

Motherwell, 8 June 1999 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor H. McGuigan, Convener; Councillor Sullivan, Vice-Convener; Councillors Cassidy, Chadha, Cox, Coyle, Curley, Gordon, Gorman, Homer, Irvine, Jones, Love, Lunny, McElroy, McKendrick, McKinlay, McLaughlin, J. Martin, Morris, M. Murray, Nolan, Robertson, Ross, Saunders, Shaw, Shields, Stocks 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 Construction Resources and Head of Accounting Services.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Lafferty, McCabe, J. McGuigan and Selfridge.

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

1. There were submitted reports dated 3 June 1999 by the Director of Finance advising of the spending levels for the Department of Social Work and Sheltered Workshops for the period from 1 April 1999 to 23 May 1999 and providing a comparison with the approved budgets.

Decided: that the terms of the reports be noted.

SUPPLEMENTATION RATE INCREASES IN ESTABLISHMENTS OUTWITH THIS AUTHORITY

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 May 1999 by the Director of Social Work setting out further Supplementation Rate changes set by other local authorities for registered Residential and Day Care establishments based in the voluntary sector within their areas.

Decided: that the new supplementation rates as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

REVISED MAINTENANCE RATES - SUPPLEMENTED ESTABLISHMENTS

3. There was submitted a report dated June 1999 by the Director of Social Work setting out revised maintenance rates for Alternatives for Living, Airdrie, Alexander Anderson Day Centre, Wishaw and Cumbernauld Action Care for the Elderly (1) outlining the background to work undertaken by the organisations, and (2) proposing that the maintenance rates be set to reflect the national pay award in 1998/99, as detailed below:-

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Name of Organisation	Current Rate Per Week £	New Rate Per Week £	Effective date
Alternatives for Living	972.65	993.06	1 April 1998

Name of Organisation	Current Rate Per Day £	New Rate Per Day £	Effective date
Alexander Anderson Day Centre	67.27	68.76	1 April 1998

Name of Organisation	Current Annual Budget £	New Annual Budget £	Effective date
Cumbernauld Action Care for the Elderly	20,833.00	21,315.00	1 April 1998

Decided: that the proposed maintenance rates, as detailed within the report be approved.

REPORT ON STANDARD CHARGE FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION OPERATED BY THE COUNCIL

4. There was submitted a report dated June 1999 by the Director of Social Work proposing the uprating of standard charges in respect of residential accommodation operated by the Council for elderly people and people with learning disabilities in line with COSLA guidelines (1) advising that the standard charge contribution of a resident would be based on a financial assessment of the clients ability to pay as determined by legislation; (2) recommending charges for long term care per week per resident in a residential home for the elderly of £324 and £502 per week for residential homes for people with learning disabilities for 1999/2000, and (3) indicating that a standard weekly client contribution for respite care in local authority establishments for 1999/2000 be £52.

Decided:

- (1) that the standard weekly charge for long-term care for the elderly for 1999/2000 be set at £324, with effect from 19 April 1999;
- (2) that the standard weekly charge for people with learning disabilities in local authority residential homes for 1999/2000 be set at £502, with effect from 19 April 1999, and
- (3) that the flat rate week contribution towards the cost of respite care in local authority establishments for 1999/2000 be set at £52, with effect from 19 April 1999.

DAVID ANDERSON DAY CENTRE, BELLSHILL

5. There was submitted a report dated 1 June 1999 by the Director of Social Work intimating that the property at 99 Dean Street, Bellshill was surplus to the requirements of the Social Work Department and that the Director of Education had indicated an interest in the property for use as an all year round nursery provision for Pre-5 children.

Decided:

- (1) that the property at 99 Dean Street, Bellshill be declared surplus to the requirements of the Social Work Department;

- (2) that the interest indicated by the Director of Education in acquiring the property be noted, and
- (3) that the report be referred to the Housing and Property Services Committee to progress in accordance with the Council policy on surplus property.

CONTRACTS

(1) 167/169 LOMOND ROAD, COATBRIDGE - DILAPIDATION

- 6. There was submitted a report dated 17 May 1999 by the Acting Director of Construction Services advising that the lowest tenderer for the contract for 167/169 Lomond Road, Coatbridge, Dilapidation was that of Alastair Burnett and Company Limited, Coatbridge in the sum of £43,856.63.

Decided: that consideration of the report be continued meantime.

(2) ALTERATIONS TO SOCIAL WORK OFFICES AT EMMA JAY ROAD, BELLSHILL

- 7. There was submitted reports dated 25 March and June 1999 by the Acting Director of Construction Services and the Director of Social Work (1) advising that the lowest tenderer for the contract for the Alterations to Social Work offices at Emma Jay Road, Bellshill was in the sum of £189,930.66; (2) indicating that funding of £100,000 for the project was contained in the Social Work Capital Programme and that the additional funding would be obtained from slippage on carried forward projects from the 1998/99 capital programme and from the minor works programme, and (3) intimating that the Director of Administration was now progressing this matter in terms of his delegated powers.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the lowest offer of £189,930.66 from Meikle Construction Limited, Coalburn had been accepted by the Director of Administration, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration of the proposals for change to the capital programme.

YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE - EMBEDDED CHIP INVESTIGATIONS

- 8. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 2 March 1999 when it had been agreed that the Director of Social Work be authorised to establish a programme for the replacement of control systems as required, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 June 1999 regarding the progress towards ensuring that all Social Work equipment was year 2000 compliant (1) outlining the background to the Council's policy on year 2000 compliance; (2) detailing the progress made by the Director of Social Work in ensuring that the department's control systems with embedded chips were year 2000 compliant; (3) advising that the Director of Housing and Property Services had appointed Milngavie Controls to assess the compliance of critical control systems across the Council and that, to date, 50% of the Social Work Department systems had been assessed; (4) indicating that problems had been identified in the Heating Control Systems at Meadowside, Airdrie and Herbison House, Shotts residential homes, and (5) intimating that all necessary costs of modifications required to ensure that all control systems were Year 2000 compliant would be met from the Social Work Budget for 1999/2000..

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS (DETR) - GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF TACTILE PAVING SURFACES

9. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of the Planning and Development (Transport and Development) Sub-Committee held on 17 February 1999 when, *inter alia*, that Sub-Committee had (1) noted the obligation of all Council Departments to extend the use of all types of approved tactile surfaces to make the public access network more user friendly for visually impaired people to promote social inclusion, and (2) remitted the report to this Committee for its interest, there was submitted the said report dated 28 January 1999 by the Director of Planning and Development thereon.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

NEW FUTURES INITIATIVE, EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT PROJECT

10. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing Committee held on 10 March 1999 when, *inter alia*, that Committee had noted the application made under the New Futures Initiative for an employment and support project had been successful in obtaining funding and had remitted the report to this Committee for its information, there was submitted the said report dated 1 March 1999 by the Director of Housing thereon.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

MODERNISING COMMUNITY CARE - GUIDANCE ON THE HOUSING CONTRIBUTION

11. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing Committee held on 10 March 1999 when, *inter alia*, that Committee (1) approved the proposed response to the Scottish Office consultation document entitled Modernising Community Care - Guidance on the Housing Contribution; (2) agreed that the Inter Agency Housing Group evaluate the impact of the proposals and report to a future meeting, and (3) remitted the report dated 10 February 1999 by the Director of Housing thereon to this Committee for information, there was submitted the said report.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

LAUNCHPAD - FUNDING 1999/2000

12. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of the Economic Development Committee held on 1 April 1999 when, *inter alia*, that Committee approved the allocation of £10,000 from the budget of the Economic Development Unit to support the Launchpad project in Chryston and remitted the report to this Committee for consideration of a similar sum from both the Education and Social Work Committees, there was submitted the report dated 15 April 1999 by the Director of Planning and Environment thereon.

Decided:

- (1) that funding of £10,000 be approved;
- (2) that a Service Level agreement be put in place, and

- (3) that future funding would be subject to the outcome of the review of services for the unemployed being conducted by the Lanarkshire Partnership.

CURATORS Ad Litem AND REPORTING OFFICER FEES APRIL 1999 - MARCH 2000

13. There was submitted a report dated 27 May 1999 by the Director of Administration regarding fees for Curators Ad Litem and Reporting Officers (1) advising that the Adoption Act 1978 (Section 58) and the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 (Section 101) provided for the appointment of persons to act as Curators Ad Litem and Reporting Officers in adoption and adoption related proceedings; (2) intimating that in most circumstances the Reporting Officer and Curator Ad Litem would be the same person; (3) detailing duties of both the Reporting Officer and the Curator Ad Litem; (4) indicating that COSLA were establishing an Officer Working Group to carry out a comprehensive review of Curator Ad Litem and Reporting Officer fees and that a further report would be submitted following the conclusion of that exercise, and (5) proposing that the fees for the period from 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2000 be increased as undernoted:-

	Recommended Fees for 1998/99 Exclusive of VAT £	Recommended Fees 1999/2000 Exclusive of VAT £
Fixed sum payable to Curator <u>Ad Litem</u> or Reporting Officer in the event of separate appointments	85	87
Fixed sum payable to Curator <u>Ad Litem</u> or Reporting Officer in the event of joint appointment	94	96
Fixed sum payable to Curator <u>Ad Litem</u> or Reporting Officer in the event of Petition going to proof and his being required to give evidence	37	38
Travelling expenses as per Council Elected Members' Scheme		

Decided:

- (1) that the recommended fees for Curators Ad Litem and Reporting Officers as detailed within the report be approved, and
- (2) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee following the receipt of the comprehensive review of the fees by the COSLA Officer Working Group.

BIELD HOUSING ASSOCIATION - VERY SHELTERED UNIT, EAST STEWART GARDENS, MUIRYHALL STREET, COATBRIDGE

14. There was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated 19 May 1999 by the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work regarding the progress made on the partnership with Bield Housing Association for the development of a purpose built Very Sheltered Housing Unit at East Stewart Gardens, Muirhall Street, Coatbridge and seeking approval for the allocation system for selecting the Council's nominees (1) intimating that there were 27 flats at East Stewart Gardens of

which 14 are one person flats and 13 are double flats; (2) advising of the staffing arrangements proposed at the Sheltered Housing Unit; (3) detailing the allocation system which had been developed jointly by the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work for selecting applicants with the greatest need for the type of accommodation; (5) advising that the development was near completion and Bield Housing Association expected to take possession of the property in late June; (6) proposing that the selection process be concluded during June with viewing taking place in mid-July, and (7) intimating that arrangements had been made to provide assistance and advice to applicants considering transfer to the unit, including detailed calculations for housing benefit.

Decided:

- (1) that the properties would be available for letting in July 1999 be noted, and
- (2) that the allocation process outlined in the report as a method of providing the Council nominations to the Housing Association be approved.

WHITE PAPER: AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE: MODERNISING SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN SCOTLAND

15. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated June 1999 by the Director of Social Work regarding the publication of a White Paper setting out the Government's proposals for Modernising Social Work Services in Scotland (1) informing that the new proposals for modernising social work services related to a strategic framework for children's services, assuring quality, regulation of care services, and regulation of the workforce; (2) advising that the Government intended to move quickly with the preparatory work in order that the proposed changes could be implemented subject to the required legislation by the Scottish Parliament, and (3) indicating that the White Paper would have major implications on the organisation and delivery of certain aspects of Social Work services and would require fuller consideration.

Decided:

- (1) that more detailed reports on the matters covered in the White Paper "Aiming for Excellence" be brought forward to future meetings of the Committee for consideration, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be noted.

SCOTTISH PARTNERSHIP ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - DRAFT WORKPLAN AND TIMETABLE

16. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 May 1999 by Director of Social Work regarding the contents of the Scottish Office consultation paper on domestic violence and setting out the Council's response to the Scottish Office Consultation Paper (1) outlining the background to the Scottish Partnership on Domestic Violence; (2) detailing the core values which were outlined within the consultation paper; (3) advising that the consultation paper considered the background and remit for the Scottish Partnership, gaps in services and responses to domestic violence, the work envisaged to develop policy and services, the resource implications and a timetable for development; (4) intimating that the main section of the document concentrated on the work envisaged to develop national policy and the co-ordination of comprehensive services, and (5) detailing in Section 4 of the report those aspects relevant to North Lanarkshire and the Council's comments on the consultation paper.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the consultation paper be noted;
- (2) that the comments set out in Section 4 of the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Office consultation paper on domestic violence, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Education, Housing and Property Services and Social Inclusion Committees for their interest.

REVIEW OF THE MENTAL HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

17. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 June 1999 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Scottish Office review of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 and seeking approval for the Director of Social Work to respond to the Scottish Office on behalf of the Council following consultation with the Convener and Vice-Conveners of the Social Work Committee (1) outlining the background to the Committee set-up by the Minister for Health to review the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984; (2) intimating that the terms of reference of the Committee took account of issues relating to the rights of patients, their families and carers and of the public interest having particular regard to the definition of mental disorder, the criteria and procedures for detention in and discharge from hospital, leave of absence and care outwith hospitals and the role of the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland; (3) detailing the four broad questions outlined in the consultation paper; (4) intimating that the consultation paper issued by the Scottish Office was of a complex nature which asked over 200 highly technical questions and that currently Social Work staff were considering those in detail, and (5) indicating that each local authority has a responsibility to appoint sufficient numbers of Mental Health Officers to carry out the range of statutory duties specified in the Act and that this Authority currently had 28 staff operating as Mental Health Officers.

Decided:

- (1) that the task of responding to the Scottish Office Review of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 be remitted to the Director of Social Work subject to consultation with the Convener and Vice-Conveners of the Social Work Committee, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Housing and Property Services Committee for its information.

LANARKSHIRE HEALTH BOARD BRIDGING FINANCE: FUNDING FOR CAPITAL AND ASSESSMENT WORKERS

18. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated June 1999 by the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work regarding the funds made available by Lanarkshire Health Board to implement planned hospital discharge programme for people with learning disabilities (1) intimating that North Lanarkshire Council has responsibility to arrange social care services for 91 people with learning disabilities leaving long-stay hospital care in the initial phase of the discharge programme; (2) advising that the balance of the initial phase of the programme for North Lanarkshire was 32 people, 9 of whom had already been secured accommodation and of the remainder, 14 stay in hospitals outwith North Lanarkshire; (3) intimating that the Council receives an agreed level of resource transfer funding from Lanarkshire Health Board which is used to pay for the direct care of people leaving hospital and the development of community base services designed to prevent future hospital admissions; (4) detailing the criteria which has to be met before a hospital bed reduction would take place; (5) advising that the Council, Scottish Homes and other Housing Associations were working to meet the accommodation needs of individuals from the discharge programme; (6) informing that to complete Phase 1 and facilitate Phase 2 of the discharge programme substantial capital investment was required to meet housing needs of individuals being discharged from hospital; (7) advising that Lanarkshire Health Board would contribute up to £400,000 of non-recurring monies in the year 1999/2000 and it was anticipated that a similar amount would be made available in the

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year 2000/2001, and (8) indicating that the programme could not be achieved within the required timescale without the appointment of two additional Social Work assessment staff (Care Co-ordinator - Learning Disability) to assess the needs of people leaving care, the cost for which would be met by Lanarkshire Health Board.

Decided: that the establishment of two Social Work Assessment staff funded by Lanarkshire Health Board be approved and remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for consideration and that the contents of the report be noted.

REVIEW OF JOINT COMMUNITY CARE PLAN AND ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

19. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 2 June 1998 when, *inter alia*, the joint Community Care Plan 1998/2001 was approved subject to (a) final editing; (b) a short period of consultation with provider organisations on revised purchasing intentions, and (c) the endorsement of final documents by joint planning partners through North Lanarkshire Joint Planning Forum, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated June 1999 by the Director of Social Work advising of the arrangements to carry out a review of the North Lanarkshire Joint Community Care Plan 1998-2001 and Accommodation Strategy (1) outlining the background to the guidance on preparation and publication of Community Care Plans and the framework for annually reviewing Joint Community Care Plans; (2) advising that the timescale for completing the review was the end of June 1999; (3) intimating that the review would be arranged in such way that all joint planning partners would participate thus ensuring a comprehensive and integrated review; (4) proposing that the final document be prepared in a similar format to the summary edition of the Joint Community Care Plan with 5000 copies being ordered, and (5) informing that the approximate cost of printing and publishing is £1,000 which would be shared equally between this Council, Lanarkshire Health Board and Scottish Homes.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed approach in reviewing the Joint Community Care Plan and accommodation strategy be approved, and
- (2) that the cost of publishing the review of the North Lanarkshire Joint Community Care Plan and Accommodation Strategy be approved.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES INSPECTORATE: SEX OFFENDERS REVIEW - INSPECTION OF CASE MANAGEMENT IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

20. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 May 1999 by the Director of Social Work regarding the results of an inspection undertaken by the Social Work Services Inspectorate into the case management of sex offenders in North Lanarkshire Council (1) outlining the background to the inspection and those matters concerning work with sex offenders which were relevant to the inspection; (2) detailing that the focus of the inspection; (3) indicating the positive results of the inspection; (4) advising of the areas which required improvement or action by the Council, and (5) intimating that the overall conclusion of inspection was that this Council had adopted a comprehensive and integrated approach to managing supervision of sex offenders.

Decided: that the results of the Inspection of case management in North Lanarkshire be noted.

ALERT SERVICE - CREATION OF A NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL CONTROL CENTRE

21. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 January 1999 when, inter alia, the proposal for the creation of a North Lanarkshire Alert Control Centre was approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 May 1999 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to invite tenders for the provision of the North Lanarkshire Council Control Centre Management System; (1) proposing that the 5 UK based manufacturers and suppliers of call handling equipment be invited to tender as detailed in Section 3 of the report, and (2) intimating that the tender specification had been prepared in consultation with other appropriate services in order to ensure that the tender specification complied with the Council's Standing Orders on contracts.

Decided: that the 5 UK based manufacturers detailed in Section 3 of the report be invited to tender for the provision of a North Lanarkshire Council Alert Control Centre Management System.

INCREASE IN ALLOWANCES PAID TO ADOPTIVE PARENTS

22. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated June 1999 by the Director of Social Work regarding the revised rates of allowances recommended by COSLA to be paid to adoptive parents (1) detailing the recommendations made by COSLA for fostering and adoption allowances which would bring allowances in line with those proposed by the National Foster Care Association in terms of Section 3 of the report, and (2) advising that these allowances would be paid on a basis of a 56 week year and the increase of 2.4% would be met from the £100,000 set aside in the 1999/2000 Social Work Budget.

Decided:

- (1) that the new rates as detailed within Section 3 of the report be approved with effect from 1 April 1999, and
- (2) that it be noted the necessary resources to meet the increased costs were included in the 1999/2000 Social Work Budget.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES - INTERIM GRANT ALLOCATION 1999/2000

23. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 May 1999 by the Director of Social Work regarding the interim grant allocation for Criminal Justice Services provided by the Scottish Office for the current financial year and seeking approval for the establishment of additional posts in the criminal justice services consistent with increased workloads (1) outlining the background to the Council's Criminal Justice Strategic Plan which was submitted to the Scottish Office in January of this year covering the period from 1999 to 2002 which contained proposals for the development of Criminal Justice Services within North Lanarkshire; (2) intimating that North Lanarkshire Council had applied for funding of £1,994,000 for existing services in 1999/2000 and that Interim Grant Allocation to the Council was £1,879,000; (3) providing a comparison of funding for services between 1998/99 and 1999/2000; (5) indicating that it was the intention to review the structure of the Criminal Justice Services when the overall level of funding from the Scottish Office was clear and to bring forward proposals to ensure that all services were focused on continuous improvement and quality of intervention; (6) advising that to continue to support the delivery of the core services of criminal justice two additional Social Worker posts and one additional Clerical Assistant post were required, and (7) advising that the overall cost of the proposed increase in staffing was £62,000 in a full year and £46,500 in the current financial year.

Decided:

- (1) that the level of interim grant allocation for Criminal Justice Services for 1999/2000 be noted;

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- (2) that the establishment of two additional Social Worker posts and one additional Clerical Assistant post the cost of which would be fully funded by the Scottish Office grant be remitted to the Personnel Services Committee for approval, and
- (3) that the outcome of the wider review of Criminal Justice Services be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PERFORMANCE REVIEW TEAM

24. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 June 1999 by the Director of Social Work regarding the establishment of a Performance Review Team within the Social Work Department (1) informing that in line with the Council's requirements to establish processes for the systematic review and the public reporting of a wide range of activities, the Director of Social Work required to review the arrangements for the monitoring, evaluation and review of services and performance and consultation arrangements with users of Social Work Services, Carers and the public in North Lanarkshire; (2) indicating that following a Best Value Review of Children's Services the Director of Social Work required to enhance the resources available to support the systematic monitoring and review of performance through the establishment of a Performance Review Team which would be based at the Social Work Department Headquarters; (3) detailing the job title and grades of the proposed three posts, and (4) indicating that additional costs of establishing the Performance Review Team would be £26,000 which could be met from funding earmarked for modernising community care and child care services.

Decided: that the Committee note the terms of the report and remit the report to the Finance and Personnel Services Committees for consideration of the funding proposals and staffing elements respectively.

CONFERENCES

(1) RESEARCH ON THE CHILDREN'S HEARING SYSTEM

25. There was considered an invitation from COSLA to attend a conference entitled "Research on the Children's Hearing System" which had been held in Glasgow on 18 March 1999.

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

(2) PROVIDING FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS

26. There was considered an invitation from Children in Scotland to attend a conference entitled "Providing for Children and Families Affected by HIV/AIDS" which had been held in Dundee on 23 March 1999.

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

(3) ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF ANTI-SOCIAL NEIGHBOURS

27. There was considered an invitation from Napier University to attend a conference entitled "Addressing the Issue of Anti-Social Neighbours" which had been held in Edinburgh on 26 April 1999.

Decided: that it be noted that Councillor W. Martin as Convener was authorised to attend.

(4) COMMUNITY CARE ISSUES FOR THE NEW SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

28. There was considered an invitation from Scottish Community Care Forum to attend a conference entitled "Community Care Issues for the New Scottish Parliament" which had been held in Stirling on 25 May 1999.

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

(5) CHILDREN, PARTICIPATION AND THE ARTS

29. There was considered an invitation from Children in Scotland to attend a conference entitled "Children, Participation and the Arts" to be held in Edinburgh on 17 June 1999.

Decided: that no attendance at this conference be authorised.

(6) BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE

30. There was considered an invitation from COSLA to attend a conference entitled "Better Government for Older People" to be held in Edinburgh on 17 June 1999.

Decided: that Councillor Sullivan be authorised to attend.