

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE**

At a Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 20 April 2005 at 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillors Denis Agnew, George Black, Gail Casey, James McCallum, Duncan McDonald, Jackie Maceira, Martin Rooney and Andy White and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Miss Jan Cleife, Miss Ellen McBride and Miss Sheila Rennie.

**Attending:** Bob Cook, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Lynn Townsend, Head of Service; Liz McGinlay, Head of Service; Terry Lanagan, Acting Head of Service for the Schools' Estate; Anne Ritchie, Head of Social Work (Operations); Alan Douglas, Manager of Best Value and Special Projects and Lorraine Beveridge, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

**Apologies:** Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors Dennis Brogan, James Flynn, Connie O'Sullivan and Olean Allison, Kay Eastwood, Lynda Hamilton and Lesley Robertson.

**Councillor Denis Agnew in the Chair**

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

5756 There were submitted and approved the Minutes of Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 16 February 2005 and the Minutes of Meeting of a Special Children's Services Committee held on 23 February 2005.

### **EDUCATION (ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004 – RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE, DRAFT POLICY PAPERS AND THE DRAFT ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS**

5757 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 16 February 2005 (Page 1436, paragraph 5042(2) refers), a report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services advising of the consultation process currently underway regarding the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004.

5758 After discussion and having heard Ms Townsend in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve retrospectively, West Dunbartonshire Council's response to the consultation on the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 which was submitted to the Scottish Executive on 25 February 2005; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

### **HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION: REPORT ON GAVINBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

5759 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services informing the Committee of the Inspection of Gavinburn Primary School by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report, published by HMIE on 15 March 2005.

5760 After discussion and having heard Councillor McCallum and the Director of Education and Cultural Services in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to congratulate the staff, parents and young people of Gavinburn Primary School, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in the report published on 15 March 2005;
- (3) to note that West Dunbartonshire Council would receive a follow-up visit from HMIE from 31 May to 3 June 2005; and
- (4) to recognise that over the past two years HMIE reports on West Dunbartonshire schools had been superb, which was mainly due to the excellence of West Dunbartonshire's Head Teachers and teaching and non-teaching staff in schools.

### **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

5761 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services highlighting the Department's performance across all service areas.

5762 After hearing Councillor McCallum and Ms McGinlay in further explanation, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

### **EXCLUSION STATISTICS FOR SCHOOL SESSION 2003/2004**

- 5763 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on the exclusion statistics for West Dunbartonshire schools for the session 2003/2004.
- 5764 After hearing Ms Townsend in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

### **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

- 5765 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Social Work Services highlighting the Department's performance across all service areas.
- 5766 After hearing Councillor Rooney and the Head of Social Work (Operations) in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

### **CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE GUIDELINES**

- 5767 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Social Work Services advising of the guidance issued by the Scottish Executive in respect of the development of the future role and responsibilities of the Child Protection Committees (CPC), explaining the implications of this Guidance for West Dunbartonshire Council and outlining the action being taken.
- 5768 After discussion and having heard Councillor Rooney and the Head of Social Work (Operations) in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the Guidance issued by the Scottish Executive in respect of Child Protection Committees;
  - (2) to endorse the work being undertaken by the West Dunbartonshire Child Protection Committee towards implementing the Guidance by September;
  - (3) to note that the CPC Annual Report would be presented to a future meeting of the Children's Services Committee; and
  - (4) that a further report on the progress made towards reforming the CPC and on any issues arising thereto would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

## **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR SCHOOLS**

- 5769 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services containing information on the findings of a review of West Dunbartonshire Council's scheme of Resource Management for Schools and seeking approval for amendments on the management of devolved budgets.
- 5770 After discussion and having heard Councillor McCallum and the Director of Education and Cultural Services in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to approve the revised scheme of delegation, for immediate implementation, as detailed in the Appendix to the report;
  - (2) to note that the Director of Education and Cultural Services would review the operation of the revised scheme after its first year of implementation and thereafter on an annual basis; and
  - (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

## **2004/05 REVENUE ESTIMATES – BUDGETARY CONTROL FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2004 TO 15 FEBRUARY 2005**

- 5771 There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on expenditure and income to date within the Department of Education and Cultural Services approved revenue budget for 2004/2005.

## **UPDATE OF CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUILDING PROGRAMME 2005/2006**

- 5772 There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing up to date information on the status of Capital and Revenue Building Projects within the Department of Education and Cultural Services and drawing the Committee's attention to any significant issues or problems with the progress of any particular project.

## **CONVENER'S REMARKS**

- 5773 The Convener introduced Terry Lanagan to his first meeting of the Committee as Temporary Acting Head of Service for the Schools' Estate, Education and Cultural Services.

- 5774 In this respect, after hearing Councillor Agnew, Convener, it was agreed that a letter be sent to Mr Frank Newall, who had resigned as Head of Service for the Schools' Estate, on behalf of the Committee in recognition of his commitment to education within West Dunbartonshire and thanking him for his tremendous input to the Regeneration of the Schools' Estate 2005.

The meeting closed at 10.30 a.m.