

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE
SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 1998 AT 1400 HOURS,
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall, Jimmy Boyd and John Smith.

ATTENDING: Bernadette Docherty, Senior Depute Director of Social Work; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; Donal Flannery, Principal Officer (Criminal Justice); Lesley Gibson, Principal Officer (Children and Families); Patricia McColgan, Assistant Principal Officer (Children and Families); Eileen McConville-Clark, Senior Officer (Children and Families); Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; and Melanie Macleod, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Jane Darnbrough, Ronald Brailsford, Alan Campbell and Eric Ross.

CHAIR: In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Jimmy Boyd was appointed to the Chair.

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE LOOKED
AFTER**

1. There was submitted a report dated 6 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the range of statutory duties towards children looked after and accommodated by the Local Authority, including those affected by disability as determined by the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 Section 17, Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, and laid out in the Arrangements to Look after Children (Scotland) Regulations 1996, and which sought approval of the policy and procedure document which outlined guidance for staff in the implementation of those duties and responsibilities.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals contained in the paper;
- (ii) to recommend to Council approval of the related policy and procedure document appended to the report; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

**A DESCRIPTION OF THE CHILDREN'S CARERS RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN
AND THE OUTCOMES (Item 6, Page 2138)**

2. There was submitted a report dated 6 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which (i) gave a description of the Children's Carers Recruitment Campaign over the period from January 1997 to May 1997, (ii) indicated the progress made, and (iii) detailed the campaign's outcomes.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the success of the Children's Carers Recruitment Campaign; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE BY OFFENDERS: PUBLIC AWARENESS,
ENVIRONMENTAL WORK AND HOURS - SWSG CIRCULAR 5/98 (Item 5, Page
2686)**

3. There was submitted a report dated 6 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on changes in the arrangements relating to public awareness measures for Community Service schemes introduced as part of Social Work Services Group (SWSG) Circular 12/96 in April 1996, and reviewed following a recommendation in the Social Work Services Inspectorate (SWSI) report on Community Service placements, "A Positive Penalty".

It was agreed:-

- (i) that, where the opportunity arose and where appropriate, the East Ayrshire Council Community Service by Offenders Scheme would continue to promote its activities with the local media;
- (ii) that, where appropriate, the use of plaques to publicise the work undertaken by Community Service by Offenders, would continue and be placed at the project site upon completion of the task;
- (iii) that the use of marked vehicles and marked protective clothing be discontinued; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the content of the report.

COSTS, SENTENCING PROFILES AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, 1996

4. There was submitted a report dated 6 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the content of a Scottish Office publication, "Costs, Sentencing Profiles and the Criminal Justice System, 1996" and which sought approval for proposed action by the Social Work Department.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Social Work Department would continue to promote the range of community-based disposals within courts and concentrate its efforts on developing and maintaining the credibility of its probation and Community Service schemes with sentencers, with the aim of providing sentencers with sufficient confidence to enable them to make greater use, in appropriate cases, of community-based disposals; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1435 hours.