

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 1997 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Jane Darnbrough, Drew McIntyre, Gordon Cree, Wilma Doyle, Ronald Brailsford, Alan Campbell, Kathleen Hall, Bob Beattie, Daniel Coffey, David Macrae, Robert McDill, Jim Kelly, John Smith, Tommy Farrell and Eric Jackson.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Douglas Bulloch, Director of Social Work; Allan Y McDougall, Depute Director of Social Work; Tom McHugh, Depute Director of Finance; Kay Gilmour, Principal Officer (Community Care); Margaret McManus, Principal Officer (Finance and Resources); Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Morven Gemmill, Service Officer (Community Care); and Melanie J Macleod, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Jimmy Boyd, Irene Reeves, Jim O'Neill, Eric Ross and David Sneller.

CHAIR: Councillor Jane Darnbrough, Vice-Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. As part of ongoing Staff Training Development, the Chair welcomed Janice Harrison, Community Worker (Shortlees Community House) and Diane Page, Service Officer - Development (Community Care).

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTE

2. There was submitted and approved, both as a correct record and in respect of recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minute (circulated) as contained in Appendix I of these Minutes.

2.1 COMMUNITY CARE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 31 JANUARY 1997- Appendix I.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT TO 6 DECEMBER 1996
(PERIOD 9)**

3. Submit report dated 12 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on the budgetary control position of the Social Work Department as at 6 December 1996, financial period 9.

It was agreed :-

- (i) to note that the figure of £320,940 cited in the report as a favourable variance on income from Ayrshire & Arran Health Board may be subject to revision following ongoing discussion with the Health Board; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

1822

UPRATING OF CHARGES FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE IN COUNCIL OPERATED ESTABLISHMENTS 1997/98 (Item 3, 1661)

4. The Committee agreed, in terms of Standing Order 51, to reconsider the charge to authorities outwith Ayrshire, for the residential care of children, to come into effect from 1 April 1997.

There was submitted a report dated 11 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work seeking approval for the uprating of weekly charges for residential care in establishments operated by the Council, from 1 April 1997.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the following increased weekly rates for 1997/98, effective from 1 April 1997, for residential care, viz:- £314.10 in respect of residential accommodation for older people; £425.40 in respect of residential accommodation for people with learning disabilities; and £567.00 in respect of residential accommodation for children;

C

- (ii) to recommend that the revised charge for the residential care for children apply to all local authorities; and

C

- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

UPRATING OF APPROVED NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL HOME RATES AND RESPITE CARE CHARGES 1997/98 (Item 9.2, Page 480)

5. There was submitted a report dated 11 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work seeking approval for the uprating of the Council's rates for voluntary and private nursing and residential care homes, in line with the DSS benefit uprating in 1997/98 and the increase in respite care charges.

It was agreed

- (i) to approve the rates in respect of voluntary and private nursing and residential care homes as detailed in Appendix II of these Minutes;
- (ii) that the rates for respite care in 1997/98 be increased to £48.35 (in East Ayrshire Council establishments) and £104.35 (in private and voluntary residential and nursing homes);

- (iii) to note the application of the CoSLA agreement on the setting of Supplementation rates in 1997/98; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

DEPARTMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN: TARGETS (Item 4, Page 1327)

6. There was submitted a report dated 31 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which updated the Committee on the Department's Environmental Action Plan; proposed the setting of targets; and explained how these targets could be achieved.

It was agreed:-

1823

- (i) that the Social Work Department would use recycled paper products from 1997/98, where such use presented no additional financial costs;
- (ii) that a target reduction of 15% of the 1996/97 level, be set for the quantity of paper products used by the Social Work Department in 1997/98;
- (iii) that 100% of all toner cartridges used by the Social Work Department be recycled;
- (iv) that 50% of all paper used by the Department be collected for recycling;
- (v) to note that discussions and monitoring were ongoing in respect of energy efficiency; and
- (vi) to note the initiatives outlined to achieve the Social Work Departmental targets.

Councillor Kelly left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

SENSORY IMPAIRMENT SERVICES (Item 2, Page 1335)

7. There was submitted a report dated 6 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work seeking approval to establish an East Ayrshire Council Sensory Impairment Strategy and effect the initial implementation of the Strategy.

The Chair expressed the Committee's appreciation of the in-depth work carried out by Officers of the Social Work Department in consulting upon and evaluating the needs of the sensory impaired.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Strategy for Individuals with a Sensory Impairment;

- (ii) that it be remitted to the Director of Social Work to liaise with the Director of Personnel Services regarding the staffing implications of the report and to arrange consideration of the same by the Personnel Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee and with the Trade Unions;
- (iii) to remit to the Director of Social Work the monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy and the preparation of a report on progress to be submitted to a future meeting of the Social Work Committee;
- c (iv) to recommend to Council to authorise that a charging policy for sign language interpreter services be established; c
- (v) that the rate be £17.50 per hour plus expenses (nationally agreed level of fees as published by the Council for the Advancement of Communications with Deaf People and the Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters); and
- (vi) to remit to the Director of Social Work the necessary arrangements to recover charges.

REPORT OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS (Item 2, Page 1085)

- 8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 11 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the number and nature of violent incidents which had occurred in Social Work establishments and offices from 1 April 1996.

1824

SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT 1968: SECTION 10 PAYMENTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS - CHILDLINE SCOTLAND

- 9. There was submitted a report dated 11 February 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work recommending approval of an application for Section 10 grant funding for 1996/97 from Childline Scotland.

It was agreed to approve a payment of £900 in 1996/97 to Childline Scotland.

The meeting terminated at 1105 hours.