

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Social Work Committee held within the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank on Wednesday, 27 September, 2000 at 10.03 a.m.

Present: Councillors John Trainer (LAB), James McElhill (SNP), Andrew White (LAB), Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), Anthony Devine (LAB), James Bollan (SSP), Margaret McGregor (SNP), Ian McDonald (SNP)(substituting for Ronald McColl (SNP)) and James Flynn (LAB).

Attending: Alexis Jay, Director of Social Work and Housing Services; Anne Ritchie, Head of Social Work (Operations); Iain M Murray, Head of Resources; William Clark, Head of Strategy; Raymund McQuillan, Section Head (Criminal Justice); Beryl Middleton, Section Head (Inspection and Registration); and Audrey Ritchie, Principal Solicitor.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Mary Collins (LAB), John Syme (LAB), Connie O'Sullivan (LAB) and Ronnie McColl (SNP).

Councillor John Trainer in the Chair

THE MCLEAN REPORT ON SERIOUS VIOLENT & SEXUAL OFFENDERS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services informing of the remit and recommendations of the McLean Committee on serious violent and sexual offenders.

Having heard the Section Head (Criminal Justice) in further explanation and in answer to members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

THE WAY FORWARD FOR CARE - A POLICY POSITION PAPER

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services requesting approval of a response to the latest position paper from the Scottish Executive on the regulation of care and regulation of workforce.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing Services and Section Head (Inspection and Registration) in answer to members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the Council's response to the Policy Position Paper as detailed in the Appendix to the Director's report; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE - SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services advising of the Government's proposals to reform the funding system for housing support and requesting the Committee to consider an interim response to the consultation paper, which had been sent by the Chief Executive in order to meet the deadline of 1 September 2000.

Following discussion and having heard the Head of Strategy in answer to members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the interim response to the consultation exercise as detailed within the report;
- (2) to request the Director of Social Work and Housing Services to prepare a detailed report on the implementation of supporting people, once further information was available;
- (3) to note that this Council was one of three authorities in Scotland likely to be chosen to undertake a pilot project to test the proposed reforms to the funding system; and
- (4) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

DELAYED DISCHARGES: SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE FUNDING

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services outlining Government spending proposals to help local authorities deal with hospital discharges and requesting the Committee to confirm the detailed spending plan submitted to the Scottish Executive.

Following discussion and having heard the Head of Strategy in answer to members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report and approved the detailed spending proposals contained therein.

ALLOWANCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services seeking approval to increase the allowances paid in respect of children who are resident in West Dunbartonshire units for young people.

Having heard the Head of Resources in answer to members' questions, the Committee agreed that the increase in allowances for young people in residential care be increased with effect from the 1 October 2000 in accordance with the schedule of rates shown in Appendix I to these minutes.

Councillor Bollan requested that his dissent be recorded.

REVIEW OF CHARGING POLICY FOR EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTATIONS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services providing details on the operation of the charging policy for equipment and adaptations for disabled people and making recommendations in respect of the proposed review.

Following discussion and having heard the Head of Social Work (Operations) in answer to members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to consider the issue of charging for equipment and adaptations within the more wide ranging Best Value review of these services; and
- (2) to consider the implications of the COSLA guidance on charging which would be available within the next few weeks.

BUDGETARY POSITION AS AT 31 JULY 2000

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services informing of the Social Work budgetary performance during the period from 1st April to 31 July 2000.

INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES FOR ESTABLISHMENTS LOCATED OUTWITH WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services requesting the Committee to approve revised maintenance rates for local authority residential homes, voluntary residential homes, schools and day centres applicable to West Dunbartonshire placements.

The Committee agreed to approve the revised increases in Maintenance Rates as detailed in Appendix II to these minutes.

YOUTH CRIME REVIEW

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services providing information on new funding from the Scottish Executive to tackle the problems of youth crime and making recommendations thereon.

Following discussion and having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing Services in answer to members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to endorse the initial proposals for the development of strategies to tackle youth crime, including the programmes outlined in paragraph 4 of the report;
- (2) to endorse the need for multi-agency consultation and commitment to developing effective joint work;
- (3) that the Director of Social Work and Housing Services, in consultation with the Convener of the Social Work Committee be authorised to approve the detailed proposals to be submitted to the Scottish Executive, when available; and
- (4) that, once available, all elected members be sent further information on the trigger mechanism for the use of the additional monies available under the Fast Reaction Initiative.

CONVENER'S REMARKS

Councillor Trainer, Convener, informed those present that this would be the last meeting of the Social Work Committee following the Council's decision to introduce the new Executive/Scrutiny model of decision making. Thereafter he thanked officers and members for their valuable contributions to the work of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 10.55 a.m.