

**SOCIAL SERVICES SUB COMMITTEE
26 MAY 1998**

Present: Councillors Angell, Barnard, Bayle, Mrs Clifford, Miss Haydon, McCormack, Mrs Shillcock, Mrs Sutcliffe and Worrall

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Angell be elected as Chairman of the Sub Committee for the municipal year 1998/99.

COUNCILLOR ANGELL IN THE CHAIR

2. Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Worrall be appointed Vice Chairman for the municipal year 1998/1999.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 10 February 1998 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Child Protection Arrangements (Item 1)

In a detailed report the Director of Social Services & Housing set out the variety of responsibilities held by Social Services in the area of child protection which were delivered through multi agency working with a number of strategic agencies.

The protocols for joint working in this service area were governed by the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) which was a statutory body covering all six unitary authorities which brought together officer representatives of all the major agencies involving child protection at a strategic level. Agreement had been reached for the ACPC to run on a transitional basis for one year up to April 1999 and at that point a local ACPC covering one or more unitary authorities was likely to be implemented.

It was noted that a further report to the main Committee in June would address the issues raised in the Government's consultation paper "Working together to safeguard children:- New government proposals for inter agency co-operation".

In considering local issues in the context of child protection, the Sub Committee considered that it was important that appropriate performance standards and indicators were drawn up and implemented in order that Members were able to judge for themselves the achievements of the Department in appropriate areas and the Director of Social Services & Housing undertook to examine this issue further and report back as appropriate.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5. Family Support Strategy (Item 2)

The Director of Social Services & Housing submitted a report informing the Sub Committee of the details of the Family Support Strategy which underpinned the Children Services Plan.

The report emphasised the local response to issues such as philosophical and cultural changes, planning multi agency collaboration, the Children's Services Plan, and procedures for children in need and assessment manual. In particular the report emphasised the need to work closely with strategic and voluntary agencies and to have close participation in the corporate approaches to Crime and Disorder legislation, and to this end recommended that commitment be sought for all other service committees in support of the strategy.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the implementation of the strategy, as outlined, be fully endorsed and supported and the corporate mechanisms of communication and collaboration in order to facilitate its success, be supported; and
- (ii) commitment be sought from other service committees in the authority for the endorsement and support of the strategy.

6. **Joint Arrangements (Item 3)**

The Director of Social Services & Housing submitted a report updating Members on the progress being made in relation to joint arrangements for specialist services. In response to questions from Members, the Borough Solicitor gave details as to the current position on each of the joint arrangements with regard to the arrangements being agreed and signed.

In considering the report, Members stressed the importance of all of the joint agreements being signed as quickly as possible and the Borough Solicitor and Director of Social Services & Housing undertook to relay the Committee's concerns to the appropriate agencies.

RESOLVED that the specialist nature of the services covered by the joint arrangements and the progress being made in reaching agreement with the other unitary authorities be noted.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 9.30pm.

CHAIRMAN