

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: SCOTTISH SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL – CONSULTATION OF DRAFT RULES FOR SOCIAL WORK TRAINING 2003
From: JIM DICKIE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 27 FEBRUARY 2003	Ref: AJ	

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 To provide Committee with information about the current consultation process on draft rules for the new qualification for Social Workers

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) was established in October 2001
- 2.2 The purpose of the SSSC is to regulate the social services workforce and their education and training
- 2.3 As part of the function in regulation of education a consultation document on the draft rules for social work training has been issued
- 2.4 This document sets out arrangements for approving courses leading to the Social Work qualification

**3 PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Consultation document covers 8 areas
  - a) The underlying principles
  - b) Quality assurance and criteria for approval
  - c) Monitoring, review and investigation of courses
  - d) External examination
  - e) Practice Learning
  - f) Provision of information to the Council
  - g) Appeals
  - h) Public Record
- 3.2 A response to the SSSC has been requested by 25<sup>th</sup> February
- 3.3 Comparison with the previous rules indicates that the main areas, which may affect the Social Work Department, concern the current partnership arrangements that exist between the Department as a service provider and the Educational Institutions. Current rules state that a programme provider must include one statutory agency.

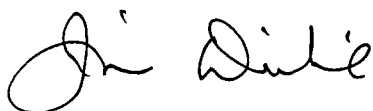
- 3.4 As a result under current partnership agreements the Department as service providers can be represented in the selection process for students, the management of the Diploma in Social Work programmes and assessment panels.
- 3.5 The new rules out for consultation are less prescriptive only requiring that "a range of stakeholders are actively involved at the appropriate stage in the design, delivery and evaluation of the course."
- 3.6 Feedback will be given concerning the benefits of the current partnership between statutory agencies and Universities to draw to the Council's attention the necessity to maintain a thorough partnership approach
- 3.7 A copy of the response provided by the Department is in the Members Library.

#### **4 FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no current implications

#### **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 The committee is asked to note this report



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**17 January 2002**

*For further information on this report please contact Alison Jack, Service Manager Training (TEL: 01698 338621)*