

**Motherwell, 8 March 2001 at 10 am.**

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

**PRESENT**

Councillor Selfridge, Convener; Councillors Chadha, Coyle, Curley and Gordon.

**CHAIR**

Councillor Selfridge (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Ross, Shaw and Sullivan.

**THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICE**

1. The Convener advised the Sub-Committee that Mr. J. Scott, Principal Officer Criminal Justice, of the Department of Social Work, was present at the meeting and would make a presentation on the Criminal Justice Service.

Thereafter, the Principal Officer was heard in relation to (1) the key aims, objectives and functions of the Criminal Justice Service; (2) the strategic partnerships which had been formed with associated agencies to facilitate service delivery, and (3) the development of the Service.

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

**SEX OFFENDERS ACT 1997 - SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE GUIDANCE FOR AGENCIES -**

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 March 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the issue of revised guidance by the Scottish Executive on the Sex Offenders Act 1997 and the respective roles of the relevant agencies, and (2) setting out comments on the revised guidance for submission to the Scottish Executive.

**Decided:** that the comments set out in the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Executive on the revised guidance on the Sex Offenders Act 1997.

**SCOTTISH STRATEGY FOR VICTIMS - SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION**

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated February 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that a consultation document had been received from the Scottish Executive on a "Scottish Strategy For Victims", which set out proposals for the provision of emotional and practical support and information for victims of crime by the relevant agencies within the Criminal Justice System; (2) intimating that the Justice Department of the Scottish Executive had formulated an Action

Plan to support victims within the framework of the strategy for implementation on a phased basis; (3) indicating that the Scottish Executive would introduce procedures to ensure that the support services provided by the relevant agencies would meet the requisite standards and that their performance would be open to scrutiny, and (4) recommending that the Sub-Committee endorse the terms of the strategy and support the Action Plan.

**Decided:** that the terms of the Scottish Executive's Strategy for Victims, as outlined in the report, be endorsed, and that the Action Plan of the Criminal Justice Department be supported.

#### **PROPOSALS BY COSLA FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER IN SCOTLAND - SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION**

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated February 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that a consultation document had been received from the Scottish Executive on proposals by COSLA for the appointment of a Children's Commissioner in Scotland to champion the rights of children, and (2) setting out in the Appendix to the report the response which had been submitted by the Director of Social Work to meet the timescale for comments.

**Decided:** that the comments set out in the Appendix to the report by the Director of Social Work be endorsed and homologated as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Executive on COSLA's proposals for the appointment of a Children's Commissioner in Scotland.

#### **OCCUPANCY RATES IN RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING HOMES**

5. There was submitted a report dated February 2001 by the Director of Social Work advising of comparative statistical information from the Scottish Executive showing occupancy rates per Council area for local authority Residential Homes and independent sector Residential Homes and Nursing Homes for the period from 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2000.

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

#### **EVENING TIMES LOCAL HEROES AWARDS 2000**

6. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 11 January 2001 when it was noted that this Council would host the presentation ceremony for the Evening Times Local Heroes Awards for 2000 in the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow on 19 February 2001, there was submitted a report dated 26 February 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) commenting on the merits of the Local Heroes Awards as a means of publicly recognising voluntary community services, and (2) advising that of the 17 community groups which had been nominated by the Council for an award, the Fallside Action Group, Uddingston, won the Community Spirit Award for the provision of facilities for young people, and lunch clubs and activities for elderly people.

**Decided:**

- (1) that congratulations be extended to Fallside Action Group, Uddingston, for their success in achieving the Local Heroes Community Spirit Award 2000, and
- (2) that the remaining 16 community groups nominated by the Council be commended for the services which they provide for the benefit of local communities.