

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Social Work Committee held within the Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 25th November, 1998.

Present: Provost George Cairney (LAB) (substituting for Councillor Andrew White (LAB)) and Councillors James Flynn (LAB), James McElhill (SNP), John Syme (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Patricia Rice (LAB), Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), William Mackechnie (SNP), Margaret McGregor (SNP) and James Chirrey (SNP).

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work and Housing; Bill Clark, Planning and Development Manager; Iain Murray, Resources Manager and Stephen B. Brown, Manager - Legal and Administrative Services.

Apologies for Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Andrew

Absence: White (LAB), Duncan Mills (LAB) and David Logan (SNP).

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of Councillor Mills (Convener), on the motion of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Calvert, the Committee agreed that the meeting be chaired by Councillor Flynn. Thereafter, Councillor Flynn informed the Committee that Councillor Mills was recovering from a major operation and wished him a speedy return to good health.

WOMEN'S AID - PRESENTATION

The Committee received a presentation by Louise Robertson and Anne Greer (Dumbarton Women's Aid) and Anne Ryan and Mary Mackay (Clydebank Women's Aid) (in attendance for this item only) on the work of Women's Aid in West Dunbartonshire and its funding difficulties.

Having heard the representatives from Women's Aid in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note that the Director would submit a report on the future funding of Women's Aid in West Dunbartonshire to the next meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Flynn thanked the representatives from Women's Aid for their presentation and thereafter they left the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 30th September, 1998 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

With reference to that item under the heading "Children's Services: Joint Funded Places - Department of Education and Leisure Services and Department of Social Work and Housing" (volume page 3867 refers), the Committee noted that Councillors Chirrey and McCafferty had visited Cunard School on 10th November, 1998 and had been very impressed.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work and Housing requesting the Committee to endorse the Children's Services Plan for West Dunbartonshire for submission to the Scottish Office, a copy of the aforesaid plan had been circulated for consideration.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing pay tribute to those officers/agencies from within and outwith the Council who contributed to the document, the Committee agreed to approve the aforesaid plan for submission to the Scottish Office.

It was noted that a report detailing the additional funding which the Scottish Office would make available to specific areas of services for children would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

PROTECTING CHILDREN - A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY: SCOTTISH OFFICE GUIDANCE ON INTER AGENCY CO-OPERATION

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work and Housing summarising the main themes of the recently issued Scottish Office Guidance on inter agency co-operation in child protection.

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

- (1) to note that further reports on this matter would be submitted to the Committee once procedures and practice had been reviewed; and
- (2) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE "CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDS REVIEW" (KENT REPORT)

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing the Committee of the Government's response to the "Children's Safeguards Review" (Kent Report).

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

- (1) to note that the Government had announced that extra resources (£9.2 million for Scotland) would be made available for child care services including the implementation of service priorities arising from the Kent Report and that the Director would submit a further report to Committee once details of the extra resources were known; and
- (2) otherwise note the contents of the report.

ALLOWANCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work and Housing requesting the Committee to approve increases in allowances paid in respect of children who are resident in West Dunbartonshire's units for young people.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to approve the revised rates in the aforesaid allowances with effect from 1st October, 1998, as detailed in Appendix I to these Minutes.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY CARE PLAN: 1998 - 2001

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work and Housing requesting the Committee to endorse the Community Care Plan for West Dunbartonshire (1998 - 2001) for submission to Scottish Office, a copy of the aforesaid plan had been circulated for consideration.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing pay tribute to those officers/agencies from within and outwith the Council who contributed to the document, the Committee agreed to approve the Community Care Plan for West Dunbartonshire (1998 2001) for submission to the Scottish Office.

MODERNISING COMMUNITY CARE - AN ACTION PLAN: SCOTTISH OFFICE

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work and Housing:-

- (a) informing the Committee of the new action plan for the development of Community Care which was issued on 6th October, 1998 by the Ministers of Health and Housing at the Scottish Office;
- (b) outlining the targets and timescales set for local authorities within the plan and the action which would have to be taken to achieve these targets; and
- (c) requesting the Committee to approve the content of the report as the basis for this Council's response to the Scottish Office document.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing advise that the Scottish Office had earmarked additional funding for community care and that he had written to the Secretary of State confirming that West Dunbartonshire Council would be willing to spend the money on the Government's priority areas once details were known, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the action plan and to endorse the achievements already made to meet the targets set out by the Scottish Office; and
- (2) to approve the report as the basis for this Council's response to the Scottish Office document.

PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP WILLOX PARK COTTAGES INTO SHELTERED HOUSING

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work and Housing seeking the Committee's approval of the proposal to develop Willox Park Cottages into Sheltered Housing.

Following discussion and having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing advise that he would be willing to meet with any Member to discuss suggestions on how to get the maximum benefit from the proposal, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the proposal to develop Willox Park Cottages into Sheltered Housing as detailed within the Director's report; and
- (2) to remit the report to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration of the establishment of the post of Sheltered Housing Supervisor.

SCOTTISH OFFICE REPORT: "COMMUNITY SENTENCING - THE TOUGH OPTION"

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work and Housing:-

- (a) informing the Committee of the content of the Scottish Office Report "Community Sentencing - The Tough Option"; and
- (b) seeking approval of the report, as the basis for this Council's response to the Scottish Office document.

Following discussion the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the report as the basis for this Council's response to the Scottish Office document; and
- (2) to support the view that the future management and control of Criminal Justice Social Work Services should remain within local authority control, with collaboration between authorities as required to achieve cost effective and efficient services.

BUDGETARY POSITION AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1998

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing of the Social Work budgetary performance during the period 1st April to 30th September, 1998.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES FOR ESTABLISHMENTS LOCATED WITHIN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work and Housing requesting the Committee to approve increases in the maintenance rates for private and voluntary homes located within the West Dunbartonshire area.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing and the Resources Manager in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to approve the revised maintenance rates as detailed within Appendix II to these Minutes.

INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES FOR ESTABLISHMENTS LOCATED OUTWITH WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

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

The Committee agreed to approve the revised maintenance rates as detailed within Appendix III to these Minutes.

PANEL OF SAFEGUARDERS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 5th August, 1998 (Page 3652 refers), there was submitted report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council requesting the Committee to consider recommendations in respect of two persons who had applied to become Members of the Panel of Safeguarders in West Dunbartonshire.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to defer consideration of the appointment of Mr William McClung to the Panel of Safeguarders of West Dunbartonshire until such times as the nature and place of his new employment are known;
- (2) to approve the appointment of Mr Ronald Ferguson Campbell to the Panel of Safeguarders of West Dunbartonshire for the period up to and including 31st March, 1999; and
- (3) in light of the current imbalance of Solicitors on the Panel to instruct the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council not to pursue applications from those persons nominated by the Faculty of Solicitors for Dunbartonshire.

APPENDIX II

**INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES FOR ESTABLISHMENTS LOCATED
WITHIN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

		Previous Rate	Revised Rate	Effective Date	No. of W.D.C. Residents	Per Cent Increase
APPROVAL RECEIVED						
Key Housing 10 Adelaide Court Clydebank G81 4QU	Resid. {Weekly}	£1262.68	£1288.20	01/04/98	3	2.02%
Key Housing 32 Alexander Street Clydebank G81 1RZ	Resid {Weekly}	£493.20	£501.95	01/04/98	10	1.77%
Key Housing 5 Pattison Street Dalmuir Clydebank	Resid {Weekly}	£1271.37	£1296.86	01/04/98	3	2.00%
AWAITING APPROVAL						
Kilpatrick House Bridge Street Alexandria G83 OTA	Resid {Weekly}	£535.80	£545.54	01/04/98	14	1.82%
Alexander Street Community Mental Health Project Richmond Fellowship 15 Alexander Street Clydebank G81 1SQ	Resid {Weekly}	£475.65	£504.65	1/04/98	10	6.10%
Duffy House Archdiocese of Glasgow 2/4 Wandilla Avenue Clydebank G81 2PW	Resid {Weekly}	£818.42	£838.27	01/04/98	6	2.43%
Preparation for Life Project 28 Bridge Street Alexandria G83 OTA	Resid {Weekly}	£112.59	£115.34	01/04/98	12	2.44%

APPENDIX III

**INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES FOR ESTABLISHMENTS LOCATED
OUTWITH WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

		Previous Rate	Revised Rate	Effectiv e Date	No. of W.D.C. Residents	Per Cent Increase
Red Towers 4 Douglas Drive Helensburgh G84 9AL	Resid. {Weekly }	£424.23	£440.78	14/04/97	2	3.90%
Key Housing 1 Granville Street Helensburgh	Resid {Weekly)	£305.27	£312.90	01/04/98	3	2.50%
Ronachan House Clachan Tarbet PA29 6XW	Resid {Weekly }	£266.35	£273.01	01/04/98	3	2.50%
Options for Independence Red Cross House Tarryholme Drive Irvine KA12 ODR	Resid {Weekly }	£493.97	£545.00	01/04/98	2	10.33%
Ridgepark House Mousebank Road Lanark ML11 7RA	Resid {Weekly }	£678.75	£716.29	01/04/98	1	5.53%
Auchenheath Day Care Lanark Road Auchenheath Lanark	Day Care {Weekly }	£256.98	£263.88	01/04/98	1	2.69%

