

**Motherwell, 14 February 2002 at 10 am.**

**AGENDA ITEM No. 2**

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

**PRESENT**

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

**CHAIR**

Councillor Selfridge (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Committee Services Officer, Head of Social Work Services, Manager (Community Care/Adult Services), Manager (Children and Families/Criminal Justice), Manager (Community Care/Older People Services), Senior Officer (Mental Health), Co-ordinator (Criminal Justice).

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Cassidy, H. McGuigan, Ross, Scott and Shaw.

**REVIEW OF SERVICES OF PEOPLE WITH ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY**

1. There was submitted a report dated 4 February 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) regarding current service provision for people with acquired brain injury; (2) advising that, whilst not directly relevant to Scotland, a Government Health Select Committee had, following a recent investigation into Head Rehabilitation Services, concluded that such services were poor, particularly at the interface between health and social care, and accordingly recommended various service improvements; (3) intimating that NHS Lanarkshire had recently announced its intention to undertake a review of services for that care group, and (4) proposing that consultations be entered into with NHS Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Council with a view to undertaking a joint review of services to people with acquired brain injury.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to enter into consultations with NHS Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire Council and other key agencies with a view to undertaking a review of services for people with acquired brain injury, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a report on the findings of the joint review to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

**INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION OF CHILDREN FROM CHINA**

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 February 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that due to an increase in demand for the adoption of Chinese children, the Chinese Centre for Adoption Affairs (CCAA) had placed restrictions on the number of applications which it would accept from overseas, and that, accordingly, the United Kingdom had been allocated a quota of 126 applications for the period from 1 December 2001 to 30 November 2002, and (2) recommending that, in the circumstances, it would be prudent when assessing applications from prospective adopters of a

Chinese child, to give priority to those who meet the CCAA's requirements and were in the best position to raise and look after the interests of a child of Chinese origin.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to amend departmental procedures in respect of the adoption process to take account of the requirements of the Chinese Centre for Adoption Affairs for processing applications from overseas countries for the adoption of children from China, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee should there be any increase in demand for adoption services or an impact on resources for these services.

**NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AND DELIBERATE SELF HARM - SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION**

3. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 6 December 2001, when it had been noted that the Director of Social Work would report on the response by the Council, in association with South Lanarkshire Council, Lanarkshire Health Board and Lanarkshire Primary Care NHS Trust to the Scottish Executive on a national framework for the prevention of suicide and deliberate self harm, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 6 January 2002 by the Director of Social Work setting out in the Appendix to the report the joint response to the Scottish Executive on its consultation.

**Decided:** that the comments set out in the Appendix to the report which had been prepared in association with South Lanarkshire Council, Lanarkshire Health Board and the Lanarkshire Primary Care NHS Trust, be endorsed and homologated as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Executive on its consultation on a national framework for the prevention of suicide and deliberate self harm.

**CHILD PROTECTION REVIEW BY THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE**

4. There was submitted a report dated 31 January 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) regarding a review by the Scottish Executive of child protection arrangements in Scotland for the purpose of promoting the reduction of abuse or neglect of children and improving the services for children who experience abuse or neglect; (2) outlining the extent of the review which included the inspection of cases of children whose names had been placed on the Child Protection Register whose circumstances had been investigated because of concerns about child abuse or neglect, and (3) advising that the Scottish Executive had requested details of relevant cases from North Lanarkshire, in respect of which, four had been selected for further investigation by the Scottish Executive.

**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 Sub-Committee on the findings and recommendations of the Scottish Executive's review of child protection arrangements in Scotland.

**SCOTTISH PRISON SERVICE ACTION NOTICE ON CHILD PROTECTION MEASURES**

5. There was submitted a report dated 28 January 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the content of a Scottish Prison Service Action Notice to Prison Governors which outlined a series of measures to be taken to minimise the risks which certain prisoners might present to children in prison; (2) indicating that he had contacted the Association of Directors of Social Work to express concern that the proposals set out in the Action Notice had not adequately addressed the wider issue of child protection measures within prison establishments and, in particular, gave no direction on reporting circumstances where there were concerns over the physical and/or emotional wellbeing of a child during prison visits, or where there was evidence that children were being used to bring drugs into the prison, and (3) intimating that the Association of Directors of Social Work had since requested the Scottish Prison Service to amend the Action Notice to include direction on the full range of concerns over child protection within prison establishments.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the Scottish Prison Service Action Notice for Prison Governors on child protection measures and the request by the Association of Directors of Social Work for an amendment to the Action Notice to include direction on the full range of concerns over child protection within prison establishments be noted, and
- (2) that it be noted that the Director of Social Work would submit a report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the outcome of the Association's request.

**THE MENTAL WELFARE COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND ANNUAL REPORT 2000/2001**

6. There was submitted a report dated 9 January 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the publication of the Annual Report by the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland for 2000/2001, and (2) commenting on the key findings highlighted by the Commission in its report. Thereon, the Manager (Community Care/Adult Services) gave a presentation on mental health and a glossary of terminology.

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

**MENTAL WELFARE COMMISSION INQUIRY INTO THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF MRS. K.**

7. There was submitted a report dated 9 January 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) summarising and commenting on a Report by the Mental Welfare Commission on a recent Deficiency in Care and Treatment Inquiry in respect of Mrs. K, who had been subject to a Guardianship Order; (2) indicating that Mrs. K was not a resident of North Lanarkshire; (3) outlining the Commission's recommendations in relation to the procedures and guidance used by local authorities in the assessment of risk, and (4) advising that although departmental procedures for the care and protection of vulnerable adults were in place, mental health services were currently being reviewed in light of new and impending legislation.

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

**MAJOR INCIDENT SUPPORT**

8. There was submitted a report dated 14 February 2002 by the Director of Social Work advising of a review currently being undertaken by a Central Co-ordinating Committee, comprising representatives of this Council, South Lanarkshire Council, Lanarkshire Primary Care Trust and voluntary

organisations, of the position in terms of available support and counselling staff to provide support services in the event of a major incident.

**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 Sub-Committee on the findings of the review.

**OCCUPANCY RATES IN RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING HOMES**

9. There was submitted a report dated 28 January 2002 by the Director of Social Work advising of comparative statistical information from local authority Residential Homes and independent sector Residential Homes and Nursing Homes for the period from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001.

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