

## **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

At a meeting of the Social Work Committee held within the Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2000 at 10.00 a.m.

**Present** Councillors John Trainer (LAB), James McElhill (SNP), John Syme (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), James Bolland (IND), Ronald McColl (SNP), James Flynn (LAB) and Connie O'Sullivan (LAB).

**Attending** Anne Ritchie, Acting Head of Social Work; William Clark, Strategy Manager; Iain Murray, Resources Manager; Jim Watson, Principal Officer (Child Care); Raymond McQuillan, Principal Officer (Criminal Justice), John Hepburn, Welfare Rights Development Officer; Stephen Brown, Manager – Legal and Administrative Services; and Audrey Ritchie, Principal Solicitor.

### **Apologies**

**for Absence:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), Mary Collins (LAB) and Margaret McGregor (SNP).

### **Councillor John Trainer in the Chair**

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1999 were submitted and approved subject to a correction to the list of those present, where it was noted that “James McElhill (LAB)” should have read “James McElhill (SNP)”.

### **BUDGETARY POSITION AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 1999**

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

Having heard the Acting Head of Social Work in answer to members' questions and following discussion, 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 and day centres applicable to West Dunbartonshire placements.

Having heard Councillor Trainer, Convener, the Committee agreed to approve the revised maintenance rates for voluntary residential homes and day centres applicable to West Dunbartonshire placements as detailed in the Appendix to these minutes.

### **ST. MARY'S KENMURE – MAINTENANCE RATES**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work advising of rates set by St. Mary's Kenmure and seeking approval of the rates pending the outcome of wider negotiations.

Having heard the Acting Head of Social Work in answer to members' questions and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the following weekly rates in respect of St. Mary's Kenmure:-

1997/1998	£1819	
1998/1999	£2182	19.96%
1999/2000	£2584	18.42%

- (2) to authorise senior officers to continue working with other local authorities to investigate the causes of these increases and to verify the calculations; and
- (3) to note that a further report providing an update on the outcome of the investigation referred to at paragraph (2) above would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

### **SOCIAL WORK CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES – PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work:-

- (a) advising of the Scottish Executive's plans to deliver Social Work Criminal Justice Services on a partnership basis across local authority boundaries;
- (b) advising of the work undertaken to date; and
- (c) seeking approval for further negotiations as necessary.

Having heard the Principal Officer (Criminal Justice) and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the approach adopted to date, as detailed in the report; and
- (2) to endorse work being undertaken in negotiating specific options with neighbouring authorities, which will be the subject of a further report to Committee.

## **WORKING FAMILIES' TAX CREDIT (WFTC)**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work setting out the key principles of the new benefit Working Families' Tax Credit (WFTC) and seeking approval to promote the take-up of benefit in West Dunbartonshire.

Having heard the Welfare Rights Development Officer and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the terms of the report and the importance of supporting the introduction of new benefit;
- (2) to support a West Dunbartonshire Council pilot exercise to support take-up of the new benefit across this Authority and within the Council's workforce;
- (3) that the use of WFTC resources to expand child care resources on employment in line with Social Inclusion objectives should be examined and reported to a future meeting of the Committee; and
- (4) that monitoring of the pilot exercise be referred to the Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy Group.

## **GREATER GLASGOW HEALTH BOARD – MODERNISING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: CONSULTATION PAPER**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work informing of the Modernising Mental Health Services Consultation Paper issued by Greater Glasgow Health Board on 8 December 1999 and making recommendations thereon.

Having heard Councillor Trainer, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) the terms of the Greater Glasgow Health Board's Consultation Paper; and
- (2) the Department's intention to involve local groups and agencies in framing a response.

## **ASBESTOS PARTNERSHIP**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work advising of the work of the Clydebank Asbestos Partnership and presenting the report of the National Conference hosted by this Council in Clydebank on 10 November 1999.

Having heard the Strategy Manager and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to welcome the Partnership's Conference Report and to note progress made on asbestos-related work; and
- (2) to request the Leader of the Council and the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Clydebank to present this report and the Conference report to COSLA and the Scottish Executive to examine how the legacy of asbestos can be tackled at a national level.

### **DRAFT GUIDANCE ON FOSTER CARE**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Head of Social Work informing of the publication of draft guidance on Foster Care, upon which comment had been requested.

Having heard the Principal Officer (Child Care) and following discussion, the Committee agreed to note the work undertaken on this issue.

The meeting closed at 10.44 a.m.

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

		<b>Previous Rate</b>	<b>Revised Rate</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>No. of WDC Residents</b>	<b>Per Cent Increase</b>
<b>VOLUNTARY</b>						
Red Cross House Tarryholme Drive Irvine KA12 0DR	Resid. {Weekly}  {Physical Disability}	£545.00	£562.00	01/04/99	6	3.12%
Corseford School Howwood Road Milliken Park Kilbarchan Renfrewshire PA10 2NT	Day Care {Per Day}    {Children}	£15.78	£16.68	01/04/99	1	5.7%