

Motherwell, 30 May 2000 at 2 pm.

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

PRESENT

Councillor Selfridge, Convener; Councillors Chadha, Coyle, Gordon, Irvine, Lafferty, McCallum, McLaughlin, Morris, Robertson and Ross.

CHAIR

Councillor Selfridge (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer, Head of Social Work Development, Principal Officer Childcare, Principal Officer Community Care and Senior Strategy Officer.

UNITED KINGDOM NATIONAL STANDARDS IN FOSTER CARE

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 3 May 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the contents of the National Standards in Foster Care document (1) detailing the content and structure of the National Standards in foster care; (2) advising of the current position with regard to foster care in North Lanarkshire, and (3) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report, the Council's Action Plan in relation to the implementation of the standards.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report on the financial and personnel implications arising from the implementation of the National Standards in Foster Care to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

PROMOTION OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR USERS OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 2 May 2000 by the Director of Social Work advising of the implementation of arrangements to promote the employment opportunities of users of Social Work services (1) outlining the background to a number of government initiatives aimed at placing work and participation in the labour market at the centre of its social policy; (2) outlining the arrangements which had been implemented in conjunction with the employment service and the careers service to ensure that consideration was given to employment or further education as an integral part of the care plan for appropriate Social Work service users, and (3) intimating that the progress of the arrangements would be monitored by a group representing all three agencies to ensure that levels of activity would be monitored and links maintained with the New Deal Strategic Partnership covering North and South Lanarkshire.

Decided:

- (1) that the initiative to promote employment opportunities for Social Work service users be noted, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Social Inclusion Committee for information.

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EFFECTIVENESS OF THROUGH CARE AND AFTER CARE UNDER THE CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) ACT 1995 - RESEARCH

3. There was submitted a report dated May 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the arrangements for researching the Local Authority through care and after care arrangements for looked after and accommodated young people (1) outlining the background to the research which will provide an evidential base for future development of best practice, policy and guidance in through care and after care, and (2) detailing the methodology of the research.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report following the publication of the outcome of the research to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

COSLA RESPONSE TO THE INQUIRY BY THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT'S EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE INTO SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 May 2000 by the Director of Social Work detailing the contents of COSLA's response to the Inquiry by the Scottish Parliament's Education, Culture and Sport Committee into Special Educational Needs.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

REVIEW OF THE MENTAL HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

5. With reference to paragraph 28 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 24 August 1999 when that Committee homologated the action by the Director of Administration in submitting the Council's response to the Scottish Executive Review of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 May 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Council's response to the second consultation paper on the Scottish Executive review of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 (1) outlining the background to the review, and (2) setting out in the appendix to the report the Council's response to the second consultation paper.

Decided: that the Sub-Committee agree for their interest, the response to the Scottish Executive's second consultation paper on the Review of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984.