

Motherwell, 27 February 2003 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor H. McGuigan, Convener; Councillor Selfridge, Vice-Convener; Councillors Chadha, Coyle, Curley, Devine, Gordon, Gormill, Homer, Irvine, Jones, Love, Lunny, McCallum, McKendrick, McLaughlin, M. Murray, Nolan, Robertson, Scott and Shields.

CHAIR

Councillor H. McGuigan (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer, Director of Social Work, Head of Social Work Resources, Planning and Development Manager and Accounting Manager.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

M. Moncrieff, Lanarkshire Community Care Forum.

APOLOGIES

Councillors McCabe, J. McGuigan, J. Martin, Saunders and Sullivan.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

1. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings of the Social Work (Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 11 February 2003 and the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 13 February 2003.

Decided: that the terms of the Minutes be approved.

AUDIT SCOTLAND "DEALING WITH OFFENDING BY YOUNG PEOPLE"

2. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 August 2002 when the Director of Social Work was authorised to submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee following the publication of the Scottish Executive Implementation Schedule for dealing with Youth Crime, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 9 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the recommendations contained within the Audit Scotland report "Dealing with Offending by Young People" (1) outlining the background to the Audit Scotland review of youth crime; (2) intimating that the report sets out 38 recommendations to the Scottish Executive and all agencies involved with young people who offend; (3) summarising the five key recommendations of the Audit Scotland report, and (4) detailing the implications for service provision in North Lanarkshire.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the Audit Scotland report "Dealing with Offending by Young People" be noted, and

- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit further reports to future meetings of the Committee detailing the progress of Youth Justice services and policy and strategic developments.

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS - PILOT YOUTH COURT: HAMILTON SHERIFF COURT

3. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 December 2002 when, *inter alia*, the service developments in respect of the provision of Justice Services in North Lanarkshire were approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 14 February 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the establishment of a Pilot Youth Court based at Hamilton Sheriff Court (1) advising that COSLA and the Scottish Executive had agreed that groupings of local authorities in partnership should promote effective community based disposals for offenders; (2) outlining the background to the development of the Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Grouping; (3) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report, a full outline of the resources agreed for the Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Grouping; (4) intimating that the establishment of a Pilot Youth Court at Hamilton Sheriff Court would commence in April 2003; (5) setting out the objectives of the Youth Court and its distinctive characteristics; (6) advising that the Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Grouping had received an allocation of £1,405,000 for the year 2003/2004; (7) detailing alterations to the staffing structure of Youth Justice services in respect of Case Management and Programme Delivery as detailed in Sections 3.10 and 3.11 of the report, and (8) proposing the commissioning of a contract service/bail fostering service for young people up to the value of £200,000.

Decided:

- (1) that the allocation of £1,405,000 for the Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Grouping be noted;
- (2) that the staffing recommendations contained within the report be approved;
- (3) that the commissioning of a contract carer/bail fostering service for young people up to a value of £200,000 from the voluntary/independent sector be approved;
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration, and
- (5) that the Director of Social Work submit further reports to future meetings of the Committee on the progress of the Youth Pilot Court at Hamilton Sheriff Court.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SELF DIRECTED SERVICES

4. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 December 2002 when, *inter alia*, the service developments in relation to Self Directed Services were approved, there was submitted a report dated 15 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to establish rates payable to people who receive a direct payment to meet their assessed needs (1) detailing the criteria for receiving a specific rate which was based on assessed care and support needs for each individual, and (2) proposing that the rates for the provision of self directed services be as detailed below:-

Service Provision	Rate	Employee Rate	Gross Costs Paid by North Lanarkshire Council
		£	£
Employing Support Staff Directly	1	5.57	7.06
Employing Support Staff Directly	2	6.09	7.74

Service Provision	Rate	Employee Rate	Gross Costs Paid by North Lanarkshire Council
Employing Support Staff Directly	3	7.49	9.38
Buying from a Provider	NA	NA	9.51

Decided:

- (1) that the rates for employing support staff as detailed heretofore be approved, and
- (2) that the criteria for the receipt of a specific rate for people who receive a direct payment to meet their assessed needs be noted.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS ON JOINT WORKING IN PART 2 OF THE COMMUNITY CARE AND HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 AND THE COMMUNITY CARE (JOINT WORKING ETC.) REGULATIONS 2002

5. There was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated 10 January 2003 by the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work regarding the Scottish Executive Circular on the provisions for Joint Working in Part 2 of the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Community Care (Joint Working Etc.) Regulations 2002 (1) outlining the background to the development of the Regulations; (2) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report the Scottish Executive guidance note on implementing the Regulations; (3) intimating that Part 2 of the Act sought to increase flexibility and would enable Local Authorities and NHS bodies to make payments to each other for particular functions, and (3) highlighting the implications for North Lanarkshire.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

CONSULTATION - SCOTTISH COMMISSION FOR THE REGULATION OF CARE: PROPOSALS FOR MAXIMUM FEES

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 February 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Scottish Executive Consultation in respect of charges for registration to be applied by the Care Commission in 2003/2004 (1) outlining the background to the consultation exercise, and (2) detailing in Appendix 1 to the report the Council's response to the consultation paper.

Decided: that the action taken by the Director of Social Work in submitting the Council's response to the Scottish Executive Care Commission consultation on the charges for registration be noted.

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS OF COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES AT KIRKNOWE, WISHAW

7. With reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 August 2002 when, *inter alia*, (1) the service provision at Kirknowe House, Wishaw was reconfigured to provide a more extensive, responsive, intensive and integrated community service, and (2) the associated changes to the staffing structure were approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 16 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval of further service developments at Community Alternatives, Kirknowe (1) outlining the background to the service provision at Kirknowe, and (2) recommending, that, in order to allow the expansion of the service outwith core hours (a) a post of Educational Psychologist be deleted, and (b) two posts of Young Person Support Worker graded at AP4/5/QSW be established.

Decided:

- (1) that the development of the services provided by Community Alternatives at Kirknowe to expand the service outwith core hours be approved;
- (2) that the deletion of the post of Educational Psychologist be approved;
- (3) that the creation of two posts of Young Person Support Worker at salary grade AP4/5/QSW with a 7.5% irregular hours allowance be approved, and
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

SCOTTISH SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL - CONSULTATION ON DRAFT RULES FOR SOCIAL WORK TRAINING 2003

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the consultation on the draft rules for the new qualification for Social Workers (1) setting out the areas covered by the consultation; (2) intimating that, under current partnership agreements, the Council as service providers can be represented in the selection process of students, the management of the Diploma of Social Work Programmes and Assessment Panels, and (3) intimating that the proposals which were the subject of consultation were less prescriptive requiring that a range of stakeholders were actively involved at the appropriate stage in the design, delivery and evaluation of the course.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN SOCIAL WORK

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 February 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress in the implementation of major priorities within the Council's Social Work Service Provision in the last four years (1) intimating that the unprecedented changes in the scale and pace of change in Social Work, together with new legislation and new policies, created a number of complex additional requirements on the Council's Social Work Service Provision, and (2) detailing the progress against key objectives in respect of Community Care, Children and Families, Criminal Justice and Other Initiatives.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE STRATEGY FOR CARERS - PROGRESS REPORT ON THE USE OF FUNDS 2002/2003

10. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 October 2002 when the Annual Review of the North Lanarkshire Strategy for Carers 2001/2004 was noted and the allocation of funding to seven carer organisations was approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to allocate funds for services to carers in North Lanarkshire (1) setting out in Section 3.1 of the report a number of additional projects identified for funding for 2002/2003; (2) intimating that North Lanarkshire Carers Together had produced a comprehensive business plan and funding would contribute to the establishment of two full time posts, and (3) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report a summary of those projects in receipt of funding.

Decided:

- (1) that the allocation of funding to the nine carers organisations identified in Section 3.1 of the report be approved, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business Councillor Margaret Murray declared a non-pecuniary interest and took no part in its consideration or determination

SECTION 10 GRANTS

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 February 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding applications received from voluntary organisations requesting funding for 2003/2004 financial year under Section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (1) advising that the Section 10 budget allocation for 2003/2004 was £354,390; (2) indicating that following the introduction of Transitional Housing Benefit in 2002 as an alternative source of funding for the three Women's Aid projects in North Lanarkshire, there were uncommitted funds of £74,332 for 2002/2003; (3) detailing the criteria and the factors taken into consideration in determining the recommendations for funding; (4) intimating that, in line with the agreed recommendations of the Section 10 review, (a) a more robust form of monitoring of funding agreements would be introduced for projects receiving funding of £10,000 and above, and (b) a contract would be issued to those organisations in receipt of funding over £30,000; (5) proposing that the balance of the 2002/2003 budget of £74,332 be utilised to meet the cost of capital items or works within current recommendations to the value of £13,400 with the balance of £60,932 supplementing the budget for 2003/2004; (6) intimating that, as part of the rationalisation of grants to voluntary organisations administered by the Council's Chief Executive's Department, the responsibility for funding REALM Furniture Initiative would transfer to the Department of Social Work; (7) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report the recommended level of grant for each organisation, and (8) highlighting in Appendix 2 to the report those organisations not recommended to receive funding.

Thereon the Director of Social Work intimated that the Section 10 grants budget for 2003/2004 had been supplemented by approximately £17,000 during the Council's Budget Exercise.

Decided:

- (1) that the allocation of grants to the organisations set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report be approved;
- (2) that the implementation of monitoring/funding agreements for projects receiving over £10,000 and contracts for organisations receiving over £30,000 be approved;
- (3) that the disaggregation of the Chief Executive Department's Central Grants Programme be noted;
- (4) that the proposed budget transfer from the Chief Executive's budget to the Department of Social Work Section 10 Budget in respect of REALM Furniture Initiative be noted, and
- (5) that the additional funding of approximately £17,000 for the Section 10 Grants budget for 2003/2004 be noted

CHARGING FOR HOME CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to establish a rate of charges for home care services for 2003/2004 (1) intimating
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that home care services were provided free of charge to individuals who have a net income of less than £111 per week and couples with a combined income of less than £169; (2) advising that service users were charged 25% of the excess income above the threshold figure; (3) proposing that the threshold figure be increased to £115 for single persons and £175 for couples, and (4) recommending that the provision of home support services continue to be provided free of charge.

Decided:

- (1) that housing support services continue to be provided free of charge;
- (2) that the threshold for home care charges be increased to £115 per week for single service users and £175 per week for couples, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Housing and Technical Services Committee for information.

JOINT EQUIPMENT SERVICE - OFFICIAL LAUNCH

13. There was submitted a report dated 23 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the arrangements for the official launch of the Joint Equipment Service (1) outlining the background to the establishment of the Joint Equipment Service, and (2) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report a draft programme for the launch of the Service on 3 March 2003.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

DAY CARE CENTRES FOR OLDER PEOPLE - EXTENSION OF OPENING HOURS

14. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 November 2000 when, inter alia, the recommendations of the "A Home for the Future" Member/Officer Working Group report were endorsed, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval of service developments in respect of the Council's in-house Day Care Centres for older people to allow service provision over seven days per week (1) outlining the background to the development of day care centres for older people in North Lanarkshire; (2) setting out the current opening times for the six in-house day care centres for older people; (3) recommending (a) that the opening hours of the five Day Care Centres detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved on a phased basis, and (b) the creation of (A) 3.2 posts of Senior Social Care Worker at salary grade RW 23; (B) 6.8 posts of Social Care Worker at salary grade RW11-RW16, and (C) 0.7 post of Bus Escort at salary grade MW3, and (4) setting out the staffing and financial implications of the proposals in Appendix 1 to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the extension of opening hours for the five Day Care Centres for Older People in North Lanarkshire as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved;
- (2) that the staffing recommendations contained within the report be approved, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

REVIEW OF HOUSING FOR OLDER PEOPLE

15. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 November 2000 when, inter alia, the recommendations of the "A Home for the Future" Member/Officer Working

Group report as detailed in the appendix to the report were endorsed, there was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated 17 February 2003 by the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work regarding the progress of the Review of Housing for Older People (1) intimating that, in light of the recommendations of the "A Home for the Future" Member/Officer Working Group, a Working Group had been established to consider the recommendations and the wider policy context; (2) enclosing in (a) Appendix 1 to the report a breakdown of Residential Homes, Very Sheltered Housing and Sheltered Housing Provision in North Lanarkshire, and (b) Appendix 2 to the report an indication of the current shortfall in the provision of sheltered housing and very sheltered housing based on nationally recognised yardstick levels of provision; (3) setting out in Section 3.1 and 3.2 of the report, proposals for the assessment and allocation of sheltered housing and the upgrading of existing sheltered housing in North Lanarkshire; (4) intimating that in conjunction with Communities Scotland, a rolling programme for newbuild provision had been set out for Seafar, Cumbernauld, Paterson Street, Motherwell, a site provisionally identified at Old Union Street, Airdrie and a site to be identified in Bellshill; (5) intimating that further sites had also been identified in Harthill, Moodiesburn and Kilsyth to meet the shortfall in these areas to be progressed when funding becomes available; (6) proposing that a review of the remit of the Warden Service be carried out to enhance services available to sheltered housing tenants and to improve the co-ordination of services between agencies, and (7) highlighting the implications that the Supporting People agenda would have on the provision of housing for older people.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress in the review of housing for older people in North Lanarkshire be noted;
- (2) that the proposals to enhance the Council's provision of Residential Accommodation and Very Sheltered Housing and Sheltered Housing Provision for older people in North Lanarkshire as detailed in the report be approved;
- (3) that a report setting out further recommendations in respect of the upgrading of Sheltered Housing complexes and the review of the Warden Service be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee, and
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

RECRUITMENT OF SOCIAL WORKERS

16. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 February 2003 by the Director of Social Work setting out measures to improve the recruitment and retention of Social Workers in North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the measures the Council had taken to improve the recruitment and retention of Social Workers; (2) highlighting a number of initiatives taken by other local authorities across Scotland to recruit newly qualified Social Workers, and (3) proposing that the Council (a) match the amount of lump sum payment of a neighbouring local authority provided to those students graduating as Social Workers this year; (b) offer a portion of the funding at a level to be agreed with the Head of Personnel Services to students starting their final year in Autumn 2003, and (c) develop a Recruitment Package to include a wider range of benefits for Social Workers to assist in their recruitment and retention.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council match the amount of funding of a neighbouring Local Authority for those students graduating as Social Workers in the current year;
- (2) that the Council offer a portion of funding at a level to be agreed with the Head of Personnel Services to students starting their final year in Autumn 2003;

- (3) that the Council develop a Recruitment Package to offer a wider range of benefits for Social Workers to assist with their retention and recruitment, and
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

RECEPTION COVER IN SIR JOHN MANN CENTRE, BELLSHILL

17. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 22 March 2001 when, *inter alia*, the establishment of a forty place day centre for frail and vulnerable older people in the Sir John Mann Building, Bellshill was approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the reception cover in the Sir John Mann Centre, Bellshill (1) intimating that the Centre currently accommodated seven projects; (2) setting out details of the services provided by each project and the amount of reception cover required in each, and (3) recommending the creation of one post of Clerical Assistant grade at GS1/2 and one part time post of Clerical Assistant/Typist (14 hours) graded at GS1/2.

Decided:

- (1) that the creation of one post of Clerical Assistant/Typist at salary grade GS1/2 and one part time post of Clerical Assistant/Typist (14 hours) at salary grade GS1/2 with weekend enhancement as detailed in Section 3 of the report be approved, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business Councillor Lunny declared a non-pecuniary interest and took no part in its consideration or determination.

A HOME FOR THE FUTURE - MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION REVIEW IN HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

18. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 November 2000 when, *inter alia*, the Director of Social Work was requested to submit reports to future meetings of the Committee detailing the progress in implementing the recommendations of the "A Home for the Future" Member/Officer Working Group, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 February 2003 by the Director of Social Work setting out changes to the management/administrative structure within the Council's Residential Homes for older people (1) outlining the background to the staffing structure and management arrangements in the Council's ten residential homes for the elderly; (2) proposing that the post of Assistant Unit Manager be deleted from the management structure in each home; (3) recommending that, in order to maintain an appropriate level of management that in the one home where there were only two Senior Social Care Workers, the Social Care Worker post be regraded to Senior Social Care Worker to afford adequate management cover without affecting the staff to client ratio; (4) proposing that one post of Clerical Assistant graded at GS3 be created in each home, and (5) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report the financial implications of the management review in the Council's ten residential homes for older people.

Decided:

- (1) that the staffing recommendations contained within the report for the Council's ten residential homes for older people be approved, and
 - (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.
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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE "JOINT EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTATIONS" MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP

19. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 November 2000 when, inter alia, the Committee (1) endorsed the preferred options recommended by the "Joint Equipment and Adaptations" Member/Officer Working Group which were designed to create major improvements in occupational therapy services and the provision of equipment and adaptations, and (2) requested that the Directors of Housing and Property Services and Social Work submit a joint progress report on the implementation of the recommendations, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 11 September 2002 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress of the implementation of the Member/Officer Working Group recommendations to date and providing in the Appendices to the report details of waiting lists for assessment and adaptations expenditure.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress in implementing the recommendations of the "Joint Equipment and Adaptations" Member/Officer Working Group be noted, and
- (2) that further progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the "Joint Equipment and Adaptations" Member/Officer Working Group be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES - MEMBER/OFFICER REVIEW

20. With reference to paragraph 28 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 December 2002 when the progress of the Member/Officer Working Group established to review day opportunities for people with learning disabilities in North Lanarkshire was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 9 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work setting out the recommendations of the Member/Officer Review of day opportunities for people with learning disabilities (1) outlining the background to the establishment of the Member/Officer Group; (2) detailing the remit and work undertaken by the Group; (3) indicating that an extensive consultation process had been undertaken with service users and carers; (4) setting out, as recommendations of the Member/Officer Group, the main elements of an Action Plan in respect of Supported Employment, Transition Planning for Young People with Disabilities, Accommodation with Support, Day Centres, Health Care, and Further Education; (5) recommending that, in order to establish management arrangements to facilitate the implementation of the proposals, the post of Unit Manager at the five main day care centres be redesignated to that of Locality Manager (Learning Disability) graded at PO2/5, and (6) proposing that a Strategic Implementation Group be established in tandem with Local Implementation Groups to oversee the modernisation of the Council's Day Care Services for people with learning disabilities.

Decided:

- (1) that the recommendations of the Day Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities Member/Officer Group be approved;
- (2) that the redesignation of the Unit Manager post to that of Locality Manager (Learning Disability) at salary grade PO2/5 as detailed in Section 7.2 of the report be approved;
- (3) that the establishment of Implementation Groups to oversee the implementation of the modernisation of the Council's Day Care Services for People with Learning Disabilities be approved;
- (4) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to submit monitoring reports to future meetings of the Committee, and

- (5) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

REPORT OF THE MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP: CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

21. With reference to paragraph 29 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 December 2002 when, *inter alia*, it was agreed that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee detailing the findings of the Member/Officer Working Group established to Review Children's Services in North Lanarkshire, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 February 2003 by the Director of Social Work (1) outlining the background to the establishment of the Member/Officer Working Group; (2) setting out the objectives of and the work undertaken by the Group, and (3) enclosing in Appendix 2 to the report a summary of the Group's recommendations.

Decided: that the recommendations of the Member/Officer Working Group established to review Children's and Young People Services in North Lanarkshire as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

HOME CARE SERVICES MEMBER/OFFICER BEST VALUE REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

22. With reference to paragraph 38 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 28 February 2002 when, *inter alia*, the terms of the Best Value Review of Home Care Services in North Lanarkshire were noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 February 2003 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to progress the recommendations and findings of the Member/Officer Group established to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Review (1) outlining the background to the work undertaken by the Group, and (2) providing as an Appendix to the report the recommendations and the findings of the Group for future provision of the service.

Decided:

- (1) that the recommendations and findings of the Member/Officer Best Value Home Care Services Implementation Group as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

REVENUE ESTIMATES 2002/2003 - FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT - 1 APRIL 2002 TO 6 JANUARY 2003

23. There was submitted a report dated 29 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of departmental spending levels for the Department of Social Work for the period from 1 April 2002 to 6 January 2003 and providing a comparison with the approved budget, and (2) recommending that, in light of an over recovery of £3.2 m in Transitional Housing Benefit, (a) £600,000 be used to enhance the budget for equipment and adaptations; (b) £700,000 be utilised to enhance the Council's supplementation budget, and (c) £1.9 m be used to enhance the budget for the Home Care Division Staffing Support.

Decided:

- (1) that the virement of £600,000 to enhance the budget for equipment and adaptations as detailed within the report be approved;

- (2) that the virement of £700,000 to enhance the supplementation budget as detailed within the report be approved;
- (3) that the virement of £1.9 m to enhance the Home Care Division Staffing Support budget as detailed within the report be approved, and
- (4) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

REVENUE ESTIMATES 2002/2003 - FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT FOR SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT - 1 APRIL 2002 TO 6 JANUARY 2003

24. There was submitted a report dated 29 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work advising of spending levels for Sheltered Employment for the period from 1 April 2002 to 6 January 2003 and providing a comparison with the approved budget.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2002/2003 - MONITORING REPORT FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT - 1 APRIL 2002 TO 6 JANUARY 2003

25. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 February 2003 by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing progress made in individual projects included in the Capital Programme for the Department of Social Work as at 6 January 2003, and (2) intimating expenditure against the approved budget as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Decided: that the progress of the Capital Programme for the Department of Social Work as at 6 January 2003 be noted.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2001/2004 - QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

26. There was submitted a report dated 16 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work advising of the implementation of the Social Work Service Improvement Plan for 2001/2004 and setting out in the Appendix to the report details of the progress of the key strategic development tasks identified therein.

Decided: that the progress of the key strategic development tasks as detailed in the Appendix to the report be noted.

STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - MONITORING REPORT - 2ND AND 3RD QUARTERS 2002/2003

27. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work setting out in Appendix 1 to the report the Social Work Department performance indicators for the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2002/2003 for submission to the Accounts Commission for Scotland.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

CONFERENCES

28. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 February 2003 by the Director of Administration advising that twelve invitations had been received in respect of attendance at conferences, and seeking consideration of the invitations.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that Councillor Shields had been unable to attend the conference “Delivering Effective Provision for Children at Risk” which was held in Edinburgh on 3 February 2003;

- (2) that the following conference attendance be homologated:-

Conference	Venue	Date(s)	Attendance
Delivering Effective Through Care	Dunblane	25 February 2003	Councillor Sullivan

- (3) that the Council be represented at the undernoted conferences:-

Conference	Venue	Date(s)	Attendance
See the Bigger Picture	Edinburgh	2-3 April 2003	1 Member of Social Work Committee
ADSW Annual Conference 2003	Perthshire	21 May 2003	3 Members of the Social Work Committee

and

- (4) that otherwise no attendance be authorised.

It was agreed in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

DEATH OF A LOOKED AFTER CHILD

29. There was submitted a report dated 22 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work advising of the death of a child who was looked after (1) detailing the background to the circumstances of the death, and (2) advising that a full report of the circumstances of the child’s death would require to be submitted to the Scottish Ministers and that following the response a report would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work provide a report to a future meeting of the Committee following a response from the Scottish Ministers on the circumstances of the death.

DEATH OF A LOOKED AFTER CHILD

30. With reference to paragraph 23 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 October 2001 when, inter alia, it was agreed that the Director of Social Work provide a report to a future meeting of the Committee following a response from the Scottish Ministers on the circumstances of the death of a looked after child, there was submitted a report dated 15 January 2003 by the Director of Social Work (1) intimating that the Procurator Fiscal had advised that he did not intend to hold a fatal accident inquiry into the child's death, and (2) advising that the Scottish Executive had notified the Council that they had examined the information provided from both a medical and social perspective and were satisfied that the Council had offered relevant and appropriate social work services to the child and his family.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.