

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21 APRIL 1998 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Jimmy Boyd, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Wilma Doyle, Ronald Brailsford, Jane Darnbrough, Alan Campbell, Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall, Ann Hay, Daniel Coffey, David Macrae, Robert McDill, Eric Ross, David Sneller, John Smith and Eric Jackson.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Douglas Bulloch, Director of Social Work; Mary Fegan and Allan Y McDougall, Depute Directors of Social Work; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; Margaret McManus, Principal Officer; Ian Gemmell, Head of Anti Poverty Unit; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Anne Marie Carr, Administrative Officer; and Christine Baillie, Administrative Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Jim Kelly and Tommy Farrell.

CHAIR: Councillor Jimmy Boyd, Chair.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. There were submitted and approved, both as correct records and in respect of any recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Minutes (circulated) as contained in Appendices I-IV of these Minutes.
 - 1.1 **SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF 27 FEBRUARY 1998** - Appendix I.
 - 1.2 **SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF 20 MARCH 1998** - Appendix II.
 - 1.3 **CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUB COMMITTEE OF 1 APRIL 1998** - Appendix III.
 - 1.4 **COMMUNITY CARE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 3 APRIL 1998** - Appendix IV.

SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**2.1 MEMBERSHIP**

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that Doreen Kelly had resigned as a member of the Advisory Committee; and
- (ii) to recommend to Council that George Nutman be appointed to serve on the

Councillor Ross joined the meeting during discussion of the above Item.

2.2 RECRUITMENT, SELECTION AND CHAIRING AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAY INSPECTION

There was submitted a report dated 14 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the current arrangements in place for the Inspection Advisory Committee which proposed arrangements for (i) the future recruitment and selection of Advisory Committee Members; (ii) arrangements for the Chairing of future Advisory Committee Meetings; and (iii) the development of a pilot scheme of lay inspection.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the continued membership of existing Advisory Committee members;
- (ii) that the Director of Social Work be authorised to undertake further recruitment of User and Carer Representatives to maintain membership of the Committee and submit details of such nominations for Council approval;
- (iii) to note that the maximum term of membership for co-opted Advisory Committee members would be three years;
- (iv) that the Chair of the Advisory Committee be elected annually from among the User and Carer Representatives; and
- (v) that the Director of Social Work implement a pilot approach to the involvement of lay members of the Inspection Advisory Committee on inspections and to report on progress to a future meeting of the Social Work Committee.

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

3. There was submitted a report dated 15 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on applications received from Voluntary Organisations for Section 10 Funding in 1998/99 and which recommended accordingly.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the undernoted grant awards be made:-

NAME OF ORGANISATION	GRANT AWARD
Ayrshire Lone Parent Forum	£1,130
British Rentinitis Pigmentosa Society	£100
Carers National Association	£600
Childline Scotland	£1,384
CSV - Clyde Action	£1,360
Dementia Services Development Centre	£560
Enable - Legal Services	£270
Family Mediation	£4,320
Marriage Counselling Ayrshire	£417
One Parent Families	£125

One Plus - One Parent Families	£6,240
SACRO	£2,430
Scottish Child Law Centre	£600
Scottish Low Pay Unit	£3,880
Scottish Old Age Pensions Association	£250
Scottish Women's Aid	£135
SCUDA	£2,175
SENSE	£560
Strathclyde Carers Forum	£560
Strathclyde Gay and Lesbian Switchboard	£500

(ii) that the undernoted applications for grant be refused:-

NAME OF ORGANISATION	REASON FOR REFUSAL
Birthlink Adoption Counseling Centre	A service had been provided by Barnardo's Scotland.
The Council for Music in Hospitals	The organisation was not concerned with Social welfare.
Who Cares? Scotland	Payment to organisation to be paid through agency agreement.
Barnardo's Scotland (Scottish Adoption Advice Service)	Payment to organisation to be paid through agency agreement.
Chronic Fatigue Action & Support	Similar service currently provided by the Council.
Deafblind UK	Similar service currently provided by the Council.

(iii) that the undernoted applications for grant be continued for consideration to a future meeting of the Committee pending further information in respect of each application, viz:-

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Phace West
 Scottish Gypsy Travellers Association
 Strathclyde Elderly Forum
 The Innocents
 Victim Support Scotland
 West of Scotland Lesbian and Gay Forum

(iv) to note the undernoted applications had been or would be considered by another Committee as stated:-

NAME OF ORGANISATION**COMMITTEE**

Kilmarnock and Loudoun Furniture Policy and Resources Committee
Distribution Scheme

Lead (Scotland)

Education Committee

Scottish Human Rights Centre

Policy and Resources Committee

Scottish Refugee Council

Policy and Resources Committee

(v) to note that the undernoted applications would be considered by the Divisional Manager, viz:-

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Muirkirk Day Centre Management Committee

Patna Day Centre

(vi) to note the action taken in respect of the following applications, viz:-

NAME OF ORGANISATION**ACTION TAKEN**

Ayrshire Council on Alcohol

Funded through one year service level agreement with other local authorities and Health Board.

Cumnock and Doon Valley Women's Aid

Funded through service level agreement.

Kilmarnock Women's Aid

Funded through service level agreement.

(vii) that a budget allocation to Divisional Managers would be considered after the revision of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers to be considered at Council on 7 May 1998; and

(viii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF STAFF

4. There was submitted a report dated 14 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which sought approval for the Social Work Department to proceed with its strategy for the recruitment and retention of staff.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to remit the proposals for flexible working outlined in Section 3.5.2 and 3.5.3 of the Strategy document, detailed at Appendix I of the report, to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration together with the offer, if there are no difficulties in principle, to pilot, monitor and evaluate such approaches on the Council's behalf within the Social Work Department;
- (ii) otherwise, to approve the package of proposals outlined within the staff recruitment and retention document detailed at Appendix I to the report;
- (iii) to note that further consultation with the Trade Unions on the details of the issues and the implementation of the proposals will be affected as appropriate; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SCOTTISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT - SOCIAL WORK

5. There was submitted a report dated 14 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on a recent publication by the Scottish Local Government Information Unit on Social Work in Scotland and which made recommendations for the future use of the document.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the publication of the Scottish Local Government Information Unit "Guide to Social Work Services in Scotland" be noted; and
- (ii) to note that the Director of Social Work would utilise the report as an introduction to Social Work in relation to (a) staff induction; (b) collaboration with other Council Departments; (c) liaison with other agencies; and (d) in other settings.

DISPOSAL OF SOCIAL WORK OFFICE, BARRHILL ROAD, CUMNOCK

6. There was submitted a report dated 14 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which advised that the Social Work Office at Barrhill Road, Cumnock, would be surplus to departmental requirements following the transfer of staff to the Dalsalloch Centre, Auchinleck.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Social Work Office at Barrhill Road, Cumnock be declared surplus to departmental requirements following the transfer of staff to the Dalsalloch Centre, Auchinleck;
- (ii) to refer the matter to the Director of Support Services for consideration and further action; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFER ENVIRONMENT PROJECT (CHASE) MANAGEMENT REVIEW (Item 4, Page 2543)

7. There was submitted a report dated 7 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the review of the management arrangements for the CHASE Project carried out by the Social Work Department and which sought approval for the future management arrangements for the project.

It was agreed:

- (i) that future management arrangements for the Community Health and Safer Environment Project (CHASE) be approved for submission to the Scottish Office in terms of the proposals contained within Section 4 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

REVISED CHARGING POLICY FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES (Item 5, Page 3079)

8. There was submitted a report dated 15 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the revised charging policy for non-residential Social Work Services which became effective for service users from 6 April 1998.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that Paragraph 2.3 of the report be amended to read:- "Section 87 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, as subsequently amended by a number of later Acts, empowers Local Authorities to levy and recover reasonable charges for providing Social Work services under the 1968 Act, under certain sections of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 or under or by virtue of Part II of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.";
- (ii) that paragraph 4.2 of the report be amended to read "the revised charging policy is more equitable with only one system being in place for all elements of charging for non residential Social Work services and offers a transparently fair approach to charging with service users becoming liable for charges only when their income is above the basic benefit levels;
- (iii) that the arrangements for the implementation of the revised and extended charging policy detailed in paragraph 5 of the report be approved; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

9. There was submitted a report dated 14 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which outlined arrangements for the operation of a Social Work comments and complaints procedure.

It was agreed that the introduction of the Social Work comments and complaints procedure detailed at Appendix I of the report be approved.

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

AWARDING OF TENDER

10. There was submitted and noted a report dated 6 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which provided details of a tender which had been awarded in respect of the Social Work Department:-

CONTRACT	SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT
Supply and Delivery of One "3 Tonne" Van	Arnold Clark Automobiles, Kilmarnock	£12,078.00

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

11. The Committee resolved that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

VIOLENT INCIDENTS (Item 16, Page 2360)

12. There was submitted a report dated 15 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the number and nature of violent incidents against Social Work staff which had occurred in Social Work establishments during 1997/98.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that Paragraph 3.1, third line of the report be amended to read 1997/98 and not 1996/97;
- (ii) that the figure detailed in the table at paragraph 3.3 of the report under the heading "Children and Families 96/97" be amended to read 12 and not 14;
- (iii) that the developments which were being pursued by the Social Work Department as outlined in Paragraph 4 of the report be approved;
- (iv) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report in six months to the Social Work Committee providing an update in respect of Paragraph 5.2 of the report pertaining to specific violent incidents against Social Work staff; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1125 hours.