

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 MARCH 1996 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, LONDON ROAD CENTRE, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Jimmy Boyd, Drew McIntyre, Gordon Cree, Ronald Brailsford, Jane Darnbrough, Alan Campbell, Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall, Bob Beattie, David Macrae, Eric Ross, Jim Kelly and John Smith.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; James Dickie, Director of Social Work; Bernadette Docherty, Senior Depute Director of Social Work (Children, Families and Criminal Justice); Douglas Bulloch, Depute Director of Social Work (Community Care); Alan McDougall, Depute Director of Social Work (Finance and Resources); Bill Duncan, Head of Inspection, Registration and Complaints, Donal Flannery, Principal Officer (Criminal Justice) and Julie Armstrong and Stuart Nelson, Support Unit.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Wilma Doyle, Daniel Coffey, Robert McDill, David Sneller, Tommy Farrell and Eric Jackson.

CHAIR: Councillor Jimmy Boyd, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. Councillor Boyd introduced two recently appointed officers to the Committee: Mr Bill Duncan, Head of Inspection, Registration and Complaints and Mr Donal Flannery, Principal Officer (Criminal Justice).

COMMUNITY CARE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 13 MARCH 1996

2. There were submitted and approved Minutes (circulated) of the above Sub-Committee as shown in Appendix 1 to these Minutes.

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 15 MARCH 1996

3. There were submitted and approved Minutes (circulated) of the above Sub-Committee as shown in Appendix 2 to these Minutes.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

4. There was submitted a report dated 20 March 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to conclude a contract with the Department of Employment in relation to the provision of employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities under the new Supported Employment Programme.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the terms of the report; and
- (ii) that the Director of Support Services conclude the necessary standard contract with the Employment Service.

SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION UNIT: ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5. There was submitted a report dated 20 March 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work advising the Committee of requirements and guidance issued by the Scottish Office Social Work Services Group in relation to the establishment of an Inspection Unit Advisory Committee, and seeking agreement for the establishment of an Advisory Committee in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:

- (i) to establish an Advisory Committee in relation to the Social Work inspection function;
- (ii) to appoint Councillors Jane Darnbrough and Eric Ross, together with one Member of the opposition to be proposed and agreed at the next Meeting of the Council, to the Social Work Inspection Unit Advisory Committee in East Ayrshire, the Committee to be chaired by Councillor Darnbrough; and
- (iii) to seek nominations for membership of the Advisory Committee from voluntary sector providers (two places), private sector providers (two places), service users or appropriate representatives (two places) and carers or appropriate representatives (two places).

CREATION OF AN ADOPTION AND FOSTERING PANEL FOR EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

6. There was submitted a report dated 21 March 1996 (circulated) by the Director Social Work recommending:
 - (i) the creation of an Adoption and Fostering Panel for East Ayrshire;

- (ii) the membership and functions of the Panel; and
- (iii) a mechanism for reviewing the decisions of the Panel.

It was agreed:

- (i) to establish one Panel covering the Council's adoption and fostering responsibilities, to be known as the East Ayrshire Adoption and Fostering Panel;
- (ii) to maintain separate Minutes for the purposes of recording adoption and fostering decisions;
- (iii) that the composition of the Adoption and Fostering Panel be as follows:
 - (a) two elected Members of the Social Work Committee, being Councillors James Boyd and Irene Reeves;
 - (b) the Principal Officer (Children and Families) within the Social Work Department;
 - (c) a Service Officer (Children and Families) within the Social Work Department;
 - (d) an appropriately qualified member of staff nominated by the Education Department; and
 - (e) a childcare designated member of staff of the Social Work Department.
- (iv) that Councillor Boyd be appointed as Chair of the Panel;
- (v) to review the composition of the Panel after the first year of operation;
- (vi) that the Director of Social Work seek a nomination from Ayrshire and Arran Health Board of an appropriate Medical Advisor;
- (vii) to approve the appropriate functions of the Adoption and Fostering Panel of East Ayrshire as set out in the Director's report;
- (viii) to establish a Review Group to review decisions of the Adoption and Fostering Panel, the composition of the Review Group to be as follows:

- (a) an elected Member serving on the Social Work Committee, who is not also a member of the Adoption and Fostering Panel, this Member to serve as Chair;

- (b) a Divisional Manager of the Social Work Department;
 - (c) a designated Child Care Manager;
 - (d) a member of the British Agency for Adoption and Fostering;
- (ix) that Councillor Darnbrough be appointed as the Social Work Committee's representative;
- (x) in cases where the Review Group is considering an application by prospective adoptive parents which has not been approved on medical grounds, an independent Medical Adviser shall be invited to assist the Group and attend the Review; and
- (xi) to allow the Adoption and Fostering Panel discretion in respect to the attendance of applicants at Hearings of the Panel.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK PLAN 1996/97

7. There was submitted a report dated 19 March 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work advising the Committee of the content of the Criminal Justice Social Work Plan 1996/97 for East Ayrshire Council, confirming the level of funding available from the Scottish Office to provide Social Work Criminal Justice Services and seeking Committee approval of the management structure for Social Work Criminal Justice Services.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the level of funding for Criminal Justice Services in East Ayrshire indicated by the Scottish Office, being £725,000 for 1996/97; and
- (ii) that the Management Structure for Social Work Criminal Justice Services as set out in the Director's report, be referred to the Personnel Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

Councillors Cree and McIntyre left the meeting at this point.

ISSUE OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES

8. There was submitted a report dated 18 March 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work advising the Committee that local authorities are required to register certain residential and day care establishments in terms of the Registered Establishments (Scotland) Act, 1987, and the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968

and recommending that the Committee authorise the issue of registration certificates by East Ayrshire Council in respect of establishments previously registered by Strathclyde Regional Council and

authorise the issue of registration certificates, in the future, to establishments which meet the necessary criteria.

Having noted that in relation to paragraph 2.4 of the Director's report the word 'language' should be substituted by the word 'learning', it was agreed:

- (i) to authorise the issue of registration certificates to establishments currently registered by Strathclyde Regional Council;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Social Work to issue certificates in respect of future applications where no objections have been identified and all registration requirements have been met, all certificates issued in this manner to be related to the next appropriate Meeting of the Social Work Committee;
- (iii) that the Director of Social Work bring to Committee for consideration, applications where any objections or concerns have been raised in connection with an application for registration; and
- (iv) that the proposed scale of fees for registration be approved.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

9. There was submitted a report dated 19 March 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work advising of a specific element of grant aided expenditure in respect of "Independent Living Services" which is intended to provide continuing access by people with physical disabilities to personal assistance services, and recommending that East Ayrshire Council commissions a voluntary organisation within East Ayrshire to enable continuing local access to these arrangements.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Director of Social Work commission Glasgow Council for Voluntary Service (GCVS) to provide a payroll service within East Ayrshire Council's Personal Assistance Scheme in order to ensure continuity of service for individuals already operating personal assistance schemes and to provide a framework for the development of such services in future on the basis:
 - (a) that the cost of the payroll service will be linked to the level of usage at a proportional rate and the overall level of funding although anticipated to remain modest, will be subject to financial control within the Social Work Department;

- (b) that Personal Assistants will be employed by individuals at an hourly rate and on conditions acceptable to the local authority; and

- (ii) that the Director of Social Work commission an appropriate voluntary organisation to provide a Personal Assistance Adviser Service on the basis of the following arrangements:
 - (a) the service will incorporate general advice and information to people with disabilities regarding independent living, selection, training and matching of staff to users, and on-going support and assistance service where required;
 - (b) the service will be optional to users;
 - (c) the indicative cost of the Personal Assistance Advisor Post including costs associated with employing the postholder at A.P. 4/5, the cost associated with premises, administration etc., and the management fee to be paid to the provider organisation, are anticipated to fall within £29,025 to £35,475; and
 - (d) the Personal Assistance Adviser will be employed by the selected voluntary organisation on terms and conditions consistent with APT&C conditions of service within a local authority.

Councillor David Macrae left the Meeting during discussion of the preceding item.

AUTHORISATION OF MENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS

- 10.** There was submitted a report dated 18 March 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work advising the Committee that the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 requires local authorities to authorise a number of staff to function as Mental Health Officers in terms of the responsibilities of the Act and recommending that the Committee empowers the Director of Social Work to authorise appropriate staff to carry out these functions

It was agreed to authorise the Director of Social Work:

- (i) to appoint 14 Mental Health Officers for East Ayrshire Council, there being staff already operating in this capacity and who have completed training and been authorised by the Director of Social Work for Strathclyde Regional Council; and
- (ii) to appoint future Mental Health Officers as staff become eligible through current and future training programmes.

Councillor James Kelly left the meeting during discussion of the preceding item.

The meeting terminated at 1120 hours.