

SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB – 14 November 2000

Motherwell, 14 November 2000 at 2 pm.

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

PRESENT

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

CHAIR

Councillor Selfridge, (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer, Head of Social Work Services, Principal Officer Child Care, Principal Off Criminal Justice and Children's Rights Officer

APOLOGIES

Councillors Gorman, H. McGuigan, Shaw and Sullivan

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

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated October 2000 by the Director of Social Work detailing the work undertaken by the Council's Children's Rights Officer and informing of the issues raised by young people using the service (1) outlining the background to the Children's Rights Service provided by the Council; (2) detailing the remit, role and areas of activity of the Children's Rights Officer, and (3) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report issues referred to the Children's Rights Officer between 1 April 1999 and 31 March 2000.

Thereon two users of the Children's Rights Service were heard in relation to how the Children's Rights Officer had provided them with support and guidance. Thereafter the Convener on behalf of the Sub-Committee thanked them for their attendance and expressing their views on the service.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

PROVISION OF TEMPORARY FOSTERING RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE ACCOMMODATED OUTWITH NORMAL WORKING HOURS

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated October 2000 by the Director of Social Work setting out arrangements for the provision of foster care placements for children who are accommodated outwith normal working hours (1) outlining the background to Section 17 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 which places a statutory duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote child's welfare; (2) advising that interim arrangements had been implemented for the provision of placements for children in emergency situations outwith normal working hours following the withdrawal of the service from Glasgow City Council, and (3) intimating that the Working Group which had been established to identify arrangements for the development of fostering services for placements outwith normal working hours in North Lanarkshire had recommended that (a) future arrangements for the services

SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB – 14 November 2000

should operate within the existing framework of approved foster carers and that there be identified therein the names of those foster carers who were also available to provide emergency placements, and (b) a one-off payment of £30 for each child placed up to a maximum of five be paid to the foster carers in addition to normal fostering allowances which would increase the annual costs by £600.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed arrangements for the extension of the foster care placement scheme to include the emergency placement of children outwith normal working hours be approved, and
- (2) that a payment of £30 to foster carers for each child placed up to a maximum of five on an emergency basis outwith normal working hours in addition to the normal fostering allowances be approved.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN: A WHITE PAPER ON SCOTTISH FAMILY LAW

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated October 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Scottish Executive White Paper on Scottish Family Law (1) highlighting the main proposals affecting children and young people, and (2) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report the Council's proposed response to the White Paper on Scottish Family Law.

Decided: that the comments set out in Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Executive White Paper on Scottish Family Law.

SCOTTISH PRISON SERVICE DOCUMENT - PARTNERSHIP AND CO-ORDINATION - ACTION ON DRUGS

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated October 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding the contents of the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) document "Partnership and Co-ordination - SPS Action on Drugs" (1) outlining the background to the SPS strategy which provides guidelines for the management of drug misuse in Scotland's Prisons; (2) providing background information in relation to the new strategy and highlighting the priorities of the document; (3) advising that the Council's Senior Addiction Worker based in Shotts Prison would be closely involved in developing a drugs strategy in the Prison and developing liaison with community based resources, and (4) intimating that the Addiction Support Services in North Lanarkshire would offer a range of addiction services to people within the community in addition to the services offered to offenders returning to the community.

Decided: that the contents of the Scottish Prison Service document "Partnership and Co-ordination - SPS Action on Drugs" be noted.

DIVERSION FROM PROSECUTION - DRAFT REVISED GUIDELINES

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated October 2000 by the Director of Social Work regarding draft revised guidelines for the operation of diversion from prosecution schemes issued by the Scottish Executive, Justice Department (1) indicating that an evaluation had been carried out by Stirling University Social Work Research Centre to establish the benefits and difficulties in relation to diversion from prosecution; (2) intimating that (a) the results of the evaluation had found that mentally disordered accused, drug and alcohol misusing accused, female accused and young (16 and 17 year olds) accused benefited most from diversion from prosecution and (b) they would form the core target groups subject to receipt of 100% funding from the Scottish Executive; (3) advising that the Council's guidelines in relation to diversion from prosecution would be revised to take account of the proposed target groups, and (4) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report the Council's proposed response to the Scottish Executive Justice Department.

Decided:

- (1) that the provision of 100% funding for the core target groups for diversion schemes previously resourced under pilot funding be welcomed;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to approach the Scottish Executive to fund an extension to the Council's Diversion from Prosecution Scheme, and
- (3) that the comments set out in Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Executive Justice Department Draft Revised Guidelines for the operation of diversion from prosecution schemes.