
AUTHORISATION OF APPROVED SOCIAL WORK STATUS

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Thistlethwaite,
Adult Services Portfolio Holder**

Responsible Director – Cliff Brown, Director of Adult & Community Services

Purpose of Report

1. To report the exercise of delegated powers to grant Approved Social Worker Status.

Summary

2. This report describes the actions undertaken to ensure that staff recommended for Approved Social Work Status have undertaken the appropriate level of training and have appropriate competence in dealing with people who are suffering from a mental disorder and the actions of the Director of Community Services in authorising a member of staff to carry out the duties of an Approved Social Worker.

Background

3. A report was presented to Members on 23 January 1997 regarding Mental Health Services. That report detailed the responsibility of the Local Authority to appoint Approved Social Workers and Members agreed the process for the appointment, renewal and withdrawal of Approved Social Work Status.

Actions

4. The recommended Approved Social Worker has provided evidence of the relevant training undertaken, which has been confirmed by the Operations Manager.
5. The Operations Manager – has submitted a report regarding the satisfactory work experience of the member of staff recommended for authorisation.
6. The recommended Approved Social Worker has submitted a detailed portfolio of their work providing evidence of their competency to practise.

Outcome of Consultation

7. No consultation is required for this authorisation.

Legal Implications

8. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

9. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

10. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

Decision Deadline

11. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that Cabinet note that the Director of Community Services has exercised his delegated power to appoint an Approved Social Worker for a five year period.

Reason

13. In order to maintain sufficient Approved Social Workers for the purpose of discharging the functions conferred on the Social Services Department by the Mental Health Act 1983.

Cliff Brown
Director of Community Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Maxine Naismith : Extension 3258
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