

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Social Work Committee held within the Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 24 November 1999.

Present: Councillors John Trainer (LAB), James McElhill (LAB), John Syme (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO -OP), James Bolland (IND), Margaret McGregor (SNP), James Flynn (LAB) and Connie O'Sullivan (LAB).

Attending: Anne Ritchie, Acting Head of Social Work; Iain M Murray, Resources Manager; William Clark, Strategy Manager; Jim Watson, Principal Officer (Child Care); Bill Rogerson, Assistant Principal Officer (Addiction Services) and Audrey Ritchie, Principal Solicitor, Legal and Administrative Services.

Apologies

for absence: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Ronald McColl (SNP) and Mary Collins (LAB).

Councillor John Trainer in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 29 September 1999 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN TROUBLE AND ALTERNATIVES TO EXCLUSION: A JOINT APPROACH

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council held on 28 October 1998 (pages **3951/3952** refer), there was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work and the Director of Education and Leisure Services informing of progress made in addressing the problems of young people in trouble or at risk of exclusion from school through the implementation of the strategic joint approach by the Departments of Social Work and Housing and Education and Leisure Services.

Having heard the Acting Head of Social Work, Lynn Townsend (Principal Educational Psychologist, in attendance for this item only) and the Principal Officer (Child Care), in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the success of the initiative "Young People in Trouble and Alternatives to Exclusion: A Joint Approach"; and

- (2) to approve the continuation of the initiative and agree the budgetary provision necessary to secure these resources in the longer term.

NOTICE OF MOTION

There was submitted for consideration, the undernoted motion by Councillor James Bollan.

“This Committee resolves to review the charges currently levied on Senior Citizens and Disabled People for adaptations to their homes, after assessment by the Occupational Therapist”.

Having heard Councillor Bollan in further explanation, the Committee approved the motion.

CHILDREN’S SERVICES PLAN: FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work seeking approval of the First Annual Review of the Children’s Services Plan for West Dunbartonshire. A copy of the plan was appended to the aforesaid report.

Following discussion and having heard the Principal Officer (Child Care) in answer to Members’ questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to endorse the First Annual Review of the Children’s Services Plan for submission to the Scottish Executive; and
- (2) to note that further information on the social work budget for 1999/2000 (Appendix 1 of the report refers) would be circulated to Members in due course and added to the plan prior to submission to the Scottish Executive.

WORKING POSITIVELY WITH PARENTS

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work informing of a collaborative venture between the Council’s Department of Social Work and Housing and the Centre for Residential Childcare, Strathclyde University, which seeks to enhance ways in which work is undertaken with parents whose children are accommodated by the Council.

Having heard the Principal Officer (Child Care) in answer to Members’ questions, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

BEST VALUE SERVICE REVIEW - RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work advising of progress made by the Department to review residential care services to young people in accordance with the requirements of Best Value and seeking approval of review outcomes to date.

Following discussion and having heard the Acting Head of Social Work and Principal Officer (Child Care) in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the course of action as detailed within Paragraph 8 of the report; and
- (2) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

BUDGETARY POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work advising of the Social Work Budgetary Performance during the period 1 April 1999 to 30 September 1999.

Having heard the Resources Manager in further explanation, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES FOR ESTABLISHMENTS LOCATED OUTWITH WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work recommending approval of revised maintenance rates for voluntary residential homes, schools and local authority residential homes applicable to West Dunbartonshire placements.

Having heard the Resources Manager advise of an amendment to the rates for Geilsland School, the Committee agreed to approve the revised maintenance rates for voluntary residential homes, schools and local authority residential homes as detailed in the Appendix to these Minutes.

ARBUTHNOTT REPORT: FAIR SHARES FOR ALL (SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE HEALTH DEPARTMENT)

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work advising of the findings of the review led by Professor Sir John Arbuthnott on how resources available to the NHS in Scotland might be allocated.

Having heard the Strategy Manager in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:
-

- (1) to invite both the Argyll and Clyde Health Board and the Greater Glasgow Health Board to keep this Council informed of any changes in health care resources allocated to the Boards; and
- (2) otherwise to note the content of the report.

ALZHEIMERS SCOTLAND ACTION ON DEMENTIA - ADVOCACY AND MEDIATION PROJECT

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work seeking approval to establish interim funding for the Advocacy and Mediation Project until the end of the Financial Year, March 2000.

The Committee agreed to approve payment of £5,000 toward the cost of the project subject to the conditions set out in Paragraph 4.3 of the report and subject to confirmation of the other funding contributions identified therein.

WEST END DAY CARE CENTRE (FORMERLY THE VETERANS PROJECT)

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work informing of progress made by the West End Day Care Centre Project and seeking approval for additional expenditure to develop new services for disabled people.

The Committee agreed to note the significant service development the Archdiocese of Glasgow had achieved since taking over the running of the West End Centre and to approve the additional resources of £53,215 for the project during the current financial year 1999/2000.

ADDICTION SERVICES

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work advising of developments within Addiction Services in West Dunbartonshire.

Having heard the Assistant Principal Officer (Addiction Services) in answer to Members' questions and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the service developments and the work of the Addiction Services section in pursuing a corporate commitment to the development of community addiction services in West Dunbartonshire;
- (2) to approve the appointment of a Social Worker to specialist team working with pregnant drug users as detailed in Paragraph 9 of the report; and
- (3) to note the support and commitment of Health Services and voluntary agencies to addiction services across West Dunbartonshire.

ACCOUNTS COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND
A SHARED APPROACH: DEVELOPING ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work informing of the main recommendations of the Accounts Commission report “A Shared Approach: Developing Adult Mental Health Services”, and detailing the Council’s response.

Following discussion the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report and acknowledge the service developments achieved in partnership with other agencies.