

Motherwell, 20 December 2001 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor H. McGuigan, Convener; Councillors Selfridge and Sullivan, Vice-Conveners; Councillors Chadha, Cox, Coyle, Gordon, Gormill, Homer, Irvine, Jones, Lafferty, Love, Lunny, McCallum, J. McGuigan, McKendrick, McKinlay, McLaughlin, J. Martin, M. Murray, Nolan, Ross, Saunders and Shields.

CHAIR

Councillor H. McGuigan (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer, Director of Social Work, Head of Social Work Services, Head of Social Work Resources, Manager (Community Care - Older People) and Manager (Community Care - Adult Services), Department of Social Work, Building Consultancy Services Manager, Department of Housing and Property Services and Accounting Manager, Department of Finance.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cassidy, Curley and Robertson.

COMMUNITY CARE AND HEALTH (SCOTLAND) BILL - CARE DEVELOPMENT GROUP REPORT - "FAIR CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE"

1. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 11 December 2001 when that Sub-Committee had continued consideration of a report dated 14 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work to this Committee regarding (1) the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Bill which contained proposals for the provision of free nursing and personal care and was scheduled to come into force on 1 April 2002; (2) a report by the Scottish Executive's Care Development Plan Group entitled "Fair Care for Older People" which contained recommendations on the implications, costs and "cross-border" issues of the provision of free nursing and personal care for older people, and (3) the implications of the proposed new legislation for the Council in terms of service development and joint working arrangements with the National Health Service, there was submitted the said report by the Director of Social Work.

Thereon the Head of Social Work Resources gave a presentation on (1) the three main themes of the Bill, namely (a) the implementation of free nursing and personal care; (b) the expansion of access to Direct Payments, and (c) the joint resourcing and management of Health and Social Care Services, and (2) the financial and operational implications of the implementation of the proposals for the Council.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report by the Director of Social Work and the presentation by the Head of Social Work Resources be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a report on proposals for the administration of a Direct Payment Scheme to the next meeting of the Committee.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB-COMMITTEE

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 6 December 2001.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be approved.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF SOCIAL WORK (PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION) SUB-COMMITTEE

3. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 11 December 2001.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be approved.

REVENUE ESTIMATES 2001/2002 - FINANCIAL MONITORING STATEMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

4. With reference to paragraph 19 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 October 2001 when, *inter alia*, (1) the projected underspend of £1m in community care monies for 2001/2002 had been noted; (2) proposals by the Director of Social Work for the allocation of underspend non-recurring funds to enhance service delivery in three specified project areas had been approved, and (3) the Director of Social Work had been authorised to investigate the feasibility of further allocations from the underspend to three other specified project areas, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 December 2001 by the Director of Social Work advising of the spending levels for the Department of Social Work for the period from 1 April to 9 November 2001 and providing a comparison with the approved budget.

Thereon, the Convener referred to the allocation of non-recurring funding in the sum of £300,000 from the underspend of community care monies to provide equipment and adaptations and advised orally that the Director of Social Work had indicated that it may be possible to make a further allocation of underspend monies to the project.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work explore the feasibility of a further allocation of non-recurring funding from the underspend of community care monies for 2001/2002 to the project for the provision of equipment and adaptations, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted;

REVENUE ESTIMATES 2001/2002 - FINANCIAL MONITORING STATEMENT FOR SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT

5. There was submitted a report dated 4 December 2001 by the Director of Social Work advising of the spending levels for sheltered employment for the period from 1 April to 9 November 2001 and providing a comparison with the approved budget.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2001/2002 - MONITORING REPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

6. There was submitted a report dated 30 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing the progress made in individual projects included in the Capital Programme for the Department of Social Work as at 9 November 2001, and (2) intimating that expenditure against the approved budget amounted to £0.436m, as detailed in the Appendix to the report..

Decided: that the progress of the Capital Programme for the Department of Social Work as at 9 November 2001 be noted.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICE PLAN 2001/2002 - QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

7. There was submitted a report dated 15 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work advising of the implementation of the Social Work Service Plan for 2001/2002 and setting out in the Appendix to the report details of the progress of the key strategic development tasks identified therein.

Decided: that the progress of the key strategic development tasks as detailed in the Appendix to the report be noted.

SERVICE AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

(1) SOCIAL WORK SERVICE PLAN 2001/2004

8. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 18 September 2001, there was submitted a report dated 3 December 2001 by the Director of Social Work and the Social Work Service Plan for 2001/2004 (1) advising that the Service Plan contained information relating to Current Service Provision, together with a review of progress against key actions identified in the 2001/2002 Service Plan, detailed actions for 2002/2003 and indicative proposals for 2003/2004; (2) intimating that whilst no significant alterations to the Service Plan were anticipated there may be minor alterations as a result of the finalisation of the Council's budget for 2002/2003, and (3) indicating that the progress of the implementation of the key actions identified in the Service Plan would be reported to the Committee on a quarterly basis.

Decided:

- (1) that the Social Work Service Plan for 2001/2004 be approved;
- (2) that it be noted that the Director of Social Work would submit quarterly monitoring reports on the implementation of the key actions identified in the Service Plan to the Committee, and
- (3) that it be noted that any minor alterations to the Service Plan resulting from the finalisation of the Council's budget would be reported to Committee in the first quarterly monitoring report of the Service Plan.

(2) REVENUE ESTIMATES 2002/2003 - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK AND SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT

9. There were submitted reports (docketed) dated 27 November 2001 by the Director of Finance (1) seeking the Committee's approval of the Revenue Budgets for the Department of Social Work and Sheltered Employment for the financial year 2002/2003; (2) outlining the background relative thereto; (3) advising that the base budgets for 2002/2003 had been prepared by rolling forward the approved 2001/2002 budgets to reflect expenditure pressures that were unavoidable or had been recognised by

the Government in determining the extent of Local Government financial settlements; (4) detailing in Appendix iv to the report in respect of the Department of Social Work, efficiency savings brought forward by the Director of Social Work amounting to the sum of £700,000; (5) providing a budget summary in anticipation of the decisions taken in respect of efficiency savings; (6) indicating that the Council will, at a meeting on 14 February 2002, consider potential for growth in service budgets prior to determining its overall spending plans and Council Tax levels for the following year, and (7) recommending that the Committee (a) note the level of Current Service Provision movements and increases as set out within Appendices i and ii to each report; (b) agree the base budgets as set out in Appendix iii to each report prior to consideration of efficiency savings in respect of the Department of Social Work, and (c) consider and make recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee on the efficiency savings as detailed within Appendix iv of the report in respect of the Department of Social Work.

Decided: that the Committee

- (1) note the explanation of the detailed CSP adjustments as set forth in Appendix ii to each of the reports by the Director of Finance and, for its interest, approve the CSP adjustments to the departmental base estimates with regard to the Department of Social Work and Sheltered Employment, as detailed in Appendix i to each of the reports;
- (2) approve, for its interest, the base departmental budget for the Department of Social Work and Sheltered Employment, as detailed in Appendix iii to each of the reports, subject to the following savings;
- (3) approve, for its interest, savings from the departmental base estimates for the Department of Social Work, as detailed in Appendix iv to that report, and
- (4) recommend accordingly to the Policy and Resources Committee and the Council.

CONTRACTS

(1) CONVERSION OF FACTORY UNIT AT 36 FERN STREET, MOTHERWELL, TO FORM AN EQUIPMENT STORE

10. There was submitted a report dated 9 November 2001 by the Director of Housing and Property Services advising (1) that the lowest tender for the conversion of a Factory Unit at 36 Fern Street, Motherwell, to provide an Equipment Store, was that of Sim Building Group Limited, Kirkintilloch, in the sum of £198,161.12, and (2) that the Director of Administration was progressing the matter in terms of his delegated powers.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

(2) CONVERSION OF FACTORY UNIT AT 31 FERN STREET, MOTHERWELL TO FORM AN ASSISTED LIVING RESOURCE CENTRE

11. With reference to the immediately preceding paragraph, there was submitted a report dated 13 December 2001 by the Director of Housing and Property Services (1) regarding the award of the contract for the conversion of a Factory Unit at 36 Fern Street, Motherwell, to provide an Equipment Store to Sim Building Group Limited, Kirkintilloch, under competitive tendering procedures, and (2) seeking authority to negotiate an extension to the existing contract with Sim Building Group Limited to carry out additional works at that location which involved the conversion of an adjacent Factory Unit at 31 Fern Street to provide an Assisted Living Resource Centre.

Decided: that the Director of Housing and Property Services be authorised to negotiate an extension to the existing contract with Sim Building Group Limited, Kirkintilloch, for the conversion of a Factory Unit at 36 Fern Street, Motherwell, to carry out additional works involving the conversion of a Factory Unit at 31 Fern Street to provide an Assisted Living Resource Centre.

(3) RE-ROOFING OF HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY AT LOCHVIEW HOUSE, COATBRIDGE; LESLIE HOUSE, MOTHERWELL, AND BELHAVEN HOUSE, WISHAW

12. There was submitted a report dated 22 November 2001 by the Director of Housing of Property Services advising (1) that the lowest tender for the re-roofing of Homes for the Elderly at Lochview House, Coatbridge; Leslie House, Motherwell, and Belhaven House, Wishaw, was that of Braedale Roofing Limited, Wishaw, in the sum of £101,475.93, and (2) that the Director of Administration was progressing the matter in terms of his delegated powers.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR CARERS - USE OF FUNDS FOR SERVICES TO CARERS 2001/2002

13. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 October 2001 when the Committee had approved further allocations of funding to support the National Carers Strategy by the provision of additional direct services to carers in North Lanarkshire for 2001/2002, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 September 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of a further six projects for the provision of services to carers totalling £17,655 which had been recommended by the Carers Strategy Group and were eligible for financial assistance, and (2) intimating that, although the funds required for these projects were in excess of the balance of funds available, there had been slippage in the budget for the initiative which, in effect, would allow the projects to proceed.

Decided: that the allocation of funding to support the further six projects for services to carers totalling £17,655, as set out in Section 3 of the report, be approved.

ADULTS WITH INCAPACITY (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000 - IMPLEMENTATION OF PART 6 RELATING TO INTERVENTION AND GUARDIANSHIP ORDERS - SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION

14. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 6 December 2001 when that Sub-Committee had (1) endorsed the comments set out in a report dated 26 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Executive on its consultation paper on the implementation of Part 6 of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 which made provision for the implementation of Intervention and Guardianship Orders, and (2) remitted the report to this Committee for consideration of the financial implications of the legislation, there was submitted the said report by the Director of Social Work.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit to a future meeting of the Committee, a report on the financial implications for the Council in meeting its legal obligations in terms of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000.

GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR PROPERTY ADAPTATIONS FOR DISABLED PERSONS - AMENDMENT TO THE STANDARD SECURITY

15. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 August 1998, there were submitted (1) a report dated 19 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work, and (2) a revised report (tabled) of the same date by the Director of Social Work (a) advising that grant assistance to an owner occupier for property adaptations to meet the needs of a disabled occupant which included a “top up” element in excess of £10,000 was subject to a Standard Security requiring repayment of grant monies on a sliding scale basis if the property was disposed of within 10 years, and (b) recommending that the terms of the Standard Security be amended to allow the recipient of such a grant, or the Executor of a deceased owner acting in that capacity, to dispose of the property to the person with a disability for whom the adaptation was made without being liable to repay grant monies.

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Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the Standard Security be amended to state “that repayment of grant assistance including a “top up” element in excess of £10,000 shall be required on a sliding scale basis if the property was sold or disposed of within 10 years, excepting disposal by the owner, or disposal by the Executor of the deceased owner acting in that capacity, to the person for whom the adaptation was made, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Housing and Technical Services Committee for information.

“A HOME FOR THE FUTURE” MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP - IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

16. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 November 2000 when inter alia, the Committee had (1) endorsed the recommendations of the “A Home for the Future” Member/Officer Working Group for the implementation of service developments to meet the needs of older people, and (2) requested the Director of Social Work to submit progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated November 2001 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the Member/Officer Working Group to date, and providing in the Appendix to the report an updated Implementation Plan.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress in implementing recommendations of the “A Home for the Future” Member/Officer Working Group be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work continue to submit progress reports on the initiative to future meetings of the Committee.

JOINT EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTATIONS MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP - IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

17. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 November 2000 when, inter alia, the Committee had (1) endorsed the preferred options recommended by the Joint Equipment and Adaptations Member/Officer Working Group which were designed to create major improvements in occupational therapy services and the provision of equipment and adaptations, and (2) requested the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work to submit joint progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations, there was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated 9 November 2001 by the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work regarding the progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the

Member/Officer Working Group to date, and providing in the Appendix to the report an updated Implementation Plan.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress in implementing the recommendations of the Joint Equipment and Adaptations Member/Officer Working Group be noted, and
- (2) that the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work continue to submit further reports on the initiative to future meetings of the Housing and Technical Services and Social Work Committees.

RESIDENTIAL CHILDCARE SERVICES MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP

18. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 October 2001 when the progress being made in implementing the recommendations of the Residential Childcare Services Member/Officer Working Group for service improvements following a review of Residential Childcare Services was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated December 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) setting out in Section 3 of the report the work ongoing to improve services, and (2) outlining the work undertaken by the Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care on the formation of Development Plans for each residential unit in North Lanarkshire, and in terms of the provision of specialist education and development.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress in implementing the recommendations of the Residential Childcare Services Member/Officer Working Group in respect of developments in residential childcare services be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work continue to submit progress reports on the initiative to future meetings of the Committee.

TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR MANAGERS OF RESIDENTIAL AND DAYCARE UNITS - STIRLING UNIVERSITY

19. There was submitted a report dated 15 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that Managers of Residential and Daycare Units had been included in one of the first groups of social services staff requiring registration with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC); (2) intimating that Unit Managers had to be in possession of a qualification equivalent to the newly approved Registered Managers Occupational Standards in order to be eligible for registration with the SSSC; (3) indicating that, in light of the circumstances and with a view to offering the Council's Unit Managers the opportunity to gain a qualification equivalent to the Registered Managers Occupational Standards, negotiations had been entered into with four universities for the provision of a suitable training programme; (4) informing that only Stirling University was able to offer a suitable training programme in Public Service Management at a cost of £24,900, and (5) recommending that Stirling University be commissioned to provide a Management Training Programme.

Decided: that the Director of Social Work be authorised to commission Stirling University to provide a Management Training Programme for Managers of Residential and Daycare Units at a total cost of £24,900

HOME CARE SERVICE USERS - TEMPORARY POSTS OF "INCOME MAXIMISER"

20. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 January 2000 when 7 temporary posts of "Income Maximiser" had been established to improve the uptake of benefit by users of the Council's Home Care Services, there was submitted a report dated 14 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work recommending that, in view of the success of the initiative to date, the contracts of posts of "Income Maximiser" be extended until early Summer 2002 when the initiative would be further reviewed.

Decided:

- (1) that the temporary contracts for 7 posts of "Income Maximiser", at salary grade AP2/3, be extended until early Summer 2002;
- (2) that it be noted that, following a review of the initiative in June 2002, the Director of Social Work would report thereon to a future meeting of the Committee, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

PROVISION OF DAY CARE SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE - TRANSFER OF STAFF FROM PRIVATE SECTOR - SIR JOHN MANN CENTRE, BELLSHILL

21. With reference to paragraph 17 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 6 June 2000, there was submitted a report dated 19 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of arrangements where the Day Care Services provided by the privately owned Orbiston Nursing Home and Day Care Centre, Bellshill, would be provided by the Council from 18 January 2002 through revised service arrangements within the Sir John Mann Centre, Bellshill; (2) intimating that in terms of the TUPE regulations, the Council had an obligation to the staff currently employed by the owners of the Orbiston Nursing Home, and (3) indicating that, following consultation with the owner of the Centre, arrangements were being finalised for the transfer of 5 members of staff to vacant posts in the Sir John Mann Centre and for the redeployment of the remaining member within the Department of Social Work.

Decided:

- (1) that the arrangements for the transfer of the 6 existing members of staff at the Orbiston Nursing Home and Day Care Centre, Bellshill, to vacant posts within the Sir John Mann Centre, Bellshill, or to redeployment within the Department of Social Work be noted, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

22. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 October 2001, the Head of Social Work Resources advised orally (1) that discussions were still on-going with staff and trade unions on the issues relating to the difficulties associated with the recruitment and retention of Social Workers, and (2) that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on proposals to improve the current staffing shortfall.

Decided: that the Director of Social Work submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee on the outcome of discussions with staff and trade unions, and on proposals to improve the current staffing shortfall.

REVIEW OF THE MENTAL HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984 - SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE POLICY STATEMENT - "RENEWING MENTAL HEALTH LAW"

23. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 6 December 2001 when that Sub-Committee had (1) noted a report dated 26 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work regarding a policy statement by the Scottish Executive, entitled "Renewing Mental Health Law", in respect of the proposed new mental health legislation following the review of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984, and (2) remitted the report to this Committee for consideration of the financial implications of the proposed new legislation for the Council, there was submitted the said report by the Director of Social Work.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee on the financial implications for the Council to meet its legal obligations in terms of the proposed new mental health legislation.

"THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AWAY FROM HOME : LEARNING WITH CARE" - JOINT REPORT BY HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE AND THE SOCIAL WORK SERVICES INSPECTORATE

24. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated December 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the publication of a joint report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) and the Social Work Services Inspectorate (SWSI) entitled "The Education of Children Looked After Away From Home: Learning With Care", following a review of the educational attainment of young people looked after by local authorities; (2) intimating that the report highlighted the poor performance within the education system of young people looked after by local authorities and made a series of recommendations designed to enhance the educational prospects of vulnerable young people, and (3) summarising the comments which had been forwarded to the Scottish Executive by the Chief Executive on behalf of the Council on the recommendations.

Decided:

- (1) that the comments contained in the report be endorsed and homologated as the Council's formal response to HMI/SWSI in respect of the recommendations set out in their joint report entitled "The Education of Children Looked After Away from Home : Learning with Care";
- (2) that the progress made in relation to the recommendations of the HMI/SWSI be noted, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work submit progress reports in relation to the recommendations of HMI/SWSI to future meetings of the Committee.

"HOMING IN ON CARE - A REVIEW OF HOME CARE SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE" - REPORT BY AUDIT SCOTLAND

25. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated November 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) summarising the main findings and recommendations contained in a report published by Audit Scotland entitled "Homing in on Care - A Review of Home Care Services for Older People", following a national review of local authority provision of Home Care Services for older people and the views of service users and carers on the quality and effectiveness of those services, and (2) commenting on the significance of these findings and recommendations from a local perspective and particularly, in relation to the Best Value Review of the Council's Home Care Services for 2000/2001, the findings of which would be reported to the next meeting of the 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 report to the next meeting of the Committee on the Best Value Review of Home Care Services for Older People 2000/2001.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT OPERATION

26. There was submitted a report dated 22 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work providing an update on current developments in relation to the Council's Supported Employment Operation.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

INTEGRATION OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE - MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE'S JOINT FUTURES UNIT

27. There was submitted a report dated 21 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of a meeting between members of the Scottish Executive's Joint Futures Unit and representatives of the Council, Lanarkshire Primary Care Trust and the Acute Trust to discuss the integration of social work and health services for older people; (2) providing details on the content of the discussions in relation to the joint allocation and management of resources, the introduction of a single shared assessment tool for older people and information sharing, and (3) indicating that further reports on the implications of the Joint Futures Agenda would be submitted to the 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 further reports to the Committee on the Joint Futures Agenda.

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

PANEL OF SAFEGUARDERS FOR NORTH LANARKSHIRE

28. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 23 November 1999 when, *inter alia*, the Committee had approved appointments to the Panel of Safeguarders for North Lanarkshire for the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2002, there was submitted a report dated 14 December 2001 by the Director of Administration (1) advising that, following a Court of Session case in which it had been held that the absence of provision of state funded legal representation before Children's Hearings was, in certain circumstances, a breach of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Scottish Executive proposed to bring forward a Statutory Instrument making provision for legally qualified safeguarders or curators *ad litem* to fulfil that role; (2) reiterating that it was a statutory duty of the Council to appoint Panels from which persons may be appointed to safeguard the interests of children at a Children's Hearing or before the Sheriff; (3) intimating that the appointment of additional members to the Panel of Safeguarders and the fees payable to safeguarders in providing legal representation would be funded by the Scottish Executive through a grant scheme; (4) informing that at present the North Lanarkshire Panel of Safeguarders included 7 legally qualified members; (5) proposing that, given the anticipated increase in the

requirement for safeguarders, it would be appropriate to invite expressions of interest from legally qualified persons for appointment as safeguarders, and (6) recommending that, in the circumstances and in addition to the interview of legally qualified applicants who respond to advertisement, interim arrangements be made to interview legally qualified persons who had expressed an interest in appointment in the period since the last appointment of members to the Panel.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Administration be authorised to advertise for the recruitment of additional legally qualified persons to be members of the North Lanarkshire Panel of Safeguarders;
- (2) that the Director of Administration be authorised to make arrangements in the interim to interview and consider applications from legally qualified persons who had expressed an interest in appointment in the period since the last appointment of persons to the Panel of Safeguarders, and
- (3) that the position be otherwise noted.

The Convener being of the view that item 19 listed in the following item of business was of an urgent nature authorised its consideration to enable arrangements to be made timeously if appropriate.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS ETC

29. There were considered invitations from:-

- (1) the Scottish Union of Supported Employment to attend its third national conference entitled "Supported Employment - Moving Forward" held in Nairn on 8 and 9 November 2001;
- (2) the Harrogate Management Centre to attend a conference entitled "Raising the Standards of Services for Drug Abusers" held in London on 22 November 2001;
- (3) Laing and Buisson (Conferences) Limited to attend the 2001 Annual Homecare Conference held in London on 22 November 2001;
- (4) One Plus to attend a conference entitled "Lone Parents in Scotland - Workers and Parents" held in Glasgow on 23 November 2001;
- (5) the National Homecare Council to attend its annual conference entitled "Past Imperfect? Future Conditional?" held in London on 3 and 4 December 2001;
- (6) Capita Initiative to attend a conference entitled "Re-Housing Sex Offenders - Managing the Risk" held in London on 4 December 2001;
- (7) the Association of Directors of Social Work and CIPFA to attend the Social Work Finance Conference 2001 held in Edinburgh on 7 December 2001;
- (8) Neil Stewart Associates to attend a conference entitled "Long Term Care for the Elderly - Implementing Change" held in Edinburgh on 10 December 2001;
- (9) the Harrogate Management Centre to attend a conference entitled "Delivering Improved Services for Older People - Implementing the National Service Framework" to be held in Harrogate on 16 January 2002;

- (10) the Harrogate Management Centre to attend a conference entitled "Local Futures in Primary Care" to be held in London on 24 January 2002;
- (11) the Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health to attend a conference entitled "Making Connections - Delivering Mental Health in Primary Care" to be held in Dundee on 24 January 2002;
- (12) the Harrogate Management Centre to attend a conference entitled "Primary Care in the Next Five Years - New Models" to be held in London on 25 January 2002;
- (13) the Harrogate Management Centre to attend a conference entitled "Older People in National Service Framework - Implementing Single Assessment for Older People" to be held in Harrogate on 7 February 2002;
- (14) the Maternity Alliance to attend a conference entitled "Homeless Families - Lives on Hold" to be held in London on 8 February 2002;
- (15) Neil Stewart Associates to attend a conference entitled "Effective Early Intervention for Children - The Right Help at the Right Time" to be held in London on 19 February 2002;
- (16) the University of Birmingham to attend a conference entitled "Strategic Health Authorities - Shifting Role or Balancing Act?" to be held in Birmingham on 21 and 22 February 2002;
- (17) the Scottish Community Development Centre to attend a conference entitled "Social Work - Inclusive or Exclusive?" to be held in Glasgow on 6 March 2002;
- (18) Children in Scotland to attend a conference entitled "Children in Scotland Participate" to be held in Edinburgh on 9 March 2002, and
- (19) the Local Government Information Unit to attend a series of seminars focussing on Best Value to be held in London on 17 and 22 January and 12 March 2002.

Decided:

- (1) that the attendance of Councillors J. Martin and Love at the "Supported Employment - Moving Forward" conference held in Nairn on 8 and 9 November 2001 be homologated;
 - (2) that the attendance of Councillor Lunny at the "Raising the Standards of Services for Drug Abusers" conference held in London on 22 November 2001 be homologated;
 - (3) that the attendance of Councillors Scott and Robertson at the 2001 Annual Homecare Conference held in London on 22 November 2001 be homologated;
 - (4) that the attendance of Councillor Sullivan at the "Lone Parents in Scotland - Workers or Parents" conference held in Glasgow on 23 November 2001 be homologated;
 - (5) that the attendance of Councillors Sullivan and Shaw at the National Homecare Council Annual Conference held in London on 3 and 4 December 2001 be homologated;
 - (6) that the attendance of Councillors Sullivan and Devine at the conference entitled "Re-Housing Sex Offenders - Managing the Risk" held in London on 4 December 2001 be homologated;
 - (7) that the attendance of Councillors H. McGuigan and Sullivan at the Social Work Finance Conference 2001 held in Edinburgh on 7 December 2001 be homologated;
 - (8) that the attendance of Councillors Shaw and Scott at the conference entitled "Long Term Care for the Elderly - Implementing Change" held in Edinburgh on 10 December 2001 be homologated;
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- (9) that the attendance of one Member at the “Local Futures in Primary Care” conference to be held in London on 24 January 2002 be approved;
- (10) that the attendance of one Member at the “Making Connections - Developing Mental Health in Primary Care” conference to be held in Dundee on 24 January 2002 be approved;
- (11) that the attendance of one Member at the “Strategic Health Authorities - Shifting Role or Balancing Act?” conference to be held in Birmingham on 21 and 22 February 2002 be approved;
- (12) that the attendance of one Member at the “Social Work - Inclusive or Exclusive?” conference to be held in Glasgow on 6 March 2002 be approved, and
- (13) that no attendance at the seven other conferences be authorised.