

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Social Work Committee held within the Members' Lounge, Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 2 August 2000 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors John Trainer (LAB), James McElhill (SNP), Andrew White (LAB), John Syme (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Connie O'Sullivan (LAB), Ronald McColl (SNP), Margaret McGregor (SNP) and James Bollan (SSP).

Attending: Alexis Jay, Director of Social Work and Housing Services; Anne Ritchie, Head of Social Work; Iain M Murray, Head of Resources; Jim Dean, Area Manager Social Work (Dumbarton/Vale); Bill Rogerson, Assistant Principal Officer (Addiction Services); and Audrey Ritchie, Principal Solicitor.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), Mary Collins (LAB) and James Flynn (LAB).

Councillor John Trainer in the Chair

Having heard Councillor Trainer, Convener, the Committee agreed to retire to the Court Room where arrangements had been made for the following presentations.

PRESENTATION TO FOSTER PARENTS

On behalf of the Committee, the Convener presented Bob Alga and Lily Rodgers with a bouquet of flowers and thanked them both for their services as foster carers with this authority and with Strathclyde Regional Council. Councillor Trainer informed the Committee that they had been foster parents since 1986 during which time they had cared for 98 children from a wide variety of backgrounds and ages and, in addition, had adopted two children, Emma and Zoe. Thereafter Mr Alga and Ms. Rodgers thanked the Committee and left the meeting.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE - A REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES "THE SAME AS YOU?"

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services advising of the content of the Scottish Executive Review of Learning Disability Services and of progress made to date in West Dunbartonshire on relevant issues.

At this point the Committee received a video presentation on the above review and then returned to the Members' Lounge to discuss the Director's report.

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

- (1) to note the progress made to date on Learning Disability Services within West Dunbartonshire; and
- (2) to note that the Director of Social Work and Housing Services would bring further reports to future meetings of the Committee.

INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES FOR ESTABLISHMENTS LOCATED WITHIN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services recommending approval of revised maintenance rates for Voluntary Residential Providers located within the West Dunbartonshire area.

The Committee agreed to approve revised maintenance rates as detailed in Appendix I to this minute.

INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES FOR ESTABLISHMENTS LOCATED OUTWITH WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services recommending approval of 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 in Appendix II to this minute.

BUDGETARY POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2000

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services advising of the Social Work Budgetary Performance during the period from 1 April to 30 June 2000.

Having heard the Head of Social Work in answer to members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

ADVOCACY PROJECT

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services seeking approval to fund a jointly commissioned Advocacy Service for key groups of Community Care Service Users and Carers.

The Committee agreed to approve the payment of up to £25,000 to Alzheimer's Scotland Action on Dementia to secure an Advocacy Service for West Dunbartonshire.

HEAD INJURIES PROJECT/MENTAL ILLNESS SPECIFIC GRANT

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services advising of proposals for the development of a jointly commissioned Head Injury Project for West Dunbartonshire and seeking approval for the mainlining of the project and the reallocation of Mental Illness Specific Grant (MISG) to develop Mental Health Services to people with a physical disability.

Following discussion and having heard Morag Harley (Section Head, Physical Disability, in attendance for this item only) explain how services had been developed in West Dunbartonshire to improve the quality of life of people with mental and physical disabilities as a result of a head injury, the Committee agreed to:-

- (1) approve the proposed mainlining of the Head Injuries Service as part of the Joint Commission agreement; and
- (2) approve the use of MISG funds to develop Mental Health Services for people with a physical disability attending the West End Day Centre.

PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AND ABLE BODIED (PHAB) DUMBARTON/VALE OF LEVEN

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services seeking approval for the payment of a grant to help the PHAB Group provide a respite holiday for their members.

The Committee agreed to approve a grant of £3,350 to the Dumbarton/Vale of Leven PHAB Group.

EXTENSIONS TO ORTHOPAEDIC SUPPORTED DISCHARGE/THROUGH CARE

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services advising of the recent evaluation reports and recommendations from the Orthopaedic Supported Discharge (OSD) and Throughcare Services based at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.

COMMUNITY CARE PLAN 1998/2001: ANNUAL REVIEW AND ACTION PLAN 2000

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services seeking approval of the Community Care Plan Annual Review for 1998/2001 and Action Plan 2000. The Committee noted that a copy of the full document had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing Services in further explanation of the report and relevant officers in answer to members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the Community Care Plan Annual Review and Action Plan 2000; and
- (2) to approve the submission of the document to the Scottish Executive with appropriate external and internal distribution thereafter.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN: SECOND ANNUAL REVIEW

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services advising of the second Annual Review of the Children's Services Plan and seeking endorsement thereon for submission to the Scottish Executive. The Committee noted that a copy of the full document had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Having heard the Head of Social Work in further explanation and following discussion, the Committee agreed to endorse the second Annual Review of the Children's Services Plan for submission to the Scottish Executive.

It was agreed that Councillor Bollan be sent a copy of the Decentralisation Scheme as referred to on page 12 of the review document.

GREATER GLASGOW HEALTH BOARD (GGHB) - FORMAL CONSULTATION MODERNISING GLASGOW'S ACUTE HOSPITAL SERVICES AND YORKHILL TRUST/FUTURE TRUST CONFIGURATION

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services outlining the main areas for consultation proposed by GGHB and seeking approval to meet with GGHB and other health partners to examine the implications of proposed changes for all parts of West Dunbartonshire Council area.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing Services in answer to members' questions, Councillor Trainer, seconded by Councillor White, moved as follows:-

That the recommendations of the report be approved as follows:-

- (1) to note the report and approve its submission to Greater Glasgow Health Board as an interim response to the two consultation exercises on Modernising Glasgow's Acute Hospital Services and the Yorkhill Trust;
- (2) to approve the proposal that Greater Glasgow Health Board and other health partners be invited to meet with elected Members to discuss the overall impact of the GGHB proposals across the authority; and
- (3) that the Director of Social Work and Housing Services should organise the aforesaid meeting and invite Argyll & Clyde Health Board, NHS Trusts, LHCCs and the Scottish Ambulance Service to attend.

By way of amendment, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor McElhill, moved as follows:-

That paragraph 7.1 of the report be omitted, paragraph 7.2 be approved and that paragraph 7.3 be amended to read as follows:-

that the Director of Social Work and Housing Services should organise the aforesaid meeting and invite Argyll & Clyde Health Board, NHS Trusts, LHCCs, the Scottish Ambulance Service, the Scottish Executive Minister for Health, all local MSPs and MPs to attend.

On a vote being taken, four members voted for the amendment and five for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

GUIDANCE ON FOSTER CARE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services informing of the final publication of the above report which was produced by a Working Group of Representatives from COSLA, ADSW and the Voluntary Sector.

Having heard the Convener, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

INDEPENDENT THINK TANK ON “MEETING NEEDS - ADDRESSING DEEDS” - YOUNG PEOPLE WHO OFFEND AND “STOP YOUTH CRIME NOW” A SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE RESPONSE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services advising of the content of the independent Think Tank Report on “Meeting Needs - Addressing Deeds”- Young People Who Offend and “Youth Crime Now”, a Scottish Executive response.

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

- (1) to note the details of the Think Tank and Scottish Executive’s findings;
- (2) to note the timescales for action by the local authorities and to approve the plans of the Department of Social Work and Housing Services to take forward the implementation; and
- (3) to request the Director of Social Work and Housing Services to bring forward reports to future Committee meetings on progress on implementation.

TACKLING DRUGS IN SCOTLAND SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE DRUGS ACTION PLAN: PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services advising of the content of the Scottish Executive Drugs Action Plan - “Protecting Our Future” and providing an update on the work of the Addiction Services in response to the document.

Following discussion and having heard the Assistant Principal Officer (Addiction Services) in answer to members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the "Protecting Our Future" report;
- (2) to note the support and commitment to partnership working by agencies across West Dunbartonshire; and
- (3) to note the response of the Addiction Services to this report.

**NATIONAL CARE STANDARDS - OLDER PEOPLE/MENTAL HEALTH/
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services outlining details of the National Care Standards to be used by the Scottish Commission for the regulation for the above Care Groups.

The Committee agreed to note the terms of the report and that further reports would be circulated as new information becomes available.

The meeting closed at 11.57am.