

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Social Work Committee held within the Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank on Wednesday, 29 September 1999.

Present: Councillors John Trainer (LAB), John Syme (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (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; Bill Rogerson, Assistant Principal Officer (Addiction Services) and Stephen B Brown, Manager - Legal and Administrative Services.

Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors James McElhill (SNP) and Mary Collins (LAB).

Councillor John Trainer in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 4 August, 1999 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

With reference to the item under the heading "Best Value Service Reviews - Criminal Justice" (**volume pages 4913/4914 refer**), Councillor Trainer, Convener, advised that Angus Mackay, Depute Minister of Justice, Scottish Executive, had acknowledged receipt of the letter inviting him to visit West Dunbartonshire to see the positive work being carried out by the Social Work Criminal Justice section and had intimated that he would respond in due course.

LIVING ARTS TRAINING PROGRAMME IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE HOMES FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing on the Living Arts Training Programme carried out in West Dunbartonshire Homes for Elderly People.

The Committee received a presentation from Ms Debbie Neil, (Social Care Worker, Mount Pleasant House, in attendance for this item only) on the Living Arts Training Programme and describing the type of activities currently being undertaken in homes throughout West Dunbartonshire to stimulate elderly residents and improve their quality of life. Mr David Doherty, Principal Officer (Community Care) and Mrs Agnes Trotter, Assistant Principal Officer (Community Care), were also in attendance for this item only.

Having heard Ms Neil in answer to Members' questions, the Convener on behalf of the Committee thanked her for the presentation. Thereafter Miss Neil, Mr Doherty and Mrs Trotter left the Meeting.

BUDGETARY POSITION AT 31 JULY 1999

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing Members of the Social Work budgetary performance during the period from 1 April to 31 July 1999.

Having noted that the reference to "Residential Accommodation - Physical Disability (£30,316 adverse)" in Appendix 2" should have read "Residential Accommodation - Physical Disability (£30,316 favourable)" and having heard the Resources Manager, in answer to Members' questions, 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 Director of Social Work and Housing informing of revised maintenance rates for voluntary residential homes and local authority residential homes and day care centres applicable to West Dunbartonshire placements.

Having heard the Resources Manager in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the increase in maintenance rates for establishments located outwith West Dunbartonshire as detailed in Appendices I and II to these Minutes; and
- (2) to note that a review of West Dunbartonshire residents utilising the Carlton Centre and St. Ninians Day Care Centre was underway.

INCREASE IN MAINTENANCE RATES FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION ESTABLISHMENTS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing proposing principles to be applied in the inflationary uplifting of maintenance rates for voluntary organisation establishments for 1999/2000.

Following discussion and having heard the Resources Manager, Councillor Trainer, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that the Committee approve the recommendations of the report as follows:-

- (1) that the employee cost element of the charges in respect of voluntary organisation establishments be increased by 3%, this equates to the Local Government Salary Award for 1999/2000;
- (2) for a very limited number of homes, actual increases in rent charges are payable;
- (3) that there be no increase to the general running costs, the expectation is that each establishment will achieve efficiency savings to fund such increases;
- (4) to note that there is no provision for inflation in the 1999/2000 budget; and
- (5) that the principles referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above in respect of the calculation of uplifts to residential rates be introduced with effect from 1 April 1999.

By way of an amendment, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved that consideration of the matter be continued pending further information to a meeting of Council or the Social Work Committee, whichever meets first.

On a vote being taken 2 members voted for the amendment and 7 for the motion which was accordingly carried.

Councillor Bollan requested that his dissent be recorded in these minutes.

ALLOWANCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing on allowances paid in respect of children who are resident in West Dunbartonshire Units for Young People and seeking approval for increases thereon.

Following discussion the Committee agreed to approve the revised rates for allowances for young people in residential care as detailed in Appendix III to these Minutes with effect from 1 October 1999.

Councillor Bollan requested that his dissent be recorded in these minutes.

VOLUNTEERING IN THE NHS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing the Committee of departmental initiatives on the recently issued NHS Management Executive letter requesting NHS Trusts and Local Health Care Co-operatives to develop policies on volunteering.

Having heard Mr Max Agnew (West Dunbartonshire Volunteer Development Agency, in attendance for this item only) and the Strategy Manager in answer to Members questions, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

PROFESSIONAL AND MANAGERIAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR CARE STAFF

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing commenting on the levels of qualification in residential care settings and drawing attention to a pilot project to improve management expertise within elderly care homes in West Dunbartonshire.

Having heard the Acting Head of Social Work, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report and in so doing congratulated those members of staff who had successfully completed the relevant qualifications.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH - SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION PROJECT, 12 ALEXANDER STREET, ALEXANDRIA

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing seeking approval to increase the approved residential rate in respect of the Supported Accommodation Project at 12 Alexander Street, Alexandria.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the Supported Accommodation Project is an essential resource, which meets the Council's strategic development of mental health and community care services; and
- (2) to approve the increased supplementation rate of £253.00 per week with effect from 6 September 1999.

TACKLING DRUGS TOGETHER IN GREATER GLASGOW

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing advising of the Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team Strategy Report 1999-2003 and of progress to date in relation to the five year work programme.

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

- (1) to note the work of the West Dunbartonshire Drug Forum and the commitment of statutory agencies, voluntary and self-help groups in supporting the development of corporate action plans in response to drug and alcohol misuse in West Dunbartonshire;
- (2) to note the service developments being undertaken in Clydebank; and
- (3) to note that the issues raised at this meeting concerning anti-drugs education in schools would be discussed at the next meeting of the Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team.

GAY AND LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

There was submitted a report by the Director of Social Work and Housing informing of work to date of the Gay and Lesbian Support Group.

Having heard the Assistant Principal Officer (Addiction Services), the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to recognise the work to date of the West Dunbartonshire Lesbian and Gay Working Group;
- (2) to approve the terms of reference for the West Dunbartonshire Lesbian and Gay Working Group; and
- (3) to approve the outline 3 year plan for West Dunbartonshire Lesbian and Gay Working Group as detailed within the report.

PANEL OF SAFEGUARDERS

There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council:-

- (a) informing of the outcome of discussions with the Authority Reporter to the Children's Panel on the size, composition and use of the Panel of Safeguarders; and
- (b) requesting consideration on the appointment of two persons who have applied to become Members of the Panel in West Dunbartonshire.

Having heard the Manager - Legal and Administrative Services in answer to Members questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to appoint Mrs Spowart and Mr MacRae to the Panel of Safeguarders in West Dunbartonshire for period up to and including 31 March 2000; and
- (2) to note that the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council would continue to monitor the situation and report back to the Committee.