

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 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, Jim Kelly, David Sneller, John Smith and Eric Jackson.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Bernadette Docherty, Senior Depute Director of Social Work; Mary Fegan and Alan McDougall, Depute Directors of Social Work; Bill Duncan, Head of Inspection, Registration and Complaints Unit; Kay Gilmour, Principal Officer (Quality & Planning); Alex McPhee, Senior Accountant; Peter Hessett, Solicitor; David Morgan, Public Relations Officer; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Melanie Macleod, Administrative Officer; and Christine Baillie, Administrative Assistant.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre and Tommy Farrell.

CHAIR: Councillor Jimmy Boyd, Chair.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. 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 and II of these Minutes.
 - 1.1 **CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 30 SEPTEMBER 1998 - APPENDIX I.**
 - 1.2 **COMMUNITY CARE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 2 OCTOBER 1998 - APPENDIX II.**

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - SOCIAL WORK TO 11 SEPTEMBER 1998 (PERIOD 6)

2. There was submitted a joint report dated 12 October 1998 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Finance and Director 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 11 September 1998 (Period 6).

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Social Work identify and implement appropriate management action to reduce as far as possible the overall Departmental overspend; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Macrae joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

SOCIAL WORK CAPITAL PLAN 1998/99 - UPDATE

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 13 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on progress in respect of the Social Work Capital Plan 1998/99.

REFURBISHMENT OF AFFLECK HOUSE, AUCHINLECK - OVERSPEND ON CONTRACT OVER 10% OF THE CONTRACT SUM

4. There was submitted a report dated 13 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the overspend on the contract for the refurbishment of Affleck House, Auchinleck, this overspend exceeding the contract sum by more than 10%.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the overspend in excess of 10% of the contracted sum, as detailed in the appendix to the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

COMMUNITY MEALS - VIREMENT IN 1998/99 REVENUE BUDGET

5. There was submitted a report dated 13 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which sought approval for the referral to the Policy and Resources Committee of the virement of resources to finance the current level of expenditure on Community Meals.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to remit to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval, in terms of Section 5.3 of the Council's Financial Regulations, the virement of £100,000 from the DSS Transfer budget to the Provisions budget, as detailed within the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

SOCIAL WORK INDUCTION TRAINING (Item 11, Page 1927)

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 13 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the provision of induction training to Social Work staff.

Councillor Cree left the meeting during discussion of this item.

TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT - ASSESSMENT CENTRE

7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 13 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on developments in the Department's Assessment Centre.

REGISTRATION ACTIVITY 1997/98

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 13 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the extent of registration activity in the financial year 1997/98.

**SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT 1968 - SECTION 10 PAYMENTS TO
VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (Item 3, Page 3277)**

9. There was submitted a report dated 13 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on progress of the review of applications for Section 10 funding in 1998/99 and which recommended a course of action.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve Section 10 funding in the amount of £2,660 to Victim Support Scotland;
- (ii) to note the withdrawal of the application submitted by The Innocents;
- (iii) that the applications submitted by Muirkirk Day Centre Management Committee and Patna Day Centre be considered by the Divisional Manager as part of the review of community meals;
- (iv) to note that discussions on the relative roles of the Strathclyde Elderly Forum and the East Ayrshire Elderly Forums would be concluded in the near future;
- (v) that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to the Committee on matters in progress; and
- (vi) otherwise to note the content of the report.

SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS 1997/98

10. There was submitted a report dated 13 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which set out the nature of the complaints received by the Department during 1997/98.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the content of the report and the Annual Complaints Report 1997/98 attached as an Appendix to the report; and
- (ii) that the Complaints Report for the year 1998/99 include an analysis of process improvements adopted by the Department as a result of the investigation of complaints.

DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE PLAN 1997/99

11. There was submitted a report dated 2 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on progress in relation to the Department's Performance Plan 1997-99.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the report be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

URBAN PROGRAMME REPORTS

12. There was submitted a report dated 5 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the work of the Refuge for Women and Children and the Community Health and Safer Environment (CHASE) Project, both funded through the Urban Programme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Social Work submit reports on the projects to the next cycle of relevant Local Committees;
- (ii) that the Director of Social Work submit a report to the Committee on an annual basis on activity in relation to Urban Programme Projects; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

DISAGGREGATION OF STAFF AT NEWFIELD RESOURCE CENTRE TO EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

- 13.** There was submitted a report dated 13 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on progress in accommodating the staff affected by an alteration to the current service provided by Newfield Resource Centre, Johnstone.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the report be referred to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee for information in terms of its overall responsibility for staffing matters; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

Councillor Doyle left the meeting during discussion of this item.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 14.** There was submitted a report dated 13 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on changes proposed in the management and organisational arrangements for Criminal Justice Social Work services and which sought approval to implement.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed change as detailed within the report in terms of the management of all Criminal Justice Social Work services being undertaken through the Principal Officer (Criminal Justice);
- (ii) that the report be referred to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee for information; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

SENSING PROGRESS

- 15.** There was submitted a report dated 13 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which brought to the attention of the Committee a Social Work Services Inspectorate Report for people with a sensory impairment entitled "Sensing Progress".

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Social Work take action to meet the requirements of the six recommendations contained within the Social Work Services Inspectorate document and detailed within Paragraph 4 of the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

Councillor Campbell left the meeting at this point.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

16. 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

17. There was submitted and noted a report dated 13 October 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work on the number and nature of violent incidents which had occurred in Social Work establishments from 1 April 1998 and which provided an update on the analysis and management of violent incidents.

The meeting terminated at 1135 hours.