

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11 APRIL 1996 AT 1000 HRS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Jimmy Boyd, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Wilma Doyle, Ronald Brailsford, Jane Darnbrough, Kathleen Hall, Daniel Coffey, David Macrae, Jim Kelly and Eric Jackson.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Jim Dickie, Director of Social Work; Bernadette Docherty, Senior Depute Director of Social Work (Children, Families & Criminal Justice); Allan McDougall, Depute Director of Social Work (Finance and Resources); Mary Francey, Service Manager, Social Work Department; Julie Armstrong and James Lally, Administrative Officers.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Alan Campbell, Jim O'Neill, Bob Beattie, Robert McDill, Eric Ross, David Sneller, John Smith and Tommy Farrell.

CHAIR: Councillor Jimmy Boyd, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair advised the Committee of the appointment of Karen McLaughlin as Training Manager, Social Work, who would be taking up post on Monday.

He also extended his best wishes on behalf of the Committee to Councillor John Smith who was ill in hospital.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT - HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

2. There was submitted a report dated 2 April 1996 (circulated) by Director of Social Work recommending approval of a Departmental Health and Safety Policy, in line with the corporate Health and Safety Policy approved by the Council on 2 April 1996. The report outlined the allocation of responsibilities to managers and employees and affirmed the Director of Social Work's commitment to health and safety in the various workplaces in the Department.

On a question raised regarding smoking in Social Work Units, the Director of Social Work responded that where possible places would be provided for smokers. A similar policy would be provided for clients/customers but judgement would be exercised by staff in this regard.

A question was also raised regarding the current use of personal protective equipment and it was noted that personal alarms and mobile phones could be made available to staff where necessary.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the Departmental Health and Safety Policy;
- (ii) that the Director of Social Work consult with the Senior Safety Officer on behalf of the Director of Personnel on implementation of the policy; and
- (iii) that the Director of Social Work consult with the appropriate Trade Unions to seek agreement on the policy and thereafter communicate the adopted Departmental Policy to all Social Work employees.

**GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS -
SECTION 10 AGENCY AGREEMENTS**

3. There was submitted a report dated 4 April 1996 (circulated) by Director of Social Work recommending the payment of Section 10 grants to voluntary organisations previously made in the form of agency agreements with Strathclyde Regional Council, to allow the continuation of services in 1996/97.

The Director of Social Work reported that the organisation One Plus Publicity should be added to the list with a recommended payment of £1,530.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Director of Social Work make payment of Section 10 grants to the following voluntary organisations subject to confirmation being obtained that relevant Councils would make a sufficient financial contribution to ensure viability before East Ayrshire Council's payment was committed:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Grant</u>
One Plus	£4,710
National Children's Home (NCH)	£3,590
West of Scotland Society for the Deaf	£3,080
Women's Royal Voluntary Services (WRVS)	£5,430
Ocean Youth Club	£630
St Vincent's Deaf	£3,390
Enable - Holidays	£2,030
Sense	£560
Sparky the Dragon Bus	£2,150
Strathclyde Mediation	£4,320
Barnardos	£4,800
Strathclyde After School Care	£2,970
Strathclyde Carers	£4,440
Epilepsy Association	£14,670
One Plus Publicity	£1,530
Total -	£58,300

- (ii) that the Director of Social Work review the operation of each organisation and determine the benefits delivered to the East Ayrshire area; and
- (iii) that the Director of Social Work extend the model agency agreements with the approved organisations for one year.

AYRSHIRE SPECIAL GAMES

4. There was submitted a report dated 4 April 1996 (circulated) by Director of Social Work detailing arrangements to support the 1996 Ayrshire Special Games and seeking agreement to the arrangements.

The Chair welcomed Mary Francey, Co-ordinator of the Games, to the meeting who gave a short presentation on the arrangements for the Games to be held on 29 May 1996 at Dam Park, Ayr, giving details of the organisations involved, sponsorship and invitations. She intimated that the donation from the Council's support would take the form of staff time and transport to and from the Games and that invitations would be sent to all Elected Members.

It was agreed:

- (i) to welcome the arrangements for the Ayrshire Special Games on 29 May 1996;
- (ii) to promote the involvement of East Ayrshire children and adults with learning disabilities in the Games;
- (iii) that the Director of Social Work liaise with the Directors of Education and of Community Services to co-ordinate an East Ayrshire approach to the Games;
- (iv) that a report be submitted by Director of Social Work to Council for consideration of support of the Games on a corporate basis by East Ayrshire Council; and
- (v) that the Director of Social Work make the necessary arrangements for invitations to be sent to all Elected Members.

Mary Francey left the meeting at this point.

SCHEME FOR PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO ADOPTERS

5. There was submitted a report dated 4 April 1996 (circulated) by Director of Social Work recommending the creation of an Adoption Allowance Scheme for East Ayrshire Council.

Having noted that the Director of Social Work would provide members with details of the Department's current budget for this scheme, it was agreed:

- (i) that an Adoption Allowance Scheme be created for East Ayrshire as detailed in the report;
- (ii) that the categories of children eligible for inclusion in the scheme be as follows:
 - (a) children who have mental or physical disabilities or who have complex emotional or behavioural difficulties;
 - (b) the older child;
 - (c) two or more children;
 - (d) non-related foster children or those with the prospect of an adoptive home with a low income family.
- (iii) to note the responsibility of the Adoption Panel as detailed in the report;

- (iv) to approve the role of the Adoption Review Group when prospective adoptive parents were refused an Adoption Allowance or disagreed with the conditions made; and
- (v) that the Adoption Allowances for individual young people be reviewed at least annually after their 18th birthday by the Adoption Panel.

**CONSIDERATION OF WEEKLY MAINTENANCE RATES FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE PLACED WITHIN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS**

6. There was submitted a report dated 1 April 1996 (circulated) by Director of Social Work seeking agreement of weekly rates of payment for maintenance of young people placed within residential schools.

It was noted that two residential schools, namely Balrossie and Kerelaw, would continue to be used by the new Councils on a user agreement basis which had been drawn up over the previous few months subject to an overview by the Monitoring Group.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve as an interim measure the weekly maintenance rates which the Council was prepared to pay for residential schools as detailed below and that the Director of Social Work continue negotiations where necessary with the schools to reach agreement on a rate for East Ayrshire Council placements:

Ballikinrain

Block -	£842.30
Spot -	£935.89

Geilsland

Block -	£990.08
Spot -	£1100.08

Good Shepherd Centre

Block -	£959.98
Spot -	£1066.64

Kibble

Block -	£927.64
Spot -	£1030.72

St Johns

Block -	£959.98
Spot -	£1066.64

St Marys Kenmure

Block -	£1502.92
Spot -	£1669.92

St Philips

Block -	£953.20
Spot -	£1059.11

Snowdon

Block -	£851.70
Spot -	£946.33

- (ii) that the Director of Social Work report back to Committee on any recommended rates reached; and
- (iii) that the Director of Social Work submit a report in due course to the Children, Families & Criminal Justice Sub-Committee of the Social Work Committee on a full corporate review of child care referrals and identifying better range of alternatives.

It was noted that there would be a Social Work training session on 12 April 1996 on the criminal justice system.

The meeting terminated at 1100 hrs.