

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 1998 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors James Boyd, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Wilma Doyle, Ronald Brailsford, Alan Campbell, Kathleen Hall, Ann Hay, Daniel Coffey and Jim Kelly.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Douglas Bulloch, Director of Social Work; Bernadette Docherty, Senior Depute Director of Social Work; Chris McAleavey, Senior Depute Director (Operations); Allan McDougall, Depute Director of Social Work (Finance and Resources); Donal Flannery, Principal Officer (Criminal Justice); Alex McPhee, Senior Accountant; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Jim Hazlett, Divisional Manager (Social Work); Martin Clark, Service Officer (Community Care); Karen McLaughlin, Training Manager; Amanda Lowe, Administrative Officer (Finance and Resources); Melanie Macleod, Administrative Officer; and Christine Baillie, Administrative Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Jane Darnbrough, David Sneller, John Smith, Tommy Farrell and Eric Jackson.

CHAIR: Councillor James Boyd, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. As part of ongoing staff training development, the Chair welcomed to the meeting Maureen Kidd and Jacqui Blair, Administrative Assistants within the Director's Office.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

2. There were submitted and approved both as a correct record and in respect of any recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Minutes (circulated) as contained in Appendices I, II and III of these Minutes, subject to the amendment detailed below.

- 2.1 **CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 11 NOVEMBER 1998 - APPENDIX I**

- 2.2 **COMMUNITY CARE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 13 NOVEMBER 1998 – APPENDIX II.**

- 2.3 **SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF 23 NOVEMBER 1998 – APPENDIX III.**

It was agreed to note that Item 5 of this Minute should be amended to read "It was agreed that the Director of Social Work would update members of this Committee on the consistency of approach taken by the Inspection Unit to all inspectable settings".

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT – SOCIAL WORK TO 9
OCTOBER 1998 (PERIOD 7)**

3. There was submitted a joint report dated 18 November 1998 (circulated) by the Directors of Finance and of Social Work on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Social Work Department for the period ended 9 October 1998 (Period 7).

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Social Work identify and implement appropriate management action to reduce as far as possible the overall overspend, with a report on lunch club income recovery arrangements being made to this Committee no later than February 1999 within the context of a Community Meals Review; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Kelly joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

**LEASE AGREEMENTS FOR CALL ALARMS IN RESIDENTIAL
ACCOMMODATION FOR OLDER PEOPLE - VIREMENT**

4. There was submitted a report dated 24 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which sought the re-allocation of revenue funds to meet lease costs for the upgrade of call alarms equipment in residential units for older people.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the transfer of £9,091.19 from the DSS transfer budget as detailed in the report in accordance with Section 5.3 of the Financial Regulations; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

**UPGRADE OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR CHILDREN - VIREMENT
OF RESOURCES**

5. There was submitted a report dated 24 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which sought the re-allocation of revenue funds to meet the costs of the upgrade of residential units for children.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to remit to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration the transfer of £50,000 from the Payments budget to Other Property Costs in the Children and Families Services budget in accordance with Section 5.3 of the Council's Financial Regulations; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT 1968 - SECTION 10 PAYMENTS TO
VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS - SPECIAL OLYMPICS (SCOTLAND
WEST)**

6. There was submitted a report dated 24 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on an application for Section 10 funding from the Special Olympics (Scotland West).

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair offered his congratulations to those invited to participate in the forthcoming Special Olympics in North Carolina in 1999.

Thereafter, it was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the payment of Section 10 funds in the amount of £1,400 to the Special Olympics (Scotland West); and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO “CHILDREN’S SAFEGUARDS REVIEW” (THE KENT REPORT) (Item 4, Page 3841)

7. There was submitted a report dated 25 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the Scottish Office response to the “Children’s Safeguards Review” which included the allocation of extra resources to authorities for securing improvements in Children’s services.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the commitment given by the Director of Social Work that East Ayrshire Council wished to take up its projected allocation of additional resources to respond to the objectives identified; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

CARING CUP AWARDS 1998

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 24 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the success of East Ayrshire nominations in the Caring Cup Awards for 1998.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair offered his congratulations to young people from Year 2 of St Joseph’s Cumnock Campus who were awarded third equal prize for their Talking Newspaper and to the Young Carers Group which won second prize and was also the recipient of a Caring Cup special prize.

RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING HOME - PLACEMENT ACTIVITY AND EXPENDITURE

9. There was submitted a report dated 20 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the current placement activity and committed expenditure for publicly-funded individuals in private and voluntary residential homes and nursing homes in East Ayrshire, and the number of individuals awaiting publicly-funded placements.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Social Work continue to actively pursue with Ayrshire and Arran Health Board the issue of resource transfer;
- (ii) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report on progress made to the Committee in due course; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

TRANSPORT - LEASE OF NEW VEHICLE

10. There was submitted a report dated 23 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which sought approval for the lease of a new 17 seater bus for use by the Social Work Department in service provision.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the lease of a new 17 seater bus for the Glebe Centre at an approximate cost of £3,900 for annual leasing and projected maintenance costs of £3,237; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT TO 2 OCTOBER 1998

11. There was submitted and noted a report dated 25 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the absence rates for Social Work employees for the quarter ended 2 October 1998.

STRATEGIC TRAINING PLAN 1998 - 2001

12. There was submitted and noted a report dated 24 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the implementation of the Social Work Strategic Training Plan.

MODERNISING COMMUNITY CARE - AN ACTION PLAN

13. There was submitted a report dated 24 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which brought to the attention of the Committee, the Scottish Office circular entitled "Modernising Community Care - An Action Plan".

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the commitment given by the Director of Social Work to the Scottish Office that East Ayrshire Council would implement the Scottish Office circular entitled "Modernising Community Care - An Action Plan"; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Kelly left the meeting during discussion of this item.

COMMUNITY SENTENCING: THE TOUGH OPTION

14. There was submitted a report dated 25 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the main points of the Scottish Office Consultation document "Community Sentencing: The Tough Option" which highlighted the key issues arising from the consultation document and which proposed a possible outline for an East Ayrshire Council response.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to authorise the Director of Social Work to forward a response on behalf of the Council to the Scottish Office within the terms of the points highlighted in Section 5 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

MANAGING SEX OFFENDERS IN THE COMMUNITY (Item 6. Page 3010)

15. There was submitted a joint report dated 12 November 1998 (circulated) by the Directors of Social Work and of Housing on a proposed policy to assist staff in the management and supervision of sex offenders resident in East Ayrshire.

Councillor Coffey thanked the Departments of Social Work and Housing for the work done in developing a policy for managing sex offenders in the community and for the close consultation which had taken place with elected Members in the development of the policy.

Thereafter, it was agreed:-

- C (i) to recommend to Council the approval of the related policy document as contained in Appendix I of the report; C
- (ii) that the Directors of Social Work and of Housing review the policy, as necessary, in the light of operational experience and further Scottish Office guidance; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1120 Hours.