

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: SOCIAL WORK (COMPLAINTS REVIEW) SUB-COMMITTEE
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 28 July 2004	Ref: MH/EH	

1. Introduction

This report seeks approval to appoint a further three independent members to the Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee.

2. Background

- 2.1. Members will recall the previous report which was approved by this Committee on 22 August 2002.
- 2.2. The report gave authorisation for the Director of Administration to seek nominations for the appointment by the Council of suitably qualified persons for membership of the Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee following a ruling by the English High Court in the case of Beeson - v - Dorset County Council when a judge had ruled that a Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee consisting of two Councillors and one independent person was insufficiently independent and for the purpose of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights.
- 2.3. Subsequently the Scottish Executive has issued further guidance to Local Authorities advising that the Beeson - v - Dorset County Council decision had been overturned by the Court of Appeal and the Scottish Executive considered that it was no longer necessary to impose a duty on Local Authorities to compose Complaint Review Panels entirely with independent members.
- 2.4. Given that the recruitment process had already started and that the Council had only three independent persons from whom membership of the Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee could be drawn it was agreed to continue with the recruitment process.

3. Recruitment Process

Interviews were held on 28 April 2004 with an interview panel comprising of officers from the Departments of Administration and Social Work. Four people were interviewed:-

Rev. James Grier
Mr. Duncan Gray
Rev. Kenneth Mayne
Mr. Allan Cowan

4. Proposals

Following the interview process the panel recommended that Rev. James Grier, Mr. Duncan Gray and Rev. Kenneth Mayne be appointed to the Council's Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee.

5. **Recommendation**

That subject to statutory checks, the Committee approve the appointment of Rev. James Grier, Mr. Duncan Gray and Rev. Kenneth Mayne to the Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee.


Director of Administration