

MINUTE 'B'

'A' &

**Services Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Thursday 30 November 2006 at 10.30am**

Present:

F B Grains	L Angus
B J Cheyne	A J Cluness
C B Eunson	R G Feather
L G Groat	I J Hawkins
J H Henry	J A Inkster
E J Knight	W H Manson
J P Nicolson	W A Ratter
F A Robertson	J G Simpson
T W Stove	W N Stove
W Tait	

Apologies:

B P Gregson	J C Irvine
Capt G G Mitchell	

In Attendance:

B Doughty, Executive Director, Education and Social Care
H Budge, Head of Schools
S Morgan, Head of Children's Services
L Adamson, Committee Officer

Chairperson

Mrs F B Grains, Chairperson of the Committee, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Minutes

The minute of the meeting held on 19 October 2006, having been circulated, was confirmed.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings

There was nothing to report.

68/06

Adoption and Fostering Panels

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Administrative Services (Appendix 1).

The Executive Director, Education and Social Care advised that written Constitutions for the operation of the Adoption and Fostering panels had been produced in light of the fact that the

Panels had recently been scrutinised by the Care Commission and with the forthcoming Social Work inspections in early 2007. He added that the Constitutions had been produced by SIC's Legal and Administration Service to ensure that the correct policies and procedures were in place.

Mr W H Manson moved that the Committee approve the recommendation in the report, with the amendments, that the elected representative on the Temporary Fostering Panel be the Spokesperson for Education and Children and Young People, and that the elected representative on the Permanency Panel should be either the Chair or Vice-Chair of Services Committee. The Committee noted that Mr Manson, as Spokesperson for Education and Children and Young People, agreed to serve on the Temporary Fostering Panel for the remainder of this Council. Mr W A Ratter seconded.

Mr J P Nicolson noted a typo in the Permanency Panel Constitution, at Section 3, Composition, where the 3^d line should be amended to read "..... , who will act as Medical Adviser and".

In response to a query from a Member, the Head of Children's Services advised that the adoption/fostering process, from application stage through to completion, should take no longer than 6 months.

69/06

Support Services to Families of Children with Additional Support Needs

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Children's Services (Appendix 2).

The Executive Director, Education and Social Care introduced the report and advised that the Services Plan was an extensive report reflecting the changing needs of children in Shetland with additional support needs.

Mr W H Manson noted that there were no financial implications for this year arising from the proposals in the report. However, there would be an increase in costs in forthcoming years due to the projected rise in the number of people with learning difficulties. Mr W H Manson accordingly moved that the Committee approve the recommendation in the report. Mr L G Groat seconded.

In response to a query from a Member, the Head of Children's Services advised that there were two parents represented on the Review Team – Support Services to Families of Children with Additional Support Needs. He added that parents and members of the Special Needs Action Group (SNAG) had generally welcomed the proposals and recommendations from the review.

Mr L Angus advised that he had recently attended a SNAG meeting where there had been a general criticism with the lack of information that parents receive, particularly in relation to the transition between the child's school and social needs, to that of adulthood. The Executive Director, Education and Social Care reported that the transition of a child with additional support needs, moving from quite intensive services, to those of an adult, was always a major challenge, and further work required to be undertaken to ensure that co-ordination of the transition be improved.

70/06 **Joint OT Store – Feasibility Study Progress Report**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Care (Appendix 3).

Mr C B Eunson said the proposal to develop a new OT store and office accommodation on the Brevik House site was an excellent idea, and should proceed. Mr Eunson accordingly moved that the Committee approve the recommendations in the report. Mr E J Knight seconded.

Mr W A Ratter stated that the proposal would save money by eliminating duplication, through shared commitment and resources with community development partners.

In response to a query from a Member, the Head of Community Care advised that further discussions were still to take place to discuss joint funding, land ownership, and the services to be provided.

71/06 **Learning and Teaching Policy**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Schools (Appendix 4), and after hearing the Head of Schools summarise the main terms of the report, Mr W H Manson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations therein. Mr W N Stove seconded.

72/06 **Shetland's Joint Future and the Community Health Partnership**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Community Care (Appendix 5).

The Head of Community Care summarised the main terms of the report. The Shetland NHS Board Corporate Plan had been attached to the report to provide Members with information on the breadth of the work undertaken by the Community Health Partnership.

Mr L G Groat stated that the Council was committed to Shetland's Joint Future and the report provided some very good points. He

suggested that the NHS should provide patients with the information on waiting times for appointments with Doctors.

Mrs I J Hawkins referred to recent unfortunate incidents relating to Single Shared Assessments (SSAs) and asked for reassurance that the SSA process would be improved. The Head of Community Care advised that there was a backlog of SSAs to be completed, however it was envisaged that with an improvement in communication and electronic data sharing, this service would progress in the coming months.

Mr L Angus said he was pleased to see the improvements to joint working, however he noted that there was no reference to the findings from the Social Work Task Force (SWTF). The Executive Director, Education and Social Care advised that service provision for older people required to be considered jointly with the NHS and he gave his assurance that this will be looked at across the board.

In response to a query from Mr E J Knight, the Head of Community Care advised that a 24 hour mental health response service had recently been set up, and she undertook to provide Mr Knight with details of the service.

On the motion of Mr C B Eunson, seconded by Mr W H Manson, the Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

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F B Grains
Chairperson