

Social Services Committee
25 August 1999

Irvine, 25 August 1999 - At a meeting of the Social Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 pm.

Present

Alan Munro, John Donn, Margaret McDougall, David Gallagher, Jane Gorman, Elliot Gray, Alan Hill, Elisabeth Marshall, Joseph McKinney, John Moffat, Margaret Munn, David O'Neill, Robert Reilly, Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

George Irving, Corporate Director (Social Services); A Herbert, Assistant Chief Executive (Finance); P. Bryers, Head of Planning and Development; A. Hewitt, Head of Service Management; and D. Thom, Planning Officer (Social Services); G. Lawson, Principal Policy/Administration Officer and J. Bannatyne, Administration Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Mr Munro in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Jack Carson and Ian Clarkson

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 June 1999, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984: Appointment of Mental Health Officers

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on the recent qualification of three Mental Health Officers who can now discharge Council duties and responsibilities in terms of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984.

The Committee agreed to formally authorise the appointment of the staff as Mental Health Officers in terms of the Legislation.

3. Appointments to Committees

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on appointments to the Advisory Committee on Inspection and suggesting amending Member representation on the Adoption, Fostering and Parental Responsibility Order and Shared Care Committee.

The Committee agreed to (a) approve the appointments to the Advisory Committee on Inspection as actioned by the Corporate Director (Social Services) and Chief Executive; and (b) appoint Councillor John Donn, Vice Chair, Social Services Committee as a member of the Adoption, Fostering and Parental Responsibilities Orders and Shared Care Committee (known as the Adoption and Fostering Committee).

4. Aids and Adaptations for Council Housing Stock

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on proposed changes in the current points system with regards to the prioritisation of need for aids and adaptations in Council premises.

The current points system is considered to be overly restrictive and further restricts installation of showers to those people with a defined medical need to bathe. It is therefore also proposed that in addition to revising the current points system, the existing Bathing Policy be amended.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve proposals for broadening the eligibility criteria for inclusion on the qualifying list of applicants for Aids and Adaptations; (b) to amend the current points rating system; and (c) to instruct the Corporate Director (Social Services) to (i) submit a further report within 12 months following ongoing monitoring of the amended procedures; and (ii) arrange for a guidelines leaflet replacing the Bathing Policy leaflet to be issued.

5. Review of Community Care: Accredited Providers List

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) seeking approval to add providers to the Accredited Providers List, who will provide community care services to North Ayrshire.

The Committee agreed to add the providers indicated in the attached Appendix SS1 to the Accredited Providers List.

6. Maintenance Rates for Geilsland and Ballikinrain Residential Schools (Church of Scotland)

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) seeking approval for increases in the proposed weekly costs for placing a young person in Geilsland and Ballikinrain Residential Schools in 1999/2000.

The Councils currently meets the cost of two young people in Geilsland School and five in Ballikinrain School. The increased rates proposed compare favourably with charges made by other providers.

The Committee agreed (a) to accept and authorise new supplementation rates for Geilsland and Ballikinrain Schools; (b) to instruct the Corporate Director (Social Services) to inform other local authorities of the recommended rates for the above establishments for 1999/2000; and (c) to enter into appropriate contracts with both schools in block purchase terms wherever possible.

7. Ayrshire Appropriate Adult Scheme

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on the establishment of an Ayrshire Appropriate Adult Scheme, the purpose of which is to ensure that a person who is mentally ill, has a learning disability, or is suffering from dementia or acquired brain damage is not disadvantaged during any police interview. The three Ayrshire Councils together with Ayrshire and Arran NHS Trust, Strathclyde Police and the Procurator Fiscal Service have established a scheme which came into operation on 12 July 1999.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the operational arrangements and the monitoring and reporting procedures of the Appropriate Adults Scheme; and (b) that the Corporate Director (Social Services) carefully monitor expenditure and pursue funding from the Scottish Executive, if

appropriate.

8. Assistance to Kosovo Refugees

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on arrangements made by the Council to assist Kosovo refugees.

Following the ending of the conflict in Kosovo the Council has been thanked by the Scottish Refugee Council and The Scottish Office Voluntary Issues Unit on its prompt and positive response to the crisis. The Convenor's Appeal, which is still ongoing, has been successful in raising a significant sum of money which has been passed to UNICEF.

The Committee (a) acknowledged the assistance provided by North Ayrshire and Arran Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, Strathclyde Police and the corporate response from various Council Services; and (b) agreed to encourage further contributions to the Convenor's Appeal.

9. Customer Comments Scheme

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Service) on Social Work Services management of the Council's Customer Comments Scheme.

Noted.

10. Service Plan

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on the first combined Services Plan for Social Work Services.

The Committee agreed to approve the Service Plan which will be used by the Corporate Director (Social Services) as the basis for future service development in accordance with the Council's Corporate Policy.

11. Budgetary Control

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the budgetary position for Social Services at 31st July 1999 and projections for the financial year 2000.

There is a current overspend of £646,003 which when projected to the end of the financial year would produce a probable overspend of £1,132,640. A package of savings measures has been identified which, if implemented, will reduce the overspend to £500,000.

The Committee agreed (a) to the implementation of the package of measures identified by the Corporate Director (Social Services) to reduce the projected 1999/2000 overspend by £500,000; and (b) that the Corporate Director (Social Services) in consultation with the Chair of Social Services, continue to monitor the financial position, agree measures to reconcile expenditure with the agreed budget, and report back to the Committee on any further action which may be required.

12. Community Care Plan Review

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on the first annual review of the North Ayrshire Community Care Plan 1998-2001.

A presentation was given to the Committee giving further details of the review. It is proposed in future years that Members be involved in the planning and monitoring process at key points throughout the year.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the Community Care Plan Review subject to any amendments which may yet be agreed with Ayrshire and Arran Health Board; (b) that the Review be submitted to the Community Care Division, Scottish Executive; and (c) to the arrangements for elected Member involvement in the planning and monitoring process.

13. Conferences and Seminars

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on invitations received to attend conferences and seminars.

The Committee agreed that the Chair and a Vice Chair, or their respective nominees attend the Association of Directors of Social Work Criminal Justice Services Conference "Striving for Excellence", to be held in the Stakis Dunblane Hotel between 27 and 29 October 1999.

The meeting ended at 3.40 p.m.

Social Services Committee
25/08/99

Appendix No
SS1

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY CARE: ACCREDITED PROVIDERS LIST

The Towers (Millport) Ltd.
Care Link (Scotland) Ltd.
Craig-en-Ros Home Limited
Abbeyfield (Irvine & District) Society Ltd.
Carrick Care Homes Ltd.
Mrs C Butler and Mrs S Bunyan (Cooriedoon Nursing Home)
Mr J S Gilmour, Mrs C C Gilmour, Mr A Gilmour and Mrs L Gilmour (Craiglands and Morningside Residential Homes)
Mr W Lundie and Mrs M Lundie (North Grove Nursing Home)
Mrs M Strachan trading as C&S Caring Services
Thorntoun Limited
Mr T M Campbell (Hutton Park Residential Home)

Mr D Banks and Mrs H Banks (Merton House)
The Complete Care Company Limited
Spiers Healthcare Limited
Royal National Institute for the Blind
Montfode Limited
Milbury Care Services Limited
The Richmond Fellowship Scotland Limited
Argyll Care Limited
Mrs P MacDonald (Beach House Nursing Home)
Home Concern (Scotland) Limited