

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 31 May 2005 at 4.00 pm.

Present: Councillors GLENNIS MIDDLETON, BILL ROBERTON, IAIN GAUL, IAN MACKINTOSH, The Hon R J LESLIE MELVILLE MBE, Provost BILL MIDDLETON, JOY MOWATT, PETER MURPHY, ROB MURRAY, GEORGE NORRIE MBE, HELEN OSWALD, KITTY RITCHIE, RON SCRIMGEOUR, RICHARD SPEIRS and TERRY WOOD.

Councillor GLENNIS MIDDLETON, Convener, in the Chair.

Before the commencement of business, the Director of Social Work and Health advised the Committee that, accompanied by his Senior Management Team, he had attended the launch of Scotland's New Independent Social Work Inspection Agency. The aim of the Agency was to deliver rigorous independent and impartial inspection of all Social Work services in Scotland and report publicly and to Parliament on the quality of these services locally and nationally.

He further advised that there were to be three pilot inspection sites of which Angus was one, together with Fife and South Lanarkshire. The inspection would be completed by the end of the year with a report to follow.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Ritchie, Norrie and Wood declared an interest in Item 7 as Trustees of Dorward House.

Councillor Speirs declared an interest in item 12 as a member of the Angus Child Protection Committee.

2. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The [minute of meeting of this Committee of 19 April 2005](#) was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

3. SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH SERVICE PLAN UPDATE 2005/2006

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 August 2004, there was submitted [Report No 662/05](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health recommending the approval of the annual update of the Social Work and Health Service Plan 2003/2007, a copy of which had been circulated to all members. The update of the Service Plan identified a wide range of objectives for the year 2005/2006 and these would form a significant part of the Department's workload over the next 12 months.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the annual update of the Social Work and Health Service Plan 2003/2007.

4. REVIEW OF HEALTH AND SAFETY 2004-2005

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 3 June 2004, there was submitted [Report No 663/05](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the health and safety related activity undertaken within the Social Work and Health Department during 2004/2005 and outlining areas which would be addressed in 2005/2006.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the areas, as detailed in the Report, to be addressed during 2005/2006.

5. LOCAL IMPROVEMENT TARGETS FOR THE JOINT FUTURE AGENDA (LITS) 2004/2005 REPORT

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 November 2004, there was submitted [Report No 664/05](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of performance in relation to Local Improvement Targets (LIT) for the Angus Health and Community Care Partnership. A copy of the Angus LIT for Older People was appended to the Report.

The Report indicated that the reporting format of the Angus LIT had been organised into a balanced scorecard approach, as this was the preferred performance management framework being adopted by the Angus Partnership. Symbols had been used to represent progress against stated targets to make the document user friendly. An Annex had also been provided offering contextual information to supplement the figures reported and to outline areas where improvements needed to be made and what actions would be taken. A copy of the performance report and Annex was appended to the Report.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to report back at a future date on the development of Local Improvement Targets for other care groups.

6. AMENDMENTS TO DIRECT PAYMENTS

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 1 March 2005, there was submitted [Report No 665/05](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health informing the Committee of new Scottish Executive guidance requiring the further extension of direct payments to people aged 65 and over and allowing the employment of close relatives.

The Report indicated that, as from 1 April 2005, there had been a requirement to extend the provision of direct payments to older people, aged 65 and over, and that an amendment to the Scottish Executive guidelines now allowed the employment of close relatives. In light of the concerns around the impact of these changes, it was proposed to undertake a comprehensive review of the current Direct Payment Scheme in Angus with a view to reporting back to Committee at a future date with detailed plans as to how the impact of direct payments on social work services in Angus could be effectively managed.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to report back following a comprehensive review of the Direct Payment Scheme in Angus.

7. PARTNERSHIP WITH DORWARD HOUSE, MONTROSE

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Social Work Committee of 20 August 2002, there was submitted [Report No 666/05](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health seeking approval for the development of a partnership between Dorward House, Montrose and Angus Social Work and Health Department with a view to developing the facilities of Dorward House to meet the identified needs of both the local community and the wider Angus community in terms of care home provision for older people. Specifically, approval was sought for a contribution of £150,000 from Angus Council towards the cost of refurbishing Dorward House and the development of a new separate eight bed unit that could be used flexibly to provide mainstream residential care, high dependency care or respite care.

The Report concluded that the development of a partnership with Dorward House and the provision of the funding detailed in the Report would help safeguard the continued operation for Dorward House into the future and help ensure that Angus Council Social Work and Health was able to continue to meet the needs of older people in the Montrose area and of the wider Angus community.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the provision of £150,000 to Dorward House to be used for the refurbishment and development of new facilities; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to report back to Committee at a future date on the progress of the development.

8. SHORT BREAKS FOR CARERS

With reference to Article 5 above, there was submitted [Report No 667/05](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health seeking approval to establish a new short breaks scheme to provide respite for the benefit of carers of older people in Angus, including older people with mental health problems.

The Report indicated that, as part of the Social Work and Health Department's ongoing commitment to supporting carers, it was proposed to develop a flexible short breaks service for carers of older people. This service, which would be located alongside Social Work and Health's response services and managed within the Home Care Service area, would provide regular short breaks whilst retaining capacity to respond in situations where carers needed immediate time away from their caring role. The service would be offered over seven days per week. It was estimated that the development of the service would allow an additional 14,000 hours per annum of home based respite to be delivered to carers across Angus. It was proposed that eligibility would be based on the need for this type of break being identified in a carer's assessment.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the development of alternate home based respite through the establishment of a short breaks scheme.

9. REPORT ON THE ANGUS ADOPTION AGENCY AND THE FOSTERING PANEL - ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 22 April 2004, there was submitted [Report No 668/05](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the operation of the Angus Adoption Agency and the Fostering Panel during the year 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005.

The Annual Report on the Panel provided extensive information on the operation of the Agency and the Panels. It also highlighted the current pressures on resources as well as Angus Council's success over several years in providing an effective service for children, foster carers and adoptive parents.

After hearing Robin Duncan, Service Manager, and following discussion during which the Convener encouraged everyone interested in adoption or fostering to contact the Department to discuss the matter further, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the contents of the 2004-2005 Annual Report on the Angus Adoption Agency and the Fostering Panel; and

- (iii) to thank all foster carers in Angus for their excellent work.

10. REPORT ON THE PROPOSED USE OF INDEPENDENT FOSTERING AGENCIES BY ANGUS COUNCIL

There was submitted [Report No 669/05](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health proposing the limited use of independent non-profit making fostering agencies for children who required accommodation where local resources were insufficient.

The Report indicated that the primary reason for considering the use of independent fostering agencies now was that the resource situation had become so difficult that the Department would only find appropriate placements for a number of the children requiring accommodation if it looked beyond its own resources. The action to increase the number of foster carers in Angus, which was outlined in the Report, would take time to have an impact on the resource deficit.

The Report concluded, however, that the sparing use of independent non-profit making fostering agencies would increase the options available for children requiring accommodation and, at a time of pronounced pressure on fostering resources, specialist services offered by these agencies would make a modest but significant contribution to the capacity of the Family Placement Service to meet the needs of looked after children.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to explore the possibility of using independent non-profit making fostering agencies where local resources were inadequate; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to establish a list of independent non-profit making fostering agencies who could be considered as approved providers for Angus Council.

11. ANGUS INTEGRATED PLAN FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2005-2008

With reference to Article 11 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 26 May 2005, there was submitted [Joint Report No 614/05](#) by the Chief Executive, the Director of Education and the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the nature and focus of the Angus Integrated Plan for Children's Services 2005-2008.

The Report indicated that the draft Plan had been widely distributed for comment and had been endorsed by the Joint Management and Commissioning Group (Children's Services). A review of existing children's services planning structures would take place over the coming year to ensure that effective planning processes were in place. This would allow actions highlighted in the plan to be addressed efficiently and effectively in the best interests of all children and families across Angus.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the terms and focus of the draft Angus Integrated Plan for Children's Services 2005-2008; and
- (iii) to instruct the Chief Executive to submit to the Scottish Executive a finalised copy of the Plan.

12. **ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE INTERAGENCY GUIDELINES FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

With reference to Article 13 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee of 26 May 2005, there was submitted [Joint Report No 612/05](#) by the Director of Education and the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the development of Angus Child Protection Committee Interagency Guidelines for Professional Staff, a copy of which had been placed in the Members' Lounge.

The Report indicated that Angus Council Social Work and Health and Education Departments, in common with partner agencies, had a duty to ensure the wellbeing of children. Angus Child Protection Committee Interagency Guidelines for professional staff strengthened the Department's commitment in this regard. Clarity about the rules and expectations of each agency would support the development of interagency partnerships and lead to better outcomes for children and their families.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of the Report.

13. **GREAT BRITAIN SPECIAL OLYMPIC GAMES**

There was submitted [Joint Report No 501/05](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health and the Director of Leisure Services advising the Committee of the Great Britain Special Olympic Games taking place in Glasgow during July 2005 and of the inclusion of Angus athletes and Council staff in the Tayside Special Olympics Team.

The Report indicated that Angus had 74 athletes and 26 coaches travelling as part of the Tayside Special Olympics Team which comprised 210 people in total, including 51 staff who would act as either part of the team management, head coaches, coaches or escorts. Staff travel and accommodation costs would be met by Tayside Special Olympics.

In preparation for the Games, Angus would be hosting the Olympic torch on Wednesday 22 June when a team would arrive in Forfar to hand the torch to the Provost of Angus and Angus Special Olympians.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to note the participation of service users and staff from Angus Council Social Work and Health Department and Leisure Services Department who had been selected;
- (iii) to note that seven Social Work and Health staff and six Leisure Services staff would be given 50% of their absence from work, due to the Games, as paid leave; and
- (iv) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to convey the Committee's best wishes to the athletes for a successful Games and on their achievement at being selected for the Tayside Special Olympics Team.

14. **APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT UNDER STANDING ORDER NUMBER 49**

There was submitted [Report No 670/05](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health seeking approval, in accordance with Standing Order 49, to the appointment of a relative of an elected member to the position of Senior Social Care Officer within Older People's Services.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the appointment of Ms Ruth Stephen to the post of Senior Social Care Officer at Seaton Grove Residential Care Centre, Arbroath.

15. CONTRACTS FOR THE SUPPLY AND SERVICING OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EQUIPMENT

There was submitted [Report No 671/05](#) by the Director of Social Work and Health advising the Committee of the need for new contracts for the supply and servicing of occupational therapy equipment. The Report described the involvement that the Authorities Buying Consortium (ABC) would have in the procurement of occupational therapy equipment and detailed the responses received to advertisements seeking expressions of interest from potential suppliers and requested approval for the Director of Social Work and Health to issue tender documents to suppliers who had responded to advertisements for these two contracts.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to the issuing of tender documents to those suppliers who had expressed interest in tendering; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to report back to the Committee on tenders received.

16. OFFICES FOR SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, ORCHARDBANK, FORFAR - TENDER REPORT

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Resources and Central Services Committee of 19 May 2005, there was submitted [Report No 602/05](#) by the Director of Property Services detailing tenders received for the new Social Work and Health office development at Orchardbank, Forfar.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed to note the contents of the Report.

17. NEW SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH OFFICE, ORCHARDBANK - INSTALLATION OF SPRINKLER SYSTEM

With reference to Article 16 above, there was submitted [Report No 654/05](#) by the Director of Property Services seeking homologation of the decision to install a sprinkler system in the new Social Work and Health Office being constructed at Orchardbank, Forfar.

The Committee, for its interest, agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to homologate the decision by the Director of Property Services, in consultation with the Director of Social Work and Health, the Convener of the Social Work and Health Committee and the Convener of the Resources and Central Services Committee, to issue a variation order to Muir Contracts Limited to install a sprinkler system in the new Social Work and Health Office currently under construction at Orchardbank;
- (iii) to note the additional budget cost to the contract of £85,000 and that this additional cost would be contained within the 2005/2006 Financial Plan;
- (iv) to note the additional revenue charges of £6,700 per annum to the General Fund; and
- (v) to note that there would be an additional revenue charge to NHS Tayside of £2,800 per annum to meet their share of the cost.

18. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee resolved, in terms of Standing Order 27(2), that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 paragraph 1.

19. SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS REVIEW COMMITTEE: COMPLAINT NUMBER ACO/003/04

The Committee agreed to delegate consideration of this item to an Executive Sub-Committee.