

**Motherwell, 6 December 2001 at 10 am.**

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

**PRESENT**

Councillor Selfridge, Convener; Councillors Chadha, Coyle, Gordon, McLaughlin, Robertson, Ross and Scott.

**CHAIR**

Councillor Selfridge (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Committee Services Officer, Head of Social Work Services, Manager for Adults, Manager, Children and Families/Criminal Justice, Service Manager for Criminal Justice, Service Co-Ordinator Independent Living, Senior Mental Health Officer for Adult Services and Administrative Assistant.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors Curley, Gormill and Lafferty.

**PROPOSED MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION - POLICY STATEMENT BY THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE**

1. With reference to paragraph 28 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 24 August 1999 when the actions by the Director of Administration in submitting a response to the Scottish Executive on the review of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 were homologated, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work on a policy statement by the Scottish Executive regarding proposed Mental Health Legislation (1) advising that, as many of the recommendations following the review of the 1984 Act had been adopted by the Scottish Executive, no further consultation on the legislation would be required; (2) setting out the areas of policy covered by the legislation; (3) reinforcing that the Mental Health Officers continue to be qualified and designated Social Workers, and (4) indicating that the new legislation would have major implications for the training of Mental Health Officers.

**Decided:**

- (1) that it be noted that the Director of Social Work would report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the implications of the new legislation for the Council;
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Social Work Committee for consideration of the financial implications of the legislation for the Council, and
- (3) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

**SCOTLAND'S CHILDREN - BETTER INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICES - REPORT BY THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE**

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work on an action plan for Scotland's Children - Better Integrated Services (1) indicating that a team had been commissioned by the Scottish Executive to develop an action plan for better integrated services for children; (2) highlighting the importance of bringing services together to meet the needs of individual

children and families; (3) intimating that better integrated working would make more appropriate use of existing resources and would be supported by the Changing Children's Services Fund announced in February 2001; (4) setting out recommendations from the action plan to (a) consider children's services as a single service system; (b) establish a joint children's services plan; (c) ensure inclusive access to universal services; (d) co-ordinate needs assessment; (e) co-ordinate intervention, and (f) target services, and (5) advising of actions to be taken by the Scottish Executive to assist in creating a framework necessary to implement the action which will be progressed through the Council's Children's Strategy Group.

**Decided:**

- (1) that it be noted that the Director of Social Work would report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the progress of the action plan, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

**PROCEDURES FOR A VICTIM'S STATEMENT SCHEME - CONSULTATION BY THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE**

3. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 8 March 2001 when it was agreed that the terms of the Scottish Executive's Strategy for Victims be endorsed and the action plan of the Criminal Justice Department be supported, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated November 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that a consultation document had been received from the Scottish Executive regarding procedures for a pilot Victim's Statement Scheme; (2) intimating that the consultation document was seen as part of the implementation programme of the Scottish Strategy for Victims to better inform and give opportunities to victims to participate in the Criminal Justice process; (3) indicating that the document (a) gave two options for consideration (A) a statement being made by the victim shortly after the crime was committed, which could be updated at a later stage, providing time was available before the disposal of the case, and (B) a statement made at the time of a report provided to the Procurator Fiscal, and (b) explored how a statement would then be used and made available to criminal justice agencies, and (4) setting out in the Appendix to the report, comments on the key issues highlighted in the documentation.

**Decided:** that the comments as set out in the Appendix to the report by the Director of Social Work be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Executive on the consultation regarding procedures for a pilot Victim's Statement Scheme.

**ADULTS WITH INCAPACITY (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000 - IMPLEMENTATION OF PART 6 - INTERVENTION AND GUARDIANSHIP ORDER - CONSULTATION BY THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE**

4. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 10 May 2001 when, inter alia, the timescale for the implementation of various parts of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work on the implementation of Part 6 of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000; (1) intimating that Part 6 of the Act related to Intervention and Guardianship Orders which come into force on 1 April 2002; (2) indicating that the legislation empowered the taking of time-limited Intervention Orders relating to an adult's financial affairs, property and personal welfare where the person concerned was incapable of acting on his/her own behalf; (3) advising that the documentation contained a draft code of practice for persons authorised under intervention orders and guardians and contained very detailed guidance on implementation and good practice; (4) setting out implications of the legislation for local authorities, and (5) detailing in the Appendix to the report comments on the key issues highlighted in the documentation.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the comments as set out in the Appendix to the report by the Director of Social Work be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Executive on the consultation on the implementation of Part 6 of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Social Work Committee for consideration of the financial implications of the legislation for the Council.

**NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE AND DELIBERATE SELF-HARM - REPORT BY SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE**

5. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 4 October 2001 when, inter alia, the publication of the report of the National Confidential Enquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that a consultation document had been received from the Scottish Executive on a national framework for the prevention of suicide and deliberate self harm; (2) outlining the aims of the framework which was produced by the Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health under the direction of the National Planning Group; (3) intimating that the framework had four main parts (a) suicidal behaviour; (b) guiding principles and approach; (c) plan of action: proposed steps for implementation, and (d) priorities for action, and (4) indicating that a joint response from NHS Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire Council and this Council was required by 31 January 2002.

**Decided:**

- (1) that it be noted that the joint response to the consultation would be the subject of a future report to this Sub-Committee, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

**DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND IDENTIFICATION PROJECT**

6. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 7 August 2001 when, inter alia, it was noted that the Director of Social Work would report to a future meeting on the study by Deafblind Scotland to assess the needs of deafblind people in North Lanarkshire, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work (1) setting out in the Appendix to the report an interim report by Deafblind Scotland on the North Lanarkshire identification project; (2) detailing the work undertaken and to be undertaken to identify the number and needs of people living in North Lanarkshire with a dual sensory impairment, and (3) intimating that a final report by Deafblind Scotland would be submitted by 31 March 2002.

**Decided:**

- (1) that it be noted that the Director of Social Work would report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee in respect of the project, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

**NHS LANARKSHIRE CHILDREN'S IN-PATIENT SERVICES - WINTER PLAN**

7. There was submitted a report dated 6 December 2001 by the Director of Social Work advising of NHS Lanarkshire's plans for children's in-patient services during the period December 2001 to March 2002.

**Decided:**

- (1) that it be noted that the Director of Social Work would report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the plans following the winter period, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

**LANARKSHIRE PRIMARY CARE NHS TRUST - YOUTH HEALTH LANARKSHIRE (YHL) SERVICES**

8. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 2 June 1998 when, inter alia, the Director of Administration was authorised to respond to the Health Boards on their plans for the restructuring of the NHS Trusts, there was submitted a report dated 19 November 2001 by the Director of Social Work regarding the YHL Project (1) advising that the Service would explore innovative ways of service delivery taking account of young peoples rights to access health; (2) intimating that the project was funded by Lanarkshire Primary Care NHS Trust and would be operational from December 2001, and (3) outlining the objectives of the project including (a) the provision of advice, support and guidance to any organisation regarding all aspects of youth health; (b) the provision of a direct service to young people throughout Lanarkshire dealing with individualised health issues, and (c) offering specialist advice and contribution to the core planning process for vulnerable young people in North Lanarkshire.

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

**CHILD PROTECTION PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 19 July 2001 by the Director of Social Work providing information and statistics on Child Protection in North Lanarkshire for the period from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001 (1) detailing in Section 2 of the report the principles which underpin the approach to child protection; (2) setting out in Section 3 of the report child protection activities during the period, and (3) intimating that a post of Child Protection Co-ordinator to the Child Protection Committee had been established the duties of which included increased provision of statistical information and inter-agency training to offer better protection to children.

**Decided:**

- (1) that it be noted that the Director of Social Work would report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on child protection practice;
- (2) that it be noted that the Director of Social Work would provide a further report to the Sub-Committee following the review of child protection by the Scottish Executive, and
- (3) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.