

## **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

At a Meeting of the Social Work Committee held within the Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday 6th August, 1997.

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

**Attending:** Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work and Housing; Iain M. Murray, Resources Manager; Jim Dean, Assistant Principal Officer (Planning and Development); and Nigel Ettles, Principal Solicitor.

**Apology for Absence:** An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor John Wailes (SNP).

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

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 7th May, 1997 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

### **SHELTERED HOUSING WARDEN SERVICE**

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 7th May, 1997 (page **2159** refers), there was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing advising of progress made in respect of the implementation of changes to the Sheltered Housing Warden Service.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing confirm that no pressure had been put on any member of staff to accept early retirement/voluntary redundancy and following discussion, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the Report.

### **URBAN PROGRAMME: THE VETERAN'S PROJECT**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 7th May, 1997 (page **2161** refers), there was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing advising of developments concerning the Brucehill Veterans Project.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed that the Archdiocese of Glasgow would be an appropriate organisation to manage the Veterans Project and authorised the Director of Social Work and Housing to conclude negotiations with the Archdiocese as a matter of urgency.

#### **BUDGETARY POSITION AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1997**

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing on the Social Work budget performance during the 1996/97 financial year.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing the Committee noted that it was anticipated that the Social Work budget for 1996/97 would be overspent by approximately £21,000.

#### **BUDGETARY POSITION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1997**

There was submitted and noted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing on the Social Work budgetary performance as at 30th June, 1997.

#### **INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES**

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing advising of revisions to maintenance rates for private and voluntary homes and schools, applicable to West Dunbartonshire placements.

The Committee agreed to approve the revised maintenance rates as detailed in Appendix I to this Minute.

#### **CHARGES FOR RESIDENTIAL HOMES FOR CHILDREN**

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing advising of the requirement to fix a rate for the use of places in the Council's Children's Homes and making a recommendation thereon.

The Committee agreed that for 1997/98, the rate of charge for use of places in the Council's Children's Homes would be £707 per week.

#### **DAY CARE RATES**

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing making recommendations in respect of charges to other authorities for day care services in West Dunbartonshire.

The Committee agreed:

- (1) to approve the principle of charging other authorities for services provided to their residents within West Dunbartonshire Units;
- (2) that the rate for basic day care should be set at £27 per day; and
- (3) the rate for intensive day care for profoundly handicapped people or those with dementia should be set at £37 per day.

### **ANNUAL PLAN 1997/98**

There was submitted and noted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing on the Social Work Annual Plan for 1997/98 and the outcome of the performance audit of the Annual Plan published in 1996/97.

### **DRAFT COMMUNITY CARE PLAN REVIEW**

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing in relation to the Draft Community Care Plan Review and attaching for Members consideration the Draft Community Care Plan prior to formal consultation with other interested parties.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing in further explanation, the Committee agreed to approve the Draft Community Care Plan Review for consultation, and in so doing commended those officers involved in its preparation.

### **GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSE TO SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF A VULNERABLE ADULT - ARGYLL AND CLYDE HEALTH BOARD**

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing requesting Members to consider the Guidelines issued by Argyll and Clyde Health Board in respect of vulnerable adults.

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

- (1) to endorse the Guidelines for Response to Suspected Abuse or Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult; and
- (2) that the Council's logo be printed on the published document.

### **SCOTTISH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY CARE IN SCOTLAND**

There was submitted and noted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing advising of the main findings of the Scottish Affairs Committee Report on the "Implementation of Community Care in Scotland".

### **PANEL OF SAFEGUARDERS**

There was submitted a Report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council:

- (1) informing Members of a resignation received from a Member of the Panel of Safeguarders for West Dunbartonshire; and
- (2) requesting the Committee to consider and approve a recommendation in respect of a person who has applied to become a Member of the Panel of Safeguarders.

Following discussion the Committee agreed:

- (a) to note that Mrs Anne McGuire, 25 Meadow View, Cumbernauld had resigned from the Panel of Safeguarders following her success in being elected as the Member of Parliament for Stirling;
- (b) that a letter of thanks be sent to Mrs McGuire for her services;
- (c) to approve the appointment of Mrs Pamela Anne Stevenson, 21 Kilmahew Avenue, Cardross, to the Panel of Safeguarders for West Dunbartonshire, for the period up to and including 31st March, 1998; and
- (d) that a Report giving background information on the selection process for safeguarders be submitted to the next Meeting of the Committee.