

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 31 JANUARY 2002 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Jane Darnbrough, Katie Hall, Daniel Coffey, Douglas Reid, Lillian MacLean, John Weir, David Macrae, Alex Walsh, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Eric Jackson, Tommy Farrell, Julie Faulds, William Menzies, Robert Taylor and Jimmy Carmichael.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services; Stephen Moore, Head of Social Work; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager (Educational and Social Services); Jim Hazlett, Principal Officer (Children, Families and Criminal Justice); Jackie Donnelly, Principal Officer (Community Care); John Alexander, Principal Officer (Quality and Planning); Caroline Gordon, Public Relations Assistant; Melanie Anderson, Administrative Officer; and Lynn Chapman, Trainee Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Stephanie Young, Drew McIntyre, Iain Linton and Jimmy Kelly.

CHAIR: Councillor Jane Darnbrough, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair extended a welcome to Councillor John Knapp as a new member of the Social Work Committee and acknowledged with thanks the contribution made by Councillor Jim Raymond during his time as a member of the Committee.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

2. There were submitted and approved, both as a correct record and in respect of any recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Minutes (circulated) as contained in the Appendix to these Minutes.

2.1 SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE OF 23 NOVEMBER 2001.

BUDGETARY PROGRESS REPORT - SOCIAL WORK TO 18 NOVEMBER 2001 (PERIOD 8)

3. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 18 December 2001 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Educational and Social Services on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Social Work Section for the period ended 18 November 2001 (Period 8).

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 11 January 2002 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which provided, for information, details of tenders which had been accepted, as follows:-

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Successful Contractor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Various works at 6 Grange Street, Kilmarnock	G D Spence & Sons Ltd	£17,534.95
Supply and Delivery of one 4x4 Estate Car	Eaglesham Garage, Eaglesham	£13,197.02
Provision of 24 Hour Support to Adults with Learning Difficulties	Cornerstone Community Care, Aberdeen	Schedule of Rates Basis

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADOPTION AND FOSTERING PANELS: JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2001

5. There was submitted a report dated 15 January 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on (i) the proposed amendment of the Policy and Procedures documents which provide guidance for the functions of the Adoption and Fostering Panels, to take into account the changes in the management structure brought about by the merger of the Education and Social Services Department; and (ii) which advised on the performance of the Adoption and Permanency Panel and the Fostering and Resources Panel for the calendar year 2001.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Policy and Procedures in respect of the operation of the Fostering and Adoption Panels be amended in the light of the merger of the Department of Education and Social Services;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services report on an annual basis to the Social Work Committee on the work of the Adoption and Fostering Panels; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK SERVICES: MINUTE OF AGREEMENT

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 15 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the selection of North Ayrshire Council as the recipient authority for the single grant award to be made available to the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership from 1 April 2002.

COMMUNITY-BASED ACCOMMODATION WITH SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES IN KILMARNOCK

7. There was submitted a report dated 19 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the development of community-based accommodation with support arrangements for people with learning disabilities in Kilmarnock and which advised of the outcome of the tendering process in respect of the development of 24-hour support to adults with learning disabilities in the Longpark area of Kilmarnock.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcome of the tendering process in respect of accommodation within Longpark; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK STATISTICS 2000/2001

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 15 January 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the data contained within the Statistical Bulletin on Criminal Justice Social Work Services 2000/2001 and which compared East Ayrshire's performance with the Scottish-wide context and against that of its neighbouring authorities which make up the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership.

EAST AYRSHIRE MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY 2001-2004

9. There was submitted a report dated 18 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought approval of the East Ayrshire Mental Health Strategy which set out a clear direction for improving and developing services for people with mental health difficulties.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the East Ayrshire Mental Health Strategy 2001-2004 as outlined within the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

JOB COACHING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND/OR MENTAL HEALTH DIFFICULTIES

10. There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the success of a European Social Fund bid to develop a Job Coaching Scheme across Ayrshire for people with disabilities and/or mental health difficulties, in partnership with Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire, South Ayrshire Council and North Ayrshire Partnership.

JOINT DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE GROUP WORKPLAN

11. There was submitted a report dated 11 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which sought endorsement of a Joint Development and Resource Group (JDRG) Workplan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the JDRG Workplan as set out in Appendix I to the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services provide further reports to the Social Work Committee as implementation of the Workplan proceeds, in particular identifying any policy, financial or legal issues arising for the Council; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

SENSORY IMPAIRMENT SERVICE: REVIEW OF STAFFING

12. There was submitted a report dated 9 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the changing demands within the Sensory Impairment Services and which sought approval to amend staffing of the Service to best meet the needs of service users and carers.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to amend the posts in the Sensory Impairment Service as outlined in section 5 of the report;

- (ii) to refer the staffing implications to the Corporate Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

ROSEBURN RESOURCE CENTRE, CUMNOCK

13. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on a leasing of the Roseburn Resource Centre, Cumnock from Ayrshire and Arran Primary NHS Trust from 7 January 2002.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Roseburn Resource Centre had been leased for a period of 3 years from 7 January 2002; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

AUDIT SCOTLAND PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT: "COMPARING THE PERFORMANCE OF SCOTTISH COUNCILS SOCIAL WORK SERVICES 2000-2001"

14. There was submitted a report dated 17 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the Council's performance in 2000-2001 against Social Work Statutory Performance Indicators audited by the Accounts Commission.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Council had performed well in respect of its Social Work responsibilities, as evidenced by the Audit Scotland report for 2000-2001;
- (ii) that, in terms of Best Value, officers pursue continuous improvement in all aspects of Social Work provision; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

15. The Committee resolved that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

DEATH OF CHILD WHOSE NAME WAS PLACED ON EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL'S CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER

16. There was submitted a report dated 14 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the circumstances surrounding the death of a child whose name was placed on East Ayrshire Council's Child Protection Register under the Physical Neglect category.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to extend the Committee's condolences to the family of the child in question;
- (ii) to note that representatives of the Scottish Executive would be visiting the Council as part of a more general inquiry regarding child protection procedures throughout Scotland; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1056 hours.

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