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Motherwell, 8 April, 1997 at 11 am.

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

PRESENT

Councillor McElroy, Convener; Councillors Connelly, Coyle, Griffin, Lucas, McLaughlin, J. Martin, W. Martin, V. Murray, Russell and Scott.

CHAIR

Councillor McElroy (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Officer, Head of Social Work Services, Principal Officer (Child Care) and Principal Officer (Criminal Justice)

APOLOGIES

Councillors McAlorum, McLeod, Maginnis, Ross and Shaw.

WELCOME TO VISITORS FROM MOLDOVA

1. The Convener welcomed a party of visitors from Moldova to the meeting and hoped that they would find the meeting stimulating and rewarding.

ALLOWANCES FOR FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION 1997/98

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 March, 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) setting out details of revised rates of allowances for foster care and adoption for 1997/98 as recommended by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities in order to bring the allowances into line with those of the National Foster Care Association, and (2) advising that in order to implement the revised rates, additional funding of \$58,390 would be required.

Decided:

- (1) that the revised rates of allowances for foster care and adoption for 1997/98, as set out in the report, be approved with effect from 1 April, 1997, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee and the Finance Committee for consideration of the additional budget requirements.

ALLOWANCES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN
RESIDENTIAL CARE

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 March, 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) proposing that the rates for pocket money and recreation allowances for children in residential units be increased in line with inflation, and (2) advising that the estimated additional cost of the revised rates would amount to \$2,157.60 per annum.

Decided:

- rate
- (1) that the rates for pocket money and recreation allowances for children in residential units be index linked to the rate of inflation effective from 1 April, 1995, and
 - (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to the Sub-Committee on the revision of the other allowances in relation to children in care.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADOPTION SERVICE FOR CHILDREN UP
TO 2 YEARS OF AGE

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 March, 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that the former Strathclyde Regional Council had operated a placement service for children up to two years of age who required an adoptive family, with provision therein for the recruitment, preparation, assessment and matching of prospective adoptive applicants; (2) proposing that the Council, in partnership with other local authorities, establish an Adoption Service on a similar basis, and (3) indicating that the Adoption Service would be operated amongst participating local authorities on a no cost basis, and that it would ensure that children up to two years of age would have access to a wide range of approved couples who would be able to meet their individual needs and that approved couples from the North Lanarkshire area would have greater access to a wider range of children.

Decided: that the Director of Social Work be authorised to liaise with other local authorities for the establishment and maintenance of an Adoption Service for children up to 2 years of age.

RESEARCH EVALUATION OF PROGRAMMES FOR VIOLENT MEN

5. There was submitted a report dated 15 March, 1997 by the Director of Social Work summarising the main findings of a study which had been sponsored by the Scottish Office and by the

Home Office to compare the effects of various criminal justice sanctions for men convicted of an offence involving violence against their women partners.

Decided:that the terms of the report be noted.

RATIONALISATION OF OPHTHALMOLOGY SERVICES -
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT FROM GREATER GLASGOW HEALTH
BOARD AND WEST GLASGOW HOSPITALS UNIVERSITY NHS TRUST

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated March, 1997 by the Director of Social Work (1) summarising the consultation document which had been issued by the Greater Glasgow Health Board and West Glasgow Hospitals University NHS Trust on the rationalisation of ophthalmology services in Glasgow, and (2) advising that the proposals for the relocation of ophthalmic services from the Glasgow Eye Infirmary and the Western Infirmary to Gartnavel Hospital would inconvenience people who had to travel from the Chryston area of North Lanarkshire for specialist eye treatment.

Decided:that the terms of the report be noted and that the comments set out therein be approved as the Council's formal response to the consultation document.