

Motherwell, 13 February 2003 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, McCallum, McLaughlin and Robertson.

CHAIR

Councillor Selfridge (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer, Head of Social Work Services, Manager (Criminal Justice), Manager (Community Care Adults) and Co-ordinator for Children and Families.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Gormill, Ross, Scott, Shaw and Sullivan.

ALSO PRESENT

Alison Smith and Sean Howe, NCH North Lanarkshire Young Carer's Project.

REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY

1. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 25 April 2002 when, *inter alia*, it had been agreed that, in association with other agencies, the Council should appoint the DARE (Disability and Rehabilitation Education) Foundation to undertake a review of services for people with acquired brain injury, there was submitted a report dated 20 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that the review by DARE would be undertaken as part of the Council's Best Value Service review of social work services for people with physical disabilities, which was currently being carried out, and (2) intimating that the findings of a project analysing the effectiveness of occupational therapy for people with mild to moderate brain injury, which was being prepared for submission to the Scottish Executive as part of a three year study by the Allied Health Professions, would also be included in the Best Value Service Review.

Decided: that the progress of the review of services for people with acquired brain injury be noted.

NCH NORTH LANARKSHIRE YOUNG CARERS PROJECT - OUR LADY'S HIGH SCHOOL, MOTHERWELL

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 November 2002 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the outcome of a pilot project which had been undertaken by the NCH North Lanarkshire Young Carers Group in association with guidance staff at Our Lady's High School, Motherwell, to raise awareness of the needs of young carers; (2) highlighting the need (a) to raise awareness among pupils and staff within schools of issues in relation to young carers, and (b) to identify and support pupils whose education and participation in school life was affected by their caring responsibilities, and (3) advising that a "Children With Special Needs" Implementation Group had been set up as a Sub-Group of the Childrens Services Strategy Group, to take forward the recommendations from the pilot project.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposals outlined in Section 3 of the report to take forward the recommendations of the NCH North Lanarkshire Young Carers Pilot Project be approved, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Education Committee for consideration.

COMMUNITY CARE AND HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 - DRAFT GUIDANCE ON NEW STATUTORY RIGHTS FOR CARERS

3. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 13 February, 2003 when, *inter alia*, the enactment of the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002, which made provision for carers to be recognised and treated as partners in the provision of care, had been noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work summarising and commenting on draft guidance by the Scottish Executive on the statutory rights for carers under the new legislation.

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 consultation on draft guidance on new statutory rights for carers under the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002.

PROTECTED CHILDREN - GUIDANCE ON THE IMPRISONMENT AND PREPARATION FOR RELEASE OF SCHEDULE 1 OFFENDERS

4. There was submitted a report dated 20 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that, in light of changes in legislation, policy and practice, the Scottish Executive had formulated a draft circular entitled "Protecting Children - Guidance on the Imprisonment and Preparation for Release of Schedule 1 Offenders" to assist local authorities, the Scottish Prison Service and other agencies to work together to protect children who might be at risk when a person convicted of a Schedule 1 offence and sentenced to imprisonment was released from custody; (2) intimating that the Scottish Executive had sought the Council's comments in relation to data protection and any difficulties which might be foreseen in respect of the procedures outlined in the draft circular and how they might be resolved at a local level; (3) indicating that the new circular would supersede Circulars SW/11/1994 and SPS/60/1994 which related to child protection, the imprisonment and preparation for the release of offenders convicted of offences against children, and prisoners convicted of offences against children respectively, and (4) setting out in the Appendix to the report the proposed response to the Scottish Executive on its consultation.

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 draft guidance on the imprisonment and preparation for release of Schedule 1 offenders.

REPORT OF THE REVIEW GROUP ON THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF SEX OFFENDERS WITHIN SCOTTISH PRISONS

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 3 February 2003 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the publication of the report of the Review Group on the Future Management of Sex Offenders Within Scottish Prisons; (2) intimating that the Scottish Prison Service had sought the Council's views on the findings of the review, and (3) setting out in the Appendix to the report the proposed response to the Scottish Prison Service.

Decided:

- (1) that the publication of the report of the Review Group on the Future Management of Sex Offenders Within Scottish Prisons be noted;
- (2) that the comments set out in the Appendix to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Prison Service on its consultation on the findings of its review, and
- (3) that the implications of the findings of the Review Group for the Council, as outlined in the report by the Director of Social Work, be noted.

CHARTER MARK AWARDS

(1) EAST STEWART DAY CENTRE, COATBRIDGE

6. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 3 October 2002 when, *inter alia*, it had been noted that an application had been submitted for a Charter Mark Award for improved service delivery at the East Stewart Day Centre, Coatbridge, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that the Council had been awarded a Charter Mark for excellence in customer service at the East Stewart Day Centre, and (2) outlining proposals for the continuous improvement of service standards.

Decided:

- (1) that the award of the Charter Mark for excellence in customer service at the East Stewart Day Centre, Coatbridge, be noted, and
- (2) that the proposals for the continuous improvement of service standards at the Day Centre, as outlined in Section 4 of the report, be noted.

(2) MITCHELL STREET CHILDREN'S UNIT, AIRDRIE

7. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 3 October, 2002 when, *inter alia*, it had been noted that an application had been submitted for a Charter Mark Award for improved service delivery at the Mitchell Street Children's Unit, Airdrie, there was submitted a report dated 13 February 2003 by the Director of Social Work advising that the Council had been awarded a Charter Mark for excellence in customer service at the Children's Unit.

Decided:

- (1) that the award of the Charter Mark for excellence in customer service at the Mitchell Street Children's Unit, Airdrie, be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work and his staff and the young people in the Children's Unit be congratulated on the award.

(3) COMMUNITY ALARM SERVICE

8. With regard to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 3 October 2002 when, *inter alia*, it had been noted that an application had been submitted for a Charter Mark Award for improved service delivery in the Community Alarm Service, there was submitted a report dated 13 February 2003 by the Director of Social Work advising that the Council had been awarded a Charter Mark for excellence for the Community Alarm Service.

Decided:

- (1) that the award of the Charter Mark for excellence in customer service in respect of the Community Alarm Service be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work and his staff be congratulated on the award.

(4) SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

9. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 3 October, 2002 when, inter alia, it had been noted that an application had been submitted for a Charter Mark Award for improved service delivery in the Supported Employment Service, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 16 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that the Council had been awarded a Charter Mark for Excellence for the Supported Employment Service; (2) outlining in Appendix 1 to the report proposals for the continuous improvement of service standards, and (3) intimating that the Service had been shortlisted in the final stages of the COSLA Quality Awards.

Decided:

- (1) that the award of the Charter Mark for excellence in respect of the Supported Employment Service be noted, and
- (2) that the proposals for the continuous improvement of service standards, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

LOCAL AREA CO-ORDINATION FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress made in introducing local area co-ordination for people with a learning disability in North Lanarkshire.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

THE MENTAL WELFARE COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND ANNUAL REPORT 2001/02

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the publication of the Annual Report by the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland for 2001/02, and (2) commenting on the key findings highlighted by the Commission in its report.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

EVENING TIMES LOCAL HEROES AWARDS 2002

12. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 5 December 2002 when, inter alia, it had been agreed that the Council should continue to sponsor, in association with other local authorities and agencies, the Evening Times Local Heroes Awards, there was submitted a report dated 22 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work advising (1) that 3 of the 14 Community Groups which had been nominated by this Council for awards, had been shortlisted under the categories of "Community Spirit", "Breaking Down Barriers" and "Health and Well-Being", and (2) that the awards presentation ceremony would take place on 19 February 2003.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report on the outcome of the Local Heroes Award 2002 to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.