

Motherwell, 4 October 2001 at 10 am **AGENDA ITEM No. 3**

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

PRESENT

Councillor Selfridge, Convener; Councillors Cassidy, Chadha, Curley, Gordon, Gormill, Irvine, McCallum, Robertson and Shaw.

CHAIR

Councillor Selfridge (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer, Head of Social Work Services, Manager (Community Care - Older People), Manager (Community Care - Adult Services), Children and Families Services Manager, Service Co-ordinator Criminal Justice, Service Co-ordinator Independent Living Services and Head Occupational Therapist.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Coyle, Lafferty, McLaughlin, Ross and Scott.

“SETTLED IN COURT? - AN INSPECTION OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES AT FOUR SHERIFF COURTS” - REPORT BY THE SOCIAL WORK SERVICES INSPECTORATE

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated September 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the publication of a report by the Social Work Inspectorate entitled “Settled in Court? - An Inspection of Social Work Services at Four Sheriff Courts” which set out its findings and recommendations following a review of social work services within Courts; (2) intimating that the report had highlighted a diversity in approach by local authorities in the context of work within Courts and the delivery of relevant services, and (3) setting out in the Appendix to the report comments on the recommendations of the Inspectorate.

Decided:

- (1) that the publication of the report by the Social Work Inspectorate entitled “Settled in Court? - An Inspection of Social Work Services at Four Sheriff Courts” be noted, and
- (2) that the comments set out in the Appendix to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Executive on the recommendations by the Social Work Inspectorate.

INTEGRATING DISABILITY INTO TRANSPORT POLICY - ESTABLISHMENT OF A MOBILITY AND ACCESS COMMITTEE FOR SCOTLAND

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 September 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that the Scottish Executive had sought the Council's views on its proposals to establish a Mobility and Access Committee to advise Scottish Ministers on aspects of policy affecting the transport needs of people with disabilities in Scotland, and (2) setting out in the Appendix to the report comments on the proposals.

Decided: that the comments set out in the Appendix to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Executive on its proposals to establish a Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland.

PROVISION OF A MOBILE UNIT TO ENHANCE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

3. There was submitted a report dated 13 September 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that as a result of the recent review of aids and adaptations for disabled people, it was proposed that tenders be invited for the purchase of a mobile unit to provide an information service, on a North Lanarkshire wide basis, with a view to promoting awareness and access to the Council's services for disabled people and the ranges of equipment available, and (2) intimating that funding was available from the Council's Special Initiative Fund for the project.

In that connection, there followed a presentation by the Head Occupational Therapist on the design and specifications of the mobile unit and on the facilities to be provided.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the presentation be noted, and
- (2) that the proposal for the purchase of a mobile unit to provide an information service, on a North Lanarkshire wide basis, on services and equipment for disabled people be welcomed.

THE ADOPTION (INTERCOUNTRY ASPECTS) ACT 1999 - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN FROM OVERSEAS (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2001

4. There was submitted a report dated 27 September 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the implementation of the Adoption of Children from Overseas (Scotland) Regulations 2001 and the associated Commencement Order of 22 July 2001 which brought into force Sections 9 and 14 of the Adoption (Intercountry Aspects) Act 1999, and (2) intimating that the new regulations (a) required prospective adopters of a child not from the British Isles to apply to a local authority or approved adoption agency for assessment prior to and after bringing the child into the country for adoption; (b) imposed a duty on local authorities to assess the prospective adopters and, where they were considered to be suitable parents, to advise the Scottish Ministers accordingly, and (c) set out the procedural framework for the issue of relevant documentation and the confirmation of an Adoption Order.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to amend existing departmental procedures to take account of the requirements of Sections 9 and 14 of the Adoption (Intercountry Aspects) Act 1999, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work be requested to prepare a report for submission to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee should there be any increase in demand for adoption services or an impact on resources for those services.

“SAFETY FIRST” - REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL INQUIRY INTO SUICIDE AND HOMICIDE BY PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 September 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) intimating that a National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness had been established in 1996 (a) to collect clinical data on people who die by suicide or commit homicide and who had been in contact with mental health services, and (b) to make recommendations on clinical practice and policy which would reduce the risk of suicide and homicide by people under mental health care; (2) advising that the five year report of the Inquiry entitled “Safety First” had been published earlier in the year, and (3) summarising and commenting on the key findings and recommendations of the Inquiry.

Decided:

- (1) that the publication of the report of the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness be noted, and
- (2) that the terms of the report by the Director of Social Work be noted.

EVENING TIMES LOCAL HEROES AWARD 2001

6. There was submitted a report dated 26 September 2001 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Council’s sponsorship of the Evening Times Local Heroes Awards for outstanding voluntary work during 2001 by community groups nominated by participating authorities (1) advising that the City of Glasgow Council would host the award ceremony in February 2002, and (2) intimating that the Council’s sponsorship and the cost of promotional gifts bearing the Council logo amounted to £5,800, the cost of which would be met from the departmental budget.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be requested to prepare a progress report on the awards for submission to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

LANARKSHIRE HEALTH BOARD’S INFLUENZA IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME 2001/2002

7. There was submitted a report dated September 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of Lanarkshire Health Board’s Influenza Immunisation Programme 2001/2002 which contained provision for staff of health and local authority social care providers who work with patients and clients aged 65 or over to be immunised against the effects of influenza, and (2) indicating that the cost of the immunisation of local authority staff would be met from the departmental budget.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.