

## **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, 15 December 2004 at 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Provost Alistair Macdonald, Councillors Denis Agnew, George Black, Gail Casey, Jack Duffy, James Flynn, James McCallum, Donald McDonald and Martin Rooney and Ms Olean Allison, Mrs Barbara Barnes, Miss Jan Cleife, Miss Ellen McBride and Miss Sheila Rennie.

**Attending:** Bob Cook, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Frank Newall, Head of Service (Estates); Lynn Townsend, Head of Service; Susan Carragher, Head of Service; Liz McGinley, Head of Service; Anne Ritchie, Head of Social Work (Operations); David Logan, Principal Solicitor and Lorraine Beveridge, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

**Also Attending:** Terry Lanagan, Head Teacher, Vale of Leven Academy and Lesley Robertson, Head Teacher, Aitkenbar Primary School.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Connie O'Sullivan and Andy White and Ms Lynda Hamilton.

**Councillor Denis Agnew in the Chair**

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4479 There were submitted and approved the Minutes of Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 27 October 2004.

### **LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS**

4480 There were submitted and approved the Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 21 September 2004.

### **ATTAINMENT OF CHARTERED TEACHER STATUS BY 3 WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE TEACHERS**

- 4481 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services advising of the success of 3 teachers in West Dunbartonshire in gaining the qualification of Chartered Teacher.
- 4482 After hearing the Director of Education and Cultural Services in further explanation, the Convener introduced Ms Carol Etherson, Ms Marilyn Petherbridge and Ms Barbara Mulhern, teachers from Braehead Primary School, (present for this item only), to the Committee and invited Ms Mulhern to say a few words in relation to the Chartered Teacher programme.
- 4483 Thereafter, Ms Mulhern informed the Committee of the process by which she, Ms Petherbridge and Ms Etherson had obtained the qualification of Chartered Teacher, which they believed would improve teaching practices and benefit pupils in Braehead Primary School. She further informed the Committee that at this time, 37 teachers throughout Scotland had attained the qualification of Chartered Teacher.
- 4484 The Convener, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated the teachers and acknowledged their success in gaining the Chartered Teacher qualification.
- 4485 The Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note that further updates on the progress of West Dunbartonshire's teachers in the Chartered Teacher programme would be brought to the attention of this Committee; and
  - (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

### **PRESENTATION ON WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL'S CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2003/2004**

- 4486 Ms Anne Ritchie, Head of Social Work (Operations), gave a presentation on children in need and vulnerable families in West Dunbartonshire, the final issue to be addressed within West Dunbartonshire Council's Children's Services Plan 2003/2004.
- 4487 In so doing, she informed the Committee of the wide range of services and resources provided to children in need and vulnerable families by West Dunbartonshire Council in partnership with other agencies and of the strategies undertaken to help vulnerable families.

- 4488 Ms Ritchie explained that an integrated Children's Services Plan was in the process of being drafted for 2005/2008. This plan would consider all of the areas covered by the previous plan but would also include young carers. The Scottish Executive had set 7 high level objectives, which needed to underpin the contribution of all the relevant agencies in drawing up the plan. These were that children should be Safe, Nurtured, Healthy, Achieving, Active, Respected and Responsible, and Included. It was noted that Agencies needed to consider how their services were working towards achieving these aims.
- 4489 After discussion and having heard Ms Ritchie in answer to Members' questions, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee thanked her for a very interesting and informative presentation.

#### **2004-5 REVENUE ESTIMATES – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 15 OCTOBER 2004**

- 4490 A report was submitted 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 budget for 2004-2005.
- 4491 After hearing the Director of Education and Cultural Services in further explanation, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

#### **UPDATE OF CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUILDING PROGRAMME 2004/2005**

- 4492 There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing up-to-date information on the status of Education and Revenue Building Projects within the Education and Cultural Services Department and drawing attention to significant issues or problems with the progress of any particular projects.

#### **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET 2004/05 AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET 2004/05:- PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENTS FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

- 4493 A joint report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services and the Director of Social Work Services:-
- (a) containing information on the background to the projected overspend in the 2004/05 Revenue Budgets for Education and Cultural Services and Social Work Services with specific reference to the provision made for alternative placements for pupils with additional support;

- (b) describing the management measures taken to meet the needs of a diverse group of pupils, balancing pupil need and budgetary considerations; and
- (c) outlining the likely ongoing demand on the budgets of both departments in the future in order to comply with statutory obligations.

4494 After hearing the Director of Education and Cultural Services and Ms Townsend in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

### **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR TEACHERS**

4495 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services seeking approval:-

- (a) for the Disciplinary Procedures for Teachers; and
- (b) to establish a Sub-Committee of the Children's Services Committee to hear appeals in relation to the Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures for teachers.

4496 After hearing the Director of Education and Cultural Services and Ms Cleife in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve, in principle, the Disciplinary Procedures for Teachers, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) that in accordance with paragraph 11.1 of the aforementioned Appendix, under the heading 'Disciplinary Procedures – Teaching Staff', the precise wording of the letters, as detailed in Appendices ii, iii, iv, v and vi, be reviewed at a future meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers;
- (3) to approve the establishment of a Sub-Committee of the Children's Services Committee to deal with disciplinary and grievance appeals for teachers;
- (4) that the Sub-Committee be named the Children's Services, Disciplinary and Grievance Appeals Sub-Committee;
- (5) that the composition of the Sub-Committee be as detailed in paragraph 2.6 of the report;
- (6) that Councillor Agnew, Convener, in consultation with the Director of Education and Cultural Services, would determine the membership of the Sub-Committee; and

- (7) that the Sub-Committee be given full delegated powers to deal with appeals.

### **EDUCATION GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

- 4497 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services making recommendations on the level of grants payable to voluntary organisations.
- 4498 The Committee agreed that the applications be dealt with as shown in the Appendix to these Minutes.

### **ADDITIONAL CULTURAL REVENUE BUDGETS**

- 4499 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services requesting approval on proposed developments in respect of additional Cultural Revenue budgets.
- 4500 After hearing the Convener in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to approve the proposed developments as outlined in the report.

### **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL GRANT AWARDING MECHANISMS FOR CULTURAL GRANTS**

- 4501 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services proposing that the grant awarding mechanisms for cultural grants be brought into line with other established grant mechanisms in West Dunbartonshire Council.
- 4502 After hearing the Convener and the Director of Education and Cultural Services in further explanation, the Committee agreed to approve the proposed change to grant funding mechanisms for cultural activity, as outlined in the report, to be operative from April 2005.

### **CONVENER'S REMARKS**

- 4503 The Convener welcomed Mrs Barbara Barnes, church representative, Ms Susan Carragher and Ms Liz McGinley, Heads of Service, Education and Cultural Services to their first meeting of the Children's Services Committee.
- 4504 Thereafter, this being the last meeting of the Committee of 2004 Councillor Agnew, Convener, took the opportunity to extend his best wishes for the forthcoming Festive Season.

The meeting closed at 11.00 a.m.