

Motherwell, 3 October 2000 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor H. McGuigan, Convener; Councillor Sullivan, Vice-Convener; Councillors Chadha, Cox, Curley, Gorman, Homer, Irvine, Jones, Love, McCabe, McCallum, J. McGuigan, McKinlay, McLaughlin, J. Martin, Morris, M. Murray, Nolan, Shaw and Shields.

CHAIR

Councillor H. McGuigan (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Committee Services Officer, Head of Social Work Development, Head of Social Work Resources, Head of Social Work Services, Principal Officer, Criminal Justice, Principal Officer, Registration and Inspection, Principal Officer, Strategy and Senior Accountant.

APOLOGIES

Councillor Selfridge, Vice-Convener, Councillors Coyle, Gordon, Lunny, McElroy, Ross and Saunders.

CONVENER'S REMARKS

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener drew to the attention of the members of the Committee the additional resources announced by the Scottish Executive for Community Care and of the many issues which are coming to the fore in relation to the Social Work services which will be of importance to the work of the Committee in the coming months.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

1. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings of the Social Work (Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 19 September 2000 and the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 26 September 2000.

Decided: that the terms of the Minutes be approved.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2000

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Inclusion Committee held on 24 August 2000 when, inter alia, that Committee approved the arrangements for the annual review of the Children's Services Plan 2000 and referred the report to the Community Services, Education and Social Work Committees for their information, there was submitted the said report dated 16 August 2000 by the Chief Executive thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

WORKING FAMILIES TAX CREDIT - EVALUATION OF EMPLOYEE INITIATIVE

3. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Inclusion Committee held on 24 August 2000 when, *inter alia*, that Committee (1) noted the completion of the pilot exercise amongst approximately 1,000 Council employees to raise awareness and promote the take-up of Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC); (2) agreed not to extend the initiative to remaining Council employees due to the relatively poor response to the pilot exercise, and (3) referred the report to this Committee for information, there was submitted the said report dated 25 July 2000 by the Chief Executive thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

“REGULATION OF EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE - THE WAY AHEAD” - SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION

4. With reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 31 August 2000 when that Committee endorsed the comments set out in the Appendix to the report as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Executive consultation on detailed proposals for the regulation and early education of child care and referred the report to the Community Services, Personnel Services and Social Work Committees for their interest, there was submitted the said report dated 22 June 2000 by the Director of Education thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

MODERNISING SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN SCOTLAND: DRAFT NATIONAL CARE STANDARDS - FIRST TRANCHE

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 September 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the draft National Care Standards for Residential Care of Older People, People with Mental Health Problems and Children and Young People and setting out the joint response on behalf of North and South Lanarkshire Councils and Lanarkshire Health Board (1) outlining the background to the draft National Care Standards, first tranche; (2) advising that the second tranche of the draft National Care Standards would include standards for home care services, addiction services and services for adults with learning disabilities, and (3) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report the joint response.

Decided:

- (1) that the comments set out in Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the draft National Standards for Residential Care of Older People, People with Mental Health Problems and Children and Young People, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit further reports on changes in regulation and the proposed developments in National Care Standards to future meetings of the Committee.

“WE WANT A LIFE” - JOINT LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY LAUNCH AND CONSULTATION OF STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2000

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 September 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the launch of the Joint Learning Disability Strategy document “We Want A Life” developed by this Council in partnership with Lanarkshire Health Board and South Lanarkshire Council to establish a modern community based service for people with learning disabilities and their carers (1) outlining the background to the joint strategy document which had been drawn up following a

series of surveys, reviews and consultation involving people with learning disabilities, their carers and other stakeholders; (2) advising that following completion on 30 September 2000 of the consultative process, the responses would be considered and amendments made to the document if necessary, after which the strategy would be reissued as a final framework, and (3) intimating that a joint response by North and South Lanarkshire Councils to both local and national reviews would be prepared and submitted to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that a report detailing the joint response of North and South Lanarkshire Councils to the local and national reviews of services for people with learning disabilities be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

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

7. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 6 June 2000 when, *inter alia*, the Director of Social Work was authorised to draft a response to the National Review of Services for People with a Learning Disability for consideration at a future meeting of this Committee, there was submitted a report dated 26 September 2000 by the Director of Social Work setting out the Council's response to the Scottish Executive national review of services for people with learning disabilities.

Decided: that the comments set out in Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Executive consultation on the national review of services for people with learning disabilities.

LANARKSHIRE CRIMINAL JUSTICE GROUPING

8. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 August 2000 when, *inter alia*, the Director of Social Work had been authorised to submit the management and reporting proposals for criminal justice services for the Lanarkshire Grouping to the Scottish Executive, there was submitted a report dated September 2000 by the Director of Social Work setting out these proposals for criminal justice services in the Lanarkshire grouping which had been submitted to the Scottish Executive.

Decided: that the action taken by the Director of Social Work to advise the Scottish Executive of the management and reporting proposals for criminal justice services for the Lanarkshire Grouping be homologated.

RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 21 September 2000 by the Director of Social Work advising of additional funding available from the Scottish Executive to tackle problems arising from delays to the discharge of patients from hospital and setting out details of the North Lanarkshire action plan which has been submitted to the Scottish Executive (1) outlining the background to the additional funding; (2) indicating that the additional funding of £606,163 available to North Lanarkshire was a non-recurring resource; (3) intimating that a group comprising representatives from this Council, the Acute and Primary Health Care Trusts, Lanarkshire Health Board and South Lanarkshire Council had identified five key areas which would address (a) reducing the delays of

discharge of patients from hospital; (b) facilitating the early discharge of patients who were admitted to hospital, and (c) avoidance of hospital admission, and (4) setting out details of the North Lanarkshire action plan which included funding for an additional 40 residential nursing home placements from a mix of acute and primary care hospital beds.

Decided:

- (1) that the action taken by the Director of Social Work in submitting the North Lanarkshire Action Plan to the Scottish Executive by the deadline of 15 September 2000 be homologated, and
- (2) that, subject to the funding being made available by the Scottish Executive, the Director of Social Work provide an evaluation report to a future meeting of the Committee on the spend of the additional resources at the end of the period of funding on 31 March 2001.

INFLUENZA IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME 2000/2001

10. There was submitted a report dated 21 September 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding arrangements for influenza immunisation of key Health Care and Social Care staff in North Lanarkshire (1) intimating that the Scottish Executive Health Department had advised all health and local authority social care providers to consider protecting front line staff by making available influenza immunisation to all staff who work with people aged 65 and over ; (2) proposing that the Council offer influenza immunisation to all staff who work with people aged 65 and over, and (3) intimating that funding for the immunisation programme could be met from existing budgets.

Decided: that the Director of Social Work be authorised to offer influenza immunisation to all staff working with people aged 65 and over as detailed in the report.

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

SECTION 10 FUNDING

11. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 7 March 2000 when, inter alia, the funding recommendations for Section 10 grants set out in the schedule to the report were approved with the exception of North Lanarkshire Women's Aid Limited. pending the assessment of the audited account of the organisation, there was submitted a report dated 29 September 2000 by the Director of Social Work advising that the assessment of North Lanarkshire Women's Aid Limited audited accounts had been completed satisfactorily and recommending that a grant of £23,704 be made to North Lanarkshire Women's Aid Limited.

Decided: that the Director of Social Work be authorised to provide North Lanarkshire Women's Aid Limited with Section 10 funding of £23,704, subject to monitoring requirements being satisfied.

REVENUE ESTIMATES 2000/2001 - FINANCIAL MONITORING STATEMENT FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT AND SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT - 1 APRIL TO 20 AUGUST 2000

12. There was submitted a report dated 18 September 2000 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of Department spending levels for the Department of Social Work for the period from 1 April to 20 August 2000 and providing a comparison with the approved budget; (2) indicating that the projected year end outturn showed an underspend of £728,169, the major element of which was

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employee costs, and (3) intimating that difficulties in recruiting staff had led to staff shortages making it difficult for the Department to meet its service commitments.

The Convener advised that in this respect it was intended that a meeting be held with the Convener of the Personnel Services Committee and the Head of Personnel Services to explore options which would address these difficulties.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

REVENUE ESTIMATES 2000/2001 - FINANCIAL MONITORING STATEMENT FOR SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT - 1 APRIL TO 20 AUGUST 2000

13. There was submitted a report dated 21 September 2000 by the Director of Social Work advising of spending levels for sheltered employment for the period from 1 April to 20 August 2000 and providing a comparison with the approved budget.

The Convener intimated that the project at Beltane Workshop, Wishaw was very successful and proposed that a visit be arranged for members of the Social Work Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work arrange for the members of the Social Work Committee to visit the Beltane Workshop project in Wishaw, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be noted.

COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2000/2001 MONITORING REPORT FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT - 1 APRIL TO 20 AUGUST 2000

14. With reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 August 2000 when the financial position of the Capital Programme for the Social Work Department was noted, there was submitted a report dated 18 September 2000 by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing the current progress being made on individual projects included in the Capital Programme as at 20 August 2000, and (2) intimating that expenditure against the approved budget amounted to £180,199 to date as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Decided: that the progress of the Capital Programme for the Social Work Department as at 20 August 2000 be noted.

CONFERENCES

15. There were considered invitations from:-

- (1) the University of Tilburg and Ministry of Justice, The Netherlands to attend a conference entitled "Victims of Crime in 22 European Criminal Justice Systems" held in Glasgow on 8 September 2000;
- (2) the Association of Nurses in Substance Abuse to attend a conference entitled "Substance Use and Scotland's Health 2000" held in Edinburgh on 21-22 September 2000;

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- (3) the Scottish National Federation for the Welfare of the Blind to attend a conference entitled “Great Expectations” held in Aberdeen on 28-29 September 2000;
- (4) Children in Scotland/University of Glasgow to attend a conference entitled “Challenges of Violence in the Lives of Girls and Young Women” held in Glasgow on 29 September 2000;
- (5) Children in Scotland to attend a conference entitled “Mental Health Matters” to be held in Edinburgh on 9 October 2000, and
- (6) Scottish Housing and Support Conference to attend a conference entitled “Scottish Housing and Support Conference” to be held in Edinburgh on 12-13 October 2000.

Decided:

- (1) that the attendance of Councillors Love and Sullivan at the “Victims of Crime in 22 European Criminal Justice Systems” conference held in Glasgow on 8 September 2000 be homologated;
- (2) that the attendance of Councillors Cassidy and Love at the “Substance Use and Scotland’s Health 2000” conference held in Edinburgh on 21-22 September 2000 be homologated;
- (3) that the attendance of Councillor Love at the “Great Expectations” conference held in Aberdeen on 28-29 September 2000 be homologated;
- (4) that the attendance of Councillors Devine and McKinlay at Scottish Housing and Support Conference” to be held in Dunblane on 12-13 October 2000 be approved, and
- (5) that no attendance at the two other conferences be authorised.