

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 1996 AT 1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, LONDON ROAD CENTRE, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Jimmy Boyd, Gordon Cree, Wilma Doyle, Ronald Brailsford, Jane Darnbrough, Alan Campbell, Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall, Bob Beattie, David Macrae, Robert McDill, David Sneller, 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); Alan McDougall, Depute Director of Social Work (Finance and Resources); Mary Fegan, Divisional Social Work Manager, North Division; May Martindale, Divisional Social Work Manager, Central Division; Jim Hazlett, Divisional Social Work Manager, South Division; Kay Gilmour, Principal Officer (Community Care); Lesley Gibson, Principal Officer (Children and Families); Margaret McManus, Principal Officer (Finance and Resources); James Lally (Support Unit); Ian Gemmell, Welfare Rights Development Officer, Strathclyde Regional Council and Julie Armstrong, Administrative Officer, Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Daniel Coffey, Eric Ross and Jim Kelly.

CHAIR: Councillor Jimmy Boyd, in the Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. Councillor Boyd introduced to the Committee the Divisional Managers and Principal Officers who had recently been appointed. He indicated that East Ayrshire Council's Social Work Department now had an excellent Management Team with whom he looked forward to working on a range of key issues facing the Council and advised that the units for which Social Work Divisional Managers would be responsible, would be attached as an appendix to the Minutes of this meeting.

REFOCUSING OF COMMUNITY WORK ACTIVITY WITHIN THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

2. There was submitted report dated 30 January 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work proposing that Community Work activity within the department be refocused on key social work tasks, principally Community Care and the Council's anti-poverty strategy, but also including servicing Local Committees, Children and Families, and Criminal Justice Services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to adopt the proposals as outlined in the report as a basis for Community Work Service provided by the Social Work Department within East Ayrshire;
- (ii) to approve the reframing of activity within Community Work as detailed within the report; and
- (iii) to note that the Director of Social Work would bring a further report to the Committee, jointly with the Director of Education, following further appraisal of workload issues, indicating how the full spectrum of Community Work and Community Development Work formerly covered by Social Work and Education in Strathclyde would be supported in East Ayrshire.

BENEFIT TAKE-UP CAMPAIGN

3. There was submitted joint report dated 30 January 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work and the Director of Housing proposing to mount a benefit take-up campaign within East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the first benefits campaign by East Ayrshire Council should be in relation to Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit; and
- (ii) that the Director of Social Work and the Director of Housing be instructed to implement the campaign and report to the Committee on the outcome of the campaign in due course.

COMMUNITY CARE PLANNING

4. There was submitted report dated 30 January 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work to propose, in conjunction with Ayrshire & Arran Health Board and other planning partners, a framework for the future planning of Community Care services as required by the Scottish Office.

The Director of Social Work reported that since preparation of the report two amendments had been suggested to the proposed framework for Community Care Planning as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

The amendments to the proposed framework were:

- (i) that under the heading "Structure" on Page 3 of the document, the Accommodation Planning Group's name be changed to the "Housing Planning Group"; and
- (ii) that under the heading "Outcomes/Inputs" on Page 4 of the document, the last paragraph should refer to the "Joint Planning Co-ordinating Forum" and not the "Service Planning Group".

It was agreed:-

- (i) to include the above amendments in the framework for Community Care Planning as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (ii) that the framework for Community Care Planning as amended be submitted to the Scottish Office;
- (iii) that the Scottish Office be requested to clarify the responsibility of the Ayrshire and Arran Health Board in respect of strategic planning issues with regard to Community Care; and
- (iv) to authorise the Director of Social Work and Directors of other functions within the Council to initiate the structure for Community Care Planning as detailed in the report.

SPECIFIC GRANT ON MENTAL ILLNESS - SUBMISSION 1996/97

5. There was submitted report dated 30 January 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work advising of arrangements in respect of Specific Grant on Mental Illness (MISG) and recommending a course of action for informing the Scottish Office of the Council's position for 1996/97.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the general arrangements for MISG as set out in Sections 2 and 3 of the report and the terms of Scottish Office Circular SW19/1995 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) to endorse the preferred course of action as detailed in Section 4 of the report; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Social Work to send to the Scottish Office, Form A, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report, as the formal submission from the Council for Mental Illness Specific Grant application 1996/97 in response to Circular SW19/1995.

CONSIDERATION OF SOCIAL WORK ISSUES BY LOCAL COMMITTEES

6. There was submitted report dated 26 January 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work recommending that the Committee determine the areas/issues which should be considered by Local Committees.

It was agreed to approve the general approach with regard to Local Committees' involvement in various Social Work issues such as grant funding, locality planning, Community Care planning, consultation on Social Work services, consultation with representative organisations, Community Regeneration, Child Care Planning, the Criminal Justice Plan, Anti-Poverty Strategy and health issues as detailed in the report.

INTERIM CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK PLAN 1996/97 (373)

7. The Director of Social Work reported that as agreed by the Committee at their meeting on 7 December 1995, an abbreviated planning statement for Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice system for 1996/97 had been submitted to the Scottish Office. He advised that the initial response from the Scottish Office had been favourable but indicated that he was attempting to secure additional resources and that he would report to the next meeting of the Committee with detailed proposals for the delivery of Social Work services in the Criminal Justice system.

The Committee noted the current position.

MEMBERS BRIEFINGS

8. There was submitted report dated 30 January 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work seeking approval for proposed arrangements for Members briefings in relation to Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System and the Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy.

It was agreed that the Members briefing on Anti-Poverty Strategy be held on 7 March 1996 and that the briefing on Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System be held on 19 March 1996, both briefings commencing at 1000 hours in the Meeting Room, London Road Centre, Kilmarnock and that the Director of Social Work be instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

UPRATING OF APPROVED NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL HOME RATES 1996/97

9.1 Declaration of Interest:-

Councillor O'Neill declared an interest in terms of the National Code of Local Government Conduct and took no part in the consideration of this item.

9.2 Consideration of Item

There was submitted report dated 30 January 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work seeking approval for the uprating of the Council's rates for voluntary and private nursing in residential care homes, in line with DSS benefit upratings for 1996/97.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the report;
- (ii) to note the uprated levels of DSS residential care allowances which would apply from April 1996 and to authorise payment of private and voluntary nursing and residential care homes at the revised rate shown in Appendix A of the report from 15 April 1996;
- (iii) to note the administrative arrangements whereby Strathclyde Regional Council would secure the Council's agreement with providers on the 1996/97 approved rates and contract prices on behalf of all successor authorities;
- (iv) to waive the notice period of acceptance by nursing home and residential care home providers of the approved rate in order to allow the new rates to come into effect from 15 April 1996;
- (v) to approve the standard charges to Council funded clients of £100.85 for respite care in private and voluntary nursing homes and £46.85 for local authority homes; and
- (vi) to note the circumstances under which the Council fixes rates above DSS rates through the supplementation system.

UPRATING OF CHARGES FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE IN COUNCIL OPERATED ESTABLISHMENTS 1996/97

9. There was submitted report dated 30 January 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work seeking approval for the uprating of the Council's charges for residential care in units operated by the Council in 1996/97.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the need for consistency in the setting of rates across Scotland;
- (ii) that the rates set by this Council be based on the current rates set by Strathclyde Regional Council;
- (iii) that the current rates should be increased by 3%, in line with the increase in income support and that the current rates be as shown below:-

Residential accommodation for older people -	£306.40
Residential accommodation for people with learning disabilities -	£415.00

and

- (iv) to defer the setting of a similar rate for residential accommodation of children until current cross-boundary issues were resolved and the matter had been given further consideration.

The Meeting terminated at 1135 hours.

6-2.min

Divisions

North Division (formerly Kilmarnock West)

- Kilmarnock West Area Team
- Stewarton Team
- North West Kilmarnock Community Resource Centre
- Kilmaurs Childrens Unit*
- Rosebank
- Mount House
- Glebe Centre

Central Division (formerly Kilmarnock East)

- Kilmarnock East Area Team
- Galston Team
- BARN Resource Centre
- Bellsford House Childrens Unit*
- Ross Court
- Cessnock Gardens
- Kerrmuir Hostel
- Hurlford Centre

South Division (formerly Cumnock & Doon Valley)

- Cumnock Area Team
- Auchinleck Area Team
- Dalmellington Area Team
- Cumnock Childrens Unit*
- Affleck House
- Carrick View
- Riverside Centre
- Auchinleck Day Centre

* Management of Childrens Units may be retained at HQ initially.

NB Further details of devolved management responsibilities will be provided in due course.