

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2000 AT 0930 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Jane Darnbrough, Stephanie Young, Daniel Coffey, Lillian MacLean, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, Ian Linton, Alex Walsh, Finlay MacLean, Eric Jackson, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, Julie Faulds, William Menzies, Robert Taylor and Jimmy Carmichael.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services; Bernadette Docherty, Head of Social Work; Allan Y McDougall, Head of Resource Support; Alex McPhee, Financial Services Manager; Euan Couperwhite, Departmental Finance Manager; Jim Hazlett, Principal Officer (Children, Families and Criminal Justice); Jackie Donnelly, Principal Officer (Community Care); Julie Armstrong, Principal Administrative Officer; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; and Melanie Macleod, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Douglas Reid, David Macrae and James Raymond.

CHAIR: Councillor Jane Darnbrough, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair referred to Item 11 on the Agenda and noted that this item had been withdrawn.

The Chair also referred to an Appendix which had been omitted from Item 10 on the Agenda and had been circulated for the Committee's attention.

Finally, the Chair took the opportunity to welcome John Mulgrew as the new Director of Educational and Social Services.

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - SOCIAL WORK TO 28 JULY 2000 (PERIOD 4)

2. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 5 September 2000 (circulated) by the Directors of Educational and Social Services and of Finance on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Social Work Section for the period ended 28 July 2000 (Period 4).

BEST VALUE REVIEW : SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

3. There was submitted a report dated 15 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the outcome of the review of Criminal Justice Social Work Services and sought approval for the proposed action resulting from the review.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposed action within the Improvement Action Plan referred to in the report;

- (ii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services continue to monitor the implementation of these actions and present an annual progress report to the Committee; and
- (iii) to note the outcome of the review of Criminal Justice Social Work Services.

FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGING AND DELIVERING SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

4. There was submitted a report dated 23 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which (i) advised of the outcome of discussions involving East, North and South Ayrshire Councils in relation to the future management and delivery arrangements for Criminal Justice Social Work Services; (ii) sought endorsement of the arrangement being proposed; and (iii) sought approval for the forwarding of an outline proposal to the Scottish Executive.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the proposed model as the basis for managing and delivering Criminal Justice Social Work Services across Ayrshire;
- (ii) to approve the forwarding of an outline proposal based on this model to the Scottish Executive; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

Councillors Taylor and Carmichael joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT - QUARTER 3 APRIL 2000 TO 2 JULY 2000

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 31 July 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of absence rates for the Social Work Section for the quarterly period ending 2 July 2000.

“IT’S A CRIMINAL WASTE : STOP YOUTH CRIME NOW”

6. There was submitted a report dated 28 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which (i) advised of the outcome of the review of youth crime, the Scottish Executive’s response to the recommendations contained within the report and the intended action to be taken by the Educational and Social Services Department; and (ii) sought approval to refer additional staffing recommendations to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the action proposed in Section 5 of the report in response to the review recommendations made by the Advisory Group set up by the Scottish Executive;
- (ii) refer the staffing proposals referred to in the report and its appendix to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee for consideration; and
- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services submit a progress report to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES FROM THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

7. There was submitted a report dated 5 September 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the submission to the Scottish Executive for additional monies to develop services for older people to address the issue of delayed discharges from hospital and which sought approval for the proposals for the expenditure of the £242,925 provisionally allocated to East Ayrshire Council.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the content of the submission to the Scottish Executive and approve the proposals set out in the report and detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) that the proposed changes in staffing be referred to the Head of Personnel for consideration, following confirmation of funding; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

REPORT ON THE BEFRIENDING SERVICE

8. There was submitted a report dated 7 September 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which presented proposals to consolidate the Council's Befriending Service within the Social Work Service and which sought approval for the related staffing recommendations to be referred to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee for consideration.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals contained within the report;
- (ii) to refer the staffing implications to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee for further consideration;
- (iii) to approve the virement of resources noted in Section 4 of the report; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the content of the report.

REPORT ON FOSTER CARE SERVICES

9. There was submitted a report dated 5 September 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the work being undertaken by the Foster Care Service and which sought agreement to proposals to expand the Foster Care Service within current resources.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to the expansion of the Foster Care Service to allow the Council to recruit additional caring families;
- (ii) that the staffing proposals be referred to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee for consideration ;
- (iii) to approve the virement of resources noted in Section 6 of the report and to instruct the Director of Finance to effect this transfer; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the content of the report.

SOCIAL WORK (SCOTLAND) ACT 1968 - SECTION 10 PAYMENTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS - SCOTTISH WOMEN'S AID

10. There was submitted a report dated 28 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of an additional application received from a voluntary organisation for Section 10 funding in 2000/2001.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the application for £450 be refused due to the limited financial resources available and the Council's substantial commitment to local women's aid organisations; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN SERVICES

11. There was submitted a report dated 9 August 2000 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of initial arrangements for the new Department of Educational and Social Services and invited consideration of the proposed key targets for the new department in its first year of operation.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the targets for action for the new Department of Educational and Social Services as outlined in Section 4 of the report;
- (ii) that the Director and Heads of Service within the Department circulate this information widely;
- (iii) that the Director of Educational and Social Services present progress reports to the appropriate Committees on achieving targets for action; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the content of the report.

RESIGNATION OF HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK - CHAIR'S REMARKS

12. The Chair expressed her warm appreciation of the work carried out by Bernadette Docherty as Senior Depute Director of Social Work, and latterly as the Head of Social Work and wished her every success in her new post as the Director of Social Work with North Ayrshire Council.

Ms Docherty thanked members for their support and good wishes.

The meeting terminated at 1015 hours.