

Social Work Standards – Proposed Special Sub Committee

The City of Edinburgh Council

18 March 2004

Purpose of report

- 1 To propose the establishment of a Special Sub-Committee of the Executive on Social Work Standards.
- 2 To propose a draft remit for the Special Sub-Committee, its membership and meetings schedule.

Background

- 3 Social Work services and establishments currently benefit from some degree of scrutiny. Care Commission Standards are in place for most services, and the Care Commission regularly submits monitoring reports to the Department measuring services against these Standards.
- 4 Other monitoring reports are received on a regular basis from HMI, SWSI and the Care Commission, while the Social Work Department undertakes its own measurement of service performance. Management action is taken in response to any particular issues identified in these reports.
- 5 Currently no formal mechanism exists for elected members to receive feedback from this ongoing rigorous scrutiny. The creation of a Special Sub-Committee will address this situation.
- 6 The Chief Social Work Officer is reporting elsewhere on the agenda on a proposal to establish a dedicated Quality Assurance Unit within the Department. A key function of this Unit would be to submit monitoring reports to a Special Sub-Committee.

Main Report

- 7 It is therefore proposed to establish a Social Work Standards Special Sub-Committee of the Executive, based on the highly effective Education Standards Special Sub-Committee model. The following remit is suggested:-
 - maintain an overview of the quality of Social Work experience for Edinburgh's citizens by considering reports of HMI, SWSI and Care

Commission inspections and internal reviews of Social Work establishments and services, and action taken;

- monitor the implementation of new initiatives relating to quality;
 - maintain an overview of the implementation of national and local policies;
 - address issues relating to the work of services which arise during the course of the business of the Sub-Committee and make recommendations to the Executive;
 - celebrate the success of services, including identification of examples of good practice;
 - provide a high quality experience for officers and Sub-Committee members by adopting an agreed set of protocols for the conduct of Special Sub-Committee meetings.
- 8 It is suggested that the membership of the Sub-Committee should comprise an independent chair and nine Councillors (5L, 2SLD, and 2C). Substitutes from the same political group would be permitted, on the basis set out in Standing Order 41(3). Local ward members will be invited to attend and be heard. Meetings will be held on an eight-weekly cycle.

Recommendations

- 9 To approve the establishment of a Special Sub-Committee of the Executive on Social Work Standards, with the remit detailed in paragraph 7 and membership detailed in paragraph 8.
- 10 To appoint 9 members to serve on the Sub-Committee (5L, 2SLD, 2C) and an interim Convener from among them.
- 11 To request a further report on the appointment of an independent Convener.
- 12 To agree that the first Special Sub-Committee meeting should agree a Protocol for future meetings.


Jim Inch
Director of Corporate Services

09/03/06

Appendices	None
Contact/tel	Allan McCartney, 0131 529 4246, or allan.mccartney@edinburgh.gov.uk
Wards affected	All
Background Papers	None