

**Motherwell, 4 December 2003 at 11 am**

**AGENDA ITEM No. 2**

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

**PRESENT**

Councillor Sullivan, Convener; Councillors Burrows, Chadha, M. Clark, Fagan, Gordon, Gormill, Homer, Irvine, McElroy and McLaughlin.

**CHAIR**

Councillor Sullivan (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Principal Administrative Officer; Head of Social Work Services; Manager, Children and Families and Criminal Justice; Manager, Community Care Adults; Manager, Older People's Services; Operations Manager North; Senior Officer, Mental Health, and Children's Rights Officer.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors McCabe, H. McGuigan and Shaw.

**INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

1. The Convener welcomed Fiona Cameron, Children's Rights Officer to the meeting and intimated that Ms. Cameron and Malcolm Smith, Lanarkshire Community Care Forum would be invited to attend future meetings of the Sub-Committee.

**Decided:** that the position be noted.

**SUPPORTING FRONTLINE STAFF**

2. The Operational Manager (North) provided a presentation on the support provided to frontline Social Work staff and advised the Sub-Committee:-
  - that the Department had a workforce of 3,500;
  - of the support mechanisms in place to support staff, and
  - that a Supporting Frontline Staff Working Group had been established to develop a comprehensive departmental framework to support frontline staff.

After responding to Members' questions, the Convener thanked the Operational Manager (North) for his informative presentation.

**Decided:** that the terms of the presentation be noted.

**TACKLING DELAYED DISCHARGE - THE ROLE OF RAPID RESPONSE AND EARLY SUPPORTED DISCHARGE TEAMS**

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 November 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress of the Delayed Discharge - Rapid Response/Early Supported Discharge Teams in North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the hospital discharge programme and the establishment of the Early Supported Discharge and Rapid Response Teams; (2) intimating that the teams had been merged in both the Monklands District and Wishaw General Hospital areas to form the Local Integrated Care Services (LINCS); (3) indicating that LINCS had made a significant contribution to tackling delayed discharge in North Lanarkshire and had achieved Scottish Executive targets in 2002/03 to reduce delayed discharges, and (4) advising that at any one time LINCS were providing support to 40 older people and received around 60 new referrals each month.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Director of Social Work provide a briefing note to all elected Members on the LINCS Project, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

**CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE PUBLIC INFORMATION BROCHURES**

4. There was submitted a report dated 19 November 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the introduction of standard public information brochures for the Council's care homes (1) intimating that individual care homes in North Lanarkshire had previously produced their own information brochures; (2) indicating that, following consultation with staff groups, service users, carers, and the Care Commission, it was agreed that standard information would be introduced in care homes public information brochures as well as information reflecting the particular characteristics of each home, and (3) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report an example brochure.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**MENTAL WELFARE COMMISSION : REPORT OF INQUIRY INTO THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF MR. C.**

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 July 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the contents and recommendations of the Mental Welfare Commission Inquiry into the care and treatment of Mr. C. (1) outlining the background to the Inquiry which had been initiated by the Mental Welfare Commission following their annual visiting programme; (2) detailing the findings of the Inquiry, and (3) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report the key recommendations of the Inquiry and the Council's position in relation to the recommendations.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**MENTAL WELFARE COMMISSION DEFICIENCY OF CARE INQUIRY RELATING TO MR. J. : PROGRESS REPORT**

6. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 6 August 2002 when, *inter alia*, the Director of Social Work was authorised to prepare for submission to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee a report(s) on the findings of (a) the departmental review of social work services to long stay hospital patients and to services to those from ethnic minority backgrounds, and (b) the joint review to be carried out in association with Lanarkshire Primary Care Trust on social work services to psychiatric hospitals, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 November 2003 by

the Director of Social Work regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Mental Welfare Commission Deficiency of Care Inquiry relating to Mr. J. (previously referred to as Mr. M.) (1) outlining the background to the Deficiency of Care Inquiry; (2) setting out details of progress made on the action plan compiled jointly by the Council and the Health Board which addressed the key recommendations of the Inquiry; (3) intimating that the Mental Welfare Commission had made a further visit to Hartwoodhill Hospital and noted that their recommendations had been implemented and had improved services, and (4) advising (a) that a cultural and spiritual information pack had been developed and made available for use by Social Work staff, and (b) that further work is planned with Social Work staff in respect of equal opportunities issues in the context of the Council's Racial Equality Action Plan.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

#### **ADVISORY DISABLED PARKING BAYS : CRITERIA GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

7. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 18 June 2003, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 December 2003 by the Director of Social Work (1) outlining the background to the need for a consistent approach to the provision of Advisory Disabled Parking Bays, and (2) enclosing, in the appendices to the report (a) guidance notes and an application form in regard to the Provision of Advisory Disabled Parking Bays, and (b) the Assessment Criteria for Provision of Advisory Disabled Person's Parking Bay.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the need to adopt a consistent approach to the provision of disabled parking bays be noted, and
- (2) that the contents of the guidelines, criteria and application form be approved as the basis for a fair and consistent approach for determining the suitability of applications.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH OFFICER SERVICES: RESEARCH FINDINGS**

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 December 2003 by the Director of Social Work advising of the contents of the document entitled "Mental Health Officer Services: Structures and Supports" which was produced following research commissioned by the Scottish Executive and carried out by the Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health (1) highlighting the principal aims of the research; (2) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report the key findings of the research and the Council's current position in respect of the key findings including the undertaking of an audit of Mental Health Officers Services, and (3) intimating that early indications from the Scottish Executive suggest that the Council will require additional Mental Health Officers in order to respond to the demands of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the undertaking of an audit of Mental Health Officers Services be noted;
- (2) that the development of an action plan to implement the new Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act 2003 be noted;
- (3) that the Director of Social Work bring forward to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee a report on:-
  - (a) the audit of the Mental Health Officers Services in North Lanarkshire, and

- (b) the action plan relating to the implementation of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act 2003, and
- (4) that the report be otherwise noted.

**ADULTS WITH INCAPACITY ACT 2000: IMPLEMENTATION OF PART 4 - MANAGEMENT OF RESIDENTS' FINANCES**

9. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 9 May 2002 when authority was delegated to the Director of Social Work and Heads of Service within the Department of Social Work, after consultation with the Director of Administration, to exercise the full powers and discharge the full responsibilities of the Council under and in terms of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 October 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the implications of Part 4 of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 (1) outlining the background to the Act; (2) setting out additional requirements for Local Authorities as a result of the Act, and (3) listing elements of an action plan to implement the legislation.

**Decided:** that the terms of the report be noted.

**UPPER AGE LIMIT OF FOSTER CARERS**

10. There was submitted a report dated 10 November 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Council's policy in relation to the upper age limit of foster carers (1) outlining the background to a review of the upper age limit; (2) indicating that across Scotland there was no upper age limit for foster carers with the exception of adopters of children up to 2 years old; (3) intimating that following a review of the policy which included consideration of the legal position and practice in other authorities it was proposed to retain the position whereby there was no upper age limit for foster carers in North Lanarkshire, subject to an annual comprehensive medical assessment of those over 60 years of age.

**Decided:**

- (1) that it be recommended that the current policy and practice in relation to the upper age limit of foster carers continue, which policy is subject to the annual comprehensive medical assessment of foster carers over 60 years of age, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

**AUDIT SCOTLAND REPORT ON DEALING WITH OFFENDING YOUNG PEOPLE - A FOLLOW UP STUDY**

11. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 27 February 2003 when, *inter alia*, the contents of the Audit Scotland report entitled "Dealing with Offending by Young People" was noted, there was submitted a report dated 11 November 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the findings of a follow-up study of critical issues identified in the main report on Dealing with Offending By Young People (1) outlining the background to the study; (2) advising that the Audit Scotland report had indicated that up to a quarter (500) of young offenders under the supervision of Councils were not getting the services required to prevent them from re-offending; (3) listing the four main problem areas for local authorities highlighted in the Audit Scotland report, and (4) enclosing in the Appendix to the report by the Director of Social Work, the Council's action plan to address the areas identified within the Audit Scotland report.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the progress of the implementation of the action plan, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

**EVENING TIMES LOCAL HEROES AWARDS 2003**

12. There was submitted a report dated 5 December 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress made in the Council's sponsorship of the Evening Times Local Hero Awards 2003 (1) outlining the background to the Local Hero Awards; (2) setting out the timetable for the awards for 2003/2004, and (3) intimating that the Council would contribute sponsorship of £5,000 and approximately an additional £2,500 for promotional gifts bearing the Council's logo.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a further report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the progress of the Evening Time Local Heroes Awards 2003, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.