

6. Progress Report

**a. Progress report – Social Services
Committee 12 January 1993**

SRO Ref. CC/B/132/23

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 12 JANUARY 1993**

Present: T.A. Dix, Esq (Chairman)

Austin, W.F.	Holmes, F.	Sanderson, J.
Bagnall, B.	Hughes, W.	Shelley, W.
Beach, N.G.G.	Ivers, Mrs. V.	Shotton, D.
Beech, J.J.	Jebb, Mrs. C.R.	Smith, T.F.
Betteridge, J.T.	Johnson, Mrs. A.H.R.	Smith, P.J.
Bullock, G.K.	Lythgoe, Mrs. D.	Stringer, Mrs. M.
Clark, Mrs. A.	Moger, H.W.F.	Stanhope, Mrs. M.
Crowe, T.F.	Moseley, Miss I.H.	Thornton, Mrs. M.
Dale, M.	Muir, J.	Tolley, T.D.
Edwards, J.H.	O'Leary, J.	Wakeman, C.J.
Gant, K.G.	Roberts, G.E.	Williams, G.F.T.
Harrison, P.D.	Roberts, R.	

Apologies: Bostock, N., Bullock, G.K., Dean, Mrs. J.E.A., Titchenor, Mrs. B.

Minutes

130. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 1992 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Tribute to former Chairman of Committee

131. The Chairman and members extended their appreciation to the former Chairman of the Committee for his dedication and work and expressed their best wishes for his future as Chairman of Highways Committee.

**Matters of Report
(Schedule 1)**

132. The Chairman reported that he had accepted, on behalf of the County Council the Ethel Godfrey Memorial Award presented by the Tamworth Civic Society to Thomas Hardy Court.

133. **RESOLVED** - That the report of the County Clerk and Chief Executive be received.

**Confirmation of Chairmen's Action
(Schedule 2)**

134. Mr. T.R. Crowe declared an interest in Item no.4 of the Schedule relating to Burslem Day Centre.

135. **RESOLVED** - That the action taken by the Chairman as detailed in the report of the County Clerk and Chief Executive be confirmed.

**Memorandum of County Clerk and Chief Executive
(Schedule 3)**

136. Members were informed that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting relating to payment of independent members on the Adoptions Panel, Fostering Panel etc.

137. **RECOMMEND - GENERAL PURPOSES SUB-COMMITTEE** - That with effect from 1 January 1993 attendance of county councillors at meetings of the Adoptions Panel be regarded as an approved duty for the payment of attendance, travelling and subsistence allowances and that such Panel meetings be included in Schedule 2 to the Scheme for the payment of Members' Allowances.

**Performance Review Sub-Committee - 26 November 1992
(Schedule 4)**

138. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the Performance Review Sub-Committee held on 26 November 1992 be received and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

Staffordshire

County Council

COUNTY BUILDINGS, STAFFORD
DDI (0785) 276161
Please ask for Mrs. Chester

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 12 January 1993
10.30 am
County Buildings, Stafford

NOTE: Coffee will be served
at 10.15 am

B.A. PRICE
County Clerk and Chief Executive
6 January 1993

A G E N D A

PART ONE

1. Minutes - 8 December 1992
2. Apologies
3. Matters of Report (Green)
4. Confirmation of Chairmen's Action (Blue)
5. Memorandum of County Clerk and Chief Executive (Yellow)
6. Minutes of Performance Review Sub-Committee - 26 November 1992 (Buff)
7. Minutes of Grants to Voluntary Organisations Sub-Committee - 2 December 1992 (Grey)
8. Minutes of Grants to Voluntary Organisations Sub-Committee - 8 January 1993 - To be circulated at meeting.
9. Reports of Director of Social Services
 - (a) Re-organisation of the Equipment for Daily Living and Adaptations Service for People with Disabilities (Green)
 - (b) Joint Equipment Service (Yellow)
 - (c) Community Care: Details on the Infrastructure of Implementation (Buff)
 - (d) Services for Children and Families - Principles and Action Plan (Grey)
Note: In view of the size of Documents 1 and 2 and the consequent cost of postage these have been placed in members' post baskets in County Buildings.
 - (e) Choosing with Care - The Warner Report (Blue)
 - (f) Revenue Estimates 1993/94 (White)
 - (g) "Inspecting Social Services" - Department of Health Consultation Document (Green)
 - (h) ~~Grants to Voluntary Organisations - To be circulated at meeting.~~
 - (i) Registered Homes (Amendment) Act 1991 (Yellow)
 - (j) Capital Programme 1992/93 Progress Report and Request for additional Financial Regulation D5 approval (Buff)

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- (k) Refurbishment of Langbourn Home for the Elderly (Grey)
 - (l) Fire Precautions in Social Services Establishments (Blue)
 - (m) Provision of Family Resource Centre plus accommodation for the Disability Resource Teams and provision of a Small Equipment Loan Store in North Staffordshire (White)

10. Minutes of Area Advisory Sub-Committees (Green)

- (a) Stoke-on-Trent North - 26 October 1992
- (b) Lichfield - 11 November 1992
- (c) Staffordshire Moorlands - 16 November 1992
- (d) Stoke-on-Trent South - 30 November 1992
- (e) Newcastle - 3 December 1992

11. Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee to propose the following motion:-

"That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972"

PART TWO

(All reports in this section are printed on pink paper)

- 12. Confirmation of Chairmen's Action - Exempt Items
(exemption paragraphs 4 and 5)
- 13. Memorandum of County Clerk and Chief Executive
(exemption paragraphs 1 and 7)
- 14. Exempt Reports of Director of Social Services
 - (a) The Parkway Complex - Review of Arrangements made with Highgate Projects.
 - (b) Transport provision to the Tunstall and Tawney House Day Centres, provided by Stoke-on-Trent Community Transport - "Communibus".
- 15. Exempt Minutes of Performance Review Sub-Committee - 26 November 1992
(exemption paragraph 1)
- 16. Exempt Minutes of Sheltered Workshops Redundancy Review Panel - 18 November 1992
(exemption paragraph 1)
- 17. Exempt Minutes of Sheltered Workshops Redundancy Review Panel - 26 November 1992
(exemption paragraph 1)

9(d)

Item No. on Agenda
(BuA)SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - 12TH JANUARY, 1993Report of the Director of Social ServicesServices for Children and Families - Principles and Action Plan1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To establish principles for services for children and families.
- 1.2 To report on the review of placement for children and young people and to make recommendations for future placement facilities in the general context of an Action Plan for services for children and families.
- 1.3 To inform members of the recent Department of Health requirement for Children's Services Plans.

2. Summary

2.1 This report is set out in two parts; Document 1 (Appendix 1) a Statement of Principles for Practice for services for children and families to be adopted by the Social Services Department and the County Council, and Document 2 (Appendix 2) an Action Plan for 1993/1996. The review of placement needs for children and young people being looked after by the Local Authority commissioned by the Social Services Committee has of necessity taken place in the context of a general appraisal of services for children and families. To do otherwise would have been relatively meaningless as each part of our services impinges directly upon the demands for, and functioning of other parts of the service.

2.2 Document 1 is divided into two parts; the first part sets out a "Statement of Principles for Practice" which the Committee are asked to endorse. The second part is an "Action Plan for 1993/96". It is intended that this document will be updated annually. The two documents together form the basis of the Childrens Services Plan which is now required by the Department of Health (Appendix 3). The second document in particular will require to be developed in further detail as our database develops, and given the completion of further work in coming months.

3. Recommendations

Members are asked to agree that:-

- (a) The "Statement of Principles for Practice", Document 1, is endorsed as the basis for future planning and practice;
- (b) The priorities set out in that document are endorsed;
- (c) That the general objectives and targets set out in Document 2, the "Action Plan for 1993/96" be endorsed;
- (d) That the detailed recommendations of Section 6 of the "Action Plan", summarised in Section 7, be agreed;
- (e) That officers are authorised to carry out consultations on the closure and change of use of residential homes and report further.

NB: In view of the size of Documents 1 and 2 and the consequent cost of postage these have been placed in members' post baskets in County Buildings.

(f) That the new requirement for a Childrens Services Plan be noted.

4. Background

4.1 At its meeting on 4th September 1992, the Committee agreed to a recommendation from the Performance Review Sub Committee at its meeting on the 29th July 1992 that there should be a comprehensive Review of the placement requirements for children and young people being "looked after" by Staffordshire County Council. It was also agreed that this Review should be assisted by the advice and guidance of "The Bridge" Consultancy.

4.2 This exercise has been led by the Operations Director, Children and Families Services. Contributions have been made by children and young people receiving services from the Social Services Department, their carers and Social Services Department staff in residential, day care and field work settings. It was recognised early in the exercise that it would only be meaningful and relevant if looked at in the context of the whole range of services for children and young people and their families, and in the context of the general principles and objectives of those services. An initial discussion document was circulated widely and commented upon by a wide range and variety of staff. Further detailed work has been carried out by various working groups in the Department with assistance and advice from "The Bridge".

5. Matters for Consideration

5.1 Document 1 - "Statement of Principles and Practice". This document sets out existing Departmental objectives, and makes proposals regarding establishing principles for future practice and development in Services to Children and Families. It sets out the rights and needs of children and seeks to establish priorities in the provision of Childrens Services and specifically priorities for providing services for children in need.

5.2 It is felt to be essential that Members and Officers are clear about the fundamental principles upon which our services should operate and be developed and Members are asked to consider and give their support to this document.

5.3 Document 2 - "Action Plan for 1993/96". This document sets out the basis for a comprehensive developmental plan for Services for Children and Families. The detail of evaluation of need and of targets is variable across categories of service. This is because of the variable nature of currently available information and is indicative of further work to be done. However, the document, coupled with Document 1 referred to above, sets out a comprehensive basis for our future development.

5.4 Section 2 of Document 2 pays particular attention to Services for Children and Young People who are looked after by the Local Authority. This Section, together with Section 7 which summarises targets for action, considers and makes detailed proposals for future requirements for residential care and family placement.

5.5 A summary of these targets are set out below indicating both the present numbers and distribution of placement of children and young people, set against the projected numbers and distribution of such placements over three years. These proposals carry implications of reducing the quantity of residential care, but improving the staffing in order to ensure that the residential care we offer is of good quality and able to provide appropriately for children and young people with very complex and demanding needs. The proposals also imply considerable reduction in the overall number of children and young people needing to be looked after by the County Council through the

concentration of effort into expediting rehabilitation plans. Finally, the proposals imply a significant increase over the period in the numbers and variety of family placement.

TARGETS FOR ACTION 1993/95

	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95
Adoptive Placements	13	20	Subject to Review
Special Needs Adoptive Placements	8	15	Subject to Review
Specialist In County Foster Placements	763		
Total No Foster Placements 1992			
Settled Care	Subject to review	Subject to review	Subject to review
Respite Care		7	7
Emergency		10	10
Remand		8	8
Task Centred		20	15
Foster Placements Out of County	64		
Totals	827 c/f	907 c/f	947
Residential Care			
Settled Care	41	36	36
Including homes for Children with Disabilities			
Task Centred)	105	50	45
Emergency/Assessment)		14	8
Preparation for Independence	10	8	8
Remand	13	13	7
Secure Accommodation	7	7	7
Respite Care	21	21	26
Totals	197	149	137
Independent Living	19	42	Subject to Review
Agency Placements	44	40	36

Placement needs in 1995/96 will be reviewed in 1994. It is envisaged that the numbers of children and young people who will need to be looked after by the local authority will decrease as facilities to enable children and young people to remain with their families increase.

5.6 On the 30th November, 1992 a Circular - LAC(92)18 was received from Department of Health entitled "Childrens Services Plans". This Circular been issued under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act, 1 (Local Authorities to act under the general guidance of the Secretary State). The Circular draws attention to the Children Act, 1989 requirem that Social Services publish information about childrens services provided them. The Act itself does not require the preparation or publication formal plans, but in the report "Children in the Public Care" (published 1991 by Sir William Utting, then Chief Inspector of the Social Servi Inspectorate), it was recommended that the Secretary of State should ask Lo Authorities to produce and publish plans for childrens services. The Circu which is very brief, is attached at Appendix (1), and it is intended t the documents now placed before the Social Services Committee as a result the work already underway in Staffordshire shall become the basis of Childrens Services Plan. It has obviously not been possible in the short t since the Circular was received to produce documents in line with every det of the Circular, but as Members will see the documents before the Commit go a considerable way to meeting the requirements of the Circular. Furt work will be done on the documents in line with the Circular if Memb endorse the proposals set out in this report.

5.7 If Members agree the proposals in this report it is inevitable that least three other childrens residential units will close before March, 1994. It is also likely that during the period covered by the Action Plan, propos might come forward to replace and transfer other existing units into m suitable accommodation.

5.8 Specifically Members are asked to agree that consultations can be as soon as possible on the three units to be closed before March, 1994.

5.9 The two documents attached represent a fundamental review of Soc: Services for Children in Staffordshire. Members are asked to support t general direction and the details set out in these documents. There further work to be done, and detailed proposals regarding both the structur organisation and nature of our services will be submitted to Members in t fairly near future.

6. Personnel Implications

No detailed proposals to be made at this stage, but the service propos carry implications of changes in role and work location for some staff. The will be the subject of continuing discussions and further detailed report

7. Financial Implications

7.1 The proposals made are designed to provide better quality, more releva services, but also to make a more cost-effective use of existing financi investment. Given the continuing low investment in our Childrens Service it is not anticipated that overall savings will be made, but it is anticipat that the more planned and rational approach embodied in these documents wi lead to a more focused, effective use of resources. The approach outlined these documents will lead to detailed proposals for transfer of resources facilitate the development of a smaller number of better staffed residenti establishments, and the development of a greater range and number of fami placements, together with clearer assessment facilities and better preventi strategies.

7.2 It must be pointed out at this stage, however, that by all objective measures and comparisons, Children's services in Staffordshire are significantly under-funded.

8. Background Papers

Department of Health Circular LAC (92) 18

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