

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Social Work Committee held within the Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday 11th March, 1998.

Present: Councillors Duncan Mills (LAB), James McElhill* (SNP), John Syme (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Patricia Rice (LAB), Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), John Wailes (SNP), William Mackechnie (SNP), Margaret McGregor (SNP), James Flynn (LAB) and James Chirrey (SNP).

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work and Housing; Iain M. Murray, Resources Manager; Anne Ritchie, Operational Services Manager; William Clark, Planning and Development Manager; and Stephen Brown, Manager - Legal and Administrative Services.

* Arrived later in the Meeting.

Councillor Duncan Mills in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 21st January, 1998 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

With reference to the item under the heading "Children's Safeguards Review" (Page **2978** refers), the Committee noted that many Members had not been able to attend the visits to residential schools and an Intermediate Treatment Group due to other commitments. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Director of Social Work and Housing arrange another set of visits.

CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDS REVIEW

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 21st January, 1998 (page **2978** refers), there was re-submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing on the Scottish Office consultation document "Children's Safeguards Review".

Mr J. Watson, Principal Officer (Child Care), gave a presentation to the Committee on issues raised within the Children's Safeguards Review in the context of services provided to the children and young people in West Dunbartonshire.

Following discussion and having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the Report and thanked Mr Watson for his presentation.

DRUGS FORUM CONFERENCE AND INFORMATION EVENTS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council held on 25th February, 1998 (Page 3120 refers), there was submitted a Report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations in relation to a proposed Drugs Conference and follow-up events by the Dumbarton District Drugs Forum.

Following discussion the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to support the proposal for a drugs conference and follow up events made by the Dumbarton District Drugs Forum and that Officers from Social Work and Corporate Policy assist in the preparations; and
- (2) that the conference and follow up events be promoted across the whole of West Dunbartonshire.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1997/98 AND 1998/99

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing the Committee of work undertaken through this year's capital programme and outlining the capital works proposed for 1998/99.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing in further explanation, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the Report.

RE-OPENING OF THE FORMER VETERANS PROJECT

There was submitted a Report by Director of Social Work and Housing on progress made in relation to the re-opening of the former Veterans Project.

Having heard Mr Clark, Planning and Development Manager, in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the Report.

Councillor McElhill entered the Meeting during discussion on the following item.

INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES

(a) Outwith West Dunbartonshire

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing requesting the Committee to approve revised maintenance rates for Voluntary Residential Homes, Day Centres and Schools, applicable to West Dunbartonshire placements.

Having heard Mr Murray, Resources Manager, in answer to Members' questions the Committee agreed to approve the revised rates as detailed in Appendix I to these Minutes.

(b) Within West Dunbartonshire

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing requesting the Committee to approve revisions to maintenance rates for Private and Voluntary Homes located within the West Dunbartonshire area.

The Committee agreed to approve the revised maintenance rates as detailed in Appendix II to these Minutes.

UPRATING OF NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL HOME RATES

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing requesting the Committee to approve this Council's rates for voluntary and private sector residential care homes and nursing homes, in line with the Benefit Agency uprating for 1998/99.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the uprated levels of Benefit Agency residential care allowances which will apply for April, 1998 and to authorise the payment of private and voluntary nursing and residential care homes at the revised rates as detailed in Appendix III to these Minutes, with effect from 13th April, 1998;
- (2) that for 1998/99 the standard weekly charge to Council funded clients for respite care in private and voluntary homes and residential care homes would increase from £104.35 to £107.75 (an increase of 3.26%); and
- (3) that the standard weekly charge to residents utilising local authority homes for respite care should be increased from £48.35 to £50.25 (an increase of 3.93%).

BUDGETARY POSITION AS AT 31ST JANUARY, 1998

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing updating the Committee on the performance of the Social Work Budget as at 31st January, 1998.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing, in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that an up to date Report on work being undertaken in relation to Addiction Services be submitted to a future Meeting of the Committee; and
- (2) otherwise to note the terms of the Report.

AUDIT OF HEALTH PROMOTION ACTIVITY IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing of an initiative funded by the Greater Glasgow Health Board and Argyll and Clyde Health Board to audit health promotion activity across the authority.

Having heard Mr Clark, Planning and Development Manager, in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to commend both Health Boards for their support of the aforesaid initiative; and
- (2) to note that a further Report on the outcome of the initiative would be submitted to a future Meeting of the Committee.

HIGH RISK OFFENDERS

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing recommending procedures in relation to persons who have been assessed as potential risks to children.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the adoption of the procedures detailed within the Report; and
- (2) to request the Director of Social Work and Housing to arrange a seminar for Members on the aforesaid procedures.

WELFARE RIGHTS 1997/98

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing Members of recent Welfare Rights activities and initiatives within West Dunbartonshire.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing in further explanation the Committee agreed to note the range of Welfare Rights activities being undertaken and to support the initiatives planned for 1998/99.

THE NEW DEAL - WELFARE TO WORK

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing of developments in relation to the New Deal - Welfare to Work and indicating the likely implications for Social Work services.

Having heard Mr Clark, Planning and Development Manager, in further explanation the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that Social Work Officers should work closely with voluntary sector colleagues to devise programmes that maximise the opportunities for successful participation in a New Deal option by the most disadvantaged people in West Dunbartonshire;
- (2) that Social Work Supervising Officers systematically monitor the effect of the New Deal and participation by Council funded projects; and
- (3) that Social Work Officers should promote a strategy aimed at maximising supported employment opportunities with the employment option of the New Deal.

INSPECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing requesting the Committee to approve an additional nomination to the list of lay members serving on the Inspection Advisory Committee.

The Committee agreed to approve that Mr Robert Dickie, 42 North Elgin Street, Clydebank be appointed to serve as a lay member of the Inspection Advisory Committee.

REPORT ON COMMUNITY CARE IMPLEMENTATION UNIT'S (CCIU) FORMAL VISIT

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing the Committee of the Scottish Office Community Care Unit's findings from their formal visit to this authority in September 1998 and detailing the action taken by the Department following the CCIU's recommendations.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to welcome the CCIU report and note the positive views expressed therein; and
- (2) to note the recommendations contained within the CCIU's report and the Department's response thereon.

INFORMED CHOICES: INFORMATION FOR OLDER PEOPLE

There was submitted and noted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing of a recent report prepared by the Scottish Consumer Council for the Social Work Services Inspectorate which provides a guide to local authorities Social Work Departments on how to provide information about Community Care services for older people and their carers.

THE COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT SCHEME

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing making recommendations in respect of the Community Alternative Placement Scheme set up by the National Children's Home Action for Children Scotland which became operational in April 1997.

Having heard Ms. Ritchie, Operational Services Manager, in further explanation, the Committee agreed to approve the use of aforesaid scheme at the following costs:-

Placement Cost	£750 per week
Referral Fee (young person linked to carer)	£750*
Daily Rate (this is charged for meetings and contacts)	£ 93*

* The above costs will be charged during the assessment and linking process.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS 18(c)

The Convener advised that the following item had previously been the subject of a decision taken by the Committee and could not be reconsidered by the Committee unless it was agreed that Standing Order 18(c) be suspended. The Committee duly agreed to suspend Standing Order 18(c).

REVIEW OF LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES SUPPORT STRUCTURE

There was submitted a Report by the Head of Personnel and Training reviewing the Social Work and Housing Department's proposals for a revised structure for learning disability services and making recommendations thereon.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing in further explanation of the Report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a Principal Officer (Learning Disability) post, grade PO11-14 be added to the Social Work and Housing Department's establishment;
- (2) that the Principal Officer post be advertised internally and externally in accordance with Council policy;
- (3) that an Administrative Assistant post, grade AP1 be established to support the learning disability services function; and
- (4) that in the first instance, the Administrative Assistant post be only advertised internally.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF PANEL OF SAFEGUARDERS

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

Following discussion and having heard Mr Brown, Manager - Legal and Administrative Services, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to re-appoint for a period of 1 year, those person wishing to serve as a Safeguarder in West Dunbartonshire as detailed in Appendix IV to these Minutes;
- (2) that Mr Daniel Ross, 74 Blackburn Street, Glasgow should not be re-appointed to the Panel of Safeguarders;
- (3) that in the first instance, nominations in respect of potential Safeguarders be sought from the Chairman of the Children's Panel and the Sheriff Principal, however should this prove unsuccessful, appropriate adverts be placed in local newspapers; and
- (4) that a further Report on this matter be submitted to a future Meeting of the Committee.

YEAR 2000 PROBLEM - REPLACEMENT SERVER FOR SWIS SYSTEM

There was submitted a Report by the Head of Information Services making recommendations in respect of the purchase of a replacement server for the Social Work Information System (SWIS) to ensure that it is fully compliant in the year 2000 and beyond.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the planning which Information Services is currently undertaking to replace non-Millennium Compliant hardware; and
- (2) to approve the upgrade of the Social Work Information System (SWIS) as detailed within the Report.

APPENDIX I

INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES (OUTWITH WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE)

Centre/Home	Type of Care	Previous Rate	Revised Rate	Effective Date	No of Residents	Percent Increase
Allarton Hostel 32 Laurel Street Glasgow	Residential	£362.00	£373.00	01.04.96	1	3.04%
Allarton Hostel 32 Laurel Street Glasgow	Residential	£373.00	£378.00	01.04. 97	1	1.34%
Auchenheath Centre Lanark Road Auchenheath Lanark	Day Care	£229.53	£256.98	01.04.97	1	11.96%
East Park Home 1092 Maryhill Road Glasgow	Residential	£454.75	£468.50	01.01.98	1	3.02%
East Park Home 1092 Maryhill Road Glasgow	Day Care	£326.00	£334.75	01.01.98	1	3.00%
Highfield Park Llandyrnog Denbighshire	Residential	£935.10	£969.70	01.04.98	1	3.70%
Kelso House Archdiocese of Glasgow 289 Kelso Street Glasgow	Residential	N/A	£754.71	01.01.97	1	N/A
Key Housing 50 Burnbank Terrace Maryhill Glasgow	Residential	£369.00	£375.00	01.04.97	1	1.63%
Quarriers Homes Epilepsy Centre Quarriers Village Bridge of Weir	Residential	£478.09	£490.04	11.04.97	5	2.50%
Sense Scotland Melville Street Glasgow	Residential	£1191.42	£1213.68	01.04.97	1	1.87%

Centre/Home	Type of Care	Previous Rate	Revised Rate	Effective Date	No of Residents	Percent Increase
Sense Scotland Overbridge 39 Durhan Street Glasgow	Day Care	£318.93	£324.49	01.04.97	1	1.74%
Rainbow House 1 Belhaven Terrace Glasgow	Residentia 1	£396.64	£403.72	01.04.97	2	1.78%
Ridgepark House Mousebank Road Lanark	Residentia 1	£632.70	£678.73	01.04.97	1	7.28%
Sutherland House 44 Sutherland Avenue Glasgow	Residentia 1	£312.94	£318.50	01.04.97	1	1.78%
Westhaven Hostel 2 Upper Bourtree Drive Rutherglen Glasgow	Residentia 1	£298.94	£304.01	01.04.97	1	1.70%
St. Joseph's Rosewell Midlothian	Residentia 1	£24,306	£25,035 £481.45	01.04.98	1	3.00%
	Per Week					

APPENDIX II

INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES (WITHIN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE)

Centre/Home	Type of Care	Previous Rate	Revised Rate	Effective Date	No of Residents	Percent Increase
Cornerstone Care 261/1 Main Street Renton	Residential	N/A	£753.00	01.04.97	2	N/A
Alexander Street Community Mental Health Project Richmond Fellowship Alexander Street Clydebank	Residential	£460.00	£475.65	01.04.97	10	3.40%

UPRATING OF NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL HOME RATES

	1997/98	1998/99	Percent Increase
Private/Voluntary Residential Care			
Old Age	£208.00	£213.00	2.40%
Old Age/Very Dependent Elderly	£240.00	£247.00	2.92%
Mental Illness	£240.00	£247.00	2.92%
Mental Handicap	£250.00	£257.00	2.80%
Physical Disability			
- below Pension Age	£285.00	£292.00	2.46%
- over Pension Age	£240.00	£247.00	2.92%
Drug/Alcohol Dependence	£220.00	£225.00	2.27%
Others	£208.00	£213.00	2.40%
Nursing Care			
Mental Illness	£312.00	£319.00	2.24%
Drug/Alcohol Dependence	£312.00	£319.00	2.24%
Physical Disability			
- below Pension Age	£352.00	£359.00	1.99%
- over Pension Age	£311.00	£318.00	2.25%
Terminal Illness	£311.00	£318.00	2.25%
Mental Handicap	£318.00	£325.00	2.20%
Others, including Elderly	£311.00	£318.00	2.25%