

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9 JANUARY 1997 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Jimmy Boyd, Gordon Cree, Wilma Doyle, Jane Darnbrough, Kathleen Hall, Bob Beattie, David Macrae, Robert McDill, Eric Ross, Jim Kelly, David Sneller, John Smith, Tommy Farrell and Eric Jackson.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Douglas Bulloch, Director of Social Work; Bernadette M Docherty, Senior Depute Director of Social Work; Allan Y McDougall, Depute Director of Social Work; Tom McHugh, Depute Director of Finance; Graham Haugh, Depute Director of Personnel Services; Margaret McManus, Principal Officer (Finance and Resources); Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Melanie J Macleod, Administrative Officer; and Christine Baillie, Administrative Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Ronald Brailsford, Alan Campbell, Jim O'Neill and Daniel Coffey.

CHAIR: Councillor Jimmy Boyd, Chair.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK (Item 2, Page 1738)

1. The Chair announced the appointment of Mr Douglas Bulloch as the new Director of Social Work, effective from 9 January 1997 and following unanimous agreement by the Recruitment Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee of 8 January 1997. On behalf of the Committee, he congratulated Mr Bulloch and expressed his confidence in the new Director's ability to meet the demands of the post. He also praised the Senior Depute Director of Social for her work in fulfilling the role of Acting Director of Social Work in the period prior to Mr Bulloch's appointment.

The new Director of Social Work thanked the Committee and praised both the previous Director of Social Work and the current Senior Depute Director of Social Work for the high standards set for the Department.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

2. There were submitted and approved, both as corrected records and in respect of recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes (circulated) as contained in Appendices I and II of these Minutes.
 - 2.1 **CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE OF 4 DECEMBER 1996** - Appendix I.
 - 2.2 **COMMUNITY CARE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 6 DECEMBER 1996** - Appendix II.

PUBLIC INQUIRY: SUICIDES IN HM PRISON, CORNTON VALE, STIRLING

3. There was submitted a report dated 2 December 1996 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Social Work on a request by West Dunbartonshire Council, that East Ayrshire Council endorse their motion to the Secretary of State for Scotland that “a public inquiry is the only way to satisfy the public’s grave concern regarding these desperately tragic deaths” and recommending a response.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support the call for a Public Inquiry into the deaths of the five young women in HM Prison, Cornton Vale; and
- (ii) that it be remitted to the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Scotland, supporting the call to set up a Public Inquiry.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT TO 11 OCTOBER 1996
(PERIOD 7)**

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 12 December 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on the budgetary control position of the Social Work Department as at 11 October 1996, financial period 7.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME - MONITORING REPORT

5. There was submitted a report dated 13 December 1996 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Social Work on the progress of Social Work capital projects in 1996/97 and, in particular, providing details of delays in actioning approved projects to resolve a phasing problem in the Dalsalloch Centre, Auchinleck.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the completion of work at Affleck House, Home for Older People, Auchinleck;
- (ii) to note progress with the relocation of the Community Alarm Control Centre at Ross Court, Galston, and the upgrade of the office at Campbeltown Drive, Kilmarnock;
- (iii) to note the commencement of work to install vehicle heating systems and a tail-lift;
- (iv) to note delays in actioning approved projects as shown below due to a phasing problem in connection with work at the Dalsalloch Centre, Auchinleck, viz:- (a) Children’s Homes Upgrade (£25,000), (b) Homes for Older People Upgrade (£30,000), (c) Seat Belt Retro Fit (£20,000), (d) Information Technology (£15,000), (e) Office and Unit Adaptations (£24,834); and
- (v) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**DISPOSAL OF MOUNT HOUSE, FORMER RESIDENTIAL HOME FOR OLDER
PEOPLE, KILMARNOCK (Item 2, Page 1651)**

6. There was submitted a report dated 13 December 1996 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Social Work, recommending that Mount House, formerly a residential home for older people in Kilmarnock, be declared surplus to operational requirements.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to declare Mount House, formerly a residential home for older people in Kilmarnock, surplus to the operational requirements of the Social Work Department; and
- (ii) to remit to the Director of Support Services to undertake the necessary action in respect of this matter.

REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL TRANSPORT

7. There was submitted a report dated 9 December 1996 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Social Work, on the findings of the Departmental Transport Review and making recommendations for improvements in service provision.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that a maximum target time for travel be set at one hour and thirty minutes (45 minutes each way) for 95% of clients by April 1997 and one hour (30 minutes each way) for 95% of clients by April 1998;
- (ii) that each Unit Manager be empowered to designate two escorts on a bus if the level of dependency of clients, or other factors, indicated a requirement for a second escort, the cost of additional escorts to be met from unit budgets;
- (iii) that training be provided for escorts in lifting and handling, first aid, and in dealing with clients with behavioural difficulties;
- (iv) to approve the overarching principle of improving the transport standards;
- (v) to remit to the Director of Social Work the preparation of a further report in September 1997, detailing the performance of transport systems; and
- (vi) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1035 hours.