

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK (COMMUNITY CARE) SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 1996 AT
1400 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, LONDON ROAD CENTRE, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Jimmy Boyd, Jane Darnbrough, Alan Campbell, Kathleen Hall, Bob Beattie, David Macrae, Jim Kelly, John Smith and Eric Jackson.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Jim Dickie, Director of Social Work, Douglas Bulloch, Depute Director of Social Work (Community Care); Chris McAleavey, Senior Depute Director of Housing; Alan McKnight, Depute Director of Housing; Margaret McManus and James Lally (Support Unit) and Julie Armstrong, Administrative Officer, Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Wilma Doyle and David Sneller.

CHAIR: Councillor Jimmy Boyd, Chair.

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND QUORUM

1. There was submitted a report dated 6 March 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work inviting the Sub-Committee to agree its terms of reference and quorum.

It was agreed to approve the terms of reference as detailed in the report and that the quorum should be four Members.

ADAPTATIONS TO PROPERTY

2. There was submitted a joint report dated 28 February 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work and Director of Housing advising the Sub-Committee of proposed arrangements for the separation of functions in respect of the provision of aids and adaptations for properties within East Ayrshire Council with effect from 1 April 1996.

Having noted that the amount available for adaptations under the Housing Revenue Account was £500,000 and not £325,000 as had been detailed in the report, it was agreed:

- (i) to approve the arrangements for the location of responsibility for elements of the aids and adaptation service as detailed in the report; and
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Social Work and Director of Housing to publicise and implement these arrangements.

COMMUNITY ALARMS

3. There was submitted a report dated 7 March 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work advising of the background to the ALERT and KARE schemes, proposing eligibility, assessment and operational arrangements for the East Ayrshire Community Alarm Scheme and requesting authorisation for the Director of Social Work and Director of Personnel to complete discussions with staff and propose to the Sub-Committee by 1 October 1996 staff salaries, conditions of service and management arrangements.

It was agreed:

- (i) to authorise the Director of Social Work to implement the eligibility, assessment and charging arrangements as detailed in the report;
- (ii) that the Director of Social Work and Director of Personnel Services report to the Sub-Committee by 1 October 1996 with proposals for the staff salary, conditions of service and management arrangements for the East Ayrshire Community Alarm scheme, following discussions with Trades Unions;
- (iii) to withdraw the subsidy to certain users of the existing ALERT scheme as proposed in the report; and
- (iv) to incorporate the East Ayrshire Community Alarm scheme within the Social Work Department's Home Care Charging Policy as detailed in the report.

HOME CARE CHARGING POLICY - WITHDRAWAL OF TRANSITIONAL PROTECTION

4. There was submitted a report dated 6 March 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work providing options in relation to Home Care Charging Policy which could be pursued after 1 April 1996 and indicating the potential revenue which would accrue to the Council through pursuing such options.

In view of the level of savings which were required to be made in budgets, and in order that revenue be available in the future to improve and develop existing services, it was agreed:

- (i) to withdraw all existing transitional protection from 1 April 1996;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Social Work to take action as required to implement this change and to implement the general updating of Home Care Charges by 10% as agreed at the special meeting of the Council on 5 March 1996; and
- (iii) that regular reports on income maximisation be submitted for consideration of this Sub-Committee.

SERVICE FOR OLDER PEOPLE - OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VERY SHELTERED HOUSING

5. There was submitted a joint report dated 6 March 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work and Director of Housing setting out the policy, strategic and service issues in relation to meeting the needs of an ageing population and proposing an approach to the development of very sheltered housing which would provide a service which promoted privacy, dignity and independence for older people.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Director of Social Work and Director of Housing collaborate on developing very sheltered housing as a fundamental element of Community Care services in East Ayrshire;
- (ii) that the Director of Social Work and the Director of Housing negotiate with Scottish Homes and with Housing Associations to develop, to the fullest extent, new very sheltered housing schemes;
- (iii) that the Director of Social Work and Director of Housing survey the existing sheltered housing network to determine its future utilisation, whether as very sheltered housing or as other forms of provision; and
- (iv) that regular reports on the progress towards the provision of very sheltered housing be submitted for consideration of this Sub-Committee.

COMMUNITY CARE (DIRECT PAYMENTS) BILL

6. There was submitted a report dated 7 March 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work advising of the issue, by the Scottish Office, of a consultation paper seeking comments on the Community Care (Direct Payments) Bill which was currently being considered by Parliament and recommending a response thereto

on behalf of the Council.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the response as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report to be submitted to the Scottish Office as East Ayrshire Council's response to the consultation paper; and
- (ii) that a copy of the above response be sent to Local Members of Parliament.

The meeting terminated at 1450 hours.

1 33.min