

Motherwell, 5 December 2006 at 11 am.

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

PRESENT

Councillor Sullivan, Convener; Councillors Gemmell, Gormill, Higgins, Homer, Irvine, Lafferty and Shaw.

CHAIR

Councillor Sullivan (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Corporate Freedom of Information Officer; Head of Social Work Development; Manager, Social Work Strategy; Service Co-ordinator (LAAC); Service Co-ordinator, Justice; Social Worker Children, Families and Justice, and Children's Rights Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillor Burrows, Chadha, M. Clark, J. Coyle, McAuley, McCabe, McElroy and H. McGuigan.

MENTAL HEALTH (CARE AND TREATMENT) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 - APPEALS AGAINST BEING HELD IN CONDITIONS OF EXCESSIVE SECURITY

1. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 31 October 2006 by the Director of Social Work advising of guidance issued by the Scottish Executive for practitioners caring for service users subject to compulsion in State Hospitals under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 (1) outlining the background to the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003; (2) intimating (a) that the provisions in Part 17 of the Act relate to appeals by service users in the State Hospital, and only to a person who is subject to a Compulsory Treatment Order, a Compulsion Order with or without restrictions, a Transfer for Treatment Direction and a Hospital Direction, and (b) that appeals to the Mental Health Tribunal under the provisions could not be made within the first six months of the Order being made; (3) advising that a Scottish Executive short life working group had been established to consult on whether the appeal provision should be extended to individuals in medium and low secure hospitals, and to provide information on how proposals might be achieved in these environments to inform any future decision, and (4) indicating that (a) the Council was currently responsible for 11 restricted patients resident within the State Hospital, and (b) while welcoming the view that all service users detained in conditions of excessive security should have the right of appeal, this would place additional duties on Mental Health Officers within North Lanarkshire.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a further report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee on the outcome of the Scottish Executive Working Group's report, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR INFORMATION AND ADVICE PROVIDERS

2. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 2 November 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Scottish National Standards for Information Advice: Topic Specific Competencies for Advisors and Agencies which will be a necessary accreditation for all information and advice providers

in the future (1) outlining (a) the background to the three part standards framework comprising operational standards, topic specific competencies for advisers and good practice guidance, and (b) the three level topic specific competencies, and (2) intimating that the Council had been successful in gaining funding from the Scottish Executive Financial Inclusion budget to establish a project and employ a Financial Inclusion Development Officer and a Support Worker to ensure that internal and external information providers in North Lanarkshire meet the necessary standards.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

EXTRAORDINARY LIVES – CREATING A POSITIVE FUTURE FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND

3. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 6 November 2006 by the Director of Social Work advising of the content and conclusions of the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) review report “Extraordinary Lives – Creating a Positive Future for Looked After Children and Young People in Scotland” (1) intimating that the review identified areas which made a positive difference to the lives and futures of children and young people who are looked after by local authorities; (2) advising that the review considered the needs of children with reference to safety, nurture, health and activity, achievement, respect and responsibility; (3) setting out the key messages contained within the review report, and (4) advising that the SWIA review report would be considered by the Children’s Services Strategy Group.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

THE SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND REPORT - THE SCOPE TO IMPROVE CONSISTENCY IN SENTENCING

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 October 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding the Sentencing Commission for Scotland report “The Scope to Improve Consistency in Sentencing” (1) outlining the background to the role of the Sentencing Commission for Scotland, and the scope and remit of the review; (2) intimating that the Commission’s report contained 25 recommendations which it considered would create a comprehensive and visible framework around which sentencing could be structured; (3) indicating that the main recommendations of the report related to the introduction of a procedure for giving affect to sentencing guidelines, and (4) advising that the report recommended the creation of a statutory body entitled “the Advisory Panel on Sentencing in Scotland” which would be responsible for preparing draft sentencing guidelines for consideration of Appeals to the High Court of Judiciary.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

EVENING TIMES “LOCAL HEROES” AWARDS 2007

5. There was submitted a report dated 23 October 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding the progress made in the Sponsorship of the Evening Times “Local Heroes” Awards 2007 (1) outlining the background to the “Local Heroes” Awards; (2) setting out the provisional timetable for the awards in 2007, 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” Awards for 2007 in terms of the report, for its interest, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL MAJOR INCIDENT SUPPORT TEAM

6. With reference to paragraph 22 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 7 February 2006 when the Lanarkshire Major Incident Support Team Joint Memorandum of Agreement between North and South Lanarkshire Councils and NHS Lanarkshire was approved, there was submitted a report dated 1 November 2006 by Director of Social Work regarding the progress of the Lanarkshire Major Incident Support Team (MIST) (1) indicating that MIST comprised representatives from North and South Lanarkshire Councils and NHS Lanarkshire; (2) intimating that a joint protocol for working with victims families had been agreed with Strathclyde Police, and (3) advising that (a) the Annual MIST Conference, hosted by North Lanarkshire Council, had been held in Airdrie Town Hall on 10 November 2006; (b) the training programme for 2007 was being prepared, and (c) further work was being undertaken to involve the voluntary sector representatives and other groups.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

COMMUNITY DAY PROGRAMME

7. There was submitted a report dated 2 November 2006 by the Director of Social Work advising of the progress of the Community Day Programme (1) outlining the background to the Community Day Programme which was a structured scheme of intervention for people who were at serious risk due to the misuse of alcohol; (2) setting out in the Appendix to the report, the outcome of the latest programmes which had been held in Pather and Airdrie, and (3) advising that the third programme was currently underway in the Bellshill area and that a further programme was scheduled to commence in Coatbridge in the new year.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

INTEGRATED ADDICTION SERVICES

8. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 26 October 2006 when, inter alia, the Committee, for its interest, approved the staff proposals set out in the report, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 2 November 2006 by the Director of Social Work setting out the progress which has been made to date in respect of the development of integrated addiction services in North Lanarkshire.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

INVESTIGATION INTO THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF MR. H.

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 2 November 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding the contents and recommendations of the Mental Welfare Commission Inquiry into the Care and Treatment of Mr. H (1) advising that Mr. H was not a resident of North Lanarkshire; (2) providing details of the findings of the Mental Welfare Commission Inquiry, and the report's recommendations; (3) setting out the implications for mental health services in North Lanarkshire and the work undertaken to review its services, and (4) intimating that a review of the Alcohol and Drug Action Team (ADAT) and the Corporate Plan had resulted in the development of integrated Health and Social Work teams which would support the North and South areas of North Lanarkshire.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

NORTH AND SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCILS' PROTOCOL ON WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY PARENTAL SUBSTANCE MISUSE

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 2 November 2006 by the Director of Social Work regarding the work undertaken to support children and families affected by parental substance misuse (1) intimating that as part of the implementation of the working with children and families affected by parental substance misuse protocol, a multi-agency training programme had been established across the areas of both North and South Lanarkshire; (2) setting out details of the managers briefings, awareness sessions and day workshops which have been undertaken to date, and (3) advising that the training programme is scheduled to continue until July 2007.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.