

SOCIAL WORK RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 8 March 2006

Chair:

Councillor James Handibode

Councillors Present:

Mushtaq Ahmad, Archie Buchanan, Jackie Burns, Tony Carlin, Maureen Devlin (Depute), Ian Gray, Anne Maggs, Michael McCann (Senior Depute), Michael McGlynn, John McGuinness, Brian McKenna, Bill McNab, Pat Morgan, Patricia Osborne, Brian Reilly, Gretel Ross, William Ross, Betty Rush, Mary Smith, May Smith, Bert Thomson

Councillors' Apologies:

Jim Daisley, Alan Dick, Jim Docherty, Allan Falconer, Beith Forrest, Bev Gauld, Joe Lowe, James Malloy, Edward McAvoy, Alex McInnes

Attending:

Corporate Resources

M Barr, Media Relations Manager; J McDonald, Administration Officer; E Paterson, Administration Assistant

Finance and Information Technology Resources

J Kilpatrick, Accountant

Social Work Resources

T Barrie, Head of Support Services; M Brackenridge, Head of Criminal Justice; B Hutchinson, Personnel Services Manager; H Stevenson, Head of Strategic Services; J Wilson, Head of Older People's Services

Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair referred to the retiral of Sandy Cameron, Executive Director, and, on behalf of the members of the Committee, thanked him for his support and hard work over the years and wished him every success in the future. Harry Stevenson, Head of Strategic Services, was congratulated on his appointment to the post of Executive Director (Social Work Resources).

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meetings of the Social Work Resources Committee held on 14 December 2005 and the Social Work Resources Committee (Special) held on 25 January 2006 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Committee decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2005/2006 - Social Work Resources

A joint report dated 8 February 2006 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Information Technology Resources) and (Social Work Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 27 January 2006 against budgeted expenditure for 2005/2006 for Social Work Resources.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

4 Capital Budget Monitoring 2005/2006 - Social Work Resources

A joint report dated 7 February 2006 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Information Technology Resources) and (Social Work Resources) was submitted advising of progress on the Social Work Resources' capital programme for 2005/2006 and summarising the expenditure position at 27 January 2006.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

5 Workforce Monitoring - November 2005 to January 2006

A joint report dated 10 February 2006 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Social Work Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Social Work Resources for the period November 2005 to January 2006:-

- ◆ attendance statistics
- ◆ occupational health statistics
- ◆ accident/incident statistics
- ◆ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ◆ analysis of leavers
- ◆ Joint Staffing Watch as at 10 December 2005

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

6 Rates, Grants and Charges Increases 2006/2007

A report dated 15 February 2006 by the Executive Director (Social Work Resources) was submitted on various proposals for maintenance rates, grants to voluntary organisations and charges for 2006/2007.

Those proposals covered payment of maintenance rates and grants to voluntary organisations, payment of private and voluntary nursing and residential care home rates, local authority residential charges, local authority non-residential charges and nursing and residential respite charges.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the payment of maintenance rates and grants to voluntary organisations for residential and day care establishments be increased by 2.5% with effect from 1 April 2006;
- (2) that the payment of the private and voluntary residential care home rate for single occupancy rooms be increased to £406.78 per person per week, with effect from 10 April 2006;

- (3) that the payment of private and voluntary nursing care home rate for single occupancy rooms be increased to £471.45 per person per week, with effect from 10 April 2006;
- (4) that the 2006/2007 private and voluntary residential and nursing care home rates be reduced by £20 for shared rooms;
- (5) that that the payment of the 2006/2007 private and voluntary residential and nursing care home rates be subject to the provider agreeing to the conditions of the national contract when finalised;
- (6) that the circumstances under which the Council fixed rates above the approved rates through the supplementation system be noted;
- (7) that the charges to other local authorities for all categories of residential and non-residential services be increased by 2.5% with effect from 1 April 2006;
- (8) that there be no change to the current charging policy for service users for home care services, meals on wheels, day care services, lunch club charges and community alarm services; and
- (9) that the nursing and residential respite charge be increased by £1.40 per person per week with effect from 10 April 2006.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 April 2005 (Paragraph 6)]

7 Offensive Weapons and Youth Crime - Establishment of a Group Worker Post

A joint report dated 27 January 2006 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Social Work Resources) was submitted on the establishment of a post of Group Worker graded SCP46-SCP74 (£19,727 to £29,947) within the Restorative Justice Team.

The costs involved in establishing the post would be met from monies allocated by the Scottish Executive for Youth Justice, Restorative Justice.

The Committee decided: that a post of Group Worker graded SCP46-SCP74 (£19,727 to £29,947) be established within the Restorative Justice Team.

8 Development of Parenting Support - Establishment of Staffing Team

A joint report dated 27 January 2006 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Social Work Resources) was submitted on the establishment of a staffing team to take forward parenting developments for young people at risk of offending.

As part of the Scottish Executive's Youth Justice Antisocial Behaviour Developments, the Council had undertaken an audit of existing parenting programmes. There were a number of programmes in place aimed mainly at those under 12 years of age. However, it was recognised that co-ordination and targeting of services between agencies could be improved.

With the introduction of Parenting Orders and additional funding available, there was an opportunity to develop services for those over the age of 12 and to improve co-ordination between services.

In order to develop those services, it was proposed that the following posts be established:-

- ◆ 1 post of Social Worker graded SCP68-SCP80 (£27,374 to £32,720)
- ◆ 4 posts of Family Support Worker graded SCP27-SCP57 (£14,873 to £23,231)
- ◆ 1 post of Clerical Assistant graded SCP1-SCP28 (£10,092 to £15,092)

The total costs involved in implementing the above staffing requirements would be met from monies received from the Scottish Executive.

The Committee decided: that a team, comprising the 6 posts as detailed above, be established to take forward parenting developments for young people at risk of offending.

9 Whitehill Day Care Centre Staffing

A joint report dated 27 January 2006 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Social Work Resources) was submitted on the staffing required to deliver the new support service in the Whitehill Day Care Centre, Hamilton.

In order to implement the necessary support service, it was proposed that the following posts be established:-

- ◆ 1 post of Senior Day Care Worker graded SCP26-SCP38 (£15,472 to £18,539)
- ◆ 1 post of Co-ordinator graded SCP14-SCP19 (£12,944 to £13,947)
- ◆ 8 posts of Day Care Worker graded SCP4-SCP10 (£11,169 to £12,211)

The total costs involved in implementing the above staffing requirements and associated transport costs of £61,152 would be met from the 2006/2007 funding strategy for the re-provisioning of day care centres.

The Committee decided: that the 10 posts, as detailed above, be established to deliver the new support service in the Whitehill Day Care Centre, Hamilton.

10 Approval to Tender for the Purchase of Homecare Services for Older People and Adults

A report dated 9 February 2006 by the Executive Director (Social Work Resources) was submitted on contract arrangements for the purchase of homecare services for older people and adults.

The existing cost and volume contracts for home care services had been extended in terms of the original contract award to 31 March 2008. Following a review, it had been demonstrated that “cost and volume” contracts offered best value to the Council compared to “call off” contracts. Accordingly, it was proposed to increase the level of purchase through “cost and volume” contracts to 85% of the Resources’ purchasing budget for homecare services for older people and adults.

To achieve this, a further tender process required to be undertaken and this would be carried out in line with Standing Order No 14 of the Standing Orders on Contracts.

The Committee decided:

that, in terms of Standing Order No 14 of the Standing Orders on Contracts, the Executive Director (Social Work Resources) be authorised to enter into a tender process for homecare services for Older People's Services and Adult Services.

11 Authorised Providers List - Social Care

A report dated 6 January 2006 by the Executive Director (Social Work Resources) was submitted on the:-

- ♦ continuation of 2 existing providers included on the Authorised Providers List for Social Care
- ♦ inclusion of 1 new provider on the Authorised Providers List for Social Care
- ♦ amendment to 2 providers on the Authorised Providers List for Social Care to include additional service type

The accreditation process had been completed for the 2 existing providers and 1 new provider recommended for inclusion who had all met the relevant criteria.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the 2 existing providers detailed below continue to be included on South Lanarkshire Council's Authorised Providers List for Social Care:-

- (a) Organisation: Abbey Health Care Homes Limited
Service Type: Nursing Care
Client Group: Older People
- (b) Organisation: Southern Cross Healthcare Limited
Service Type: Nursing Care, Respite
Client Group: Older People, Older People with Dementia, Adults with a Physical Disability

- (2) that the organisation detailed below be included on South Lanarkshire Council's Authorised Providers List for Social Care:-

- (a) Organisation: Whitelee Associates Limited
Service Type: Nursing Care, Residential Care, Respite Care
Client Group: Older People, Older People with Dementia, Adults with Dementia

- (3) that the entry for the 2 organisations detailed below on the South Lanarkshire Council's Authorised Providers List for Social Care be amended to include additional service type:-

- (a) Organisation: Aveyron Limited
Service Type: Day Centre
Client Group: Adults with Profound Learning Disabilities
- (b) Organisation: Barony Housing Association Limited
Service Type: Supported Accommodation, Daycare, Homecare, Housing Support
Client Group: Adults with a Learning Disability, Adults with a Mental Health Problem

12 Reporting of “Call Off” Contracts Negotiated with Authorised Providers

A report dated 12 January 2006 by the Executive Director (Social Work Resources) was submitted on the ‘Call Off’ contracts that had been negotiated with Authorised Providers and awarded by Social Work Resources in the period January to March 2006.

In terms of Standing Order No 12.4 of the Standing Orders on Contracts, Social Work Resources were required to notify the relevant Committee of “Call Off” contracts that had been awarded to Care Home and Homecare Providers. Details of the contracts awarded were provided in the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

13 21st Century Social Work Review - Changing Lives

A report dated 9 February 2006 by the Executive Director (Social Work Resources) was submitted on the outcome of the Review of Social Work in Scotland and the Ministerial response to the findings of the Review Group.

In July 2004, a fundamental review of Social Work in Scotland had been announced. The announcement followed the findings of high profile cases in Edinburgh and the Borders where the standard of Social Work practice had been criticised.

A Review Team was established representing a range of stakeholders from within and outwith the social care sector. On 7 February 2006, the outcome of the review was announced which confirmed the main findings and 13 recommendations to set the direction for Social Work Services in Scotland.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

14 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

15 Exclusion of Press and Public

The Committee decided: that, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it is likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information in terms of Paragraph(s) 1 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

16 Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee

The minutes of the Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee held on 30 November 2005 were submitted together with:-

- ◆ a report dated 13 February 2006 by the Executive Director (Corporate Resources)
- ◆ a letter dated 13 January 2006 by the complainant’s solicitor
- ◆ a report dated 24 January 2006 by the Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the minutes of the meeting of the Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee held on 30 November 2005 be approved; and
- (2) that the conclusions and recommendations of the Social Work (Complaints Review) Sub-Committee, as detailed in the Sub-Committee's report, be endorsed.