

Motherwell, 6 December 2005 at 11 am.

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

PRESENT

Councillor Sullivan, Convener; Councillors Burrows, J. Coyle, Fagan, Gormill and McAuley.

CHAIR

Councillor Sullivan (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Committee Services Manager; Head of Social Work Services; Service Manager, Justice; Co-ordinator, Restorative Justice and Children's Rights Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

L. Seaton, North Lanarkshire Carers Together.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Chadha, M. Clark, Irvine, McCabe, McElroy, H. McGuigan, McLaughlin and Shaw.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCING

1. The Co-ordinator, Restorative Justice, provided a presentation on Restorative Justice Conferencing and advised the Sub-Committee on:-
 - the history of Restorative Justice;
 - the various methods of Restorative Justice, including Victim/Offender Mediation; Family Group Conferencing; Community Conferencing and the Scripted Restorative Conference;
 - the way in which conferencing was undertaken;
 - the pros and cons of Restorative Justice as against traditional methods;
 - the current position in North Lanarkshire regarding training for Restorative Justice Conferencing, and
 - the progress to date.

After responding to Members' questions, the Convener thanked the Co-ordinator for her informative presentation.

Decided: that the terms of the presentation be noted.

SCOTTISH PRISON SERVICE CONSULTATION ON PRISON SERVICES IN THE NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 6 December 2005 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the content of a consultation by the Scottish Prison Service on Prison Services in the North East of Scotland, and (2) seeking homologation of the response, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, which had been submitted by the Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Grouping.

Decided:

- (1) that the response by the Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Grouping be homologated, and
(2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

ADULTS WITH INCAPACITY (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000 – LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

3. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub-Committee held on 7 December 2004, when a progress report on the implementation of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 was noted, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 24 November 2005 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the content of a consultation by the Scottish Executive entitled "Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000: Learning from Experience", which highlighted key issues and lessons to be learned from the first three years of the Act, and (2) seeking homologation of the response, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, which had been submitted to the Scottish Executive.

Decided:

- (1) that the response to the consultation, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be homologated, and
(2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

EDUCATION (ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004

4. There was submitted a report dated 8 November 2005 by the Director of Social Work advising of the implications of the implementation of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (1) indicating that additional support would apply to all children and young people who required support and not only children with disabilities; (2) highlighting the key elements of the Act; (3) pointing out that, under the Act, Social Work had a duty to help the Education Department to meet its legal obligations, which included looked after children and parents of children seeking or receiving additional support, and (4) advising that, at this time, it was difficult to predict the full impact of the new legislation on Social Work services.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO THE HOME OFFICE/SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE ON THE POSSESSION OF EXTREME PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL

5. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated November 2005 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of a consultation by the Home Office/Scottish Executive on the possession of extreme pornographic material; (2) outlining the content of the consultation paper, and (3) seeking homologation of the response, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, which had been submitted to the Scottish Executive.

Thereafter the Service Manager, Justice, advised of alterations made to the wording of the response to make it gender neutral.

Decided:

- (1) that the response to the consultation paper, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report and as amended in accordance with the changes reported, be homologated, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.