

Motherwell, 10 August 2004 at 11 am.

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

PRESENT

Councillor Sullivan, Convener; Councillors Burrows, Chadha, J. Coyle, Fagan, Gemmell, Gordon, McAuley and McElroy.

CHAIR

Councillor Sullivan (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Principal Administrative Officer; Head of Social Work Services; Operations Manager; Manager, Children, Families and Justice Section; Manager, Community Care Adults, and Service Manager, Home Care.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor W. Martin, L. Seaton, North Lanarkshire Carers Together and M. Smith, North Lanarkshire User and Carers Forum.

APOLOGIES

Councillors M. Clark, Gormill, Homer, Irvine, Lafferty, McCabe, H. McGuigan, McLaughlin and Shaw.

PRESENTATION - SOCIAL WORK RECEPTION SERVICES

1. The Operations Manager provided a presentation on the provision of Social Work Reception Services in North Lanarkshire and advised the Sub-Committee on:-

- the operational framework and seven principles for Assessment and Care Management within which the Reception Services operated;
- the tiered approach to Social Work services and the role of Reception Services, and
- the areas for consideration in the provision of Reception Services in terms of:-
 - service provision priorities;
 - eligibility criteria;
 - resources;
 - targeted services;
 - systems and procedures, and
 - legislative policy within an organisational context,

and outlined the desired outcomes of Reception Services in terms of:-

- improved access to Social Work services;
- a quicker and more effective response;
- greater continuity of support, care and involvement;
- better use of resources;

- improved partnership working, and
- better outcomes for Social Work services.

After responding to Members' questions the Convener thanked the Operations Manager for her informative presentation.

Decided: that the terms of the presentation be noted.

HAMILTON SHERIFF YOUTH COURT PILOT: THE FIRST SIX MONTHS

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 27 February 2003, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 July 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that a research team from Stirling University had been commissioned to undertake a two year evaluation of the Hamilton Sheriff Youth Court Pilot, and had reported their research findings for the first six months of the pilot from June to December 2003; (2) outlining the background to the pilot which is part of the Scottish Executive's programme to reduce youth crime; (3) intimating that the early phase of the pilot appeared to be working effectively and that the final phase of the evaluation will examine the influence of the Youth Court on sentencing practice, its impact on reducing re-offending and promoting social inclusion, and its cost effectiveness; (4) outlining the implications of the project, and (5) indicating (a) that the pilot study had been extended to Airdrie Sheriff Court in June 2004, and (b) that the Hamilton Youth Court Initiative is compatible with the Children's Hearing System and has dovetailed with North Lanarkshire's Youth Justice Strategy.

Decided:

- (1) that the development of the Pilot Youth Court at Hamilton be noted;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a further report to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee, following completion of the pilot study evaluation, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

USE OF BAIL AND REMAND: CONSULTATION

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 July 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that the Sentencing Commission for Scotland had requested by 30 September 2004, comments on a consultation paper on the use of bail and remand; (2) outlining the background to and the key proposals and considerations of the consultation; (3) intimating that, within the Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Grouping, South Lanarkshire Council is responsible for the management and operation of court and bail services, and (4) recommending that the Council's response to the consultation be prepared in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council and submitted on behalf of the Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Grouping.

Decided:

- (1) that a response to the consultation document on the use of bail and remand be prepared and submitted on behalf of the Lanarkshire Council Criminal Justice Grouping, to the Sentencing Commission for Scotland by 30 September 2004, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

OLDER PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND: RESULTS FROM THE SCOTTISH HOUSEHOLD SURVEY 1999-2002

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 July 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising on the recently published Health and Community Care Research report entitled "Older People in Scotland"; (2) indicating that this is the second report about older people in Scotland based on results from the Scottish Household Survey 1999-2002 and provides a fuller analysis of some areas of interest; (3) listing a number of key findings, as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report, and (4) intimating that a number of trends are apparent based on information from the research study in combination with information already available within the Council.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

HOME SUPPORT SERVICE - ANNUAL REPORT 2003/2004

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 August 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the publication of the first Annual Report of North Lanarkshire Council's Home Support Service; (2) outlining the background to the home support service and intimating that the Annual Report highlights the changing patterns of the service and represents one method of publishing service information; (3) intimating that the Annual Report provides a profile of the service and its objectives, and highlights performance, operational costs and service developments over the past year, and planned future developments, and (4) recommending that the Annual Report be converted into leaflet form and made available to service users, carers and other stakeholders.

Decided:

- (1) that the first Annual Report of North Lanarkshire Council's Home Support Service 2003/2004, be noted;
- (2) that the Annual Report be converted into leaflet form and both documents be made available to service users, carers and other stakeholders, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

COMMISSIONING COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE: A JOINT REPORT FROM THE ACCOUNTS COMMISSION AND AUDITOR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 July 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the findings and recommendations contained in a joint report on Community Care Services for Older People recently published by the Accounts Commission and Auditor General for Scotland; (2) indicating that the joint report contains recommendations aimed at Councils, Health Providers and the Scottish Executive; (3) summarising the key findings of the joint report, and (4) setting out the implications of the findings for the Council.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTION OF SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY LEARNING DISABILITIES

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 July 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising (a) of the publication of the "Report of the Inspection of Scottish Borders Council Social Work Services for People Affected by Learning Disabilities (April 2004)" which had been triggered by events in 2002 concerning a woman with learning disabilities who had been hospitalised following physical

and sexual abuse; (b) that the Mental Welfare Commission had conducted an investigation into the involvement of health services, with a particular focus on joint working between health and social work, and (c) that as a consequence of both investigations, the Scottish Executive is considering the need for Vulnerable Adults legislation; (2) listing in paragraph 3 of the report a number of the findings and recommendations made following on from the investigations; (3) indicating that the Social Work Services Inspectorate is clear that the recommendations will have an impact upon all Councils, and (4) intimating that (a) the Council's Social Work Department had recently developed procedures on the Protection of Vulnerable Adults on a multi-agency basis, and (b) a range of work, listed in paragraph 4 of the report, was currently taking place which will provide opportunities for addressing the issues identified within the investigations.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work bring forward to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee a progress report on the implementation of the Protection of Vulnerable Adult Procedures in North Lanarkshire, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

LINK CARERS SCHEME

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 July 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising on (a) the current position in relation to the Link Carers Scheme, and (b) developments in relation to kinship care, and (2) indicating that in line with Scottish Executive guidance, the Link Carers Scheme will be reviewed.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a progress report on the review of the Link Carers Scheme together with proposals, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.