

**Motherwell, 18 May 2006 at 11 am.**

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT**

Councillor H. McGuigan, Convener; Councillors Burrows, Chadha, M. Clark, Fagan, Gemmell, Gormill, Higgins, Homer, Irvine, Lafferty, Lunny, Lyle, McAuley, J. McGuigan, McKendrick, McLaughlin, J. Martin, Ross, Saunders, Selfridge and Shields.

**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 and Head of Social Work Services.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors J. Coyle, Devine, McCabe, McCulloch, McElroy, Nolan and Sullivan.

**MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEE**

1. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings of the Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee held on 15 March 2006, the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 2 May 2006 and the Social Work (Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 4 May 2006.

**Decided:** that the terms of the Minutes be approved.

**REMIT FROM THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION COMMITTEE OF 14 MARCH 2006 - WELFARE BENEFIT REFORM**

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of the Economic Regeneration Committee held on 14 March 2006 when a report dated 14 March 2006 by the Director of Planning and Environment setting out the Council's response to the Government Green Paper: A New Deal for Welfare Empowering People to Work was approved and referred to this Committee for information, there was submitted the said report thereon.

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

**REMIT FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF 15 MARCH 2006 - SCHOOL TRANSPORT OF PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

3. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 15 March 2006 when a report dated 17 February 2006 by the Director of Education setting out the revised policy for the provision of school transport for pupils with additional support needs was approved and remitted to this Committee for information, there was submitted the said report thereon.

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

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**REMIT FROM THE HOUSING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 16 MARCH 2006 – HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES - TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF FUNDING**

4. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Technical Services Committee held on 16 March 2006 when the temporary extension of the contracts for the Young Persons Project, Muirhead with Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association, the Bridgework Project, Motherwell with the Scottish Association for Mental Health and The Houldsworth Court Project, Wishaw with Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association until 31 December 2006 was approved and remitted to this Committee for information, there was submitted the said report thereon.

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

**CONTRACT - HALLCRAIG CENTRE, AIRDRIE - INTERNAL UPGRADE**

5. There was submitted a report dated 4 April 2006 by the Director of Housing and Property Services (1) providing details of tenders received for the internal upgrade to the Hallcraig Centre, Airdrie, and (2) advising that, following consultation with the Convener, the Director of Administration was progressing the lowest tender for the internal upgrade at the Hallcraig Centre, Airdrie which was, after checking, that by D L Construction Limited, Coatbridge in the sum of £204,977.15.

**Decided:** that the action taken and being progressed by the Director of Administration, following consultation with the Convener, in accepting the tender as detailed in the report, be noted.

**PURCHASE OF COMMUNITY ALARM UNITS – TENDER APPROVAL**

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 April 2006 by the Director of Social Work (1) seeking approval to tender for the purchase of an additional 1,000 community alarm dispersed units; (2) intimating that the community alarm service played a major role in providing integrated flexible support to assist people to remain safely within their own homes; (3) advising that there were 10,132 service users in North Lanarkshire, and (4) indicating that all UK based manufacturers of community alarms dispersed units would be invited to tender for the contract.

**Decided:** that the Director of Social Work be authorised to proceed with the tender arrangements for the purchase of 1,000 community alarm dispersed units.

**SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY - PERFORMANCE INSPECTION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES - REPORT ON THE LANARKSHIRE CRIMINAL JUSTICE GROUPING**

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 April 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding the outcome of the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) report "Performance Inspection of Criminal Justice Social Work Services on the Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Grouping" (1) outlining the background to the SWIA which was undertaking a programme of inspection of criminal justice services across Scotland; (2) setting out details of the services reviewed; (3) providing details of the findings of the report in respect of Court Reports, Home Background Reports, Supervision of Probation, Parole and Community Services, and (4) highlighting a number of recommendations included within the report.

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

**COMMUNITY ALARM SERVICE - CHARTER MARK RENEWAL**

8. There was submitted a report dated 18 May 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding the successful renewal of the Charter Mark status for the Social Work Department's Community Alarm Service; (1) outlining the background to the Charter Mark which was awarded to the Community Alarm Service in December 2002; (2) providing details of the assessment process and Charter Mark criteria, and (3) indicating that the Charter Mark application for the renewal of Charter Mark had achieved a score of 92%.

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

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

9. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 9 March 2006 when, *inter alia*, the land formerly occupied by Meadowside House at Forrest Street, Airdrie was approved as the new location for the Children's Residential Home in Airdrie, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 April 2006 by the Director of Social Work advising of the progress in respect of the modernisation of residential child care for looked after and accommodated children and young people (1) providing an update on the progress of the Modernisation Programme; (2) intimating that it was anticipated that the homes in Airdrie and Motherwell would be completed by the end of 2007; (3) intimating that following re-submission of application for planning permission, the home in Cumbernauld would not now be completed until 2008, and (4) advising that the home in Wishaw would be completed by the end of May 2006.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the progress of the implementation of the modernisation of Local Authority children's homes in North Lanarkshire be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit further update reports to future meetings of the Committee.

**CARER DEVELOPMENTS AND THE USE OF FUNDING**

10. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 May 2005 when, *inter alia*, the strategy for carers in North Lanarkshire was approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 19 April 2006 by the Director of Social Work advising of the current progress on the key developments to support carers including the use of carer development funding (1) outlining the background to North Lanarkshire Strategy for Carers; (2) proposing an increase in the budget of 2.7% for the next three years in order to ensure a continued appropriate level of funding for developments for carers, and (3) setting out in Section 3.4 of the report, projects identified by the carers strategy implementation group for funding for financial year 2006/2007.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the allocation of funding to the carers organisations identified in Section 3. 1 of the report be approved, and
- (2) that the increase in the Carer Development budget for 2006/2007, 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 be approved.

**FOSTERING: SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS AND FINANCIAL ALLOWANCES/FEEES**

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 2 May 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding developments in respect of the fostering service and seeking approval of new arrangements for the payment of allowances and fees (1) outlining the background to the legislative framework in respect of fostering; (2) indicating that the Scottish Executive had made available funding of £91,500 for 2005/2006; £183,000 for 2006/2007 and £91,000 for 2007/2008 to improve the recruitment and retention of foster carers in North Lanarkshire; (3) indicating that a Member/Officer Group on Adoption and Fostering will be proposed to develop an action plan to improve the service to augment the review of fostering services which had been undertaken in North Lanarkshire; (4) setting out the main findings of the review; (5) detailing the progress of the development of fostering services in North Lanarkshire; (6) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report, the present fostering rates and recommended fostering rates for North Lanarkshire; (7) providing details of the costs associated with implementing a minimal fee and allowance based scheme in Appendix 2 to the report, and (8) setting out in Appendix 3 to the report the projected costs of introducing a fee and allowance based scheme which would allow the Council to compete with the independent sector and neighbouring Local Authorities.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the revised allowances and fees as detailed in Section 4.3 of the report be approved;
- (2) that the funding of the review detailed in Section 3.6 of the report be noted, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee.

**SECTION 10 GRANTS**

12. With reference to paragraph 18 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 9 March 2006 when, *inter alia*, the allocation of Section 10 Grant Funding to the organisations set out in Appendix 1 to the report was approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 May 2006 by the Director of Social Work advising of two applications received from voluntary organisations requesting funding for 2006/2007 financial year under Section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (1) detailing the criteria and factors and taking into consideration in determining the recommendations for funding; (2) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report the recommended level of grant for the applications received from the National Osteoporosis Society and ABC Peer Support Group; (3) advising that, as a result of a change in Council policy in relation to charging market rent for occupying Council property, organisations affected had been advised that they could apply for grant assistance to cover the cost of increased market rental; (4) intimating that Beulah (Lanarkshire Furniture Initiative) and Newmains Advice Centre were significantly affected by a rental increase; (5) indicating that Beulah (Lanarkshire Furniture Initiative) had had their rent increased to £9,000; (6) advising that a grant request from Newmains Advice Centre was currently being assessed, and (7) proposing that Beulah (Lanarkshire Furniture Initiative) be awarded a grant of £9,000 to offset increased rental costs.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the allocation of funding to the organisation as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved, and
- (2) that an increase in the grant award to Beulah (Lanarkshire Furniture Initiative) and, in principle, to Newmains Advice Centre to reflect increased property costs, subject to reimbursement of the Section 10 Grants Budget, in light of the change in Council policy be approved.

**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT - 1 APRIL 2005 TO 31 MARCH 2006 - PROVISIONAL OUTTURN REPORT**

13. There was submitted a report dated 8 May 2006 by the Director of Social Work detailing the provisional outturn expenditure for the financial year 2005/2006 for the Department of Social Work, providing a comparison of actual expenditure and income with approved budget and explanations of the more significant variances.

**Decided:** that the provisional outturn variances for the Social Work Department for 2005/2006 be noted.

**SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/2006 MONITORING REPORT 1 APRIL 2005 TO 31 MARCH 2006 - PROVISIONAL OUTTURN**

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 May 2006 by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing the progress made in individual projects contained within the Capital Programme for the Department of Social Work for the financial year 2005/2006; (2) providing a comparison of expenditure against approved budget as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and (3) highlighting a number of variances to a number of projects which have resulted in the funding being carried into the programme for financial year 2006/2007.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the progress of the Capital Programme for the Department of Social Work and the provisional outturn position as at 31 March 2006 be noted, and
- (2) that it be noted that the underspends for the projects highlighted within the report would be progressed in the financial year 2006/2007.

**DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES - MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP**

15. 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 18 April 2006 by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing the progress of the implementation of the recommendations, and (2) advising that £200,000 had been allocated from the Social Work Department Capital Spend Programme for 2006/2007 for work to be undertaken in partnership with the Department of Community Services to provide access and facilities within Community Centres.

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

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTATIONS MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP**

16. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 November 2000 when, *inter alia*, the Committee (1) endorsed the preferred options recommended by the Joint Equipment and Adaptations Member/Officer Working Group which were designed to create major improvements in Occupational Therapy Services and the provision of current equipment and adaptations, and (2) requested that the Director of Social Work submit further reports to the Committee on the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 April 2006 by the Director of Social Work (a) advising of the implementation of the recommendations of the Member/Officer Working Group on Equipment and

Adaptations; (b) setting out details of the performance information of the Joint Equipment Service in terms of referrals, deliveries and uplifts; (c) detailing the budgetary position for equipment, minor adaptations and major adaptations for the Departments of Social Work and Housing and Property Services; (d) providing details on the current demands on the service and the budget provision, and (e) intimating that there were 246 people currently on the waiting list requiring an estimated £811,100 of work.

**Decided:** that the level of demand for Equipment and Adaptations and the implications for the Joint Equipment Service be noted.

## **CONFERENCES**

17. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 April 2006 by the Director of Administration advising that 16 invitations had been received in respect of attendance at conferences and seeking consideration of the invitations.

**Decided:**

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

<b>Conference</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Social Work Reform and 21st Century Public Service Delivery	Edinburgh	6 June 2006	1 Member

and

(2) that otherwise no attendance be authorised.

**It was agreed in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.**

## **DEATH OF A LOOKED AFTER AND ACCOMMODATED CHILD**

18. There was submitted a report dated 18 May 2006 by the Director of Social Work advising of the death of a child who was looked after and accommodation (1) detailing the background to the circumstances of the death, and (2) advising that a full report on the circumstances of the child's death would require to be submitted to the Scottish Ministers and that, following the response, a report would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

**Decided:**

(1) that the terms of the report be noted, and

(2) that the Director of Social Work provide a report to a future meeting of the Committee, following the response from the Scottish Ministers on the circumstances of the death.

**DEATH OF A LOOKED AFTER CHILD - RESPONSE FROM SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY**

19. With reference to paragraph 26 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 August 2005 regarding the death of a looked after child, when, inter alia, it was agreed that the Director of Social Work provide a report to a future meeting of the Committee following a response from the Scottish Ministers on the circumstances of the death, there was submitted a report dated 24 April 2006 by the Director of Social Work advising of the response from the Social Work Inspection Agency, following the submission of a report on the circumstances of the young person's death (1) outlining the background to the circumstances of the death, and (2) intimating that the Social Work Inspection Agency were satisfied with the Council's role in the case and that action had been taken to raise awareness of staff in relation to working with young people involved in substance misuse within the Housing and Property Services and Social Work Departments.

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

**SOCIAL WORK (COMPLAINTS REVIEW) SUB-COMMITTEE - 15 MARCH 2006**

20. There was submitted a report dated 28 April 2006 by the Director of Administration in relation to a meeting of the Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee which had been held on 15 March 2006 to hear a complaint by RF on behalf of JD against the Social Work Department and enclosing a report by the Sub-Committee together with its recommendations.

The Convener proposed that the Director of Administration in conjunction with the Director of Social Work would prepare a response to the issues raised by the appellant's representative in the letter attached to the report.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee as hereinafter detailed, be approved:-

against the background we did not conclude that any of the grounds of the complaint could be upheld with the exception of the way in which the increase had been administratively dealt with which the Director of Social Work has acknowledged was not correct and has taken the necessary action to remedy, and

- (2) that the Director of Administration in conjunction with the Director of Social work prepare a response to the issues raised by the appellant's representative.