

MINUTE

‘A’ & ‘B’

**Special Services Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Monday 6 August 2007 at 2.15pm**

Present:

L Angus	J Budge
A T J Cooper	A Doull
C B Eunson	E J Fullerton
F B Grains	R S Henderson
J H Henry	A J Hughson
C H J Miller	R C Nickerson
J G Simpson	C L Smith
A S Wishart	

Apologies:

A J Cluness	I J Hawkins
W H Manson	F A Robertson
G Robinson	

In Attendance (Officers):

H Sutherland, Executive Director – Education & Social Care
B Doughty, Chief Social Work Officer
M Goodlad, Chief Executive
C Albutt, Senior Assistant Accountant
G Bray, Training Manager
M Barnett, Project Manager – New Craigielea
H Budge, Head of Schools
M Harries, Service Manager – Community Care Resources
S McKay, Criminal Justice Social Worker
D Morgan, Service Manager – Criminal Justice Unit
S Morgan, Head of Children's Services
D Shearer, Evaluation, Research & Development Officer
W Weis, Service Manager – Older People's Services
E Weston, Service Manager – Adult Services
L Geddes, Committee Officer

Also:

K Lamb, Social Work Inspection Agency
W Paxton, Social Work Inspection Agency
N Barratt, Social Work Inspection Agency
Sergeant M Czerniakiewicz, Northern Constabulary

Chairperson

Mr L Angus, Chairperson of the Committee, presided.

Circular

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The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

30/07 **Social Work Inspection Agency Performance Inspection Reports on Social Work and Criminal Justice Services in Shetland**

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (Appendix 1).

Mr W Paxton and Ms K Lamb from the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee (copy of slides attached as Appendix 1a, and copies of the SWIA Performance Inspection reports attached as Appendices 1b and 1c).

Mr W Paxton began the presentation by outlining the background to the performance inspection of criminal justice services in Shetland, the methodology for conducting the inspection, the key findings, the key areas for improvement and the next steps in the process. The Committee were advised that overall the criminal justice service was very well managed and amongst the best the SWIA had seen. There were several key areas where the service could be improved, and one of the recommendations had already been addressed. An action plan to address the remaining key recommendations would have to be agreed in the next 12 weeks.

In response to a query as to whether future inspections of the criminal justice service would be done as part of the Northern Community Justice Authority, of which Shetland was a partner, Mr Paxton advised that the situation was unclear at the moment. The SWIA was intending to carry out a number of themed inspections in the future, but the areas in which these would be carried out had yet to be identified.

The Chief Social Work Officer thanked the SWIA staff for the professional manner in which they had undertaken this inspection.

Ms K Lamb then continued the presentation in relation to the performance inspection of social work services. She outlined the inspection process, the performance inspection model, areas for evaluation, the key strengths, the key areas for improvement and the next steps. She advised that overall it was a good report and that there were good outcomes for people who used the services. There were gaps identified in some services and the key recommendations would be addressed in an action plan to be agreed with the SWIA, with a follow-up inspection taking place in a year.

The Chief Social Work Officer advised Members that he was very pleased with the report, and that the self-evaluation carried out by the Social Work Service reflected the contents of the report. He went on to say that he was particularly pleased with the positive comments relating to the staff, and he felt that the report was a credit to those employed in the Social Work Service in Shetland.

In response to a query regarding the degree of urgency in addressing adult protection procedures, Ms Lamb said that whilst it was apparent that work

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was actively being undertaken, there was a lack of written procedures and this would have to be addressed.

Members expressed their appreciation of staff in Social Work Services, and said that they looked forward to seeing the key recommendations being addressed.

The Chairperson thanked the SWIA for the manner in which they had conducted the inspections, and congratulated the Social Work staff for their efforts leading to the positive reports. He went on to say that he would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr B Doughty, Chief Social Work Officer, who would be leaving Shetland soon and, on behalf of Members, wished him all the best for the future.

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L Angus
Chairperson