

Social Services Committee
6 October 1999

Irvine, 6 October 1999 - At a meeting of the Social Services Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 pm.

Present

Margaret McDougall, Jack Carson, Ian Clarkson, Stewart Dewar, Jane Gorman, Elliot Gray, Alan Hill, Elisabeth Marshall, John Moffat, Margaret Munn, David O'Neill, Robert Reilly and Samuel Taylor.

In Attendance

G Irving, Corporate Director (Social Services); P Bryers, Head of Planning and Development; A Hewitt, Head of Service Management; A Beattie, Principal Officer; M Jardine, Resource Worker; M McInnes, Mobile Attendant (Social Services); A Herbert, Assistant Chief Executive (Finance); A Osborne, Corporate Policy Officer and M McKeown, Administration Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Mrs McDougall in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Donn, David Gallagher, Joseph McKinney and Alan Munro

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 25 August 1999, copies of which were previously circulated, were confirmed.

2. Aids and Adaptations for Council Housing Stock

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

At the meeting on 25th August 1999 the Committee agreed to introduce an amended scoring system for prioritising need for aids and adaptations in Council premises, and to discontinue the bathing policy which had applied to the installation of showers in Council property. A new public information leaflet, a copy of which was attached, has been produced to highlight these changes.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the new Public Information Leaflet on Aids and Adaptations; and (b) that the Corporate Director (Social Services) monitor the amended procedures and report back to Committee within twelve months.

3. Implementation of Ayrshire and Arran Mental Health Strategy

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on progress in implementing the Mental Health Strategy in North Ayrshire.

The Strategy contains recommendations in relation to adult mental health services for people with dementia and older people with mental health disabilities. The Ayrshire and Arran

Health Board has made funding available to commence the two published components of the Strategy and also the forthcoming strategy for children and young people. As a result of this new investment, Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care NHS Trust has advertised around 100 posts and is in the process of making appointments. The development resulting from these appointments will have a substantial impact on the availability of mental health services throughout Ayrshire. Details of current developments and future proposals affecting social services within North Ayrshire were set out in the report.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the developments and proposals outlined in the Corporate Director's report; and (b) that the Corporate Director (Social Services) report to a future meeting on the consultation document on Mental Health Services for Children and Young People.

4. Contact Person Service - WISDOM

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on a proposed new service designed to provide information and advice to older people who have been diagnosed as having dementia or another mental illness and to their carers and families.

Individuals recently diagnosed as having dementia or other mental health illness, and their families and carers, often have difficulty accessing information about the nature of their illness and the types of assistance available to them. The new independent service, to be introduced in South Ayrshire within the current financial year, in North Ayrshire in early 2000, and in East Ayrshire by April 2001, will provide a point of contact for individuals, families and carers from the time of diagnosis and throughout the progression of the illness.

The Committee agreed (a) to establish a Contact Person Service covering North Ayrshire in accordance with the already approved Strategy for People with Dementia and Older People with Mental Health Disabilities 1999/2004; (b) that the title of the project be "Working to Inform and Support in Dementia and Other Mental Health Problems (W.I.S.D.O.M.)"; (c) that a contract for the operation of the service be concluded with an appropriate provider; and (d) that the Corporate Director (Social Services) submit a progress report on this new service after six months of operation.

5. Children's Safeguard Review (The Kent Report)

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on the further action taken by Social Services to implement the recommendations contained in the Children's Safeguard Review Report (The Kent Report), and the report on the Edinburgh Enquiry into Abuse and Protection of Children in Care.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the actions already taken by the Corporate Director (Social Services) and authorise implementation of the proposals contained within the Corporate Director's report; and (b) that the Corporate Director (Social Services) submit further progress reports to the Committee in due course.

6. Child Care Strategy - Implementation Plan

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on the actions being taken by Social Services in relation to the implementation of a Child Care Strategy for North Ayrshire.

At the meeting in June the Committee was advised that funding had been secured from The Scottish Executive for the development of child care services. This money has been targeted to increase the number of foster carers, to reduce the number of children in care, to increase family support services and to increase provision to education support bases under the Social Inclusion Strategy. A key post, that of Project Manager (Child Care Strategy), has also been funded initially for one year from this source, and this Officer has been charged with producing a detailed work plan which will identify the wide range of issues which require to be addressed in implementing the

child care strategy.

The Committee agreed (a) to approve the action taken by the Corporate Director (Social Services) to implement the Child Care Strategy; and (b) that the Corporate Director (Social Services) submit progress reports to future meetings of the Committee.

7. Ayrshire and Arran Alcohol and Drug Action Plan 1999-2001

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on the Alcohol and Drug Action Plan 1999-2001.

In Ayrshire arrangements for addressing alcohol problems have been combined with drug issues and an Alcohol and Drug Action Team (ADAT) has been in existence for some years. ADAT maintains links with Alcohol and Drug Forums in each local authority area in Ayrshire and with the Ayrshire wide Addiction Training Forum.

In March 1999 the Government published "Tackling Drugs in Scotland: Action in Partnership". The Alcohol and Drugs Action Plan prepared by ADAT within this context seeks to highlight strategic priorities for the next two years based on knowledge of alcohol and drugs misuse in Ayrshire and of the existing range of services. Details of the context and the strategic aims of the Action Plan were provided.

The Committee agreed to (a) approve the proposed Action Plan as set out in the Corporate Director's report and advise Ayrshire and Arran Alcohol and Drug Action Team (ADAT) accordingly; and (b) remit to the North Ayrshire Alcohol and Drugs Issues Officers Group the task of implementing the Action Plan, in collaboration with ADAT.

8. Domestic Violence Multi-Agency Steering Group

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the progress of the Domestic Violence Multi-Agency Steering Group.

In April 1998 the Corporate Strategy Committee agreed that an Officer's group be formed to meet with voluntary agencies and to take forward a multi-agency approach to tackling domestic violence.

A Steering Group was subsequently formed involving key partners to carry out an audit of existing services and prepare a draft policy statement and strategy for consideration by the Council. This audit of services is now finalised and a draft policy statement and strategy have been prepared. In order to allow a full discussion of the Steering Group's findings, it was proposed that a short life Working Group be established to consider the draft policy statement and strategy and report back to the Social Services Committee.

The Committee agreed to (a) establish a short-life Member/Officer Working Group to consider a strategy for tackling domestic violence in North Ayrshire; and (b) confirm Member representation on the Group as Councillors Margaret Munn (Chair), John Reid, Margaret McDougall, John Bell and Robert Reilly.

9. Admissions to Nursing Homes and Private/Voluntary Homes for the Elderly

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on the current situation regarding admissions to Nursing Home and Private/Voluntary Homes in North Ayrshire.

As at September 1999, 165 persons are waiting to be admitted to homes and whilst the capacity exists within North Ayrshire to find places for these individuals, the funding does not. Currently the Council's Admissions Group is able to admit around 6 individuals per month.

The Committee agreed that the Corporate Director (Social Services) (a) continue the

existing admissions monitoring system; (b) control and where necessary adjust the level of monthly admissions in accordance with the budget available; and (c) continue to inform Committee of any major difficulties encountered.

10. Social Work Training Plan

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) seeking approval of the Social Work Training Plan for the financial year 1999/2000.

The Training Plan sets out the main training priorities for Social Services taking account of resource availability, service and legislative requirements and staff training needs identified through surveys and working groups. Copies of the Training Plan were made available to Members.

The Specific Grant (Training) is due to end in March 2000, and the future arrangements for social work training is therefore unclear.

The Committee agreed to approve the Training Plan.

11. Community Care Accredited Providers List

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) to seek Committee approval to add providers to the North Ayrshire Council Social Work Services Accredited Providers List.

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

12. Community Care Authorised Providers List

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) to seek Committee approval to remove providers from the Authorised Providers List.

The Committee agreed to remove the Providers indicated in the attached Appendix SS2 from the Authorised Providers List.

13. Advisory Committee on Inspection

Submitted report on the Advisory Committee on Inspection being the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 September 1999.

The Committee agreed to note the comments made by the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Inspection in respect of (a) references to the achievement of the targets made within the minute; (b) the time taken to produce and submit Inspection Reports to the Committee; and (c) staffing levels within Linked Residential Units run by the Council.

14. Budgetary Control

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the budgetary control position for Social Services as at the end of August 1999.

The Committee (a) noted the current financial position, the year end projections and the result of approved savings measures taken to address the anticipated shortfalls; and (b) agreed that the Corporate Director in consultation with the Chair of Social Services, continue to monitor the situation and report.

15. Community Alarm Service

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) on the operation of the Community Alarm Service.

The Community Alarm Service is accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and provides an important facility to vulnerable individuals who may from time to time need assistance. Alarms are linked to a central control room in Ayr and allow individuals to signal easily that they are in need of help or emergency assistance. The system is backed up by six Mobile Attendants who are able to provide practical and personal assistance or advice on a wide range of care needs.

Currently there are 1261 individuals using the Community Alarm Service in North Ayrshire and no waiting list for the service.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the contents of the report and the presentation on the operation of the Community Alarm Service; and (b) that the Corporate Director submit further proposals for the development of the Community Alarm Service which provide for greater integration of Mobile Attendants and Home Care Staff.

16. Exclusion of the Public

The Committee resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraphs 3, 6 and 9 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

17. Financial Assistance for Building Extension

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services) to seek Committee approval to provide financial assistance to enable the building of an extension to the home of the McD family.

The Committee agreed to approve the provision of a loan of £12,700 on terms prescribed by Legal Services.

The meeting ended at 3.25 p.m.

ACCREDITED PROVIDERS LIST

T L Homecare Limited
Community Living Concepts Limited
Country Care (Nursing Homes) Limited
Mr and Mrs Waterland (Craiglea Residential Home)
Mrs A Gifford trading as Able Community Care
Clyde Nursing Homes Limited
Glenfairn Limited
Key Housing Association Limited
Community Lifestyles Limited
Messrs Roffey, Fitzsimmons and Jones trading as the Buckreddan Partnership
(Buckreddan Lodge and Moorburn Manor Nursing Homes)
Community Integrated Care Limited

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Appendix No
SS2

AUTHORISED PROVIDERS LIST

Mr and Mrs McWattie (Riverston Residential Home)
British Sailors Society (Sir Gabriel Woods Mariners Home)
Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society
Heatwise Glasgow Limited
J M Reilly (Braemar Home)
Kirkcare Housing Association
Mr and Mrs Bridges (Cleveden Lodge)
Scottish Epilepsy Association
Elsie Inglis Nursing Home