

APPENDIX I

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 1998 AT 1400 HOURS, IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Ronald Brailsford, Jim O'Neill, Eric Ross, Jimmy Boyd and Tommy Farrell.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Bernadette Docherty, Senior Depute Director of Social Work; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer; Donal Flannery, Principal Officer (Criminal Justice); Lesley Gibson, Principal Officer (Children and Families); Eileen McConville-Clark, Senior Officer (Children and Families); Margaret Reeves, Service Officer (Children and Families); Michael McGuire, Throughcare Manager (Children and Families); and Melanie Macleod, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Jane Darnbrough, Drew McIntyre, Alan Campbell and Kathleen Hall.

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

“A COMMITMENT TO PROTECT” - SUPERVISING SEX OFFENDERS: PROPOSALS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

1. There was submitted and noted a report dated 20 January 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the content of the report on the Scottish Office review of arrangements for supervising sex offenders in the community and which commented upon the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillors Cree and O'Neill joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES ON YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

2. There was submitted a joint report dated 20 January 1998 (circulated) by the Directors of Social Work and of Housing on the outlined policy and procedures document relating to youth homelessness within East Ayrshire Council.

It was agreed:

- (i) to recommend to Council the approval of the related policy documents circulated within the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

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SUMMER SUPPORT PROGRAMME - HILLSIDE SCHOOL, CUMNOCK

3. There was submitted a joint report dated 21 January 1998 (circulated) by the Directors of Social Work and of Education on proposals to implement a summer support project for families with children with complex needs.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the outlined proposal as a project for the summer of 1998, subject to consultation with the Director of Personnel Services;
- (ii) to remit to the Personnel Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee, the matter of the grading of the proposed staff;
- (iii) that the Director of Social Work report further to the Sub-Committee on the effectiveness of the project in terms of future developments; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

SCHEME FOR PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCE TO ADOPTERS (Item 5, Page 733)

4. There was submitted a report dated 20 January 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the proposed re-creation of an Adoption Allowance Scheme for East Ayrshire Council.

C Having noted the contents of the report, it was agreed to recommend to Council:- **C**

- (i) the approval of the creation of a new adoption allowance scheme for East Ayrshire as detailed within the report;
- (ii) the approval of the categories of children eligible for inclusion in the Scheme, as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report;
- (iii) the approval of the responsibility of the Adoption Panel as detailed in paragraph 6 of the report; and
- (iv) the approval of the role of the Adoption Review Group when prospective adoptive parents appeal against refusal of an adoption allowance or disagree with the conditions made.

ADDITIONAL ITEM

5. The Chair agreed that this item of urgent business be considered as an early decision was required.

REPORT ON INVESTIGATION INTO ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT'S HANDLING OF THE CASE OF MR STEPHEN LEISK

6. There was submitted a report dated 26 January 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the response by the Director of Social Work, Aberdeen City Council, to that Authority's Social Work Committee to a report by Dr McManus into the handling of the case of Mr Steven Leisk, and which requested the Director of Social Work to consider and report on the implications for East Ayrshire Council.

The report outlined the general areas of failure indicated by Dr McManus in his report; the principle issues of national significance identified by Dr McManus and commented upon by the Director of Social Work of Aberdeen City Council; and a number of issues of local significance to the Aberdeen City Council area.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Social Work consider the implications for East Ayrshire Council of the report by Dr McManus and the Director of Social Work, Aberdeen City Council, and submit a detailed report on the matter to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1500 hours.