

Motherwell, 11 March 2004 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor H. McGuigan, Convener; Councillors Nolan and Sullivan, Vice-Conveners; Councillors Burrows, Cassidy, M. Clark, Devine, Fagan, Gemmell, Gordon, Gorman, Gormill, Homer, McAuley, McCallum, McElroy, J. McGuigan, McLaughlin, M. Murray, Ross, Saunders and Shaw.

CHAIR

Councillor H. McGuigan (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Manager, Director of Social Work, Head of Social Work Development, Head of Social Work Resources, Head of Social Work Services and Senior Accountant.

APOLOGIES

Councillors J. Coyle, Irvine, Lyle, McCabe, J. Martin, Selfridge and Shields.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

1. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings of the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 24 February 2004 and the Social Work (Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 26 February 2004.

Decided: that the terms of the Minutes be approved.

COMMUNITY ALARM SERVICE - PURCHASE OF DISPERSED ALARM UNITS

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 January 2004 when the Director of Administration was authorised to accept the tender submitted by Tunstall Telecom, Yorkshire in the sum of £90,000 for the supply of 1,000 dispersed community alarm units, there was submitted a report dated 11 March 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) intimating that in order to comply with its responsibilities and to allow a further expansion of the existing service, a further 750 units were required; (2) intimating that the existing contractor, Tunstall Telecom, Yorkshire was willing to supply the units at the same rates and conditions as the existing contract, and (3) proposing that the Director of Social Work negotiate an extension to the contract with Tunstall Telecom, Coatbridge for the supply of a further 750 units.

Decided: that the Director of Social Work be authorised to negotiate an extension to the existing contract with Tunstall Telecom, Yorkshire for the supply of 750 dispersed community alarm units.

CHARGING POLICY FOR CARE AT HOME SERVICES

3. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 February 2003 when, inter alia, it was agreed that (1) Housing Support Services continue to be provided free of charge, and (2) the threshold for home care charges be increased to £115 per week for single service

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users, and £175 per week for couples, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to adjust the charging arrangements for care at home services for 2004/2005 including housing support (1) intimating that following introduction of the Supporting People Agenda and the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, the Council require to amend its existing level of charges for care at home services; (2) proposing that the threshold figure be increased to £123 for single persons, and £188 for couples (3) recommending that housing support services be subject to charging; (4) setting out the groups or categories which would be exempt from charges for housing support services; (5) informing that home care services such as preparing meals, banking, ironing, laundry, pet walking and assisting with fire lighting would be subject to charging; (6) recommending that the tariff income from capital be calculated on the basis of £1 for every £500 above £6,000, and (7) proposing that (a) the hourly rate for the provision of home care services be set at £7.50, and (b) that the meals on wheels service be subject to a charge of £1.30 per meal.

Decided:

- (1) that the threshold for home care charges be increased to £123 per week for single service users, and £188 for couples;
- (2) that the tariff income be calculated on the basis of £1 for every £500 of capital or part thereof above £6,000;
- (3) that the introduction of a charge for housing support services and the exemptions listed in Section 3.8 of the report be approved;
- (4) that a unit cost of £7.50 per hour be applied for calculating the cost of home care services as outlined in Section 3.10 of the report;
- (5) that a charge of £1.30 per meal for the Meals On Wheels service be approved, and
- (6) that the report be referred to the Housing and Technical Services Committee for information.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE STRATEGY FOR CARERS: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE USE OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT CARERS

4. With reference to paragraph 25 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 January 2004 when, *inter alia*, allocations of funding to carer organisations identified were approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to provide funding for services to carer organisations in North Lanarkshire (1) setting out in Table 1 of the report, a number of additional projects identified for funding for 2003/2004, and (2) intimating that a new strategy for carers for the period 2004/2007 was being developed which would continue the development of support services for carer organisations.

Decided:

- (1) that the allocation of funding to the carer organisations identified in Table 1 of the report be approved, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit further reports to future meetings of the Committee in relation to the development of services and use of development funds.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES - FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding a number of legislation changes which have impacted on the provision of independent living
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services; (1) proposing that in light of the legislative changes, the post of Senior Officer, Dementia be deleted, and (2) recommending the establishment of an additional post of Senior Officer, Independent Living graded at PO2/5.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee, for its interest, approve the deletion of the post of Senior Officer, Dementia;
- (2) that the Committee, for its interest, approve the creation of one post of Senior Officer, Independent Living at salary grade PO2/5, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

MODERNISATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress of the modernisation of local authority Residential Services for adults with a learning disability (1) outlining the background to the modernisation of local authority Residential Services for adults with a learning disability in North Lanarkshire; (2) detailing the progress which has been made to date; (3) indicating that as at 31 December 2003, the Council funded supported living arrangements for 235 individuals with learning disabilities; (4) advising that a review of the provision of services from Craig Street, Airdrie and Branchal House, Wishaw was in progress; (5) intimating that to date, the review had established that most people wished to live with support in their homes and that current accommodation did not meet the needs of people with physical disability and did not comply with registration requirements, and (6) informing that the Council allocated £613,965 for the provision of residential services from Craig Street, Airdrie and Branchal House, Wishaw and employed 22 staff at both locations.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to progress proposals for the reconfiguration of the Council's Provision of Residential Care for People with Learning Disabilities, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit further reports to future meetings of the Committee on the progress of the review.

BRAIN INJURY NEEDS - IDENTIFICATION WORK BY DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION EDUCATION (DARE): FINDINGS

7. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 January 2004 when it was agreed that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee outlining the findings, recommendations and financial implications of the review of services to people with brain injuries, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the findings of the review of brain injury services (1) outlining the background to the review; (2) outlining the methodology of the review; (3) setting out in section 3.3.1 of the report details of the findings of the review and the main issues areas identified as being a priority, and (4) intimating that the findings and priorities would be incorporated into the Best Value Implementation Plan for Independent Living Services.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee following receipt of the final report by DARE;
- (2) that the Director of Social work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee outlining the resource implications of the recommendations of the review, and
- (3) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

COMMUNITY CARE AND HEALTH ACT 2002: MINISTERIAL POWERS OF INTERVENTION - CONSULTATION ON LADDER OF SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 16 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Scottish Executive consultation in respect of a Ladder of Support Intervention under Part 2 of the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002 (1) outlining the background to the consultation; (2) indicating that the Scottish Executive had requested that written responses to the consultation be submitted no later than 19 April 2004; (3) setting out the main strands of the Consultation Paper, and (4) proposing that the response be drafted by the Council in partnership with NHS Lanarkshire for approval by the North Lanarkshire Health and Care Partnership taking account of the points detailed in section 3.4 of the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the response to the Scottish Executive Consultation Paper taking account of the points detailed in section 3.4 of the report be prepared in conjunction with the joint planning partners for approval by North Lanarkshire Health and Care Partnership, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to Housing and Technical Services Committee for information.

TRAGEDY AT ROSE PARK CARE HOME - SERVICES PROVIDED BY SOCIAL WORK STAFF

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 17 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the role of Social Work staff following the fire tragedy at Rosepark Care Home, Uddingston (1) intimating that Rosepark Care Home had been operational since 1992 and provided care for up to 43 residents; (2) setting out the involvement of Social Work staff following the fire tragedy, including the provision of alternative accommodation, work as part of the Major Incident Support Team, liaising with other care homes, liaising with other Councils/agencies and provision of support to residents and relatives from Rosepark Care Home, and (3) indicating that whilst the Department required to deploy a significant number of staff from Bellshill Area Team to assist with the provision of support, steps had been taken to ensure that a full range of Social Work services was provided from Bellshill Area Office.

Decided: that the role of the Social Work Department in the provision of an emergency response following the fire at Rosepark Care Home, Uddingston be noted.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NORTH LANARKSHIRE USERS AND CARERS FORUM

10. With reference to paragraph 22 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 January 2004 when it was agreed that the Director of Social Work submit a further report, setting out a fully costed plan for the establishment of a North Lanarkshire Community Users and Carers Forum, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 November 2003, seeking approval to reinvest funding towards the establishment of a North Lanarkshire Users and Carers Forum (1) indicating that the Lanarkshire Community Carers Forum was dissolved in February 2004; (2) intimating that the

inaugural meeting of the North Lanarkshire Users and Carers Forum was scheduled for 2 March 2004; (3) advising that the organisation would be formally constituted and seek charitable status at that meeting, and (4) proposing that the existing level of funding for the former Lanarkshire Community Care Forum of £50,885 and the uncommitted non-recurring funding of approximately £13,000 be allocated to North Lanarkshire Users and Carers Forum with effect from 1 April 2004.

Decided:

- (1) that the allocation of £50,885 to North Lanarkshire Users and Carers Forum for 2004/2005 be approved;
- (2) that the allocation of £13,000 of non-recurring funding to assist with start-up costs be allocated to North Lanarkshire Users and Carers Forum, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee outlining a fully costed budget for the Forum.

PROPOSED INCREASE TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION RATES 2004/2005 FOR ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 11 March 2004 by the Director of Social Work setting out changes to the maintenance rates for registered residential and day care establishments within North Lanarkshire.

Decided: that the new maintenance rates as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

CHARGES FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION OPERATED BY THE COUNCIL

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval for the uprating of standard charges for residential accommodation operated by the Council for elderly people and people with learning disabilities (1) advising that the current charge in North Lanarkshire was the average cost of providing a residential place in the homes operated by the Council; (2) proposing that the charges for long term care in residential homes for the elderly be increased to £379 per week and £730 per week for people with learning disabilities in residential homes, and (3) intimating that the amount contributed towards the standard charge by a resident would be based on a financial assessment of the client's ability to pay as determined by legislation.

Decided:

- (1) that the standard charge for long term care in residential homes for the elderly be increased to £379 per week with effect from 12 April 2004, and
- (2) that the standard charge for long term care for people with learning disabilities in residential homes be increased to £730 per week with effect from 12 April 2004.

REVIEW OF MAINTENANCE RATE - QUARRIERS, MCGREGOR ROAD, CUMBERNAULD

13. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to increase the maintenance rates provided to Quarriers Homes for the project at McGregor Road, Cumbernauld (1) outlining the background to the provision of services by Quarriers Homes at McGregor Road, Cumbernauld; (2) indicating that the number of places at the project had been reduced from seven to six; (3) detailing a number of factors which had been considered when

reviewing the maintenance rate, and (4) proposing that the maintenance rates for the project be: £659.52 for 2002/2003 and £682.55 for 2003/2004.

Decided: that the proposed maintenance rates for Quarriers, McGregor Road, Cumbernauld as detailed heretofore be approved.

RESIDENTIAL NURSING HOME RATES

14. The Head of Social Work Resources advised orally that (1) negotiations were ongoing between Scottish Care and COSLA to agree the nursing home fees for 2004/05, and (2) a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

Decided: that the position be noted.

BEST VALUE REVIEW OF INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

15. With reference to paragraph 23 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 January 2004 when consideration of the Best Value Review of Independent Living Services was continued to a future meeting of the Committee, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 November 2003 by the Director of Social Work regarding the findings of the Best Value Review of Independent Living Services (1) outlining the background to the review; (2) setting out the scope of the review and the objectives, anticipated outcomes and methodology; (3) summarising in Section 3.6 of the report the findings of the review and specific issues raised by users and carers in relation to existing service provision; (4) indicating that a number of the service developments recommended would require funding from community care monies allocated for the provision of Independent Living Services, and (5) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report the recommendations of the Best Value Review of Independent Living Services in North Lanarkshire.

Decided:

- (1) that the findings and recommendations of the Best Value Review of Independent Living Services in North Lanarkshire be approved;
- (2) that the implementation of the recommendations of the Review be progressed under the auspices of a Multi-agency Implementation Group, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work submit further reports to future meetings of the Committee on the implementation of the recommendations of the Review, and proposals for the use of funding available to implement service developments.

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

16. 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 2004/2005 financial year under Section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (1) advising that the Section 10 budget allocation for 2004/2005 was £430,653; (2) detailing the criteria and the factors taken into consideration in determining the recommendations for funding; (3) indicating that the value of applications received amounted to a total of £624,844; (4) advising that the ten organisations which

have three year funding arrangements were not required to submit annual applications for funding however an annual review had been initiated to monitor the performance of each project against agreed indicators; (5) informing that existing monitoring arrangements for Wishaw Stroke Group and REALM had identified a number of issues with each organisation; (6) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report the recommended level of grant for each organisation; (7) highlighting in Appendix 2A to the report those organisations not recommended to receive funding; (8) enclosing in Appendix 2B to the report three applications which were currently being assessed, and (9) proposing that the balance of the Section 10 budget for 2003/204 of £27,737 be utilised by the early release of grant payments for projects awarded for funding within the 2004/2005 applications.

Decided:

- (1) that the allocation of grants to the organisations set out in Appendices 1 and 2A of the report be approved;
- (2) that the utilisation of the balance of the Section 10 budget for 2003/2004 of £27,737 by the early release of grant payments for projects awarded funding within 2004/2005 be approved;
- (3) that the implementation of formal funding agreements for projects receiving £10,000 and above be noted;
- (4) that the monitoring issues identified for Wishaw Stoke Group and REALM and the action outlined in Appendix 3 to the report be noted, and
- (5) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee detailing any issues arising from the review of funding agreements.

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS - JUSTICE SERVICES, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, COURT SERVICES AND AIRDRIE YOUTH COURT

17. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval of service developments in respect of Justice Services, Restorative Justice, Court Services and Airdrie Youth Court (1) outlining the background to the Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Grouping and the three year Joint Criminal Justice Plan which was launched in June 2002; (2) advising that the total allocation for the grouping for core services for justice services was £153,215, and (3) setting out in Section 3 of the report the personnel and financial implications of the service enhancements for Restorative Justice, Court Services and Airdrie Youth Court.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed service developments in respect of Restorative Justice, Court Services and Airdrie Youth Court be approved;
- (2) that the Committee, for its interest, approve the revised staffing structures, gradings and personnel implications detailed in the report;
- (3) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee detailing the progress of the service developments within Justice Services, and
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

TRAINING GRANT - REGISTRATION OF THE SOCIAL CARE WORKFORCE

18. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 January 2004 when proposals for the disbursement of specific grant for training were approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to create an additional four posts of Assessor/Verifier within the Social Work Department SVQ Centre (1) outlining the background to the Social Work Department SVQ Centre, and (2) recommending, that in order to ensure that all staff within residential settings have the opportunity to gain appropriate qualifications, the establishment of four additional posts of Assessor/Verifier at salary grade AP5 for a two year period.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee, for its interest, approve the establishment of four temporary posts of Assessor/Verifier at salary grade AP5, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

JOINT FUTURE - ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

19. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding proposals to promote organisational development within the Joint Future Agenda which refers to the changes in service alignment and joint resourcing between Social Work and Health Partners (1) outlining the background to the Joint Future Human Resources Working Group which was set up to develop effective Human Resource policies and support the organisational development needed and progress the strategic and operational objectives of the Joint Future Agenda; (2) detailing the progress of the Working Group; (3) intimating that the main issue facing the Working Group was the capacity to support the growing organisational development agenda; (4) recommending, that in order to support and resource the needs of the Joint Future Agenda, the creation of one post of Co-ordinator, Joint Future Organisational Development and one part-time post of Clerical Assistant/Typist graded at GS1/2 (17.5 hours) for a two year period, and (5) advising that the grade of the Co-ordinator would be determined by the Head of Personnel Services prior to its consideration by the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee, for its interest, approve the creation of one post of Co-ordinator, Joint Future Organisational Development, grade to be determined and one part-time post of Clerical Assistant/Typist at salary grade GS1/2 for a two year period;
- (2) that the progress made by the Joint Future Human Resource Working Group be noted, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

BRAIN INJURY SERVICES - PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A JOB COACH POST

20. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee when the findings and recommendations of the review of acquired brain injury services within North Lanarkshire was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Council's capacity to assist people with a brain injury into employment (1) intimating that one of the areas highlighted within the report was the need to support clients to access real paid employment options; (2) indicating that following the findings of the review the vacant post of Support

Worker graded at AP2/3 was no longer required, and (3) recommending the establishment of a Job Coach post graded at SCP22/27.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee, for its interest, approve the deletion of the post of Support Worker, Brain Injury;
- (2) that the Committee, for its interest, approve the creation of a Job Coach post, at salary grade SCP22/27 plus a 7.5% irregular hours payment, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

MODERNISATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL HOMES IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

21. With reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 January 2004 when the progress in implementing the recommendations of the Modernisation of Local Authority Residential Homes in North Lanarkshire Report was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work advising of the progress of the implementation of the Modernisation of the Provision of Care for Children and Young People who need to be Looked After and Accommodated in a residential setting in North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the proposal to modernise children's homes in North Lanarkshire which had been set out in four phases; (2) intimating that included within Phase 1 was the closure of Cecil Street Children's Home and the establishment of a new five bedded unit at Buchanan Street, Coatbridge; (3) setting out in Section 4.3 of the report the existing staffing structure for Cecil Street Children's Home; (5) providing details of the staffing structure required for the new five bedded unit at Buchanan Street, Coatbridge in Section 4.4 of the report; (6) indicating that the new structure at Buchanan Street Home would be the first stage of the human resource process and the existing structure in Cecil Street would be deleted and staff transferred/redeployed in accordance with the Council's policy.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress of the implementation of the Modernisation of Local Authority Residential Homes in North Lanarkshire be noted;
- (2) that the Committee, for its interest, approve the service developments and creation of the posts required for the five bedded unit at Buchanan Street, Coatbridge as set out in Section 4.4 of the report;
- (3) that the Director of Social Work submit further progress reports to future meetings of the Committee, and
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

PARTNERSHIP EMPLOYMENT PROJECT (PEP)

22. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the termination of the funding contribution made by the Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) to the operational costs of the Partnership Employment Project (PEP) (1) outlining the background to the PEP which was an integral component of the Council's Supported Employment Service; (2) indicating that full funding for the project was met through the SIP budget, however, as part of their exit strategy the SIP was only able to contribute £47,000 towards the budget in the current financial year; (3)

proposing that responsibility for the PEP transfer to the Supported Employment Section within the Social Work Department, and (4) recommending that the three posts of Job Coach at salary grade SCP 22/27 and a part-time Clerical Assistant/Typist post at salary grade GS1/2 (17.5 hours) be established on a permanent basis.

Decided:

- (1) that the termination of the temporary funding for the Partnership Employment Project be noted;
- (2) that the Committee, for its interest, approve the creation of three permanent posts of Job Coach, at salary grade SCP22/27 plus 7.5% irregular hours payment and a part-time post of Clerical Assistant/Typist at salary grade GS1/2 (17.5 hours), and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE: FINANCIAL SUPPORT

23. **C** There was submitted a report (docketed) dated March 2004 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to provide a basic rate of financial support to young people leaving care in North Lanarkshire (1) indicating that from 1 April 2004 under The Support and Assistance of Young People Leaving Care (Scotland) Regulations 2003, all Local Authorities in Scotland would have new duties and responsibilities for the continued support of young people leaving care; (2) intimating that the Regulations stipulate that Local Authorities must provide financial support to young people who have been accommodated for longer than 13 weeks and who have left care after the age of 16; (3) providing details of the transfer of budget from the Department of Works and Pensions which amounted to £292,841 for 2004/2005 and £366,051 for 2005/2006; (4) setting out the proposed basic rates of financial support which would be provided from 1 April 2004, and (5) indicating that around 30 young people leaving care would be eligible for financial support during 2004/2005.

Thereon the Head of Social Work Services advised that the Basic Living Allowance was £44.05 per week.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposals for the provision of financial support to young people leaving care as detailed in Section 3.2 of the report, including the Basic Living Allowance of £44.05 per week be approved, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work provide further reports to future meetings of the Committee on the implications of the new Regulations.

DEVELOPMENTS IN ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SHARING - CHILDREN'S SERVICES

24. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding service developments and funding arrangements for the creation of electronic information sharing arrangements (1) intimating that North Lanarkshire Children's Services Strategy Group and the North Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee had agreed that improving communication in respect of child protection was a high priority; (2) intimating that the Scottish Executive had approached the Council in November 2002 proposing that the Lanarkshire Partnership join the Children's e-Care Programme with a view to improving communication in Child Protection; (3) indicating that the proposal was to develop the linkage of electronic information systems used by partners to develop the capacity to share data sets by building on a shared data store; (4) indicating that the Modernising Government Fund 2 Programme had made £115,000 available to fund the

technical work required and meet Project management costs, and (5) recommending the creation of (a) one temporary post of Senior Development Officer graded at P02/5 until 31 March 2005, and (b) three posts of IT Support Workers graded at AP3.

Decided:

- (1) that the developments to achieve Electronic Information Sharing for Children's Services be noted, and
- (2) that the Committee, for its interest, approve the creation of one temporary post of Senior Development Officer at salary grade PO2/5 until 31 March 2005;
- (3) that the Committee, for its interest, approve the creation of three posts of IT Support Worker at salary grade AP3, and
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

REVENUE ESTIMATES 2003/2004 - FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT AND SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT - 1 APRIL 2003 TO 30 JANUARY 2004

25. There were submitted reports dated 26 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work advising of departmental spending levels for the Department of Social Work and Sheltered Employment for the period from 1 April 2003 to 30 January 2004 and providing a comparison with approved budgets.

Decided: that the terms of the reports be noted.

COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2003/2004 - MONITORING REPORT FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT - 1 APRIL 2003 TO 30 JANUARY 2004

26. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 19 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing progress made on individual projects contained within the Capital Programme for the Department of Social Work as at 30 January 2004, and (2) providing a comparison of 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 30 January 2004, be noted.

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

27. With reference to paragraph 20 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 February 2003 when, *inter alia*, the recommendations of the Day Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities Member/Officer Working Group were approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress of the implementation of the recommendations to date (1) indicating that the Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities Implementation Group had agreed on a preferred model for implementing the day opportunities agenda, and (2) intimating that significant progress had been made in the development of options for revised staffing arrangements which would ensure that the preferred model could be implemented.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress in implementing the recommendations of the Day Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities Member/Officer Working Group, be noted, and
- (2) that further progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Day Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities Member/Officer Working Group be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

(1) OLDER PEOPLES' SERVICES IN SCOTLAND

28. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 24 February 2004 when a report dated 23 January 2004 by the Director of Social Work providing statistical information from the Scottish Executive in respect of Older Peoples' Services : Day Care Places, Special Needs Housing, Dwellings with Alarms, Residential Care Homes, Number of Beds, Number of Residents and Private Nursing Homes was noted and referred to this Committee for its interest, there was submitted the said report thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

(2) HOME CARE IN SCOTLAND

29. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 24 February 2004 when a report dated 23 January 2004 by the Director of Social Work providing details of Scottish Executive Statistical Information in relation to Home Support Services for Older People : Number of Service Users, Number of Hours Provided, Distribution of Home Support Hours Received and Dwellings with Alarms was noted and referred to this Committee for its interest, there was submitted the said report thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

CONFERENCES

30. There was submitted a report dated 20 February 2004 by the Director of Administration advising that seventeen invitations had been received in respect of attendance at conferences and seeking consideration of the invitations.

Decided:

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

Conference	Venue	Date	Attendance
Crisis Resolution : Sustaining Services and Future Development	Warwick	29 January 2004	Councillor Sullivan
The Debate Project	Edinburgh	7 February 2004	Councillor Saunders

SOCIAL WORK – 11 March 2004

Conference	Venue	Date	Attendance
Countdown to 2004 - Is Scotland Prepared for a New Disability Forum	Edinburgh	16 February 2004	Councillors Saunders
Perspectives on Pensions : Preventing Tomorrow's Poverty Today	Glasgow	23 February 2004	Councillor Sullivan
Working with Dementia in Home Care	Cambridge	26 February 2004	Councillors Devine and Sullivan

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

Conference	Venue	Date	Attendance
Community Mental Health Teams and Beyond (Developing Networks of Support)	Glasgow	19 March 2004	Councillor Sullivan
Wide Open Spaces	Cheltenham	29 March 2004	Councillors Devine and Sullivan

and

(3) that otherwise no attendance be authorised.