

**SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB – 15 August 2000****Motherwell, 15 August 2000 at 2 pm.****A Meeting of the SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES)  
SUB-COMMITTEE****PRESENT**

Councillor Selfridge, Convener; Councillors Chadha, Curley, Gorman, McLaughlin, Robertson and Ross.

**CHAIR**

Councillor Selfridge (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Committee Services Officer, Head of Social Work Services, Principal Officer (Child Care); Principal Officer (Community Care) and Principal Officer (Criminal Justice).

**ALSO ATTENDING**

B. Davidson, Community Services; James Doyle, Seven Day Centre Wishaw; Sean McGuigan, Criminal Justice Resource Worker and three members of the Youth Start Project.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Gordon, Lafferty, McCallum, H. McGuigan, Morris, Shaw and Sullivan.

**The Convener exercised his discretion to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.****NEW START PROJECT - FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK**

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 July 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress of the New Start Project which provides services to young people at risk (1) outlining the background to the service group which the project targets; (2) detailing the aims of the Project; (3) setting out the achievements to date of those involved in the Project, and (4) providing details of the future developments designed to expand the project as a valuable resource in engaging and working with young people at risk.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the development of the New Start Project to provide services to young people at risk be noted, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to Community Services, Education and Social Inclusion Committees for their interest.

**YOUTH CRIME REVIEW: PUBLICATION OF ADVISORY GROUP REPORT**

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 July 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Youth Crime Review: Publication of Advisory Group Report published by the Scottish Executive; (1) outlining the background to the Youth Crime Review Group and the outcome of its considerations, (2) setting out the issues which the report had raised which reflected the complexity of issues which relate to youth crime; (3) intimating that the Scottish Executive had requested local authorities to

submit proposals for the spend of additional grant for the current financial year for submission by the end of September, and (4) advising that developments in intervention with young people who offend would be undertaken jointly between Child Care and Criminal Justice Services in consultation with the Departments of Community Services and Education and South Lanarkshire Council.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to develop proposals for the spend of additional grant for the current financial year for submission to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee for approval, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Community Services and Education Committees for their interest.

**REVIEW OF SHARED CARE ALLOWANCES AND DEVELOPMENT OF A FEE BASED SHARED CARE SCHEME**

3. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 23 September 1998 when, inter alia, the progress in relation to the development of a North Lanarkshire Shared Care Scheme was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) by the Director of Social Work (1) seeking approval to (a) extend the Council's Family Based Care Scheme through the creation of a small group of fee based carers, and (b) agree new rates of allowances for the existing Shared Care Scheme (2) outlining the progress of the Shared Care Scheme; (3) intimating that the Scheme currently had 28 approved carers who provided placements for 21 children and 8 adults with varying levels of disabilities and needs; (4) detailing the current status of Shared Carers Payments of Allowances and Charges; (5) advising that the level of demand for the Scheme exceeded the level of supply and that the current waiting list for the Scheme was 38 children and 13 adults; (6) setting out (a) proposals for the development of a Fee Based Shared Care Plus Scheme which would address the current waiting list for the Scheme, and (b) the financial implications of the review of allowances for the existing Shared Care Scheme and the proposed new Fee Based Share Care Plus Scheme which amounted to £51,858.68 per annum.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the development of a Fee Based Shared Care Scheme be approved;
- (2) that the review of allowances for the current Shared Care Scheme be approved, and,
- (3) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the implementation of the new Fee Based Shared Care Scheme.

**COMMUNITY CARE (DIRECT PAYMENTS) ACT 1996 - PILOT PROJECT IN COATBRIDGE - PROGRESS REPORT**

4. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 18 February 1998 when, inter alia it was agreed that the Director of Social Work be authorised to carry out a direct payments scheme pilot project for people with a disability under the age of 65 years in North Lanarkshire for a 6 months period at a full year cost of £60,000, there was submitted a report (docketed) by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing the progress of the Project which is based in Coatbridge; (2) indicating that due to illness among the service users and difficulty in recruiting suitable personal assistants by the users the Project had taken longer to establish than was initially projected; (3) advising that three current users were employing their own personal assistants while two others were in the process of being assessed; (4) indicating that the payroll and employment support/advice service provided by the Monklands Association of Voluntary Services (MAVS) was working well and a good relationship had been established between users and MAVS staff, and (5) intimating that the Director of Social Work would review the implications of the findings of the present

Pilot Project and the proposed extension of the Scheme when considering future service developments in respect of people with a disability.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

#### **COMPETENCIES FOR STAFF AND CARERS WORKING WITH CHILDREN**

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated July 2000 by Director of Social Work regarding a consultation document produced by a consortium of four Local Authorities to deal with the competencies required for different job specifications within a Social Work Department (1) intimating that the consortium had produced a draft document for consultation which dealt with the competencies for 17 specified post designations as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; (2) setting out the content of the consultation document the main objective of which was to improve selection methods and find ways of enabling applicants to demonstrate their suitability for the position through tasks which simulate parts of the role they have applied for, and (3) advising that the proposals contained within the document would ensure standardisation of posts and provide a comprehensive range of selection and recruitment tools to ensure better protection and safety for looked after children.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee providing a response to the consultation document on competencies for staff and carers working with children.

#### **SCOTTISH HEALTH ADVISORY SERVICE - SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN LANARKSHIRE**

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 July 2000 by the Director of Social Work advising of the findings of the Scottish Health Advisory Service (SHAS) visit to health services for older people in Lanarkshire (1) intimating that the report by SHAS on the visit dealt with hospital and community health services and also considered joint working arrangements between health and social work services, and (2) providing details of the main findings of the Review contained under headings of planning and commissioning, leadership and management, quality of care, quality of life and site profiles.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

#### **ADOPTION APPLICATIONS IN SCOTLAND 1999**

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated July 2000 by Director of Social Work regarding the number of applications for Adoption in Scotland for 1999 (1) outlining the background to adoption application statistics produced by the Scottish Executive which were published annually; (2) setting out the positional statement on Adoption Applications in Scotland 1999; (3) detailing in Appendix 1 to the report the number of adoption applications for each Local Authority area in Scotland for 1996, 1997 and 1998 and (4) intimating that in 1999, 438 adoption orders were granted, 9 applications had been withdrawn and that no adoption applications had been refused.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work provide a further report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the adoption application statistics which relate to North Lanarkshire.