowest tender for the Window Replacement (Partial) at Chilterns Home for the Elderly, Chryston, Ochilview Home for the Elderly, Cumbernauld and Herbison Home for the Elderly, Shotts was that of Century 21 Replacement Window Company Limited, Hamilton in the sum of £86,678.90, and (2) the Director of Administration was now progressing this matter in terms of his delegated powers.

Decided: that the action taken by the Director of Administration, in consultation with the Convener, to accept the tender from Century 21 Replacement Windows Company Limited, Hamilton in the sum of £86,678.90 be homologated.

CONSULTATION PAPER - REGULATING CARE AND THE SOCIAL SERVICES WORKFORCE

10. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 January 2000 when, inter alia, it was agreed that further reports on the resource implications and training requirements arising from the proposed legislation on the regulation of the Social Services Workforce, be submitted to future meetings of the Committee there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 February 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Scottish Executive Consultation Paper entitled "Regulating Care and the Social Services Workforce" and setting out the

Council's response to the consultation paper (1) outlining the background to the regulation of social care and regulation of the workforce consultation paper, and (2) setting out in the appendices to the report the proposed response to the consultation paper on regulation of care and regulation of the workforce as it affects the Social Work service.

Decided: that the comments set out in the appendices to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response as it affects the Social Work service to the Scottish Executive consultation paper on Regulating Care and the Social Services Workforce.

MENTAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT FUND: BIDS FOR FUNDING IN 2000/2001 (ROUND 3)

11. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 16 November 1999 when that Committee, *inter alia*, approved joint work with other agencies to further prepare the submission of the bid for funding from the Mental Health Development Fund, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 February 2000 by the Director of Social Work setting out the joint submission to the Scottish Executive by Lanarkshire Health Board, Lanarkshire Primary Care NHS Trust and North and South Lanarkshire Councils in October 1999 (1) outlining the background to the bid for financial support; (2) advising that the Scottish Executive had requested further information on the financial details of the bid; (3) indicating the financial implications of the bid to which the Council could not commit relevant funding but would provide funding on an in kind basis only up to £30,000 in both years 2 and 3 of the project, and (4) intimating that the Council fully supported and endorsed the aims of the bid.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the bid for funding from the Mental Health Development Fund had been initially successful on the condition that further detail in respect of the needs assessment dimension of the project was to the satisfaction of the Scottish Executive;
- (2) that provision of an in kind contribution by the Council up to £30,000 in both years 2 and 3 of the project be approved, and
- (3) that the outcome of the bid to the Scottish Executive be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

SOCIAL WORK: RACE EQUALITY STANDARDS DOCUMENT

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 February 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Social Work: Race Equality Standards Document which had been produced by the West of Scotland Community Relations Council (1) outlining the background to the Race Equality Standards Document; (2) advising that the West of Scotland Community Relations Council had invited all local Authorities within its area to endorse the proposals contained in the document; (3) recommending that the Council endorse the document and give permission for the Council logo to be reproduced in the final publication; (4) informing that adopting the Race Equality Standard Document would have no initial costs for the Council and any subsequent costs would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, and (5) intimating that the document would satisfy the Council's policy and statutory responsibilities in respect of race equality.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council endorse the Race Equality Standards Document and give permission for the Council logo to be reproduced in the final publication;

- (2) that approval in principle be given to assist with the costs of publishing the West of Scotland Community Relations Council Race Equality Standards Document, subject to a further report setting out the financial implications being submitted to a future meeting of the Committee;
- (3) that it be noted that the publication and implementation of the West of Scotland Community Relations Council Race Equality Standards Document will be subject of a future report to the Committee, and
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources and Social Inclusion Committees for their interest.

CONCESSIONARY FARES FOR BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PEOPLE

13. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 February 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Policy Statement by the Joint Committee on Mobility of Blind and Partially Sighted People which advocates for a National Scheme of Concessionary Travel (1) outlining the background to the Joint Committee on Mobility of Blind and Partially Sighted People; (2) advising that within North Lanarkshire there was 15,737 adults in North Lanarkshire with a visual impairment of whom 2,431 were registered blind and 674 were registered partially sighted, and (3) intimating that at present the Council in conjunction with SPTA, COSLA, the Scottish Executive and the Bus, Rail and Ferry operators offered a more generous scheme than that proposed by Joint Committee.

Decided:

- (1) That the Director of Social Work advise the Joint Committee on Mobility of Blind and Partially Sighted People of the Council's support for the campaign for the extension of the National Minimum Concessionary Fare scheme, and
- (2) that a representative from Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee to outline the operation of the Scheme of Concessionary Travel.

IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM ACT 1999

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 February 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (1) outlining the background to the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 which will take effect from 1 April 2000; (2) advising that the Council was a member of the Scottish Consortium whose role was to manage the commissioning and provision of accommodation for asylum seekers dispersed in Scotland; (3) informing that discussions were ongoing with COSLA and the Scottish Executive regarding the implementation of the Act in Scotland; (4) intimating that at present there were 15 asylum seekers in North Lanarkshire and that the Council had not been advised of the number of asylum seekers they would be asked to take under the new Act, and (5) indicating that under the terms of the special grant for Asylum Seekers Assistance the level set for individual asylum seekers was currently £165.00 per week which could be reclaimed from the Scottish Executive.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

SECTION 10 FUNDING 2000/2001

15. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated February 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding applications received from voluntary organisations requesting funding for the 2000/ 2001
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financial year under Section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (1) outlining the background to the authority to make Section 10 grants; (2) indicating that it was anticipated that the Section 10 budget for 2000/2001 would be £247,000; (3) advising that fifty three applications had been received; (4) detailing the criteria and the factors which were taken into consideration in determining the funding recommended; (5) setting out in schedule 1 to the report the recommended level of grant for each organisation; (6) detailing in schedules 2, 3 and 4 to the report those applications which had been continued, not funded or redirected, and (7) recommending that the balance of £55,063 should not be allocated until the outstanding applications had been processed and the requirements of the carers network proposals had been determined.

Decided:

- (1) that the funding recommendations as set out in schedule 1 to the report be approved with the exception of North Lanarkshire Women's Aid Limited and the Director of Social Work be authorised to make appropriate payments subject to monitoring requirements being satisfied;
- (2) that consideration of the application from North Lanarkshire Women's Aid Limited be continued pending the assessment of the audited accounts of the organisation, and
- (3) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

COMMUNITY CARE LEAFLETS IN ETHNIC MINORITY LANGUAGES

16. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 February 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the publication of Community Care Information in ethnic minority languages (1) advising that as part of the public information strategy the Council was committed to ensuring that individuals from all sections of the community could access services they required; (2) intimating that the 1991 census identified that there were 2,634 people from an ethnic minority background in North Lanarkshire; (3) indicating that following consultation with the West of Scotland Communities Relations Council and the Interpreting Services the Council had translated a community care information leaflet into four languages Chinese, Hindu, Punjabi and Urdu and that these leaflets were ready for distribution, and (4) informing that further work was required to develop information services for minority groups and that it was intended to explore joint production of information with South Lanarkshire Council.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the proposed future collaboration with South Lanarkshire Council on the joint production of information for ethnic minority groups be noted.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION TRANSFER OF FUNDING

17. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 February 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the requirement to transfer the budget and funding arrangements for four voluntary organisations detailed below from the Department of Social Work to the Department of Community Services following the review of departmental organisation in April 1999:-

Organisation	Funding
	£
North Lanarkshire Volunteering Development Agency	44,420
Kirkshaws One Parent Project	3,810

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Calder Caravan Project	1,440
Kirkshaws Neighbourhood House	7,530

Decided:

- (1) that the transfer of funding for the four projects detailed heretofore from the Social Work budget to the Community Services budget be approved, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Community Services Committee for information.

MODERNISING COMMUNITY CARE - UPDATE REPORT

18. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 30 March 1999 when the service development proposals and the action plan for modernising community care had been approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 February 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress towards implementing the action plan for modernising community care (1) setting the aims and priorities of action plan which had been jointly agreed following a seminar which had included organisations representing the views of service users and carers in Education, Housing and Social Work and representatives from the health services, and (2) advising that a Multi-Agency Officer Sub Group would be established to provide a framework within which individual project teams would work in defined areas of activity.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made towards implementing the action plan for Modernising Community Care be noted, and
- (2) that a further progress report on modernising community care be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

YOUNG PERSONS DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROJECT (RUSHES)

19. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 February 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding representations which had been received from young people in the Bellshill, Viewpark area on the future of the Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Project know as the Rushes Project (1) outlining the background to and the key objectives of the project; (2) detailing the staffing structure of the project; (3) indicating that the current operational cost of the project was £102,000 per annum; (4) advising that the project had been unsuccessful in a bid for funding from the Social Inclusion Partnership Board, and (5) intimating that the continued operation of the project would depend on the future allocation of resources from the Social Work Department budget which would not be known until the Council's overall budget position had been determined.

Decided:

- (1) that the representations which have been received from service users of the Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Project be noted, and
- (2) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee when the Council's overall budget position had been determined.

INTERNAL INQUIRY INTO THE CASE MANAGEMENT OF MR GP

20. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 February 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the outcome of the internal inquiry into the case management of Mr GP following critical comment made by a Sheriff regarding the handling of the case of a sex offender who had been found guilty of an offence of Breach of the Peace (1) outlining the background to the inquiry; (2) intimating that the inquiry was conducted by an appropriately qualified external assessor nominated by the Chief Inspector for Social Work Services in Scotland; (3) advising of the role of the external assessor and the scope and conduct of the inquiry; (4) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report the legislation and guidance which informed the conduct of the internal inquiry; (5) detailing (a) the recommendations of the internal inquiry; (b) the recommendations of the external Advisor and (c) comments or action required by the Council arising from the findings; (6) intimating that the Council had taken action to ensure that independent sector providers are used only within prescribed circumstances, and (7) recommending that the findings of the inquiry be reported to the Scottish Executive and to the Expert Panel on Sex Offending.

Decided:

- (1) that the findings of the internal inquiry and of the external Advisor into the case management of Mr GP be noted;
- (2) that the action taken to ensure the effectiveness of practice in the assessment and management of sex offenders in North Lanarkshire be approved;
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Housing and Property Services Committee for its interest, and
- (4) that the recommendations of the external Advisor be reported to the Scottish Executive and to the Expert Panel on Sex Offending.

CONFERENCES

(1) “JOINING UP LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND HEALTH SERVICES”

21. There was considered an invitation from CAPITA to attend a conference entitled “Joining Up Local Authorities and Health Services” which had been held in London on 28 February 2000.

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

(2) “IS VERY SHELTERED HOUSING THE WAY FORWARD OR NOT?”

22. There was considered an invitation from the University of Birmingham to attend a conference entitled “Is Very Sheltered Housing the Way Forward or Not?” to be held in Birmingham on 29 February 2000.

Decided: that attendance by Councillor Sullivan as Vice-Convener be homologated.

(3) “WORKING WITH HOMELESS FAMILIES”

23. There was considered an invitation from Shelter Scotland to attend a conference entitled “Working with Homeless Families” which had been held in Edinburgh on 1 March 2000.

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

(4) “HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CARE - A JOINED UP APPROACH PUTTING PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE”

24. There was considered an invitation from the Scottish Local Government Information Unit to attend a conference entitled “Health and Community Care - A Joined Up Approach Putting Principles Into Practice” to be held in Edinburgh on 27 March 2000.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

(5) “DIVORCE AND SEPARATION IN THE FAMILY: ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN”

25. There was considered an invitation from Children in Scotland to attend a conference entitled “Divorce and Separation in the Family : Addressing the Needs of Children” to be held in Edinburgh on 13 April 2000.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference be authorised.