

Motherwell, 5 October 2004 at 11 am

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

PRESENT

Councillor Sullivan, Convener; Councillors Chadha, J. Coyle, Gemmill, Gormill, Irvine, McAuley and McLaughlin.

CHAIR

Councillor Sullivan (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Principal Administrative Officer; Head of Social Work Services; Manager, Community Care (Adults); Justice Services Manager, Manager, Older Peoples Services; Operations Manager (Centre), and Children's Rights Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

L. Seaton, North Lanarkshire Carers Together.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Burrows, M. Clark, Fagan, McCabe, McElroy, McGuigan and Shaw.

PRESENTATION - CARER DEVELOPMENTS

1. The Community Care (Adults) Manager along with the Chair of North Lanarkshire Carers Together provided a joint presentation in two parts on the provision of carer developments in North Lanarkshire.

The first part involved a slide presentation and the Sub-Committee were:-

- informed of measures being taken to involve carers as partners in the areas of strategy and development, management and operational matters;
- given an overview on how carers contribute to decisions through their participation in the carers strategy implementation group, a joint future, the carers health agenda group and review and planning groups, and
- advised of the areas of recent achievements in terms of:-
 - the introduction of the carer information freephone telephone line;
 - support received from carer information link workers;
 - the production of a hospital information pack;
 - the employment of a Carers Co-ordinator at Monklands Hospital;
 - carer resource plans, and
 - the availability of training materials, including a video for young carers.

The second part involved the presentation of an extract from a video showing a range of activities and guidance for young carers, developed through the NCH North Lanarkshire Young Carers' Project.

After responding to Members' questions the Convener thanked the Community Care (Adults) Manager and the Chair of North Lanarkshire Carers Together for their informative presentation.

Decided: that the terms of the presentation be noted.

LINK CARERS SCHEME

2. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 10 August 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 16 September 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising on the progress of the review of the departmental policy for Link Care and Kinship Care; (2) outlining the background to the review, and (3) indicating that the Scottish Executive had recently concluded a consultation exercise on Link Care and Kinship Care Schemes and that national guidance following on from the consultation will help inform the Council's position.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a further report on the operation and review of the Link Carers Scheme, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

USE OF BAIL AND REMAND, A CONSULTATION - THE SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND

3. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 10 August 2004, when it was agreed that a response be prepared to the consultation document issued by the Sentencing Commission for Scotland on the use of bail and remand and submitted on behalf of the Lanarkshire Council Criminal Justice Grouping, by 30 September 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 21 September 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that a proposed response had been prepared in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council on behalf of the Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Grouping, and (2) seeking approval of the proposed response attached as an Appendix to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the response to the consultation document on the use of bail and remand, attached as an Appendix to the report, be approved and submitted to the Sentencing Commission for Scotland on behalf of the Lanarkshire Grouping;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a report on any further developments to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

DEFINITION OF OLDER PEOPLE

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 21 September 2004 by the Director of Social Work advising on the various definitions used for the term "older person" and outlining the position of a number of statutory agencies with regard to the definition of an older person.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

DRAFT NATIONAL SERVICE STANDARDS FOR MENTAL HEALTH OFFICER SERVICES

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 September 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that (a) "Draft National Service Standards for Mental Health Officers (MHO) Services" had been issued by the Scottish Executive for comment in August 2004, and (b) the draft service standards were part of a range of guidance and information made available by the Scottish Executive to ensure that local authority MHO services were able to meet the demands placed on them by existing and new legislation; (2) setting out the seven standards framework for MHO services; (3) intimating (a) the current position of North Lanarkshire Council with regard to the seven service standards which include the responsibility of local authorities to provide opportunities which will enable MHOs to implement legislation, and (b) that an audit of MHO services within North Lanarkshire was being undertaken to review the design of MHO services, and (4) indicating that (a) a report by the Scottish Executive following completion of the Mental Health Assessment Project had concluded that all local authorities will require additional MHOs in order to respond to the demands of the new Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, and (b) the Scottish Office had identified additional funding for local authorities to assist with the implementation of the new Act.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a report to the Sub-Committee on the completion of the audit of Mental Health Officer Services in North Lanarkshire, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

NHS CARER INFORMATION STRATEGIES: DRAFT GUIDANCE

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 September 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising on the consultation exercise currently being undertaken by the Scottish Executive on a draft guidance for NHS Boards to put in place carer information strategies; (2) outlining the background to and the purpose of the NHS carer information strategies; (3) setting out the key elements to be incorporated into carer information strategies, and (4) indicating that within North Lanarkshire a number of partnership developments had recognised the importance of providing carers with information and that the contents of the draft guidance underlined and reinforced the work already being undertaken in collaboration with NHS Lanarkshire and carers.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

CHARGING FOR CARE AT HOME SERVICES

7. There was submitted a report dated 20 September 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the arrangements in place for charging for care at home services; (2) intimating that the care at home service provided three related components of care to people in their own homes, which are personal care, housing support and domestic assistance, all three of which may be charged for, and (3) indicating that approximately 5,200 people receive care at home services in North Lanarkshire, of which around 2,000 pay approximately £50 every four weeks.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

NATIONAL CARE STANDARDS: CARE AT HOME

8. There was submitted a report dated 20 September 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the arrangements being made to meet the introduction of the Care Commission's national standards for care at home services and the registration of the service; (2) intimating that (a) care at home

standards identified 22 main areas where standards are to be introduced; (b) a workbook based on the standards had been formatted by the Department of Social Work to enable comparisons to be made and help identify tasks required to fulfil the standards, and (c) the completed workbook had received favourable comments from the Care Commission, and (3) indicating that North Lanarkshire Council is in the process of completing its formal registration with the Care Commission.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work bring forward to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee, further reports on the registration and implementation of the Care Commission's National Standards for care at home, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

COATBRIDGE INFANT MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 September 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising on the development and progress of the infant mental health project in Coatbridge; (2) outlining the background to the multi-agency, professional project which is designed as an early intervention to support parents and families, and identify risk factors in the ante-natal period; (3) intimating that a steering group had been established to oversee the project; (4) advising on the progress made to date and the future action proposed, and (5) indicating that Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) funding of £48,000 had been secured in 2003 to assist with the development of the project.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made on the Coatbridge infant mental health project, and the service developments, be noted, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

BRAIN INJURY NEEDS IDENTIFICATION WORK BY DARE: FINAL REPORT

10. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 4 May 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 September 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising on a number of areas progressed following receipt of the final report on the review of brain injury services by the Disability and Rehabilitation Education (DARE) Foundation; (2) outlining the background to the review; (3) setting out in Section 3 of the report the main proposals and considerations which had emerged from the review, and (4) intimating that the findings and priorities identified in the review would be incorporated into the Department of Social Work's Best Value Implementation Plan for Independent Living Services and would require further work to enable the consideration of proposals which could be addressed on a no cost basis and those which will require additional investment.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a report to the Sub-Committee on the resource implications of incorporating into the Best Value Implementation Plan for Independent Living Services, the findings and priorities identified in the review of brain injury services by the Disability and Rehabilitation Education (DARE) Foundation, and
 - (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.
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PERFORMANCE INSPECTION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 21 September 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of (a) the proposed performance inspection of criminal justice, social work services in Lanarkshire by the Social Work Services Inspectorate (SWSI), and (b) the inspections already held in 2003 and 2004; (2) listing the inspection timetable relating to the Lanarkshire grouping, and (3) indicating that a service review of probation and social enquiry reports had been carried out.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a further report to the Sub-Committee on completion of the performance inspection of criminal justice, social work services in Lanarkshire by the Social Work Services Inspectorate, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

EVENING TIMES “LOCAL HEROES” AWARDS 2004

12. There was submitted a report dated 14 September 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress made in the Council's sponsorship of the Evening Times “Local Heroes” Awards 2004 (1) outlining the background to the Local Heroes Awards; (2) setting out the provisional timetable for the awards in 2005, and (3) recommending that the Council contribute sponsorship of £5,000 and approximately an additional £1,700 for promotional gifts bearing the Council's logo.

Decided:

- (1) that the Sub-Committee approve the Council's sponsorship of the Evening Times Local Heroes Awards for 2005, in the terms of the report, for its interest;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a further report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the progress of the Local Heroes Awards for 2005, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.