

Motherwell, 6 June 2000 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor H. McGuigan, Convener; Councillors Selfridge and Sullivan, Vice-Conveners; Councillors Chadha, Curley, Gordon, Gorman, Homer, Irvine, Jones, Love, Lunny, McCallum, McKendrick, J. Martin, M. Murray, Robertson, Ross, Shaw and Shields.

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, Child Care; Education Officer, Support for Learning; Principal Officer, Development, Community Services Department and Accounting Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cassidy, Coyle, Lafferty, McCabe, McElroy, McLaughlin, Morris, Saunders and Stocks

WELCOME TO HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

1. Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Convener introduced and welcomed Ms. Mary Fegan, Head of Social Work Services to her first meeting of the Committee.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

2. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings of the Social Work (Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 23 May 2000 and the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 30 May 2000.

Decided: that the terms of the Minutes be approved.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2000/2001

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 May 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Capital Programme for the Social Work Department for 2000/2001 (1) outlining the background to the range of properties from which services are provided; (2) detailing the proposed Capital Programme for 2000/2001 which amounts to a total value of new works of £577,000, and (3) detailing issues to be considered for future programmes of works.

Decided: that the capital programme for new works totalling £577,000 as detailed in the report be approved.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT SERVICE PLAN 2000-2003

4. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 5 October 1999 when the contents of the Social Work Service Plan 2000-2003 Development Plan was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 19 May 2000 by the Director of Social Work together with the Social Work Department Service Development and Resource Plan 2000-2003 (1) advising of the strategic aims and service development objectives of the Department, and (2) setting out the Service Profile, Development and Resource Plan for 2000-2003.

Decided: that the contents of the Social Work Department Service, Development and Resource Plan 2000-2003 be approved.

NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

5. With reference to paragraph 18 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Inclusion Committee held on 20 April 2000 when that Committee noted the submission to the Scottish Executive of the bid for funding of a joint project for Old Monkland and St. Monica's Primary Schools, Coatbridge in terms of the Phase 2 Community Schools Initiative and referred the report to the Community Services, Education and Social Work Committees for information, there was submitted the said report dated 6 April 2000 by the Director of Education thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY RIGHTS IN EDUCATION BILL - CONSULTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

6. With reference to paragraph 24 of the Minute of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 2 May 2000 when the Council's formal response to the Department of Education and Employment on its consultation on the rights for Disabled People in Education were endorsed and remitted to this Committee for its interest, there was submitted the said report dated 2 May 2000 by the Director of Education thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

MONITORING OF JOINT HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK PROTOCOLS: HOMELESSNESS: RENT ARREARS: ANTI-SOCIAL: ADAPTATIONS

7. With reference to paragraph 43 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Property Services Committee held on 3 May 2000 when that Committee had agreed (1) that further reports on joint Housing and Social Work Protocols be submitted on a regular basis to both the Housing and Property Services and Social Work Committees to enable members to be kept aware of the level of liaison which was taking place and to give an indication of the number of difficult or vulnerable clients that were being dealt with by the two Departments, and (2) that the report be referred to this Committee for interest and consideration, there was submitted the said report dated 27 March 2000 by the Director of Housing and Property Services thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT FUND

8. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of the Community Services (Community Development) Sub-Committee held on 30 May 2000 when that Committee, *inter alia*, (1) noted the success of the Council's bid to the Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund; (2) remitted the report to the Personnel Services Committee for approval to establish the post of Service Co-ordinator (Domestic Abuse), and (3) referred the report to the Housing and Property Services, Social Inclusion and Social Work Committees for their information and interest, there was submitted the said report dated 10 May 2000 by the Director of Community Services thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

CONTRACT - SCOTT HOUSE, MOTHERWELL - REFURBISHMENT OF DIRECTORATE OFFICES

9. There was submitted a report dated 8 May 2000 by the General Manager, Construction Services advising that (1) the lowest tender for the contract for the Refurbishment of Directorate Offices in Scott House, Motherwell was that of David H. Allan Limited, Glasgow in the sum of £65,144.60, and (2) the Director of Administration was now progressing this matter in terms of his delegated powers.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

FINAL MEASUREMENTS

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 May 2000 by the General Manager, Construction Services (1) detailing final measurements for three projects, and (2) advising that the total tender value for the three projects was £290,729.82 compared with the final cost of £280,365.84.

Decided: that the final measurements as detailed within the report be noted.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE: DISABILITY RIGHTS TASK FORCE REPORT

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 May 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the consultation process initiated to assist the Scottish Executive in responding to the Disability Rights Task Force Report (1) outlining the background to the Task Force report; (2) detailing the wide ranging areas which the recommendations covered, and (3) intimating that the deadline for response to the Scottish Executive to ascertain how best to reflect Scottish circumstances in implementing the recommendations in devolved areas was 23 June 2000 and steps were being taken to prepare a corporate response.

Decided:

- (1) that the publication of Disability Rights Task Force Report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work in consultation with the Convener prepare a response to the Scottish Executive consultation and submit a further report thereon to a future meeting of the Social Work Committee.

“THE SAME AS YOU?” - NATIONAL REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 May 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the publication of the Scottish Executive led National Review of Services for People with a Learning Disability (1) outlining the background to the National Review which related to services for both adults and children; (2) detailing the national visions and principles for people with a learning disability; (3) setting out the proposed way ahead and recommendations of the review which had been designed to improve the future for people with learning disabilities; (4) indicating that a local review of services for people with learning disabilities had been initiated in parallel with the National Review and the formal consultation launch in North Lanarkshire would be on 28 June 2000; (5) proposing that the recommendations of the National Review be subject of a more detailed discussion between joint planning partners through Lanarkshire Strategy Group with a view to submitting a joint response in the autumn 2000, and (6) intimating that the establishment of a Scottish Centre for Learning Disability was welcomed by the Council and that North Lanarkshire could offer an ideal location for the proposed centre in terms of accessibility and the Council's strong commitment to inclusive services for people with a learning disability.

Decided:

- (1) that the publication of “The Same as You” - The National Review of Services for People with a Learning Disability be welcomed;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to initially respond to the Scottish Executive:-
 - (a) registering the Council's strong support for inclusive services for people with a learning disability;
 - (b) recommending that the proposed Scottish Centre for Learning Disability be located in a way which reflects the Scottish Executive's commitment to the dispersal of government agencies across the country, and
 - (c) signalling the Council's interest in finding a suitable location in North Lanarkshire for the proposed Scottish Centre for Learning Disability;
- (3) that approval be given for the process of detailed consideration of the recommendations of the review through the Lanarkshire Strategy Group;
- (4) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to draft a response to the National Review of Service for people with a learning disability for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee, and
- (5) that the report be remitted to the Education and Housing and Property Services Committee for interest.

JOINT EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTATIONS MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP

13. With reference to paragraph 18 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 23 November 1999 when, inter alia, (1) approval was given for a Member/Officer Working Group to be established to review the provision of equipment and adaptations for disabled people including occupational therapy services, and (2) the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work were authorised to bring forward further reports to future meetings of the Committees as the review progressed, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated May 2000 by the Director of Social Work setting out the progress made by the Joint Equipment and Adaptations Member/Officer Working Group and detailing the main issues which have been raised to date.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made by the Joint Equipment and Adaptations Member/Officer Working Group be noted, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Housing and Property Services Committee for its interest.

HOMES FOR THE FUTURE: MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP

14. With reference to paragraph 20 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 5 October 1999 when, inter alia, it was agreed to establish a Member/Officer Working Group to review the in-house residential services for older people in North Lanarkshire, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated May 2000 by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing the membership and remit of the Working Group; (2) outlining the consultation process being undertaken by the Working Group, and (3) setting out the progress made and future plans.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made by the Homes for the Future Member/Officer Working Group be noted, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Housing and Property Services Committee for its interest.

STRATEGY FOR CARERS IN SCOTLAND

15. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 January 2000 when it was agreed to establish and allocate funding from the Section 10 budget to a Carers Network in North Lanarkshire, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated May 2000 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to allocate funds specifically allocated by the Scottish Executive for services to carers in North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the strategy for carers in Scotland; (2) indicating that funding of £305,500 for carer services had been allocated to North Lanarkshire, and (3) detailing the Council's spending proposals for 2000/2001 which had been agreed with representatives of carers organisations.

Decided:

- (1) that the allocation of funding to provide services for carers in 2000/2001 as detailed in the report be approved, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for its consideration.

DEMENTIA - NEEDS AND RESOURCES

16. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated May 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the scale of need for clients and carers of those suffering from dementia (1) providing a definition of dementia; (2) highlighting the effect dementia has on those effected by the illness; (3) advising that prevalence rates indicate there are around 3,000 people suffering some degree of dementia in North Lanarkshire; (4) outlining the needs of clients and carers of those affected by dementia and the resource implications attached to those needs, and (5) detailing future plans for developing services for people with dementia and their carers in North Lanarkshire.

Decided: that proposals for the formation of a Member/Officer Working Group to pursue the development of initiatives for dementia sufferers and their carers be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

REVIEW OF DAY CARE SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

17. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 May 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the outcome of an in-house review of day care services for older people (1) outlining the background to the need for the review of day care services for older people; (2) advising that the review considered all day care services provided by the Council for older people, including directly provided services and those purchased from the independent sector as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; (3) indicating the review process and its findings, and (4) setting out proposals for service developments in the provision of day care services for older people.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposals and recommendations for the service development of day care services for older people as detailed in the report be approved; and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit further progress reports on the implementation of the proposals to future meetings of the Committee.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE ANNUAL REPORT - VISIT TO NORTH LANARKSHIRE

18. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 May 2000 by Director of Social Work advising that the Scottish Executive had initiated a system of annual visits to Local Authority Social Work Departments and were scheduled to visit North Lanarkshire on 14 June 2000; (1) detailing (a) the discussion points which the Scottish Executive would raise with all Local Authorities, and (b) the specific points they would raise with this Authority, and (2) intimating that while the format for the visit had still to be finalised it was considered appropriate for elected Members as well as partner agencies and other Council departments to be involved.

Decided:

- (1) that the Convener, Vice-Conveners, Councillor McKendrick and one other opposition Member attend the Scottish Executive, Social Work Services Inspectorate Annual Visit to the Social Work Department on 14 June 2000, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

SECTION 10 FUNDING

19. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 7 March 2000 when, inter alia, it had been agreed to approve (1) the funding recommendations set out as Schedule 1 to the report with the exception of North Lanarkshire Women's Aid Limited, and (2) that the Director of Social Work make appropriate payments subject to monitoring requirements being satisfied, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 May 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding further applications received from voluntary organisations requesting funding under Section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (a) setting out the recommended level of grant for applications from Headway, Motherwell/Clydesdale, Scottish Council for Single Homeless, Condorrat and Kilsyth Arthritis Care, Honeypot Nursery, Moodiesburn and Childline Scotland; (b) recommending that the application from Calm Carers Support Group be continued pending the outcome of the

deliberations on the allocation of money set aside to develop the North Lanarkshire Carers Network, and (c) proposing that no grant be awarded to (i) Who Cares Scotland, and (ii) MASA (Men Against Sexual Abuse).

The Director of Social Work orally advised that he was unable to report further on the application from North Lanarkshire Women's Aid Limited pending the outcome of a number of issues.

Decided: that the funding recommendations as set out in the report be approved and the Director of Social Work be authorised to make appropriate payments subject to monitoring requirements being satisfied.

INTRODUCTION OF CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARTER

20. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 18 April 2000 when, *inter alia*, it had been noted that there would be developed Customer Service Feedback forms for users of Social Work Services to comment on the standard of service received, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 May 2000 by the Director of Social Work (1) intimating the background and principles of the customer service charter, and (2) advising that the implementation of the customer service charter customer comment forms and the survey of Social Work service users would be accompanied by briefings on the standards of customer service expected from all staff within the Department.

Decided:

- (1) that the development and implementation of the customer service charter be approved, and
- (2) that the report be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for its interest.

SCHEME OF DELEGATION - AMENDMENT

C 21. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated May 2000 by the Director of Social Work seeking authorisation to delegate responsibility to certain officers within the Social Work Department to carry out the functions contained in community care legislation relating to deprivation of capital (1) outlining the background to the legislation relating to community care functions carried out by local authorities, and (2) recommending that within the Department of Social Work the Director, Heads of Service and Area Managers be authorised after consultation with the Director of Administration or one of his authorised Heads of Service to carry out the functions of the Council arising from and in terms of (a) Section 22 of the National Assistance Act 1948 and subsequent legislation; (b) Section 87 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, and (c) Section 21 of the Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudication Act 1983.

Decided: that the amendment to the Scheme of Delegation as detailed in the report be approved.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE CARE AND REPAIR PROJECT: BUDGET FOR 2000/2001

22. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 31 March 1998 when, *inter alia*, (1) it was noted that Clyde Valley Housing Association had been appointed as Managing Agents for the North Lanarkshire Care and Repair Project, and (2) it was agreed to carefully monitor expenditure on the project and submit periodic progress reports to future meetings, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 March 2000 by the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work regarding funding for the

project for financial year 2000/2001 (a) intimating that in 1999/2000, the project expanded to employ additional staff within the approved budget of £80,922; (b) proposing that in the new financial year, a small repairs service be established as an integrated service within the Care and Repair Project, at an additional cost of £27,312, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; (c) indicating within Appendix 2 to the report, the anticipated revenue and funding projections for Care and Repair over the next three years and based on total expenditure in 2000/2001 of £121,379, and (d) proposing that the Advisory Committee for the project undertake a comprehensive evaluation which would be the basis for the preparation of a new Business Plan by Clyde Valley Housing Association setting out their involvement in Care and Repair for the period 2001-2004.

Decided:

- (1) that the expansion of the Care and Repair Project to include a small repairs service be approved;
- (2) that a revenue budget of £121,379 for 2000/2001, 20% of which would be funded from both Housing and Property Services and Social Work Departments be approved;
- (3) that the Acting Director of Housing and Property Services and Director of Social Work monitor expenditure on the project and submit periodic progress reports to future meetings of the Committee, and
- (4) that a further report be submitted to future meetings of the Housing and Property Services and Social Work Committees on the future funding arrangements for the project, following the major review of the project due for completion in December 2000.

PROCEDURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

23. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 May 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding concerns about the arrangements for the protection of vulnerable adults, the work being undertaken to develop model inter agency procedures and proposing a process for the implementation of revised procedures in North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland report Inquiry into the care and treatment of a vulnerable woman with a learning disability in Glasgow who had been deemed to be at risk; (2) setting out the main conclusions of the Welfare Commission report; (3) advising that the Chief Social Work Inspector and the Chief Executive of the NHS in Scotland had written to all Directors of Social Work and other agencies (a) highlighting the findings of the Inquiry, and (b) indicating that the Minister for Health and Community Care anticipated that all agencies would take appropriate action to ensure that the failures which contributed to the poor standards of care experienced by the vulnerable women were not repeated, and (4) detailing the revised model procedures which had been drafted to guide the development of procedures for the protection of vulnerable adults.

Decided:

- (1) that the Acting Director of Housing and Property Services and Director of Social Work, in consultation with other relevant agencies as requested, give priority to reviewing local procedures to ensure the effectiveness of inter-agency procedures in protecting vulnerable adults, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Housing and Property Services Committee for its consideration.

WATERHOUSE INQUIRY - NORTH WALES REPORT - LOST IN CARE

24. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 May 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the recommendations of the Waterhouse Report which considered the abuse of children who were looked after and accommodated in North Wales (1) outlining the background to and the terms of reference of the tribunal; (2) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report the 72 recommendations of the Inquiry; (3) detailing the conclusions of the Inquiry; (4) highlighting the Council's proposals in response to the recommendations of the Inquiry, and (5) advising that following conclusion of this meeting a presentation would be made to Members of the Committee on the steps taken by the Council to safeguard looked after and accommodated children in North Lanarkshire.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the Waterhouse Inquiry into the abuse of children who were looked after and accommodated in North Wales and the recommendations of the enquiry be noted, and
- (2) that the report be referred to the Education Committee for its interest.

CONFERENCES

25. There were considered invitations from

- (1) Harrogate Management Centre to attend a conference entitled "Modernising Children's Services" to be held in Harrogate on 6 June 2000;
- (2) The Centre for Local Economic Strategies to attend a conference entitled "Disability and Employment" to be held in London on 7 June 2000;
- (3) Harrogate Management Centre to attend a conference entitled "New Mental Health Policy. - Making Sense of It All" to be held in Harrogate on 15 June 2000, and
- (4) The Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health Services to attend a conference entitled "Beyond Joint Commissioning Achieving Effective Joint Planning and Implementation in Community Care" to be held in Edinburgh on 16 June 2000.

Decided:

- (1) that Councillor Morris be authorised to attend the "Disability and Employment conference to be held in London on 7 June 2000, and
- (2) that no attendance at the other three conferences be authorised;

The Convener being of the opinion that the following item of business was of an urgent nature authorised its consideration to enable arrangements to be made timeously.

CONFERENCE - "QUALITY FOSTER CARE FOR SCOTLAND'S CHILDREN"

26. Councillor Selfridge advised that an invitation had been received from COSLA in respect of a conference entitled "Quality Foster Care for Scotland's Children" to be held in Edinburgh on 15 June 2000.

Decided: that Councillor Cassidy be authorised to attend the Quality Foster Care for Scotland's Children conference to be held in Edinburgh on 15 June 2000 and the conference invitation be remitted to the Education and Housing and Property Services Committees for consideration.