

## **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

At a meeting of the Social Work Committee held within the Sub-Regional Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on 31st January, 1996.

**Present:** Councillors Duncan Mills (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Daniel McCafferty (LAB) (as substitute Member for Councillor Mary Campbell), Anthony Devine (LAB), Patricia Rice (LAB), John Syme (LAB), William Kemp (IND), James McElhill (SNP), William Mackechnie (SNP), Margaret McGregor (SNP), John Wailes (SNP).

**Attending:** Ian Leitch, Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council; Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work and Mary Cullen, Head of Corporate Policies and Public Relations.

**Apology for  
Absence:** An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Geoffrey Calvert.

### **Councillor Duncan Mills in the Chair**

## **MINUTES**

The Minute of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 6th December, 1995 was submitted and approved.

### **LOMOND HEALTH CARE NHS TRUST**

The Committee were reminded that at its meeting on 20th December, 1995, the Council, in dealing with the response by Lomond Health Care Trust on the issue of Gynaecological services in the Vale of Leven Hospital remitted to the Social Work Committee the matter of any meeting with the NHS Trust Board.

The Director of Social Work had been in contact with the Trust, and having heard the Director of Social Work, the Committee noted that representatives of the Trust had indicated a willingness to meet members of the Committee. In welcoming this information the Committee emphasised that any meeting would be with the Committee in public.

### **BLAIRVADACH CHILDREN'S HOME - UPDATE ON MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work (previously circulated) updating the Committee on the inter authority discussion on the future management of Blairvadach Children's Home.

After hearing the Director of Social Work in explanation thereon the Committee noted terms of the report.

### **DIVERSION FROM PROSECUTION**

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work (previously circulated) recommending action on the invitation from the Scottish Office to submit bids for a diversion from Prosecution Scheme for West Dunbartonshire.

Following consideration and having heard the Director of Social Work thereon the Committee agreed to endorse the proposal to prepare a diversion from Prosecution Scheme to be submitted to the Scottish Office.

### **NOMINATION TO ARGYLL AND CLYDE LOCAL HEALTH COUNCIL**

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work (previously circulated), together with copy of letter and explanatory information on Local Health Councils (previously circulated) regarding an invitation by Argyll and Clyde Local Health Council to invite the Council to submit a nomination for membership to the Board.

Following consideration and having heard the Director of Social Work thereon, the Committee agreed to continue the matter for representation to be made for an increase in membership for the Council, being of the opinion that West Dunbartonshire was allocated sufficient placed on the Health Council.

### **"EARNINGS TOP UP" PILOT SCHEME**

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work (previously circulated) providing initial information on a pilot benefit scheme to be operated within the Council area.

Following consideration and having heard the Director of Social Work in explanation thereof the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

### **UPRATING OF APPROVED NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL HOME RATES 1996/97**

There was submitted reported by the Director of Social Work (previously circulated) seeking approval for the operating of the Council's rates for voluntary and private nursing and residential care homes in line with DSS Benefit Upratings for 1996/97.

Following consideration and having heard the Director of Social Work in explanation thereof the Committee approved the recommendations contained in his report.

## **COMMUNITY CARE PLANNING - JOINT PLANNING STRUCTURES**

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work (previously circulated) recommending a course of action in response to the publication of the Scottish Office circular on joint planning structures for Community Care.

Following consideration and having heard the Director of Social Work the Committee agreed to endorse the approach adopted by the Directors of Social Work and Housing and to agree to joint submissions being made to the Scottish Office in both Health Board areas.

## **SPECIFIC GRANT - MENTAL ILLNESS**

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work (previously circulated) advising Members of arrangements in respect of Specific Grant On Mental Illness (MISG) and recommending a course of action for informing Scottish Office of the Council's position in that regard for 1996/97.

Following consideration and as recommended the Committee agreed to approve the recommendations contained therein.

## **GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND**

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work (previously circulated) advising the Committee that Glasgow and West of Scotland Society for the Blind were seeking an elected Member to sit on the Board of the Society.

Following consideration and as recommended the Committee agreed to give preliminary consideration to the request for a nomination and to defer a final decision until consultation had taken place with East Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute authorities.

## **CONFERENCES, COURSES SEMINARS ETC.**

- (i) Association of Children's Reporters: "The Future of the Children's Hearing System under the Children (Scotland) Act" - Conference - Peebles - 25th and 26th March, 1996.

The Committee agreed that Councillor Pat Rice and a Member of the SNP attend.

- (ii) Dementia Services Development Centre: Seminar for Elected Members – Stirling 6th February, 1996 "What is Dementia?" - How big a Problem is Dementia?".

The Committee agreed that the Chairman and a Member of the SNP attend.

- (iii) Association of Directors of Social Work - "Towards a Safer Scotland" (Social Work Services to the Criminal Justices System) - Dundee - 20th February, 1996.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Social Work attend.