

**SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB - 10 May 2001**

---

---

**Motherwell, 10 May 2001 at 10 am.**

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

**PRESENT**

Councillor Selfridge, Convener; Councillors Cassidy, Curley, Gordon, McCallum, McLaughlin and Ross.

**CHAIR**

Councillor Selfridge (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

The Children's Rights Officer, Department of Social Work and Principal Officer (Development), Department of Community Sewices.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Chadha, Coyle, Gormill, Irvine, Lafferty, McGuigan, Robertson, Shaw and Sullivan.

**CHILDRENS RIGHTS CONFERENCE PLANNING GROUP - PRESENTATION BY CHILDREN'S RIGHTS OFFICER**

1. The Convener advised the Sub-Committee (1) that Ms. Fiona Cameron, Children's Rights Officer of the Department of Social Work, and Mr. R. McHarg, Principal Officer (Development) of the Department of Community Services were present at the meeting to make a presentation on the Children's Rights Conference which was held in the premises of the YMCA, Bellshill on 28 November 2000, and (2) that also present at the meeting were Ms. D. Noble, representing Barnardos Scotland, together with youth representatives Miss C. Murphy, Miss D. McAuslin, Miss S.J. Allen and Mr. S. Kidd.

In that connection, the Children's Rights Officer advised the Sub-Committee (1) that the Conference was a corporate initiative by the Council, in association with voluntary organisations within North Lanarkshire for children and young people, which provided a forum for discussion on the right of young people to be (a) consulted with regard to the services provided for them to ensure that they were relevant to their needs, and (b) included in decision making processes which influence these services provided on their behalf; (2) that the main aims of the Conference were (a) to develop an awareness of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, and (b) to examine ways to facilitate the participation of young people in service development; (3) that since the Conference and following consultation on the relevant issues, the Council had formulated a Strategy for Young People which set out the main issues to be dealt with by the Council and its partner agencies over a five year period, and (4) that, in recognition of the efforts made in involving young people in decision making processes, the Council had recently won an award for the Strategy. The Principal Officer (Development) was then heard in relation to the way forward in respect of the implementation of the Strategy.

Thereon, the Children's Rights Officer and the Principal Officer (Development) responded to Members' questions.

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

**DRAFT NATIONAL ADOPTION STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES - SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION**

2. There was submitted a report dated April 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that a consultation document had been received from the Scottish Executive on draft National Adoption Standards for England, Scotland and Wales which advocate that children's welfare, safety, needs and views should be at the centre of the adoption process (2) intimating that a response to the consultation paper had been forwarded to the Scottish Executive, on behalf of the Council, to meet the timescale for comments, and (3) indicating that, following the publication by the Scottish Executive of the outcome of the consultation, a report (a) identifying any gaps in the provision of Adoption Services in North Lanarkshire, and (b) detailing an Action Plan to address the relevant issues, would be submitted to the Sub-Committee.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the action taken by the Director of Social Work in responding to the Scottish Executive on the draft National Adoption Standards for England, Scotland and Wales be homologated, and
- (2) that it be noted that, following the publication by the Scottish Executive of the outcome of the consultation, the Director of Social Work would submit a further report (1) identifying any gaps in the provision for Adoption Services in North Lanarkshire, and (2) detailing an Action Plan to address the relevant issues to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

**REVIEW OF THE MENTAL HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984 - "NEW DIRECTIONS" (THE MILLAN REPORT)**

3. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 30 May 2000 when the Sub-Committee had endorsed the comments set out in a report dated 12 May 2000 by the Director of Social Work as the Council's response to the Scottish Executive on the second consultation paper on the review of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984, there was submitted a report dated April 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) summarising and commenting on (a) the main recommendations set out in a report published by the Scottish Executive entitled "New Directions" (The Millan Report) on the review, and (b) on the implications thereof on the Council, as a local social work authority, in terms of the provision and delivery of care and support for people with a mental disorder, and (2) indicating that the progress of the implementation of these recommendations would be monitored and that a report thereon would be submitted to the Sub-Committee.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that it be noted that the Director of Social Work would submit a further report on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Millan Report on the review of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

**REPORT BY THE MENTAL WELFARE COMMISSION ON DEFICIENCY IN CARE AND TREATMENT ENQUIRY**

4. There was submitted report dated April 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that the Mental Welfare Commission had an overall protective function for mentally disordered people in Scotland and that, in terms of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984, the Commission had a statutory duty to investigate any case where there appeared to be a deficiency in care or treatment of a person suffering from mental disorder; (2) summarising and commenting on a Report by the Commission on a recent "Deficiency in Care and Treatment Enquiry"; (3) outlining the Commission's recommendations in relation to the procedures and guidance used by local authorities in assessment care management in order to ensure proper assessment of the capacity of people suffering from mental disorders to make decisions relating to their welfare, medical needs and financial status; (4) intimating that an Action Plan had been formulated to progress these recommendations, and (5) advising that departmental procedures had also been drafted, in light of the Council's obligations under the pending Adults With Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000, for the provision and delivery of services to care and protect vulnerable adults, and that consultations would be carried out thereon with partnership agencies.

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

**ADULTS WITH INCAPACITY (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000**

5. There was submitted a report dated April 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the timescale for the implementation of various parts of the Adults With Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 which makes provision for local authorities to protect the welfare and the financial and property assets of adults incapacitated by reason of mental disorder or inability to communicate; (2) outlining the obligations of local authorities under the Act in terms of service provision; (3) commenting on the need for staff training in respect of the provisions of the Act and of the need to raise awareness of the implementation and purpose of the various parts of the Act, and (4) intimating that a Working Group had been set up in association with South Lanarkshire Council to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the Act.

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

**SOCIAL WORK IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE - REPORT BY THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CENTRAL RESEARCH UNIT ON "THE LONGER TERM IMPACT OF SUPERVISION"**

6. There was submitted a report dated April 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) outlining the main findings of a Report by the Scottish Executive Central Research Unit entitled "Social Work in Criminal Justice : The Longer Term Impact of Supervision" following a recent evaluation of the longer term impact on offending and on the social circumstances of offenders in light of probation supervision and community based through care, and (2) advising that the Report had concluded that since the introduction of the National Objectives and Standards for Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System in 1991 significant developments had been made in terms of understanding the factors likely to cause offenders to be motivated towards positive change.

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