

Motherwell, 4 October 2005 at 11 am.

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

PRESENT

Councillor Sullivan, Convener; Councillors Burrows, Chadha, M. Clark J. Coyle, Fagan, Gemmell, Gormill, Lafferty, McAuley and McLaughlin.

CHAIR

Councillor Sullivan (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Corporate Freedom of Information Officer; Head of Social Work Services; Service Co-ordinator, Independent Living; Manager, Home Care, and Manager, Strategy.

APOLOGIES

Councillors McCabe, McElroy and H. McGuigan.

PRESENTATION - DELAYED DISCHARGE

1. The Manager, Home Care, provided a presentation on the subject of delayed discharge from hospitals, which occurred when a person occupying a hospital bed was deemed "clinically ready" for discharge but whose discharge was delayed by various complex issues. In particular he advised the Sub-Committee on:-

- the background to and the importance of discharge planning;
- the scale of discharge delays across the UK, and in particular in Scotland and Lanarkshire;
- the initiatives introduced to tackle delayed discharge;
- the Lanarkshire Action Plan which incorporated a Health and Social Work Partnership, and a twin approach involving other, more appropriate, measures to hospital admission and early supported discharge;
- the favourable performance in Lanarkshire from 2003 in comparison with targets set by the Scottish Executive, and
- the issues and problems still to be tackled.

After responding to Members' questions, the Convener thanked the Manager, Home Care, for his informative presentation.

Decided: that the terms of the presentation be noted.

THE SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND: REPORT ON THE USE OF BAIL AND REMAND

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 13 September 2005 by the Director of Social Work advising on the findings and recommendations of the Sentencing Commission for Scotland on the use of Bail and Remand following a consultation process (1) outlining the background to the Sentencing Commission for Scotland which was set up by the Scottish Executive in November 2003 as an independent judicially led body to review and make recommendations on a number of topics, including the use of bail and remand; (2) setting out the main objectives of the review; (3) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report a summary of the 38 recommendations made for change within the areas of bail and remand; (4) indicating that a copy of the report by the Sentencing Commission for Scotland had been placed in the Members' Library, and (5) recommending that the Sub-Committee note the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the report by the Sentencing Commission for Scotland on the use of bail and remand, be noted, and
- (2) that the Director of Social Work brings forward further reports to future meetings of the Sub-Committee, following consideration of the recommendations by the Scottish Executive.

SAFE CARE: CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INQUIRY OF THE DEATH OF DAVID BENNETT

3. There was submitted a report dated 21 September 2005 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the Inquiry into the death of David Bennett and the Scottish Executive's publication in December 2004 of Safe Care: Consideration of the Recommendations from the Inquiry of the Death of David Bennett; (2) outlining the background to the Inquiry; (3) indicating that the Inquiry Report had concluded with 22 recommendations for action to improve Mental Health Services and included (a) the need for training in cultural awareness and sensitivity (including mandatory training for managers and clinical staff); (b) the acknowledgement of the institutional racism within the NHS; (c) the need for mandatory training around the use of restraint, and the recording of restraint; (d) the need for mental health services to have written policies about racist abuse which were publicly displayed and closely monitored, and (e) care programme care plans to include details of a person's ethnic origin and cultural needs, and (4) informing that the National Resource Centre for Ethnic Minority Health was monitoring and supporting the progress made in achieving the standards required through "Fair for All Guidance for Health", and that the establishment of the Scottish Trans Cultural Mental Health Network in 2004 was seeking to promote the development of culturally appropriate and positive mental health services for people from diverse backgrounds.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

INVESTIGATION OF ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES IN SCOTLAND USING BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE - SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE SOCIAL RESEARCH 2005

4. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 14 March 2004 when, inter alia, the findings and recommendations of the best value review of independent living services in North Lanarkshire were approved, and paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 19 May 2005 when, inter alia, the Committee approved for its interest the redesign of the sensory impairment services, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 September 2005 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising on work undertaken to investigate the access to public services in Scotland for British Sign Language (BSL) users, and implications for the Council; (2) summarising the considerations, key findings and recommendations highlighted in the Scottish Executive's report entitled "Investigation of Access to

Public Services in Scotland Using British Sign Language" which outlined a range of issues for service providers in considering how public service providers support BSL users; (3) indicating that the recommendations and actions contained within the report by the Scottish Executive are consistent with the broad themes of the best value review of independent living services, and (4) recommending that the report be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for information on the potential impact on Council resources of the recommendations made by the Scottish Executive in their report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a report on the progress made in supporting deaf British Sign Language users;
- (2) that the requirement for corporate consideration of access to public services in order to support local deaf people be noted;
- (3) that the recommendations and action points summarised within the report be noted, and
- (4) that the report be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee, for its interest.

MONITORING PROVISION OF ADVISORY DISABLED PARKING BAYS (DPR)

5. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 4 December 2003, when, inter alia, the criteria guidelines for advisory disabled parking bays were approved, there was submitted a joint report (docketed) dated 21 September 2005 by the Directors of Social Work and Planning and Environment (1) intimating the current arrangements regarding the provision of advisory disabled parking bays (DPR) which are located at the homes of individual disabled people, and (2) seeking approval of proposals to assist in monitoring the provision of DPRs by way of amendment to the Social Work Information System (SWIS) to enable the recording of disabled parking bays in the same way that blue disabled parking badges are recorded.

Decided:

- (1) that the Sub-Committee, for its interest, approve procedures for recording and monitoring advisory disabled parking bays, listed in the Appendix to the report, subject to the amendment of procedure number 4 to reflect the position that information relating to the tenancy or ownership of a home is recorded;
- (2) that the required amendment of the Social Work Information System (SWIS) be noted;
- (3) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a report on the implementation and monitoring of the advisory disabled parking bay system to a future meeting, and
- (4) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

AUDIT SCOTLAND REPORT: MOVING ON? AN OVERVIEW OF DELAYED DISCHARGES IN SCOTLAND JUNE 2005

6. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 19 July 2005 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the content of a report by Audit Scotland, following a review of delayed discharges in Scotland; (2) highlighting two key elements identified as the focus of the report; (3) intimating that the review also identified (a) significant activity and progress in reducing delayed discharges across Scotland and that progress will be harder to maintain as the population of older adults increases, and (b) that current targets were not helpful in focussing effort, for the reasons set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report, and (4) outlining the implications for the Council

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE ADULTS - SECURING THEIR SAFETY

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 5 September 2005 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising that the Scottish Executive had requested by 23 September 2005 comments on a consultation paper on Protecting Vulnerable Adults - Securing Their Safety, and (2) seeking approval of the response submitted to the Scottish Executive by the Director of Social Work prior to the deadline, as set out in the attachment to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Sub-Committee, for its interest, endorse both the response set out in the attachment to the report by the Director of Social Work as the Council's response to the Scottish Executive consultation on Protecting Vulnerable Adults - Security Their Safety, and the action taken by the Director of Social Work in forwarding the response to the Scottish Executive;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work bring forward further reports on the proposed legislation, and the regulatory impact assessment, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DRUG MISUSE (SACDM)

8. There was submitted a report dated 2 September 2005 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising on the publication of a recent report by the Scottish Advisory Committee on Drug Misuse (SACDM) on drug related deaths in Scotland for the period from January to December 2003; (2) informing of the work undertaken in Lanarkshire by the Critical Incident Group, some of which is in line with the recommendations made by the Scottish Advisory Committee on Drug Misuse (SACDM) as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report, and (3) intimating that at a recent seminar on drug related deaths, the actions of the Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Action Team had been commended.

Decided: that the terms of the report be noted.

EVENING TIMES "LOCAL HEROES" AWARDS 2006

9. There was submitted a report dated 7 September 2005 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress made in the sponsorship of the Evening Times "Local Heroes" Awards 2006 (1) outlining the background to the Local Heroes Awards; (2) setting out the provisional timetable for awards in 2006, and (3) recommending that the Council contribute sponsorship of £6,000 and approximately an additional £1,700 for promotional gifts bearing the Council's logo.

Decided:

- (1) that the Sub-Committee approve the Council's sponsorship of the Evening Times Local Heroes Award for 2006, in the terms of the report, for its interest;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a further report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the progress of the Local Heroes Awards for 2006, and
- (3) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.