

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Social Work Committee held within the Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 12th March, 1997.

Present: Councillors Duncan Mills (LAB), James McElhill (SNP), John Syme (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Patricia Rice (LAB)*, George Cairney (LAB - substituting for Councillor Mary Campbell), John McCutcheon (SNP), John Wailes (SNP), William Mackechnie (SNP) and Margaret McGregor (SNP).

Attending: Ian Leitch, Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council; Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work, Anne Ritchie, Operational Services Manager, Bill Clark, Planning and Development Manager, and Iain M Murray, Resources Manager.

Apology for Absence: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP)-

* Arrived later in the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 29th January, 1997 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

INSPECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 2nd October, 1996 (Pages 1255/1256 refers), there was submitted and approved a Report by the Director of Social Work recommending that Ms. Sarah Keilty, Project Leader of a Preparation For Life Project, NCH Scotland, be added to the membership of the Inspection Advisory Committee.

COMMUNITY ALARMS - TELEPHONE RENTAL CHARGES

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 29th January, 1997 (Page 1700 refers), there was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work seeking the Committee's approval to terminate telephone rental payments to certain recipients of the Community Alarm Service in West Dunbartonshire.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that payment of telephone rental costs for the 89 residents identified within the Report should cease with effect from 1st March, 1997.
- (2) that letters be issued to each person affected by this change explaining the reasons; and
- (3) that all those persons affected should be offered an appointment with appropriate officers to ensure that their income is maximised.

SHELTERED HOUSING WARDEN SERVICE

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work:-

- (1) informing Members of the service implications of voluntary severance applications from the wardens of sheltered housing complex; and
- (2) proposing a revised model for the warden service.

Councillor Rice arrived during discussion on this item.

Having heard the Director of Social Work in answer to Members' questions and following discussion, the Committee noted the various issues identified within the Report and approved the implementation of the proposed changes to the Sheltered Housing Warden Service.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) ACT 1995

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work advising of the difficulties facing the Council over the implementation of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and requesting the Committee to approve priorities which have been identified for West Dunbartonshire.

Having heard the Director of Social Work in answer to the Members' questions and Councillor Mills remind Members that six places had been made available to Members of this Council to attend the COSLA Conference entitled "Children (Scotland) Act 1995 - The Role of the Elected Member" which would be held in Stirling on Friday, 21st March, 1997, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the priorities set out below:-
 - (a) developing services for children with a disability;
 - (b) defining and responding to children and families in need particularly cases involving child protection duties; and
 - (c) widening the number of children and young people included in the statutory review system., and
- (2) that four Members from the Labour Group and two Members from the SNP Group should attend the COSLA conference and that the Group secretaries should notify the

Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council of their nominations as soon as possible.

REPORT ON BUDGETARY POSITION AS AT 31ST JANUARY, 1997

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work informing of the latest information available in respect of the Social Work Department's budget as at 1st January, 1997.

Having heard Mr I M Murray, Resources Manager, the Committee a-reed to note the terms of the Report.

RESOURCE TRANSFER FROM HEALTH BOARDS

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work outlining the types and amounts of resource transfer that had been committed by the Greater Glasgow Health Board and Argyll and Clyde Health Board to West Dunbartonshire Council.

Councillor Rice departed from the Meeting during discussion on this item.

Having heard Mr Clark in further explanation of the Report, the Committee agreed to note that for 1997/98 the overall contribution of resource transfer from both Health Boards would total £1.4 million (approximately).

INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES

(a) Private and Voluntary Homes and Schools located outwith West Dunbartonshire

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work requesting approval of increases in maintenance rates for private and voluntary homes and schools outwith West Dunbartonshire, applicable to West Dunbartonshire placements.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the revised maintenance rates for private and voluntary homes and schools located outwith West Dunbartonshire as detailed in Appendix 1 to this minute; and
- (2) that in respect of Swalcliffe House, Oxon, to approve the revised rates applicable from 1st April, 1996 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report (printed as Appendix II hereto).

(b) Private and Voluntary Homes located within West Dunbartonshire

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work requesting approval of increases in maintenance rates for private and voluntary homes located within the West Dunbartonshire area.

Having heard the Director of Social Work the Committee agreed to approve the revised maintenance rates as detailed in Appendix III to this minute.

UPRATING OF NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL HOME RATES

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work..-

- (1) seeking approval for the uprating of the Council's rates for voluntary and private residential care homes and nursing homes, in line with the Department of Social Security (D.S.S.) benefit uprating for 1997/98; and
- (2) seeking approval for the increase in standard respite care charges for voluntary and private residential homes, nursing homes and local authority establishments.

The Committee agreed..-

- (a) to approve the uprated levels of D.S.S. residential care allowances which will apply for April, 1997 and authorise the payment of private and voluntary nursing and residential care homes at the revised rates as detailed in Appendix IV to this minute, with effect from 14th April, 1997;
- (b) that for 1997/98 the standard weekly charge to Council funded clients for respite care in private and voluntary homes and residential care homes would increase from £101.40 to £104.35 (an increase of 3.91%); and
- (c) that the standard weekly charge to residents utilising local authority homes for respite care should be increased from £47.40 to £48.35 (an increase of 2.00%).

COMMUNITY CARE CONSULTATION

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work informing Members of the role of local conferences in the consulting user, carers, and representative organisations over the direction of community care services in West Dunbartonshire and making recommendations thereon.

Councillor Rice returned to the Meeting during discussion on this item.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made in consulting users and carers and their representative organisations over community care services, and

- (2) to homologate the decision to hold a community care conference in Dumbarton and to support the proposal to hold a community care conference in Clydebank.

URBAN PROGRAMME : VETERANS' PROJECT

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work informing Members of departmental concerns about the management of Urban Programme Project Number V/104/94 - The Veterans' Project.

Having heard -Mr Clark, Planning and Development Manager, report on recent developments, it was noted that a further Report would be submitted to a future Meeting of the Committee.

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND - ALTERNATIVE TO CUSTODY PROJECT, DUMBARTON

There was submitted and approved a Report by the Director of Social Work seeking the Committee's approval to approach the Scottish Office with proposals which would allow the Social Work Department to assume managerial control of the Alternative to Custody Project, Dumbarton, which is presently run by the Save The Children Fund.

DUMBARTON MENTAL HEALTH FORUM - MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY, SATURDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY, 1997

There was submitted and noted a Report by the Director of Social Work informing Members of the recent Mental Health Awareness Day which was held on Saturday 1st February, 1997 and the subsequent development of the Mental Health Forum.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF PANEL OF SAFEGUARDERS

There was submitted a Report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council requesting Members to consider the re-appointment of those persons currently serving on the Panel of Safeguarders in West Dunbartonshire.

Having heard Councillor Mills and the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to appoint for a period of 1 year, the list of those persons wishing to serve as safeguarders in West Dunbartonshire as detailed in the Appendix to the Report (printed as Appendix V hereto), and

that, for next year further efforts should be made to recruit persons with appropriate qualifications and experience who reside within West Dunbartonshire, to serve as safeguarders.