

## **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

At a Meeting of the Social Work Committee held within the Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank on Wednesday, 2 June 1999.

**Present:** Councillors John Trainer (LAB); James McElhill (SNP); John Syme (LAB); Andrew White (LAB); Anthony Devine (LAB); Mary Collins (LAB); Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP); James Bollan (IND); Ronald McColl (SNP); Margaret McGregor (SNP); James Flynn (LAB) and Connie O'Sullivan (LAB).

**Attending:** Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work and Housing; Iain M Murray, Resources Manager; Anne Ritchie, Operational Services Manager; William Clark, Strategy Manager and Stephen B Brown, Manager - Legal and Administrative Services.

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

#### **CONVENER'S REMARKS**

Councillor Trainer, Convener, welcomed those present to the first meeting of the Social Work Committee under the new authority. In so doing he referred to the Provost's remarks at Council on 19 May 1999 and stated that he envisaged that the main role of the Social Work Committee would be to "shout from the roof-tops" about all the good work being undertaken by social work services in West Dunbartonshire.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 31 March 1999 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

#### **CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING: THAILAND, SPONSORED BY UNICEF**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing the Committee of staff participation in Child Protection Training in Thailand.

The Committee received a presentation by Mrs Winnie McHugh, Senior Social Worker, on her and Ms Jean Escott's (an independent trainer) experiences in Thailand. The Committee noted that the project which provided training for trainers was sponsored by UNICEF and acknowledged that the request to West Dunbartonshire Council to supply an officer to undertake such important work reflected well on the abilities of Mrs McHugh and the department as a whole.

The Committee agreed that the sum of £250 be donated towards the purchase of books for the project in Thailand. Thereafter the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Mrs McHugh for her presentation and congratulated her on her work in Thailand. At this point Ms Escott thanked the Council for allowing Mrs McHugh to accompany her in Thailand and then she and Mrs McHugh left the meeting.

### **COUNCIL VEHICLE FLEET**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Contract Services Policy Board held on 24th March 1999 (page 4508 refers), when it had been agreed that the schedules listing vehicles by department be remitted to the appropriate service Committees for information, there was submitted a report by the Director of Contract Services informing members of the current position with regard to the Council vehicle fleet and attaching as an appendix, a list of those vehicles relative to the Department of Social Work and Housing.

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

- (1) to note that a report on the overall practices and policy on managing the Council vehicle fleet would be considered by the Management Team and if necessary a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Council; and
- (2) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

### **SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS REVIEW PANEL APPOINTMENT OF ELECTED MEMBERS**

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council inviting the Committee to appoint elected members to serve on the Social Work Complaints Review Panel.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Panel should comprise four members from the Labour Group, two from the SNP Group and 3 lay persons;
- (2) that the following members be nominated to serve on the Social Work Complaints Review Panel:-

#### Labour

Councillor Geoffrey Calvert  
Councillor John Syme  
Councillor Anthony Devine  
Councillor Mary Collins

#### SNP

Councillor Ronald McColl  
Councillor Margaret McGregor

- (3) to note that the Director of Social Work and Housing would submit a report on the re-appointment of lay persons to the Panel to a future meeting of the Committee.

### **CONTACT CENTRE (WRVS)**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing advising of the recent formal opening of the new Contact Centre run by the WRVS.

Having heard the Convener and the Strategy Manager in further explanation, the Committee noted the establishment of the new service and acknowledged the value of the work of the WRVS in West Dunbartonshire.

### **CHARGES FOR RESIDENTIAL HOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing making recommendations in respect of the rate for the use of places in the Council's young people's homes.

Having heard the Resources Manager in answer to members' questions and following discussion, the Committee agreed that the rate of charge for the use of places in Council's homes for young people for the year 1999/2000 would be £862 per week.

### **RATES OF CHARGE FOR DAY CARE - 1999/2000**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing making recommendations in respect of the rates of charge for day care provision in West Dunbartonshire.

Following discussion and having heard the Resources Manager in answer to members' questions, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor McElhill, moved that the report be continued and that a further report detailing other authorities' charges in respect of day care, be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Flynn, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that the increases in charges to other authorities for services provided to their residents within West Dunbartonshire units as detailed within the report and shown below, be approved:-

<i>Service</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>1998/1999</i>	<i>1999/2000</i>	<i>Increase</i>
Basic Day Care	Elderly	£28.00	£30.00	£2.00 (7.14%)
Intensive Day Care	Dementia	£38.00	£40.00	£2.00 (5.26%)
Basic Day Care	Learning Disability	£28.00	£35.00	£7.00 (25%)
Intensive Day Care	Profound Disability	£38.00	£47.50	£9.50 (25%)

On a vote being taken, 8 members voted for the amendment and 4 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly carried.

### **RATES OF CHARGES FOR PERMANENT CARE - 1999/2000**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing making recommendations in respect of the rates of charges for permanent care of adults and older people in residential establishments by West Dunbartonshire Council.

Following discussion and having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing in answer to members' questions, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor McElhill, moved that the report be continued and that a further report providing a breakdown of all the costs involved in the operation of residential establishments in West Dunbartonshire, be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Trainer, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that the recommendations of the report, as detailed below, be approved:-

The Committee agrees:-

- (1) to note the requirement to set weekly charges for residential care and to review them annually; and
- (2) to approve the undernoted rates of charge for permanent care in West Dunbartonshire for 1999/2000:-

<i>Category</i>	<i>1998/1999</i>	<i>1999/2000</i>	<i>Change</i>
Permanent residential care - elderly	£342	£398	£56 (16.37%)
Permanent residential care - learning disability	£440	£462	£22 (5%)

On a vote being taken, 8 members voted for the amendment and 3 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly carried.

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

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing making recommendations in respect of revised maintenance rates for voluntary residential homes, day care and residential schools, applicable to West Dunbartonshire placements.

The Committee agreed to approve the increase in maintenance rates for establishments located outwith West Dunbartonshire as detailed in the Appendix to these minutes.

## **“AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE” (WHITE PAPER): MODERNISING SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN SCOTLAND**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing the Committee of the recent publication of the Government’s White Paper on Social Work Services.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing and following discussion, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

## **REVIEW OF THE MENTAL HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing advising the Committee of the Government’s intention to review mental health legislation and of the dates on which responses to the consultation document were required.

## **WHITE PAPER ON HEALTH: HEALTH DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing outlining the health demonstration projects initiative and seeking Committee approval to pursue joint work with health services on pilot projects.

Having heard the Convener and the Strategy Manager, the Committee agreed to the Council’s participation in the proposed joint work scheme with health services and that the Department of Social Work and Housing co-ordinate the action required to be taken.

## **MODERNISING COMMUNITY CARE - BASELINES AND PLANS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing of the next stage of the Government’s Action Plan to modernise community care.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report and progress made to achieve the targets set by the Government in the Action Plan; and
- (2) to approve the process of consultation and development of the Community Care Plan Review.

## **GREATER GLASGOW DRUG ACTION TEAM - DEVELOPING DRUG TREATMENT SERVICES**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing advising of additional funding which has been obtained to assist the development of drug services in West Dunbartonshire.

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

- (1) to note the acquisition of funding (£80,000 per year for 3 years) to assist the development of Addiction Services in West Dunbartonshire; and
- (2) to note that the Director of Social Work and Housing would submit further reports on this matter to future meetings of the Committee.

## **INSPECTION AND REGISTRATION UNIT'S ANNUAL REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing on the Inspection Unit's Annual Report for the period 1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999.

Having heard the Convener, the Committee agreed to approve the Inspection Unit's Annual Report for 1998/99 and note the achievements of the department over the past year.

## **FEEES AND EXPENSES FOR LAY INSPECTORS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing advising the Committee of the role of lay inspectors and recommending an appropriate level of fees and expenses.

Having heard the Convener, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the use of Lay Inspectors and the Department's commitment to incorporate the views of users and carers into its inspections;
- (2) to approve the payment of £25 fee plus £10 expenses to Lay Inspectors for each inspection; and
- (3) to note that the cost would be met from the Social Work departmental budget.

## **INSPECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing making recommendations in respect of the lay person membership of the Inspection Advisory Committee and requesting that elected members be nominated to serve thereon.

Following discussion the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve Mrs Val Hoane as a member of the Inspection Advisory Committee;
- (2) to re-appoint Mr Robert Dickie, Mr George Warnock, Ms Cal Duffy, Ms Charlotte Lee and the Reverend Cameron Langlands as lay persons on the Inspection Advisory Committee; and
- (3) that three members from the Labour Group and one member from the Opposition should serve on the Inspection Advisory Committee, namely:-

Councillor John Trainer (Chair)  
Councillor Connie O'Sullivan  
Councillor Anthony Devine  
Councillor Ronald McColl

## **INSPECTION AND REGISTRATION SECTION STAFFING**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing advising members of the function of the Registration and Inspection Section of the Social Work and Housing Department and seeking approval to increase hours of the Principal Officer from 17.5 to 35 hours per week.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve an increase in the hours of the Principal Officer (Inspection Registration) from 17½ to 35 hours per week;
- (2) to note that the additional costs could be met from within the Social Work departmental budget; and
- (3) to remit the matter to the Personnel Sub-Committee for consideration.

## **SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing the Committee of the Supported Employment Programme and seeking approval for the Council's continued participation in the scheme.

Following discussion the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the provisions of the Supported Employment Scheme;
- (2) to confirm the Council's continued support for the employment of disabled people;  
and
- (3) to approve the signing of the annexes for the year commencing 1 April 1999.

### **NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS' WEEK: 1 TO 7 JUNE 1999**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing members of local events taking place during National Volunteers' Week.

Following discussion the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to suggest to the West Dunbartonshire Volunteer Development Agency that the MP and MSP for the Clydebank and Milngavie constituency be invited to 'volunteer for a day' with local social work services to help promote volunteering and its benefits; and
- (2) to otherwise note the terms of the report and support the initiative in West Dunbartonshire.

### **DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing of recent changes to the departmental management structure and making recommendations thereon.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing and following discussion, Councillor Trainer, seconded by Councillor Devine, moved that the Committee approves the recommendations contained in paragraph 4 of the Director's report relative to the social work structure within the Department of Social Work and Housing.

By way of an amendment Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved that the post of Area Manager in the Vale of Leven be re-instated.

On a vote being taken, 3 members voted for the amendment and 8 members for the motion which was accordingly carried.



**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 JUNE 1999.**

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