

Report



meeting	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	
date	11 th May 2004	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

NATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICES CONFERENCE 2004

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To outline the arrangements for this year's Annual Social Services Conference being held at the Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne from 20th to 22nd October 2004.

2. Information and Advice

- 2.1 The Conference is run jointly by the Association of Directors of Social Services and the Local Government Association and is of value to councillors, senior officers, policy makers and service managers in the statutory, voluntary and private sector involved in social care, children's and health services.
- 2.2 The theme of this year's Conference is 'Communities that Care, Services that Deliver'. Its aim is to explore how we can build sustainable communities that promote well-being and are safe, caring and supportive.
- 2.3 The programme will consist of a mix of keynote and ministerial addresses with a wide variety of participatory workshops and networking sessions.
- 2.4 Policy sessions of particular interest to the County Council include:

- Safeguarding Children and Supporting Families
- Making Extra Care Work
- Healthier Communities
- Children’s Inter-Agency Group
- Implementing the National Service Framework for Older People
- Valuing People
- Finding Creative Ways to improve education, training and employment for care leavers
- New Mental Health Act – What does it mean for Social Services?

2.5 The Director of Social Services recommends that the County Council is represented at this Conference which gives delegates an opportunity to consider how changes and work in social care, health and other policy areas can make a real difference to people’s lives.

3. Statutory and Policy Implications

3.1 This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and users. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report. Members’ attention is however, drawn to the following:-

3.1.2 Financial Implications

The estimated costs per delegate are set out below. These costs will be met from within the Social Services budget.

Conference fee	-	£395.00
Travelling Expenses-		£184.00*
Subsistence	-	£ 22.57
Accommodation	-	£315.00

*The amount shown is the cost of rail travel but it is probable that travel by private car will be the preferred option.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that the County Council be represented at the National Social Services Conference 2004 by three elected Members, the Director of Social Services and one representative from the Voluntary Sector.

5. Executive Head of Democratic Legal Services Comments ()

- 5.1 Approval of matters (including Conference attendance) in accordance with the Council's Travel and Conference Policy is delegated to the Administration Committee by paragraph 11.2 of Part 3 of the Constitution (JA 21.04.04).

6. Director of Resource's Financial Comment (JM 22/4/04)

- 6.1 The costs will be met from the department's Directorate base budget for 04/05.

7. Background Papers Available for Inspection

- 7.1 Conference details.

8. Electoral Division(s) Affected

- 8.1 All.

STUART BROOK

Director of Social Services

(COMM-MISC) AC4/ PW