

Motherwell, 26 October 2006 at 11 am.

A Meeting of the SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Nolan, Vice-Convener; Councillors Burrows, J. Coyle, S. Coyle, Gemmell, Gorman, Gormill, Higgins, Irvine, Lafferty, Lunny, Lyle, McCallum, McLaughlin, Saunders, Shaw and Shields.

CHAIR

In the absence of the Convener, and in terms of Standing Order No. 11, Councillor Nolan presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cassidy, Chadha, M. Clark, Fagan, Higgins, McAuley, McCabe, McCulloch, McElroy, H. McGuigan J. McGuigan, McKendrick, Ross, Selfridge and Sullivan.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

1. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings of the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 3 October 2006 and Social Work (Planning and Administration) Sub-Committee held on 5 October 2006.

Decided: that the terms of the Minutes be approved.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE SERVICE REVIEW - SHELTERED HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES

2. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Technical Services Committee held on 31 August 2006 when a report dated 25 July 2006 by the Director of Housing and Property Services setting out the findings of the Supporting People Review of the Department's directly provided Sheltered Housing 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.

PURCHASE OF COMMUNITY ALARM DISPERSED UNITS - TENDER OUTCOME

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 October 2006 by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing, in Section 3.1 of the report, all tender returns received in respect of the purchase of 1,000 community alarm dispersed units; (2) setting out in Section 4 of the report, a detailed analysis of the tender evaluations undertaken, and (3) recommending, after checks and applying the contract award criteria, that the tender submitted by Tunstall Telecom, North Yorkshire in the sum of £85,000 be accepted.

Decided: that the Director of Administration be authorised to accept the tender submitted by Tunstall Telecom, North Yorkshire in the sum of £85,000 for the supply of 1,000 community alarm dispersed units.

FINAL MEASUREMENTS

4. There was submitted a report dated 10 August 2006 by the Director of Housing and Property Services (1) detailing final measurements for six Social Work projects, and (2) advising that the total tender value for the six projects was £781,210.31 compared with a final account cost of £753,540.14.

Decided: that the final measurements detailed within the report be noted.

LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY AREA PLAN - APRIL 2007 TO MARCH 2008

5. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 12 January 2006 when it had been noted that the current Lanarkshire Criminal Justice area would form one of the new Community Justice Authorities, there was submitted a report (docketed) by the Director of Social Work dated 29 September 2006 regarding the Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority Area Plan for April 2007 to March 2008 (1) outlining the background to the Area Plan which had been developed in consultation with a range of stakeholders and approved by the Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority (LCJA); (2) indicating that the Plan was designed around the national strategy for offenders and highlighted all areas for action, and (3) intimating that the funding for the operation of the Community Justice Authority was provided by the Scottish Executive and that the Chief Officer of the LCJA had taken up his post in September 2006.

Decided: that the contents of the Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority Area Plan for April 2007 to March 2008 be noted.

ANNUAL STAFF AWARDS

6. There was submitted a report dated 19 September 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding the annual Social Work Staff Awards which took place on 14 September 2006 which recognised achievements by staff in the Department in relation to long service, retiral and qualifications within the Department.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

SURPLUS PROPERTY - 171 MAIN STREET, BELLSHILL

7. There was submitted a report dated 25 September 2006 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that the property at 171 Main Street, Bellshill was previously used by the Department of Social Work as office space; (2) intimating that the Department's use of the property had ceased in 2001, and (3) recommending that the property be declared surplus to the requirements of the Department of Social Work.

Decided:

- (1) that the property at 171 Main Street, Bellshill be declared surplus to the requirements of the Department of Social Work, and

- (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Property) Sub-Committee for consideration.

SURPLUS PROPERTY - 53 MEADOWHEAD ROAD, WISHAW

8. There was submitted a report dated 21 September 2006 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that the property at 53 Meadowhead Road, Wishaw was previously a base for the Urban Aid funded project known as Craigneuk Development and Support Unit; (2) intimating that the Department's use of the property ceased a number of years ago, and (3) recommending that the property be declared surplus to the requirements of the Department of Social Work.

Decided:

- (1) that the property at 53 Meadowhead Road, Wishaw be declared surplus to the requirements of the Department of Social Work, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Property) Sub-Committee for consideration.

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LEAVE

9. There was submitted a report dated 21 September 2006 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to allow a member of staff a period of six months special unpaid leave.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given for the Director of Social Work to grant a period of six months special unpaid leave to a member of Social Work Department staff, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

IMPROVED OUTCOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 August 2006 regarding the provision of services to older people (1) outlining the background to the redesign of the provision of day services for older people which had undergone significant change as part of the implementation of the Joint Future Agenda; (2) indicating that funding was secured in September 2005 from the Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) for three Locality Link Officers who had proved very effective in linking older people to a range of community based resources; (3) advising that the Sinclair Integrated Day Service at Coathill Hospital, Coatbridge was a developed example of the provision of support to older people with complex needs and the locality plan arrangements which enabled older people to regain or maintain their community links; (4) informing that the three Locality Link Officers were restricted by terms of the Community Regeneration Funding to operate in datazone areas which meant that large parts of North Lanarkshire were unable to benefit from the service; (5) recommending the creation of six permanent posts of Locality Link Officers at salary grade RW23, and (6) advising that the Community Regeneration funding for the three posts would continue until March 2008, and in the event of the CRF being withdrawn, the funding for the six permanent posts would be contained from within the Community Care budget.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee, for its interest, approve the creation of six permanent posts of Locality Link Officer at salary grade RW23;
- (2) that the continued approach to approve outcomes achieved for older people and the progress to date be endorsed, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

INTEGRATED ADDICTION SERVICES

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 September 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding the establishment of an Integrated Addiction Service in conjunction with NHS Lanarkshire (1) outlining the background to the development of a number of integrated services between North Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire; (2) indicating that the Health and Care Partnership Board agreed the establishment of two new integrated addiction teams in the north and south areas of North Lanarkshire; (3) advising that the Health and Care Partnership Board agreed that each of the teams would have a single manager who would oversee both Council and NHS staff, and (4) setting out in Section 2.5 and Appendix 1 of the report, the personnel and financial implications of the proposed integrated service.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee, for its interest, approve the staff proposals set out in Section 2.5 and Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) that it be noted the cost of the staffing changes would be met from the existing NHS and Social Work Departmental budgets, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT - 1 APRIL TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2006

12. There was submitted a report dated 3 October 2006 by the Director of Social Work detailing the provisional outturn expenditure for the Department of Social Work for the period from 1 April to 15 September 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 15 SEPTEMBER 2006

13. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 September 2006 by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing progress made in individual projects contained within the Capital Programme for the Department of Social Work as at 15 September 2006; (2) providing a comparison of expenditure against the approved budget as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; (3) setting out details of slippage amounting to £1,770,042 for the residential children's houses new build programme, refurbishment of Scott House headquarters and the refurbishment works at the five day centre, and (4) indicating that the total revised budget for 2006/2007 was now £3,554,132.
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Decided: that the progress of the Capital Programme for the Department of Social Work as at 15 September 2006 be noted.

GENERAL DEBTORS BAD DEBT WRITE-OFFS

14. There was submitted a report dated 1 August 2006 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to write-off external debts which had been deemed uncollectable (1) intimating that while every effort had been made to collect all debts there was always a small element of debt which proved to be uncollectable; (2) detailing a number of steps which had been undertaken to improve collection rates, reduce debts arising and to streamline the recovery process; (3) intimating that the Director of Finance under his delegated authority had written off £68,691.34 of uncollectable debts under £250, and (4) seeking authority to write-off debts of £21,963.11 over the value of £250.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the Director of Finance had written off debts under £250 amounting to £68,691.34;
- (2) that debts over the value of £250 amounting to £21,963.11 be written off, and
- (3) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Finance) Sub-Committee for consideration.

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

15. 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 September 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 Departments of Social Work and Housing and Property Services; (c) providing details of the current demands on the service and budget provision; (d) intimating that there were currently 430 people on the waiting list requiring an estimated £1,472,160 of work; (e) intimating that there were 7,000 items which would require an annual inspection in order to comply with health and safety guidance, and (f) indicating that funding for the works had been allocated by the Scottish Executive on a pro rata formula basis and North Lanarkshire had been allocated £452,127 on a non recurring basis, 30% of which would be utilised in 2006/2007 and the remaining 70% in 2007/2008.

Decided:

- (1) that the level of demand for equipment and adaptations and the implications for the Joint Equipment Service be noted, 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.

A HOME FOR THE FUTURE - PROGRESS REPORT ON SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

16. With reference to paragraph 27 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 19 May 2005 when, *inter alia*, the progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the "A Home for the Future Member/Officer Working Group" was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 September 2006 by the Director of Social Work providing an update on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group (1) intimating that, by April 2007, approximately £1m would be spent on meeting revised safety standards in Council care homes following the Rosepark tragedy; (2) intimating that, as a result, the proposals to create en suite facilities and other improvements at Monklands and Muirpark Homes had been deferred and expenditure on the general building and internal fabric of the homes had been greatly restricted, and (3) providing an update of the progress in respect of (a) the peripatetic social care team; (b) very sheltered housing; (c) home care services, and (d) day services.

Decided: that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Committee on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations.

CONFERENCES

17. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 September 2006 by the Director of Administration advising that six invitations coming under the remit of this Committee had been received in respect of attendance at conferences and seeking consideration of the invitations.

Decided:

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

Conference	Venue	Date	Attendance
Come Back and Move On	Reading	14-16 September 2006	Councillor Sullivan

- (2) that attendance at the following conference be continued for further consideration:-

Conference	Venue	Date	Attendance
Children in Care : Are We Failing them?	Edinburgh	13 November 2006	Consideration continued

and

- (3) 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 paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

RESPONSE FROM THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE TO THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED DEATH OF A LOOKED AFTER AND ACCOMMODATED CHILD

18. With reference to paragraph 25 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 August 2005 when, *inter alia*, it was agreed 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 of a looked after and accommodated child, there was submitted a report dated 29 August

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 child's death (1) outlining the background to the circumstances of the death, and (2) intimating that the Social Work Inspection Agency was satisfied with the Council's role in the case.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

RESPONSE FROM THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE TO THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED DEATH OF A LOOKED AFTER YOUNG PERSON

19. With reference to paragraph 26 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 25 August 2005 when, inter alia, it was agreed that the Director of Social Work would provide a report to a future meeting of the Committee following the response from the Scottish Ministers on the circumstances of the death of a looked after young person, there was submitted a report dated 5 September 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.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.