

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Social Work Committee held within the Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank on Wednesday, 3rd February, 1999.

Present: Councillors James Flynn (LAB), James McElhill (SNP), John Syme (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Patricia Rice (LAB), David Logan (SNP), Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), William Mackechnie (SNP) and James Chirrey (SNP).

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work and Housing; Bill Clark, Planning and Development Manager; Anne Ritchie, Operational Services Manager; Iain Murray, Resources Manager; Lewis Morrison, Assistant Principal Officer (Community Care); and Stephen B Brown, Manager - Legal and Administrative Services.

Apologies for

Absence: Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Duncan Mills (LAB) and Margaret McGregor (SNP).

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of Councillor Mills (Convener) the Committee agreed that the meeting be chaired by Councillor Flynn.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 25th November, 1998 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

SENSORY IMPAIRMENT SERVICES

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing the Committee of the work of the Sensory Impairment Team and the development of services to meet the needs of people with hearing loss and sight loss.

The Committee received a presentation from Mr. Lewis Morrison, Assistant Principal Officer (Community Care) on the work of the Sensory Impairment Team in West The Committee received a presentation from Mr. Lewis Morrison, Assistant Principal Officer (Community Care) on the work of the Sensory Impairment Team in West Dunbartonshire and highlighting some of the targets which the Teameam was aiming to achieve during 1999/2000. Thereafter the Committee heard the views of Mr. Joe McIntyre, Miss Cheryl Murray and Mr. Charles Jamieson, Service Users, and noted with concern some of the issues raised.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing and the Assistant Principal Officer (Community Care) in answer to in answer to Members' questions and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Director of Social Work and Housing in consultation with the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council should submit a Report to a future meeting of Council addressing the issues raised during the presentation during the presentation and equipment requirements for sensory impaired people to be able to attend Council/Committee meetings; and Committee meetings; and
- (2) that those Members representing this Council on the Police and Fire Joint Boards should raise those issues relevant to the Police and Fire Services at future Board meetings.

WOMEN'S AID

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 25th November, 1998 (Page 4049 refers), there was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing the Committee of the development of services for women in West Dunbartonshire and seeking Committee approval for changes in the manner in which the service is funded to meet new development objectives.

The Committee agreed to approve the Committee agreed to approve a revised funding mechanism for Women's Aid for the year 1999/2000 and onwards which would require core funding by Section 10 Grant to be phased in over a period of 3 years and the Housing Benefit salary component level reduced proportionately.

It was noted that the above decision was outwith the delegated powers of the Social Work Committee and therefore would require to be remitted to the Council for ratification.

PANEL OF SAFEGUARDERS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 25th November, 1998 (page 4053 refers), there was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council requesting the Committee to consider a recommendation in respect of a person who had applied to become a Member of the Panel of Safeguarders in West Dunbartonshire.

The Committee agreed to approve the appointment of Mr. William McClung to the Panel of Safeguarders for West Dunbartonshire, for the period up to and including 31st March 2000.

INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES FOR ESTABLISHMENTS LOCATED OUTWITH WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing advising Members of the revised maintenance rates for local authority residential homes, voluntary residential homes and day care centres applicable to West Dunbartonshire placements and making recommendations thereon.

The Committee agreed to approve the revised Maintenance Rates as detailed within the Appendix to these Minutes.

BUDGETARY POSITION AT 31ST DECEMBER 1998

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing of the Social Work budgetary performance during the period 1st April to 31st December, 1998.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing in further explanation, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the Report.

REVISING THE SCOTTISH AREA DEPRIVATION INDEX

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing the Committee of proposed changes to the Index of Area Deprivation for Scotland and the implications for this Council's Department of Social Work and Housing.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the revised index and the implications for West Dunbartonshire;
- (2) that the Director of Social Work and Housing should make further representations on the revised index to COSLA and the Scottish Office; and
- (3) that a letter be sent to both Members of Parliament who represent West Dunbartonshire making them aware of the impact which the proposed changes to the index could have on the area and seeking their support in opposing the proposals.

COLLABORATIVE WORK WITH HEAD INJURIES TRUST, SCOTLAND

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 6th May, 1998 (page 3435 refers), there was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing of progress on work being developed locally with the Head Injuries Trust, Scotland (HITS) and making recommendations thereon.

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

- (1) to note the terms of the Report; and
- (2) to approve an additional grant of £10,000 to HITS to develop respite and other services for those persons with head injuries within West Dunbartonshire.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE 3 YEAR PLAN 1999 - 2002

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing seeking approval of the three year plan for the Social Work Criminal Justice Services in West Dunbartonshire covering the period 1999 - 2002.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing, the Committee agreed to approve the plan for Criminal Justice Services for 1999 - 2002, subject to the consultation exercise referred to in paragraph 8.1 of the Report.

CLYDEBANK TRAINING CENTRE: UPLIFT FOR INFLATION

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing requesting the Committee to approve an increase in the amount paid to the Clydebank Training Centre.

The Committee agreed to approve the uplift of £10,650 to reflect the rate of inflation in 1998/1999.

SOCIAL WORK AND HOUSING ADDICTION STRATEGY

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing setting out an overview of addiction services across the authority and highlighting service developments since November, 1997.

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

- (1) to note the progress made in the co-ordination, re-provision and development of statutory and voluntary sector addiction services; and
- (2) to approve, in principle, the funding of a supported accommodation project worker (salary £11,000 p.a.) and refer the matter to the Personnel Sub-Committee for consideration.

WELFARE RIGHTS 1998/99

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing providing Members with a view of the impact of welfare initiatives and anti-poverty work over the last year and seeking approval for a Benefits Uptake Campaign targeted at elderly claimants and additional welfare rights support for Housing Services.

In accordance with the decision of Council on 27th January, 1999 and in view of the urgency of the matter, the Convener agreed that the Committee should consider a further Report (copies circulated) by the Director of Social Work and Housing developing proposals on a Benefits Uptake Campaign and support for the elderly, referred to within the previous Report.

Following discussion and having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing and the Planning and Development Manager in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to commend the contribution of Welfare Rights staff, in partnership with other Council Services and the voluntary sector, towards implementing the Council's anti-poverty strategy; and

- (2) to approve the additional measures and costs totalling £190,702, proposed within the Report (£117,000 to be met by the underspend in the current financial year's budget, £73,702 to be met from revenue funding in 1999/2000) to ensure that all elderly and disabled people living in the community are able to enjoy independence and the levels of personal care and support they need.

Having heard the Manager - Legal and Administrative Services, the Committee noted that the decision referred to in paragraph (2) above was outwith the delegated powers of the Social Work Committee and therefore would require to be remitted to the Council for ratification.

MODERNISING COMMUNITY CARE - ACTION PLAN: SCOTTISH OFFICE

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing seeking the Committee's approval for the response required by the Scottish Office to the next stage of the Government's action plan to modernise Community Care.

Following discussion the Committee agreed to approve the Report as the basis of this authority's response to the Scottish Office.

HOME CARE

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing providing the Committee with an update on Home Care Services within West Dunbartonshire.

Councillor Flynn, seconded by Councillor White, moved the following:-

“The Council acknowledges the unique contribution Home Care staff have made to the well-being of elderly and disabled people across West Dunbartonshire. The commitment and dedication of Home Helps has helped the Council achieve key objectives in Community Care.

Elderly people and their carers have been supported in their choice to remain independent and live in their own home. Augmented home care services have relieved pressures on health services by helping hospitals discharge patients at the earliest stage.

The welfare and safety of home care staff and the maintenance of high standards of care, are high priorities for the Council.

The growth of specialist home care schemes has been welcome. It is now time, however, to consolidate these services and achieve consistency of service conditions across the authority.

The Director of Social Work and Housing is asked, as a matter of urgency, to examine and implement required changes to service conditions for home care staff. Within available budgets, these improvements should address matters such as protective clothing, equipment and suitable contracts.”

Following discussion and having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to approve the above motion.

CARERS' CENTRES

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing outlining proposals to develop Carers' Centres in West Dunbartonshire and seeking Committee approval for funding.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing, the Committee agreed to approve the payment of £20,000 to Strathclyde Carers' Forum to cover staff costs and initial funding to establish centre bases.

THROUGH-CARE AND YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing advising of proposals for a review of through-care support to young people who have been looked after by the Council and other young homeless people.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing, the Committee agreed to approve the amalgamation of Through-care and Youth Homelessness within the Department of Social Work and Housing and to remit a review of the staffing structure of this combined service to the Personnel Sub-Committee for consideration.

WEST END DAY CARE CENTRE (FORMERLY THE VETERANS PROJECT)

There was submitted and noted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing advising the Committee of progress made in the restarting of the Urban Programme Project formerly known as the Veterans Project and now called the West End Day Care Centre.

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 1999**

WOMEN'S AID

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 25th November, 1998 (Page 4049 refers), there was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing the Committee of the development of services for women in West Dunbartonshire and seeking Committee approval for changes in the manner in which the service is funded to meet new development objectives.

The Committee agreed to approve the Committee agreed to approve a revised funding mechanism for Women's Aid for the year 1999/2000 and onwards which would require core funding by Section 10 Grant to be phased in over a period of 3 years and the Housing Benefit salary component level reduced proportionately.

It was noted that the above decision was outwith the delegated powers of the Social Work Committee and therefore would require to be remitted to the Council for ratification.

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 1999**

WELFARE RIGHTS 1998/99

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing providing Members with a view of the impact of welfare initiatives and anti-poverty work over the last year and seeking approval for a Benefits Uptake Campaign targeted at elderly claimants and additional welfare rights support for Housing Services.

In accordance with the decision of Council on 27th January, 1999 and in view of the urgency of the matter, the Convener agreed that the Committee should consider a further Report (copies circulated) by the Director of Social Work and Housing developing proposals on a Benefit Uptake Campaign and support for the elderly, referred to within the previous Report.

Following discussion and having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing and the Planning and Development Manager in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to commend the contribution of Welfare Rights staff, in partnership with other Council Services and the voluntary sector, towards implementing the Council's anti-poverty strategy; and
- (2) to approve the additional measures and costs totalling £190,702, proposed within the Report (£117,000 to be met by the underspend in the current financial year's budget, £73,702 to be met from revenue funding in 1999/2000) to ensure that all elderly and disabled people living in the community are able to enjoy independence and the levels of personal care and support they need.

Having heard the Manager - Legal and Administrative Services, the Committee noted that the decision referred to in paragraph (2) above was outwith the delegated powers of the Social Work Committee and therefore would require to be remitted to the Council for ratification.

**EXS FROM MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 1999**

SOCIAL WORK AND HOUSING ADDICTION STRATEGY

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing setting out an overview of addiction services across the authority and highlighting service developments since November, 1997.

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

- (1) to note the progress made in the co-ordination, re-provision and development of statutory and voluntary sector addiction services; and
- (2) to approve, in principle, the funding of a supported accommodation project worker (salary £11,000 p.a.) and refer the matter to the Personnel Sub-Committee for consideration.

THROUGH-CARE AND YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing advising of proposals for a review of through-care support to young people who have been looked after by the Council and other young homeless people.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing, the Committee agreed to approve the amalgamation of Through-care and Youth Homelessness within the Department of Social Work and Housing and to remit a review of the staffing structure of this combined service to the Personnel Sub-Committee for consideration.

**EX FROM MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 1999**

SENSORY IMPAIRMENT SERVICES

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing the Committee of the work of the Sensory Impairment Team and the development of services to meet the needs of people with hearing loss and sight loss.

The Committee received a presentation from Mr. Lewis Morrison, Assistant Principal Officer (Community Care) on the work of the Sensory Impairment Team in West The Committee received a presentation from Mr. Lewis Morrison, Assistant Principal Officer (Community Care) on the work of the Sensory Impairment Team in West Dunbartonshire and highlighting some of the targets which the Teameam aiming to achieve during 1999/2000. Thereafter the Committee heard the views of Mr. Joe McIntyre, Miss Cheryl Murray and Mr. Charles Jamieson, Service Users, and noted with concern some of the issues raised.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing and the Assistant Principal Officer (Community Care) in answer to in answer to Members' questions and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Director of Social Work and Housing in consultation with the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council should submit a Report to a future meeting of Council addressing the issues raisedissues raised during the presentation during the presentation and equipment requirements for sensory impaired people to be able to attend Council/Committee meetings; andCommittee meetings; and
- (2) that those Members representing this Council on the Police and Fire Joint Boards should raise those issues relevant to the Police and Fire Services at future Board meetings.