

**Motherwell, 9 November 1999 at 11 am.**

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

**PRESENT**

Councillor Selfridge, Convener; Councillors Cassidy, Chadha, Cox, Coyle, Curley, Gordon and Irvine.

**CHAIR**

Councillor Selfridge (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Committee Services Officer, Director of Social Work, Principal Officer, Community Care and Principal Officer, Child Care.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Gorman, Ross, Shaw, Sullivan and Valentine.

**The Convener exercised his discretion to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.**

**EDINBURGH'S CHILDREN: THE EDINBURGH INQUIRY INTO ABUSE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN CARE**

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated October 1999 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Inquiry into Abuse and Protection of Children in Care in Edinburgh (1) outlining the background to and the remit of the Inquiry; (2) indicating that the Inquiry had made 135 recommendations which related to many aspects of Edinburgh City Council's responsibilities, and (3) intimating that following consultation with other agencies, the Director of Social Work would prepare a report on any action required to be taken by this Council.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to submit a report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on any action required to be taken by this Council in relation to the recommendations of the Edinburgh Inquiry.

**FOSTERING GOOD RELATIONS: A STUDY OF FOSTER CARE AND FOSTER CARERS IN SCOTLAND**

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated October 1999 by the Director of Social Work regarding the findings of a study of foster care and foster carers in Scotland (1) indicating that the report which was commissioned by the Scottish Executive Central Research Unit, focused on the characteristics and circumstances of foster carers and the organisation and structure of fostering services; (2) outlining the main findings of the study and the position of the Council in relation to the findings; (3) advising that the report highlighted the need for integration of all fostering activities and

placement services under a single management and delivery structure, and (4) intimating that the North Lanarkshire review of services and the development monies from the Scottish Executive had allowed the Council to enhance and re-align some aspects of the service.

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

### **YOUNG PEOPLE AT HIGH RISK**

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated September 1999 by the Director of Social Work regarding the circumstances of young people at high risk and the steps which had been taken by the Council jointly with Lanarkshire Health Board and the National Health Service Primary Care Trust to address the issue (1) outlining the background to proposals which had been initiated following the suicide of three young people who had been formerly been in the care of the Council; (2) identifying issues common to young people within the care system; (3) intimating that a Strategy Group had been set up to consider the action required in respect of providing appropriate services to vulnerable young people; (4) indicating that a proposal for a development worker with a nursing background who would provide direct services to identified vulnerable people had received one year funding from the Primary Care Development Fund, and (5) advising that Lanarkshire Health Board, the National Health Service Primary Care Trust and the Council were working together to address the issues outlined in the report.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to submit progress reports on implementation of the joint project with the National Health Service Primary Care Trust to future meetings of the Sub-Committee, and
- (3) that a presentation be made to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the functions and services provided by North Lanarkshire Through Care Teams.

### **MERRYSTONE HOUSE, COATBRIDGE - PROGRESS REPORT**

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated October 1999 by the Director of Social Work advising of progress made in the development of Merrystone House, Coatbridge as a specialist Home Care Resource Centre (1) outlining the background to the transfer of various Social Work services to Merrystone House, Coatbridge; (2) indicating that the services which will operate from Merrystone House, Coatbridge were designed to support the provision of care to vulnerable clients in their own homes; (3) providing an analysis of the staffing arrangements, work undertaken and the alterations to the premises at Merrystone House, Coatbridge, and (4) intimating that the Community Alarm Service would be operational by the end of November 1999 and that all 3,500 clients and any new clients would be transferred to the call centre by the end of January 2000.

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

### **SCOTTISH OFFICE GUIDANCE: HEALTH, SOCIAL WORK AND RELATED SERVICES FOR MENTALLY DISORDERED OFFENDERS IN SCOTLAND**

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 October 1999 by the Director of Social Work advising of Scottish Office guidance designed to improve the care of mentally disordered offenders and the requirements for implementation of the strategy (1) outlining the background to the strategy

and to the guidance which was set out in the context of three reviews which affected legislation and practice governing the detention, treatment and supervision of mentally disordered offenders; (2) advising that the guidance set out proposals which would improve multi-agency and multi-disciplinary working between services; (3) providing details of the areas which would be covered by the multi-agency and multi-disciplinary working and the steps which required to be taken in order to implement the strategy, and (5) intimating that a joint working group was being established to include representatives from North and South Lanarkshire Councils and the Health Board to focus on the development of the services for mentally disordered offenders within the Health Board and local authority areas.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the contents of the report and the Scottish Office guidance on mentally disordered offenders be noted;
- (2) that the involvement of Council staff in setting up a joint working group to progress the implementation of the paper be approved, and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work provide a report on the progress of the implementation of the proposals to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

6. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 28 September 1999 when, *inter alia*, (1) the level of grant allocation for Criminal Justice Services was noted, and (2) it was agreed that revised proposals for spending of development monies would be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 October 1999 by the Director of Social Work (a) detailing revised proposals for the use of grant to supplement current services in the current financial year for Bail Services, Young People who Offend and Addiction Services; (b) indicating that developed proposals would be brought forward for the next financial year, and (c) intimating that the Scottish Executive had still to inform the Council on the level of grant for Information Technology, Supported Accommodation, Training and Diversion from Prosecution.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the revised proposals for the development of Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice system be noted;
- (2) that the proposals for the spending of grant to supplement current services in the current financial year be approved, subject to the approval of the Scottish Executive, and
- (3) that a report on developed proposals for implementation in 2000/2001 in respect of Bail Services, Young People who Offend and Addiction Services be submitted to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

**COSLA QUALITY AWARDS**

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) by the Director of Social Work regarding the nominations made by the Council to the COSLA Quality Award Scheme (1) outlining the background to and the aims of the COSLA Quality Awards, and (2) providing details of 4 applications for awards under the Scheme.

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