

Motherwell, 29 June 2005 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, Gemmell, Homer, Irvine, Lafferty, McAuley, H. McGuigan and McLaughlin.

CHAIR

Councillor Sullivan (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Committee Services Manager, Head of Social Work Services, Service Manager, Children and Families Service Manager, Service Co-ordinator Supporting People and Service Co-ordinator Justice.

APOLOGIES

Councillors M. Clark, Coyle, Fagan, Gordon, Gormill, McCabe, McElroy and Shaw and L. Seaton, North Lanarkshire Carers Together.

PRESENTATION - WELFARE RIGHTS/INCOME MAXIMISATION

1. The Service Co-ordinator, Supporting People provided a detailed presentation on work undertaken by the Council's Welfare Rights Officers to maximise income for individuals throughout North Lanarkshire.

Thereon, the Service Co-ordinator, Supporting People, responded to questions by elected Members.

The Convener thanked the Service Co-ordinator, Supporting People for his presentation.

Decided: that the terms of the presentation be noted.

SOCIAL WORK PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2003/2004

2. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 22 February 2005 when the statistical information from Audit Scotland regarding the Social Work Performance Indicators 2003/2004 had been noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 6 June 2005 by the Director of Social Work regarding a detailed review of statistical information provided by Audit Scotland in relation to the Social Work Department Performance Indicators for 2003/2004 (1) outlining the background to the statistical information; (2) providing a detailed analysis of the key findings relating to home care, the use of qualified staff in care homes, social enquiry reports, and community services; (3) intimating that further scrutiny of the Audit Scotland report had not indicated any areas of significant concern regarding the current performance of services, and (4) advising that the Director of Social Work would pursue the funding of Justice Services with the Scottish Executive.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to provide to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee a presentation on the Social Work Department's Community Service provision, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCING AND APPROACHES

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 March 2005 by the Director of Social Work regarding the implementation of Restorative Justice Conferencing and approaches within the Social Work Department (1) outlining the background to the Restorative Justice Conferencing Service which put victims first and gave offenders the opportunity to acknowledge responsibility for causing harm, make reparation to victims and to begin the process of re-integration back into the community; (2) detailing training courses provided to staff involved in the Conferencing Service; (3) providing details of developments in respect of the child care and adult justice system, and (4) advising that the Scottish Executive had indicated that Restorative Caution, Restorative Orders and Restorative Programmes of Intervention would be rolled out to Adult Justice Services.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to submit a further report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee providing an update on the progress being made in the use of Restorative Justice approaches and Conferencing in North Lanarkshire, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

THE NORTH AND SOUTH LANARKSHIRE PROTOCOL ON WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY PARENTAL SUBSTANCE MISUSE

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 April 2005 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Departmental response to supporting children and families affected by substance misuse following the Scottish Executive publication entitled "Getting Our Priorities Right – Good Practice for Working With Children and Families affected by Substance Misuse" (1) outlining the background to the publication which emphasised the need to identify children affected by parental substance misuse; (2) intimating that in conjunction with South Lanarkshire Council and Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Action Team, an Inter-Agency Steering Group had been established to plan and progress the action required to provide an agreed inter-agency protocol and operational procedures in parental substance misuse guidance with the operational procedures launched in July 2004; (3) indicating that an Inter-Agency Implementation Group had also been established to progress implementation and report back to the Steering Group; (4) providing details of staff training and work undertaken since the implementation of the protocol, and (5) proposing that the Inter-Agency Steering Group, the Implementation Group and relevant departmental staff continue to progress and monitor implementation of the policy and address any implications arising in terms of practice, resourcing and inter-agency working.

Decided: that the Social Work Department's role in the implementation launch of the Lanarkshire Inter-Agency Protocol and Operational Procedures for working with children and families affected by substance misuse be noted.

THE MENTAL HEALTH (CARE AND TREATMENT) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 : ADVANCE STATEMENTS AND NAMED PERSONS

5. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 13 January 2005 when it was agreed that the Director of Social Work submit further progress reports on the implementation of proposals with regard to the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 to future meetings of the Committee, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 6 June 2005 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress of the implementation arrangements for Advance Statements and Named Persons (1) outlining the background to the Act which would be implemented from October 2005 which gave individuals the right to make written statements setting out how they would wish to be treated or not treated in the event of their becoming unable, due to mental disorder, to make their views known when receiving care and treatment at a future date; (2) intimating that as part of the joint Local Implementation Plan, Social Work Officers and Health Service staff had drafted guidance in respect of Advance Statements and Named Persons for staff involved in delivering mental health services; (3) advising that (a) the guidance sought to clarify the roles and responsibilities of Social Work and Health Service Officers in dealing with Advance Statements and Named Persons in North Lanarkshire, and (b) the intention was that the guidance note should be part of a number of local protocols for the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 which would be developed as the Act was implemented, and (4) indicating that briefing sessions had been delivered to Social Work, Health Service and voluntary sector staff.

Decided: that the progress in implementing the arrangements for Advance Statements and Named Persons which were a requirement of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 be noted.

PHEW : INVOLVEMENT OF SERVICE USERS AND CARERS IN MONITORING AND EVALUATION

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 6 June 2005 by the Director of Social Work in respect of service users and their carers commenting and evaluating Residential Respite Services available at the PHEW Short Break Centre, Motherwell (1) outlining the background to the provision of services at the Short Break Centre which provided accommodation for approximately fourteen people, 363 days a year, and (2) advising that there had been a favourable outcome from the guest and carer satisfaction surveys, and that copies of both surveys were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

COMMUNITY DAY PROGRAMME

7. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 4 May 2004 when, *inter alia*, a report on the outcome of the Community Day Programme – Addiction Services had been noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 April 2005 by the Director of Social Work regarding progress of the Community Day Programme (1) outlining the background to the programme, the aim of which was to provide a structured scheme of intervention for people who were at serious risk due to their alcohol misuse; (2) intimating that three programmes had operated between August 2004 and March 2005 in Coatbridge, Cumbernauld and Motherwell and a total of 36 people had participated; (3) indicating that, due to the success of the Programme, an application had been made to Community Regeneration Fund and resources of £69,000 had been allocated to fund the Programme for 2005/2008, and (4) advising that (a) the funding would enable a minimum of 12 Programmes to take place over the next three years, and (b) a further four locations had been identified at Airdrie, Coatbridge, Motherwell and Viewpark for services which would be offered to an additional 50 individuals.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Community Services Committee for information.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE ADOPTION AND CHILDREN'S ACT 2002

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 April 2005 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress of the implementation of the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 and possible implications for the Council (1) outlining the background to the Act which provided a legislative framework for post adoption support; (2) intimating that the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (Scotland) would provide a full guidance note following the implementation date of 30 December 2005, and (3) indicating that changes within the Act reflected the proposals of the Adoption Policy Review Group which was due to report to the Scottish Executive in relation to Scottish Adoption practice and legislative changes.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to submit a further report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee following the implementation of the Act, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be noted.

DEFERRED RETIREMENT PENSION

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 June 2005 by the Director of Social Work regarding the new rules which apply in relation to retirement pensions where the recipient choose to defer their retirement (1) outlining the background to the retirement pension rules prior to April 2005, and (2) detailing, within the report, the new rules which now apply.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.