

approval for an extension of the remit of the Review Panel (1) advising that a review of the preparation, assessment and approval of respite carers and supported carers had been undertaken; (2) proposing (a) that the remit of the Adoption and Fostering Review Panel be extended to include the approval and Review of Respite Carers and Supported Carers; (b) that the Panel be called the Adoption and Fostering and Family Placement Panel, and (c) that independent members of the Panel, who will be existing or former Carers, be reimbursed for their contribution to the approval process, and (3) indicating that the annual cost to the Council would be approximately £1,000 and be paid retrospectively to independent members.

Decided:

- (1) that the extended remit of the Adoption and Fostering Panel and the Adoption Fostering Review Panel be approved;
- (2) that a new Panel called the Adoption Fostering and Family Placement Panel be approved;
- (3) that the reimbursement of independent members for their contribution to the Panel as detailed in the report be approved;
- (4) that the Director of Social Work prepare a report on the application of the new procedures for the extended Panel to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee, and
- (5) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE - CONSULTATION PAPER ON VULNERABLE ADULTS

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 March 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that a Consultation Document had been received from the Scottish Executive regarding Vulnerable Adults; (2) informing that the Consultation Document sought views on (a) the extension of the vulnerable adults provision to groups other than persons with mental disorder, and (b) the possible introductions or provisions to exclude persons living with a vulnerable adult, where the adult's health was at risk, and (3) detailing, in the appendix to the report, the response to the Consultation Document made by the Director of Social Work.

Decided: that the action taken by the Director of Social Work in responding to the consultation document as detailed in the appendix to the report be homologated.

SCOTLAND'S ACTION PROGRAMME TO REDUCE CRIME 2002

4. There was submitted a report dated 29 March 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) informing of an Action Programme co-ordinated by the Scottish Executive arising from the Review of Youth Crime which set out priorities with the aim to reduce youth crime and build safer communities; (2) detailing the background to the Review of Youth Crime; (3) informing that the priorities detailed in the Action Programme aimed to address five key challenges which required to be tackled if youth crime was to be reduced; (4) advising that the allocation from the Youth Crime Budget 2001-2002 was £357,000 supplemented by a one-off grant of £143,550 to support restorative justice projects; (5) indicating that North Lanarkshire Council had embraced and implemented many of the priorities in the Action Programme, and (6) intimating that, in a joint initiative with South Lanarkshire Council, the Council had commissioned SACRO (Safeguarding Communities Reducing Offenders) to extend a reparation and mediation service for 11 to 18 year olds.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work provide a progress report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

A BETTER WAY: THE REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL GROUP ON WOMEN'S OFFENDING

5. There was submitted a report dated 25 April 2002 by the Director of Social Work in relation to the publication of a Ministerial Group's Report on Women's Offending entitled "A Better Way" (1) advising of the background to the establishment of the Ministerial Group; (2) detailing the conclusions of the report, and (3) outlining the services initiated by North Lanarkshire's Criminal Justice Social Work Services in order to meet the objectives identified within the report.

Decided: that the report and conclusions of the Ministerial Group on Women's Offending, and the services initiated by North Lanarkshire's Criminal Justice Social Work Services in order to meet the objectives identified be noted.

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY BY FIFE COUNCIL: RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE CONVICTION OF AN OFFICER

6. There was submitted a report dated 25 March 2002 by the Director of Social Work regarding the recommendation of the Independent Inquiry set up by the Chief Executive, Fife Council following the conviction of an Officer employed by Fife Council (1) advising that two independent reviewers undertook the inquiry following the conviction of an officer, for serious sexual offences against children in care; (2) informing that the remit of the review was to (a) determine lessons to be learned; (b) propose changes needed to minimise risks to children involved in public care, and (c) review action taken by the former local authorities involved when children made complaints of abuse and offer advice on safeguards and future practice; (3) detailing the recommendations of the review, and (4) outlining the position of North Lanarkshire Council in terms of the recommendations.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

WINTER PLANNING - ACUTE HOSPITAL BEDS

7. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 6 December 2001 when it was agreed that the Director of Social Work provide a report on the plans for the use of acute hospital beds following the winter period, there was submitted a report dated 15 April 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) providing an update in relation to activity to meet the increasing demand placed on acute hospital beds in the winter period 2001/2002; (2) detailing the range and volume of services to people in hospitals or at risk of hospital admission during the period 3 December 2001 and 17 March 2002; (3) informing that a Delayed Discharge Action Plan containing a number of recommendations for local authority/NHS partnerships to take forward had been announced by the Minister for Health and Community Care on 5 March 2002; (4) informing that funding of £20m had been allocated that partner agencies, £2,126m of which could be bid for by Lanarkshire Health Board partners; (5) indicating that bids for funding would require to be accompanied by proposals for achieving target reductions in delayed discharges.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work provide progress reports to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

LOCAL HERO AWARDS 2001

8. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minutes of this Sub-Committee held on 4 October 2001 when it was agreed that the Director of Social Work prepare a progress report on the 2001 Local Hero Awards, there was submitted a report dated 2 April 2002 (1) outlining the background to the local hero awards; (2) informing that the Funky Blue Smurfs came first in the Equality Award category of the 2001 Award and received a cheque for the £2,000; (3) proposing that the Council continue to support the local hero awards, and (4) intimating that the Council's sponsorship would continue to support the local hero awards and provide promotional gifts bearing the Council logo up to a cost of £6,000.

Decided:

- (1) that the promotion of the 'Local Heroes' Awards continue, and
- (2) that the progress made be noted.