

Motherwell, 24 February 2004 at 11 am.

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

PRESENT

Councillor Sullivan, Convener; Councillors Chadha, Gemmell, Gordon, Homer and Lafferty.

CHAIR

Councillor Sullivan (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Manager, Head of Social Work Services, Manager, Children's and Families and Criminal Justice; Manager, Community Care Adults; Manager, Older People Services; Service Manager, Personnel, and Children's Rights Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

M. Smith, Lanarkshire Community Care Forum and L. Seaton, North Lanarkshire Carers Together.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Burrows, M. Clark, Coyle, Fagan, McCabe, McAuley, McElroy, H. McGuigan, McLaughlin and Shaw.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

1. The Convener welcomed Malcolm Smith, Lanarkshire Community Care Forum and Liz Seaton, North Lanarkshire Carers Together to their first meeting of the Sub-Committee and advised that Malcolm and Liz would be invited to attend future meetings of the Sub-Committee.

Decided: that the position be noted.

PRESENTATION - SLAM CENTRE REPORT ON ABSENCE MANAGEMENT

2. The Service Manager, Personnel provided a presentation on the Scottish Local Authority Management Centre (SLAM) Report on Absence Management within the Social Work Department and advised the Sub-Committee:-

- that a study of absenteeism and Absence Management was carried out by the SLAM Centre in 2003
- of the methodologies of the Study
- of the findings of the study
- of the proposed future developments to deal with absence management

After responding to Members questions, the Convener thanked the Service Manager, Personnel for her informative presentation.

Decided: that the terms of the presentation be noted.

EMERGENCY PLANNING - ANNUAL UPDATE

3. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 14 February 2002, when it was agreed that the Director of Social Work submit a further report on the

outcome of the review of Support Services in the event of a major incident, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work advising of the progress of the emergency planning support services within the Social Work Department (1) intimating that the Director of Social Work was responsible for providing support in respect of the social and welfare needs of residents of North Lanarkshire directly or indirectly affected by a major incident; (2) detailing the progress of a number of service developments undertaken by the Department, and (3) outlining the range of training provided to staff.

The Convener acknowledged the work undertaken by Officers from the Social Work Department during the recent fire tragedy at Rosepark Care Home and thanked all the Officers involved for the help and support provided to the families involved.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress of the provision of emergency planning services within the Social Work Department be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit progress reports to future meetings of the Sub-Committee on an annual basis.

PROTECTING CHILDREN: GUIDANCE ON THE IMPRISONMENT AND PREPARATION FOR RELEASE OF SCHEDULE 1 PRISONERS

4. There was submitted a report dated 30 January 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the contents of the Scottish Executive Justice Department Circular on Protecting Children: Guidance on the Imprisonment and Preparation for Release of Schedule 1 Prisoners (1) outlining the background to the Circular which took effect from 1 December 2003; (2) setting out the definition of a Schedule 1 prisoner; (3) indicating that the guidance explicitly stated that the needs of the child were paramount; (4) intimating that as a consequence of previous guidance, a Justice Throughcare Team had been established to monitor and supervise all prisoners serving a sentence of four years or more, and (5) detailing the arrangements to implement and comply with the new legislation in relation to Schedule 1 prisoners.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE GUIDANCE: RELEASE OF LIFE PRISONERS

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 January 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the contents of Scottish Executive guidance document on the release of life prisoners (1) indicating that the guidance aimed to clarify and confirm procedures and timescales for the review of cases and how the pre-release planning process should be conducted; (2) summarising the main aspects of the guidance, and (3) setting out the implications for the Council.

Decided: that the contents of the Scottish Executive guidance on the release of life prisoners be noted.

THE REGULATION OF CARE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2001: REGULATION OF ADOPTION AND FOSTERING SERVICES (SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION)

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 February 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the implementation of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001: Regulation of Adoption and Fostering Services and associated subordinate legislation (1) outlining the background to the legislation; (2) advising that from 1 April 2004 all adoption and fostering services would be regulated

by the Care Commission; (3) setting out the transitional arrangements for the first year; (4) detailing the requirements and responsibilities placed on Local Authorities as a result of the legislation; (5) intimating that the Council would require to apply to be registered as a Fostering and Adoption Agency, and (6) indicating that the fees applied by the Care Commission would be subject to further consultation.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work submit a progress report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the implications of registration, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE IN SCOTLAND

7. With reference to paragraph 18 of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 19 November 2002, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 30 January 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the provision of services to support young people leaving care as a result of changes in the Regulation of Care (The Support and Assistance of Young People Leaving Care) (Scotland) Regulations 2003 which will come into operation on 1 April 2004 (1) outlining the background to the Regulations; (2) detailing the additional responsibilities placed on Local Authorities as a result of the Regulations; (3) indicating that the implementation of the Regulations would be progressed by the Council's Throughcare Implementation Group; (4) providing details of the transfer of funding from the Department of Work and Pensions to the Council for 2003/2004, 2004/2005 and 2005/2006, and (5) intimating that a minimum of 30 young people would be eligible for services during 2004/2005.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work submit further reports to future meetings of the Sub-Committee on the progress of the development of services, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

MENTAL WELFARE COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND ANNUAL REPORT 2002/2003

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 January 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the contents of the annual report of the Mental Welfare Commission for 2002/2003 (1) detailing the responsibilities and functions of the Mental Welfare Commission; (2) setting out the contents of the annual report which had focused on service issues, Adults with Incapacity Act 2000 Children and Adolescent Services and the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act 2003, and (3) setting out the implications for the Council.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH A SENSORY IMPAIRMENT - AN ACTION PLAN: DRAFT RESPONSE TO SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 26 January 2004 by the Director of Social Work seeking approval of the Council's response to the Scottish Executive consultation on Community Care Services for People with a Sensory Impairment - An Action Plan (1) outlining the background to the consultation; (2) providing details of the key recommendations of the consultation which focused on better joint working, single shared assessment and sensory impairment, standards, training and physical access, and (3) setting out in the Appendix to the report, the proposed response to the Scottish Executive on its consultation.

Decided:

- (1) that the comments set out in the Appendix to the report be endorsed as the Council's formal response to the Scottish Executive consultation on Community Care Services for People with a Sensory Impairment - An Action Plan, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the implementation arrangements and associated costs.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MENTAL HEALTH (CARE AND TREATMENT) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003: SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE PUBLICATION

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 January 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the contents of the Scottish Executive document - An Introduction to the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 (1) outlining the background to the document, and (2) providing details of the seven key areas of operation contained within the document.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

PALLIATIVE CARE: JOINT HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK PROTOCOL

11. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated February 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the publication of a joint protocol to ensure fast track access to palliative care services (1) intimating that the joint protocol had been agreed in consultation with South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire, and (2) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report the Joint Health and Social Work protocol for the provision of Palliative Care in Lanarkshire.

Decided: that the development of the Joint Health and Social Work protocol for the provision of Palliative Care in Lanarkshire be noted.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE GUIDANCE: FRAMEWORK FOR THE PRODUCTION OF JOINT HOSPITAL DISCHARGE PROTOCOLS

12. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 January 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) detailing the Scottish Executive guidance on the framework for the production of joint hospital discharge protocols to be jointly agreed between health and social work partners within NHS Board areas, and (2) indicating that the guidance was intended to ensure broad consistency across Scotland in terms of approach and arrangements for discharge protocols.

Decided:

- (1) that the existing hospital discharge protocols be reviewed in conjunction with appropriate health and social care partners in Lanarkshire, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee following the review of the hospital discharge protocols.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE GUIDANCE: CHOICE OF ACCOMMODATION - DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL

13. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 28 January 2004 by the Director of Social Work regarding the contents of the Scottish Executive guidance on the Choice of Accommodation - Discharge from Hospital (1) intimating that the guidance provided an outline on how Local Authorities and NHS Boards should manage choice of care home for people moving from hospital to minimise delays; (2) providing details of the guidance which clarifies the way in which directions on the choice of accommodation should be implemented, and (3) indicating that the guidance was intended to ensure broad consistency across Scotland in terms of approach and arrangements for meeting patient choice.

Decided:

- (1) that the existing arrangements for meeting the directions on choice of accommodation be reviewed to ensure compliance with the Scottish Executive guidance, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee following the review of existing arrangements.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

(1) OLDER PEOPLE'S SERVICES IN SCOTLAND

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 January 2004 by the Director of Social Work providing statistical information from the Scottish Executive in respect of older people's services: Day Care Places, Special Needs Housing, Dwellings with Alarms, Residential Care Homes, Number of Beds, Number Of Residents and Private Nursing Homes.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be referred to the Social Work Committee for its interest, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.

(2) HOME CARE IN SCOTLAND

15. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 23 January 2004 by the Director of Social Work providing details of Scottish Executive statistical information in relation to Home Support Services for Older People, Number of Service Users, Number of Hours Provided, Distribution of Home Support Hours Received and Dwellings with Alarms.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be referred to the Social Work Committee for its interest, and
- (2) that the terms of the report be otherwise noted.