

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Social Work Committee held within the Council Offices, Clydebank on Wednesday 22nd May, 1996.

Present: Councillors Duncan Mills (LAB), James McElhill (SNP), John Syme (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Patricia Rice (LAB), George Cairney (LAB - substituting for Councillor Mary Campbell), John Wailes (SNP), William Mackechnie (SNP) and Margaret McGregor (SNP).

Attending: Ian Leitch, Depute Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council; Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work; and Iain Murray, Resources Manager.

Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Mary Campbell, Geoffrey Calvert and William Kemp.

Councillor Duncan Mills in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee on 27th March, 1996 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

LOMOND HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of this Committee held on 27th March, 1996 (page 375 refers), there was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work providing Members with an update on contact with the Lomond Healthcare NHS Trust.

Having noted that Members of the Trust had declined to meet with the Committee in the Council Offices prior to the proposed visit to the Vale of Leven Hospital, the Committee agreed that the Convener would meet with the Chairman of the Trust in an attempt to resolve the matter and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

MEMBERSHIP OF ARGYLL AND CLYDE LOCAL HEALTH COUNCIL

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of this Committee held on 31st January, 1996 (page 274 refers), there was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Social Work informing Members that Mrs Sylvia Barclay of Balloch and Miss Tina Kemp of Dumbarton had been appointed to serve on Argyll and Clyde Local Health Council.

BUDGET CUTS 1996/97

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of this Committee held on 27th March, 1996 (page 376 refers), there was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work providing Members

with further information on the implementation of the cuts to the Social Work Department Budget 1996/97 and in particular summarising the current situation in respect of:-

- a) reductions in staffing through early retirement and voluntary redundancies;
- b) increases in income from home help services and meals for people attending day centres;
- c) the transfer of Sheltered Housing Wardens from Social Work to the Housing Department; and
- d) the closure of Crannog Cottage.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and the Convener in answer to Members' questions on the closure of Crannog Cottage, the Committee noted that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting detailing the overall position on all aspects of the budget.

INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES

There was submitted a report by Director of Social Work summarising the process of supplementation: the portion of fees for persons who are accommodated in voluntary or private residential establishments which is met by the local authorities, and seeking the Committee's approval of increases in certain maintenance rates.

Having heard Mr Murray in response to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- a) to approve the principle of the adoption of rates agreed by other local authorities in respect of establishments in their areas;
- b) to approve the increase in maintenance rates as detailed below:-

<u>Establishment/ Organisation</u>	<u>Previous Rate</u>	<u>Revised Rate</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>No. of West Dunbartonshire Placements</u>	<u>Per Cent Increase</u>
Glasgow Association for Mental Health (Clydebank)	£232.68	£337.25	01.04.95	2	44.94%
Mental Health Care (UK) Ltd (Llandymog, Wales)	£884.00	£910.52	01.04.96	1	3.00%
Scottish Society for Autistic Children (Balmyre House)	£754.13	£829.00	01.04.96	1	9.93%
NCH Action for Children (Scotland) (Preparation for Life)	£107.12	£110.33	15.04.96	12	3.00%

- c) to note that the large increase for the Glasgow Association for Mental Health was caused by the separation of two establishments previously operated under a single budget and that West Dunbartonshire would only be required to meet those backdated costs relating to clients from its own area; and
- d) that future rate changes would be submitted to the Committee in summary form.

MAINTENANCE RATES/FEEES FOR RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

There was submitted a report by Director of Social Work advising of negotiations which had taken place with owners of residential schools concerning the setting of the maintenance rates/fees which should apply with effect from 1st April, 1996.

Following consideration and having heard the Director of Social Work in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- a) to accept the final maintenance rates/ fees for those residential schools detailed below:

<u>Residential School</u>	<u>Rates for</u> <u>Block Purchases</u>	<u>Rates for</u> <u>Spot Purchases</u>
Ballikinrain (Church of Scotland)	£842.30	£935.89
Geilsland (Church of Scotland)	£990.08	£1100.08
Snowdon	£851.70	£946.33

- b) to accept the interim maintenance rates/fees for those residential schools detailed below:-

<u>Residential School</u>	<u>Interim Rates for</u> <u>Spot Purchases</u>
Good Shephard Centre	£1066.64
St. Johns	£1066.64
St. Philips	£1059.11
St. Marys Kenmure (Secure Unit)	£1669.92
Kibble Education & Care Centre	£1030.72

- c) to authorise the Director of Social Work to continue negotiations (in concert with fellow Directors) to reach final agreement with all residential schools; and
- d) that the Director of Social Work should write to the Scottish Office for additional funding if it is anticipated that the increase in charges will lead to a shortfall in the number of places required by this authority.

RATES OF CHARGES FOR PERMANENT AND RESPITE CARE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work requesting the Committee to approve the undernoted rates of charge (per week) for permanent and respite care for adults and older people in residential establishments operated by West Dunbartonshire Council:-

<u>Category</u>	<u>1996/97</u>
Permanent Residential Care for the elderly	£306.00
Permanent Residential Care for those with learning disability	£415.00
Respite Care within Local Authority homes	£47.40
Respite Care in private or nursing homes	£101.40

The Committee agreed:-

- a) to approve the rates for respite and residential care, for implementation with effect from 15th April, 1996, as detailed above; and
- b) to note that it was a requirement to set weekly charges for residential care and that it would be necessary to review them annually.

PAYMENTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 1996/97

There was submitted a report by Director of Social Work informing Members of the following payments which had been made to voluntary organisations, based on local needs and patterns of service delivery, and funded through mainline budgets which had been disaggregated to the new authorities:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Former SRC Funding</u>	<u>Payments made to date 50%</u>
West of Scotland Society for the Deaf	£2,740	£1,370
Epilepsy Association of Scotland	£13,080	£6,540
St. Vincent's Centre	£3,020	£1,510
Women's Royal Voluntary Service	£5,580	£2,790
One Plus	£6,760	£3,380
Strathclyde Carers Forum	£4,560	£2,280
Save the Children Fund - "Sparky The Dragon Bus"	£3,070	£1,535
ENABLE - Holidays	£1,810	£905
Sense Scotland	£500	£250
Strathclyde Mediation	£6,190	£3,095
Clydebank Women's Aid	£35,590	£17,795
Dumbarton Women's Aid	£35,260	£17,630
Totals	<u>£118,160</u>	<u>£59,080</u>

Having heard the Director of Social Work inform that other organisations might make similar requests for funding this year, and if so a further report would be submitted at the appropriate time, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work requesting the Committee to approve the Council's participation in the Supported Employment Programme which is operated by the Employment Service, Disability Service Branch, to provide employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities who are registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act 1994.

Having heard the Director of Social Work the Committee agreed:-

- a) to note the provisions of the Supported Employment Scheme;
- b) to confirm the Council's support for the employment of disabled people;
- c) to approve the submission to secure funding for a further year as detailed in Annex 2 of the aforementioned report; and
- d) to authorise the Director of Social Work and Depute Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council to negotiate a new contract to take effect on 1st April, 1997.

COMMUNITY SERVICE BY OFFENDERS

There was submitted a report by Director of Social Work informing Members of new requirements imposed by the Government on the operation of community service schemes as follows:-

- a) the minimum number of hours will be increased from 40 to 80, and the maximum from 240 to 300;
- b) greater emphasis should be placed on making placements physically demanding, particularly through environmental improvement projects;
- c) large scale projects involving national bodies and joint projects between authorities should be developed;
- d) Victim Support Scotland should be consulted on the range of placements; and
- e) community service activities must be given more publicity, projects must be identified with signs, vehicles and protective clothing must be marked with the wording "Community Service Scheme".

Having heard the Convener and other members in support of the comments made by the Director of Social Work in opposition to the new requirement, detailed in paragraph (e) above, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

APPOINTMENT OF SAFEGUARDERS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of this Committee held on 27th March, 1996 (page 376 refers), there was submitted a report by Depute Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council recommending to the Committee the appointment of Mr. Iain McLean and Ms. Dorothy McGhie to the Panel of Safeguarders for West Dunbartonshire.

It was agreed that Mr. Iain McLean and Ms. Dorothy McGhie be appointed to the panel of safeguarders for West Dunbartonshire, for the period up to and including 31st March, 1997, subject to satisfactory reports being received from the Scottish Criminal Records Office.

CONFERENCE

The Future of Social Work Services: Welfare, Charity or in the Market Place? - Lothian Council Chambers, Edinburgh on Friday 14th June, 1996.

The Committee agreed that Councillor Duncan Mills and the Director of Social Work attend.