

Motherwell, 24 August 2006 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor H. McGuigan, Convener; Councillor Nolan, Vice-Convener; Councillors Burrows, Chadha, M. Clark, S. Coyle, Devine, Fagan, Gemmell, Gorman, Gormill, Higgins, Homer, Irvine, Lunny, McCallum, McCulloch, J. McGuigan, McKendrick, McLaughlin, Ross, Saunders, Selfridge, Shaw and Shields.

CHAIR

Councillor H. McGuigan (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

Councillors J. Coyle, McAuley, McCabe, McElroy, J. Martin and Sullivan.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF SUB-COMMITTEE

1. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee held on 12 June 2006.

Decided: that the terms of the Minute be approved.

REMITTS FROM THE HOUSING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 25 MAY 2006

(1) SUPPORTING PEOPLE SERVICE REVIEW – TENANCY SUPPORT SERVICES

2. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Technical Services Committee held on 25 May 2006 when a report dated 26 April 2006 by the Director of Housing and Property Services setting out proposals in respect of the Supporting People Service Review of Tenancy Support Services 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.

(2) CARE COMMISSION INSPECTION REPORTS 2005/2006 – HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES

3. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Technical Services Committee held on 25 May 2006 when a report dated 18 April 2006 by the Director of Housing and Property Services regarding the outcome of the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care (Care Commission) Inspection of Housing and Property Services directly provided Housing Support Services was noted and referred to this Committee for information, there was submitted the said report thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

(3) GLASGOW SIMON COMMUNITY RESEARCH REPORT ON ROUGH SLEEPING IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

4. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Technical Services Committee held on 25 May 2006 when a report dated 6 April 2006 by the Director of Housing and Property Services setting out the main findings and recommendations of the research on rough sleeping in North Lanarkshire was noted and referred to this Committee for information, there was submitted the said report thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

REMITTS FROM THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 13 JUNE 2006

(1) CHILD PROTECTION – REQUEST FROM SCOTTISH MINISTERS FOR LETTER OF ASSURANCE

5. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 June 2006 when a report dated 12 May 2006 by the Chief Executive advising of the request for a further Letter of Assurance from Scottish Ministers and the collective response from the Chief Officers/Leaders from the key agencies was noted and referred to this Committee for information, there was submitted the said report thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

(2) REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF DANIELLE REID

6. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 June 2006 when a report dated 11 May 2006 by the Chief Executive advising of the contents of the report of the independent review into the circumstances surrounding the death of Danielle Reid was noted and referred to this Committee for information, there was submitted the said report thereon.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

THE SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND – BASIS ON WHICH FINES ARE DETERMINED - 2006

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 July 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Sentencing Commission for Scotland report entitled "The Basis on Which Fines are Determined" (1) outlining the background to the role of the Sentencing Commission and to the remit and scope of the review; (2) indicating that the report detailed the Commission's examination of the fines system in Scotland including the type and use of financial penalties; (3) setting out within Section 3.6 of the report the main recommendations emanating from the report, and (4) advising that the expansion of the use of supervised attendance orders and the introduction of supervisors in relation to fine supervision would have financial implications for the Council.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee advising of further developments in respect of the recommendations of the Sentencing Commission report, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

MODERNISATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CHILDREN'S HOMES IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

8. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 18 May 2006 when the progress in the implementation of the modernisation programme of local authority children's homes in North Lanarkshire was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 July 2006 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to declare the property at Pine Court, Cumbernauld surplus to the requirements of the Department of Social Work (1) providing an update on the progress of the modernisation programme; (2) intimating that Cambusnethan Children's Home had been officially opened on 14 June 2006 and was now fully operational; (3) advising that as a result of the opening of Cambusnethan Children's Home, the residential provision at Pine Court had been closed and was surplus to the requirements of the Social Work Department, and (4) providing an update on the progress of the development of the Children's Homes at (a) Fort Street, Motherwell; (b) Forrest Street, Airdrie, and (c) Cumbernauld Village on the site of the former primary school.

Decided:

- (1) that the property at Pine Court Children's Unit, 29-31 Pine Court, Cumbernauld be declared surplus to the requirements of the Department of Social Work;
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Property) Sub-Committee for consideration, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work submit further reports to future meetings of the Committee on the progress of the implementation of the modernisation programme.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE REPORT: REDUCING RE-OFFENDING - NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF OFFENDERS

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 July 2006 by the Director of Social Work advising of the Scottish Executive report on "Reducing Re-Offending - National Strategy for the Management of Offenders" (1) outlining the background to the National Strategy which, *inter alia*, had set a target of a 2% reduction in reconviction rates in all types of sentences by March 2008; (2) intimating that the strategy proposed that Justice Services be developed under five inter linked themes; (3) setting out the outcomes identified by the Strategy in respect of communities, offenders and the Criminal Justice System, and (4) intimating that the Lanarkshire Grouping was operating under the auspices of the Shadow Community Justice Authority which was in the process of completing the Justice Plan for 2007/2008.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

DEVELOPMENT OF ASSISTED LIVING TECHNOLOGY IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 August 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding the growing use of Assisted Living Technology (ALT) in North Lanarkshire to assist vulnerable people to remain in their own homes (1) indicating that in 2003 the Council secured a Home Safety Modernisation Grant from the Department of Trade and Industry which allowed the Council to pilot ALT in different settings; (2) advising that there were over 10,000 people with community alarms in North Lanarkshire, and (3) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report the range and scale of equipment in use in North Lanarkshire to date.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICE USER SURVEY

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 June 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding the results of the Services Users Survey of current and recent users and carers of Social Work Services (1) advising that there was a 40% response rate to the survey; (2) setting out in Section 3 of the report an analysis of the findings of the survey; (3) indicating (a) that 89% of service users and carers surveyed were satisfied with the service they had received, and (b) that only 8% of those surveyed considered the service they had received to be either poor or very poor whilst 18% rated the services fair and 41% and 30% rated the service good or excellent, respectively, and (4) detailing in Section 3.4 of the report a number of issues which would be addressed for future action as a result of the survey.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE REPORT - RELEASE AND POST CUSTODY MANAGEMENT OF OFFENDERS

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 August 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Scottish Executive report "Release and Post Custody Management of Offenders" which introduces new proposals for releasing prisoners in Scotland (1) setting out the current arrangements for the release of offenders sentenced to less than four years and those offenders sentenced to four years or more; (2) indicating that the report took into account the Sentencing Commission report "Early Release from Prison and Supervision of Prisoners on their Release"; (3) setting out in Section 3.1 of the report the main recommendations of the report, and (4) indicating that the recommendations contained within the report would have significant resource implications for justice services in the Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Grouping and the proposals would result in an increased number of offenders requiring a throughcare service and subsequently requiring a supervision service on release into the community under licence.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee on the development of the proposals including possible resource implications, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

SECTION 10 GRANTS

13. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 18 May 2006 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 July 2006 by the Director of Social Work advising of three 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 taken into consideration in determining the recommendations for funding; (2) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report the recommended level of grant for the application received from Lanarkshire Rape Crisis, and (3) recommending the refusal of the applications from (a) the Lanarkshire Childcare Services as the cost of referrals were met from other funding sources, and (b) the Addiction Recovery Centre, Kirkintilloch as the services provided overlapped with existing public sector and community based services.

Decided:

- (1) that the allocation of £10,136 to Lanarkshire Rape Crisis as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved;

- (2) that the applications from Lanarkshire Childcare Services and the Addiction Recovery Centre, Kirkintilloch be refused, and
- (3) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE GUIDANCE ON THE ORDER FOR LIFELONG RESTRICTION

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 July 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding Scottish Executive Guidance on the Order for Lifelong Restriction (1) advising that Part One of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 introduced provisions for the sentencing and treatment of serious violent and sex offenders who may pose a continuing danger to the public; (2) indicating that the Act set out the requirements for the preparation, implementation and updating of risk management plans in relation to the Order for Lifelong Restriction; (3) advising (a) that the Order for Lifelong Restriction was a form of life sentence which differed from a discretionary life sentence or a long determined sentence in that there are bespoke risk assessment procedures before sentence can be imposed by means of a Risk Assessment Order, and (b) that there would be specific arrangements put in place for lifelong, multi-industry management of the offender; (4) providing details of how the Order for Lifelong Restriction would be managed, and (5) intimating that there were no immediate significant implications for local authority justice services.

Decided: that the Director of Social Work submit further reports to future meetings of the Committee on the progress of the Order for Lifelong Restriction.

CHANGING CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND: ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDING

15. With reference to paragraph 23 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 June 2006 when the Council's Expenditure Plan for the use of funding provided through the Changing Children's Services Fund was approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 July 2006 by the Director of Social Work advising of an additional allocation of funding which had been made available via the Changing Children's Services Fund intimating that the balance of funding for 2006/2007 had been distributed among partner agencies on the basis of submitted bids and an allocation of £181,500 had been provided in respect of the bids detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Project proposals and expenditure plan as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved;
- (2) that the use of independent consultants in respect of specialist areas of activity as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved, and
- (3) that the Council commission a family support service for children with disabilities via a tendering process as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

PRIVATE FOSTERING: REVISED GUIDANCE FOR STAFF

16. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 July 2006 by the Director of Social Work setting out revised departmental guidance for staff dealing with private fostering services; (1) indicating that private fostering was a term used when a parent or guardian placed a child under school leaving age in the care of someone who was not a close relative or an officially approved foster carer for a period of more than 28 days; (2) advising that there were currently no known private foster care

arrangements within North Lanarkshire, and (3) setting out details of the revised procedures in Section 3.1 of the report.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

INDEPENDENT SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SELF DIRECTED SERVICES IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

17. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 August 2006 by the Director of Social Work advising of the progress of the development of independent support for self directed services in North Lanarkshire; (1) outlining the background to the provision of self directed services which provided information support and practical assistance in the establishment and management of direct payments; (2) advising that a user lead group was formally constituted in response to the need for local provision of support; (3) indicating that the self directed support organisation required to identify a partner to support the practical and structural elements of providing a service in North Lanarkshire; (4) informing that the organisation also required to demonstrate that its membership reflected the range of people eligible to consider a direct payment is fully representative, and (5) intimating that should the local support organisation be unable to fulfil those objectives by 31 December 2006, the Council would enter into an open tendering process to ensure local provision of independent advice and support.

Decided: that the Director of Social Work undertake the work identified as necessary for the development of independent support for self directed services in North Lanarkshire and submit a further progress report to a future meeting of the Committee.

ENABLE SCOTLAND SERVICES IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

18. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 July 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding the development of services of Enable Scotland and Enable Homes, Cumbernauld in North Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to Enable Scotland which is a national voluntary organisation from whom the Council purchases support for day services and supported living services; (2) intimating that the provision of day services was co-ordinated and provided in Carisbrooke, Airdrie for around 20 adults with challenging and complex needs; (3) advising that Enable Scotland was also a provider of supported living services and was successfully supporting 15 people with complex learning disabilities in the community, assisting in the shift of service from residential care to supported living and supporting 35 adults with learning disabilities within three residential establishments; (4) indicating that work was ongoing to establish a common funding structure across all three areas of service to make all elements of the service provided, person centred and flexible to individual needs; (5) indicating that concerns had arisen over the provision of appropriate transport arrangements as the current accommodation within Airdrie Academy was not ideally suited to the provision of service, and (6) recommending, in order to alleviate the transportation difficulties, provision of a one-off payment of £38,475 for the purchase of three people carriers.

Decided:

- (1) that the provision of a one-off payment of £38,475 to Enable Scotland for transportation for services in respect of support throughout the day be approved, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee on the work undertaken to establish a common funding structure across all three areas of service.

JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK - SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

19. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 July 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding new legislative responsibilities, an increase in demand for Social Work Justice Services and additional funding available in respect of these services (1) outlining the background to the funding arrangements for the provision of justice social work services which although 100% funded from Scottish Executive, was retrospective in that service growth was not funded until the following year; (2) setting out the funding arrangements for the Lanarkshire Grouping for 2003/2006 which amounted to £8,527,316 in 2006; (3) setting out service developments in respect of Lanarkshire Throughcare Services; Community Service, Assessment and Care Management, complying with the Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2005 and integrated care management arrangements; (4) providing (a) details of the growth and demand for justice services as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, and (b) details of current funding arrangements for North Lanarkshire Justice Services as set out in Appendix 2, and (5) providing a summary of the staffing proposals and associated costs of the service developments as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the report and, for its interest, approve the staffing proposals and service developments detailed in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.5 and Appendix 3 of the report, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

JUSTICE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT - HOME DETENTION CURFEWS

20. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 22 May 2006 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval for service developments in relation to home detention curfews within Justice Throughcare Services (1) outlining the background to the provision of throughcare services within North Lanarkshire; (2) intimating that in April 2006 the Scottish Executive announced implementation of home detention curfews; (3) indicating that prisoners serving between three months and four years would be considered for home detention curfews following assessment; (4) advising that the Scottish Executive had provided additional resources of £38,803 for the Service; (5) intimating that although it had been anticipated that approximately four prisoners would require an assessment for a home detention curfew each week, in the period from 23 June to 2 August 2006, 50 requests had been received, and (6) recommending the establishment of one Social Worker post (17.5 hours at salary grade QSW) to implement the Council's statutory responsibilities in relation to home detention curfews.

Decided:

- (1) that the development of home detention curfews within the Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Grouping be noted;
- (2) that the Committee, for its interest, approve the establishment of an additional Social Worker post (17.5 hours) at salary grade QSW, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

FOSTERING DEVELOPMENTS: PROGRESS REPORT

21. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 18 May 2006 when inter alia, the funding of the review of fostering services within North Lanarkshire was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 25 July 2005 by the Director of Social Work advising of

the progress in implementing the Council's fostering strategy (1) intimating that the Scottish Executive had announced additional funding to improve fostering services of £91,500, £183,000 and £91,500 in years 2005/06; 2006/07 and 2007/08 respectively; (2) advising that the key areas identified for improvement were recruitment and retention of foster carers and increased placement choice; (3) setting out the progress which has been made to date, and (4) advising that a report recommending the establishment of a Member/Officer Working Group on adoption and fostering services would be submitted to this meeting for consideration.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT 2006/2007 - 1 APRIL TO 21 JULY 2006

22. There was submitted a report dated 15 July 2006 by the Director of Social Work detailing the provisional outturn expenditure for the Social Work Department for the period from 1 April to 21 July 2006 and providing a comparison with the approved budget.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/2007 - MONITORING REPORT FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT - 1 APRIL TO 21 JULY 2006

23. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 11 August 2006 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 21 July 2006; (2) providing a comparison of expenditure against approved budget as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and (3) seeking approval to (a) increase the budget for capital minor works from £170,067 to £301,049; (b) reduce the budget for adaptations to community facilities from £80,000 to nil; (c) increase the budget for fire safety in residential homes by £21,998 to offset an overspend; (d) reduce the budget for the refurbishment of Hallcraig Centre, Airdrie from £293,982 to £220,000; (e) reduce the budget for children units – general by £128,998 and redirect to capital minor works budget; (f) increase the budget for day opportunities locality base at Fern Street, Motherwell by £80,000, and (g) increase the budget for day opportunities locality base at the Five Day Centre, Stewarton Street, Wishaw by £50,000.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress of the Capital Programme for the Department of Social Work as at 21 July 2006 be noted;
- (2) that the realignments to the Social Work Department Capital Programme for 2006/2007 as detailed in Section 3 of the report be approved, and
- (3) that this matter be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN – YEAR END MONITORING REPORT

24. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 August 2006 by the Director of Social Work advising of the progress made in the implementation of the Social Work Service Improvement Plan from October 2005 to March 2006.

Decided: that the progress in respect of the 35 key actions identified in the Social Work Service Improvement Plan 2004/2006 be noted.

SUPPLEMENTATION RATE INCREASES IN ESTABLISHMENTS OUTWITH THIS AUTHORITY

25. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 4 May 2006 when new supplementation rates were approved, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 July 2006 by the Director of Social Work setting out changes to the supplementation rates set by other local authorities for registered residential and day care establishments based in the voluntary sector located within their area.

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

PROPOSED INCREASE TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION RATES 2006/2007 FOR ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

26. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 July 2006 by the Director of Social Work (1) setting out maintenance rates for voluntary organisations providing services within North Lanarkshire as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and (2) advising that the proposed rates had been calculated by reviewing the 2005/2006 budget and agreeing increases where there was unavoidable pressure or where efficiency savings were not possible to offset increased costs.

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

INCREASE IN ADOPTION ALLOWANCES 2006/2007

27. There was submitted a report dated 26 July 2006 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to increase the adoption allowances and link carers allowances for 2006/2007 (1) indicating that the payments would be increased by 2.5% in line with inflation, and (2) proposing that the rates be increased to £67.31 per week for children aged 0 to 4, £83.53 per week for children aged 5 to 10, £103.98 per week for children aged 11 to 15 and £134.63 for children aged 16 to 18.

Decided: that the new rates for adoption allowances and link carers allowances for 2006/2007 as detailed in Section 3.1 of the report be approved with effect from 1 April 2006.

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

28. 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 1 August 2006 by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing progress in implementation of the recommendations; (2) intimating that a joint capital programme with the Community Services Department continued to create accessible community facilities to meet the needs of people with a range of disabilities, and (3) intimating that Isa Money and Viewpark Community Centres were having adult personal training facilities created and that work was planned to create automatic doors at Bellshill Cultural Centre and Kilsyth Swimming Pool.

Decided:

- (1) that the continued direction towards a more responsive day opportunities service for people with disabilities be endorsed, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit further reports to future meetings of the Committee on the implementation of the recommendations.

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

29. 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) setting out details of the performance information of the Joint Equipment Service in terms of referrals, deliveries and uplifts; (b) detailing the budgetary position for equipment, minor adaptations and major adaptations for the Department of Social Work and Housing and Property Services; (c) providing details of the current demands on the service and the budget provision; (d) intimating that there were currently 396 people on the waiting list requiring an estimated £1,327,170 of work, and (e) intimating that work was ongoing to identify resources to comply with the recommendations of the Audit Scotland Report : Adapting to the Future and other health and safety guidance.

Decided:

- (1) that the level of demand for equipment and adaptations and the implications for the Joint Equipment Service be noted, and
- (2) that it be noted that work was ongoing to identify the resource requirements to ensure compliance with the recommendations of the Audit Scotland Report "Adapting to the Future" and other health and safety guidance.

MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP: FOSTERING AND ADOPTION SERVICES

30. With reference to paragraph 21 of the Minute of this meeting when, *inter alia*, the revised guidance for staff in respect of private fostering services was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 July 2006 (1) recommending the establishment of a Member/Officer Working Group on the Provisions of Fostering and Adoption Services in North Lanarkshire, and (2) setting out the terms of reference for a Member/Officer Working Group.

Decided:

- (1) that the establishment of a Member/Officer Working Group on Adoption and Fostering Services in North Lanarkshire comprising of Councillors H. McGuigan, Homer, McAuley, McElroy and J. Martin be established, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee on the recommendations of the Working Group.

CONFERENCES

31. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 7 August 2006 by the Director of Administration advising that 18 invitations coming under the remit of this Committee had been received in respect of attendance at conferences and seeking consideration of the invitations.

SOCIAL WORK – 24 August 2006

Decided:

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

Conference	Venue	Date	Attendance
SIRCC Annual Conference 2006 – Changing Lives: The Power of Residential Child Care	Aviemore	5-6 June 2006	Councillors Coyle and H. McGuigan

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

Conference	Venue	Date	Attendance
A Gift for Life? Building Better Childhoods for Scotland's Children	Cumbernauld	2-3 November 2006	Two Members

- (3) that the following conference attendance be continued:-

Conference	Venue	Date	Attendance
Come Back and Move On	Reading	14-16 September 2006	Continued for further consideration

and

- (4) 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 item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

SOCIAL WORK (COMPLAINTS REVIEW) SUB-COMMITTEE - 12 JUNE 2006

32. There was submitted a report dated 17 August 2006 by the Director of Administration in relation to a meeting of the Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee which had been held on 12 June 2006 to hear a complaint by J.D. and L.H. against the Social Work Department and enclosing a report by the Sub-Committee together with its recommendations.

Decided: that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee as detailed within the report be approved.