

Motherwell, 3 October 2002 at 10 am AGENDA ITEM No. 3

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

PRESENT

Councillor Selfridge, Convener; Councillors Chadha, Cox, Curley, Gordon, Gormill, Irvine, Lafferty, McLaughlin and Shaw.

CHAIR

Councillor Selfridge (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer; Director of Social Work; Manager - Children and Families/Criminal Justice; Manager - Community Care/Adult Services, and Manager - Community Care/Older People Services.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Coyle, Ross and Sullivan.

COMMUNITY CARE AND HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 - PROVISIONS AFFECTING CARERS

1. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 23 August 2001 when, *inter alia*, the Committee had homologated the action taken by the Director of Social Work in responding to the Scottish Executive, in association with partner agencies, on the Executive's consultation on proposals for new legislation to help carers, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 19 September 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that, following on from the consultation exercise, the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002, had been implemented, with effect from 1 September 2002; (2) intimating that the Act made provision for carers to be recognised and treated as partners in the provision of care, and (3) outlined the key changes for carers and the implications thereof for the Council.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be requested to prepare a further report on the resource implications of the new legislation for submission to a future meeting of the Committee.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL

2. There was submitted a report dated 13 September 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) regarding the Protection of Children (Scotland) Bill which contained proposals (a) to improve the safeguards in place to protect children temporarily or permanently in care of persons other than their parents, guardians and carers; (b) to identify and make known to prospective employers people considered unsuitable to work with children in paid or unpaid positions, and (c) to establish a list of persons unsuitable to work with children; (2) advising that under the terms of the Bill, local authorities would be required to report to the Scottish Executive details of employees who had been dismissed or transferred to another workplace as a result of misconduct causing a child harm or of placing a child at risk, including details of employees who would be so penalised had they not retired or resigned from employment, and (c) commenting on the practices currently deployed by the Department in relation to the assessment of individuals, either working with or caring for children and on the

personnel implications of the revisions of the proposed legislation for the Council should the Bill be enacted.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be requested to prepare a report on the progress of the Protection of Children (Scotland) Bill and the implications thereof on social work services for submission to a future meeting of the Committee, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for its interest.

COMMUNITY ALARM SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2001/02

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 September 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the publication of the first Annual Report of the Community Alarm Service, a copy of which was attached as an Appendix to the report; (2) intimating that the Annual Report (a) highlighted the growth of the service since its inception, with provision now being made for 7,000 individuals including frail older people, individuals with physical disabilities, people with mental health difficulties and adults with learning disabilities, and (b) detailing initiatives such as, the application for Charter Mark status, the promotion of the qualitative aspects of the service, and the pilot project for the evaluation of new technology as aids to independent living for vulnerable users, and (3) proposing that the Annual Report be summarised in leaflet form and made available to service users, carers and key stakeholders.

Decided:

- (1) that the Annual Report on the Community Alarm Service, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the Director of Social work be authorised to summarise the Annual Report in leaflet form for distribution to service users, carers, key stakeholders and other interested parties;
- (3) that the Director of Social Work be requested to prepare further Annual Reports on the Community Alarm Service for submission to future meetings of the Sub-Committee, and
- (4) that the Director of Social Work and his staff be commended for the success of the Community Alarm Service to date.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES FOR DEAFBLIND PEOPLE - FINAL REPORT BY DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND IDENTIFICATION PROJECT

4. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 7 August 2001 when, *inter alia*, it had been noted that the Director of Social Work would report to the Sub-Committee on a needs assessment of deafblind people in North Lanarkshire which had been commissioned by the Council in association with Lanarkshire Health Board, and carried out by Deafblind Scotland, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 9 September 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the findings of the Final Report by Deafblind Scotland on the North Lanarkshire Identification Project, a copy of which was attached as an Appendix to the report; (2) intimating that the aims of the Project were to identify deafblind people living in the area and to assess and report on the needs of those identified, in association with partner agencies, and (3) indicating that the findings of the Final Report by Deafblind Scotland would provide useful data for the Council's

Best Value Review of Services for People with Physical Disabilities which was due to commence in October 2002.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that the findings of the Final Report by Deafblind Scotland would provide useful data for the Council's Best Value Review of Services for People with Physical Disabilities, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work would report on any financial, personnel, legal or policy implications which may be highlighted in the Best Value Review to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

JOINT INITIATIVE WITH FRAMES PER SECOND MEDIA, MOTHERWELL - LOOKED AFTER AND ACCOMMODATED YOUNG PEOPLE

5. There was submitted a report dated 10 September 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of a joint initiative between the Council and Frames per Second (FPS) Media, Motherwell; which provided for 12 young people who were, or had been, in the "looked after and accommodated" category to be trained by the Company to produce a video and interactive CD Rom containing information on the support available to young people on leaving Children's Units and Foster Care, and (2) intimating that the video and CD Rom should be available in February 2003.

Decided:

- (1) that the joint initiative between the Council and FPS Media, Motherwell, be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be requested to report on the progress of the joint initiative to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

SCOTTISH COMMUNITY CARE STATISTICS 2001

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 September 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the publication of the Annual Report by the Scottish Executive on Scottish Community Care Statistics for 2001; (2) summarising and commenting on the data contained in the Annual Report on services for (a) Older People; (b) Adults With Learning Disabilities; (c) Adults With Mental Health Problems; (d) Physically Disabled Adults, and (e) Carers, and (3) providing, where possible, comparative data on services provided by North Lanarkshire for the same period.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted

APPLICATIONS FOR THE CHARTER MARK AWARD 2002

7. There was submitted a report dated 22 August 2002 by the Director of Social Work advising of (1) the progress to date of applications for the Charter Mark Award 2002 for improved service delivery in (a) the Community Alarm Service; (b) Supported Employment; (c) the East Stewart Gardens Day Centre, and (d) the Mitchell Street Children's Home, and (2) the timetable for visits for the Charter Mark Assessors.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in respect of the four applications for the Charter Mark Award 2002 for services within the Department of Social Work be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be requested to prepare further progress reports on the applications for submission to a future meeting of the Committee.

“FUNKY BLUE SMURFS” - VISIT TO GLENCRYAN SCHOOL, CUMBERNAULD

8. There was submitted a report dated 3 October 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) outlining the background, development and success of the “Funky Blue Smurfs”, an advocacy group for young people with learning difficulties, which was based at Glencryan School, Cumbernauld, and supported by the Council on a partnership basis with a voluntary organisation known as “Partners in Play”, and (2) proposing that, given the level of interest by Elected Members in the work of the Group, a visit to Glencryan School be organised to take place on Monday, 4 November 2002 to view the Group in action.

Decided: that the Director of Social Work should proceed with arrangements for a visit to Glencryan School, Cumbernauld, on Monday, 4 November 2002, to view the “Funky Blue Smurfs” in action, and that an invitation should be extended to all members of the Social Work Committee to attend.