



Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership

Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership

10 June 2016

10:00am – 2:00pm

Present:

Robert Marshall, Head Care & Justice **(RM)** Chair,
Jennifer Davidson, CELCIS **(JD)**
Joanne McMeeking, CELCIS **(JM)**
Boyd McAdam, CHS **(BM)**
Elliot Jackson, CHS **(EJ)**
Alyson Evans, CHS, **(AE)**
Linda Jardine, Children 1st **(LJ)**
Neil Hunter, SCRA **(NH)**
Malcolm Schaffer, SCRA **(MS)**
Lisa Bennett, SCRA **(LB)**
Kate Rocks, SWS **(KR)**
Claire Lightowler, CYCJ **(CL)**
Paul Beaton, Crown Office **(PB)**
Marie-Louise Fox, SLAB **(MF)**
Catriona Whyte, SLAB **(CW)**
Alan Baird, Chief Social Work Advisor, **(AB)**
Lesley Dowdalls, Law Society **(LD)**
Mike Burns, SWS **(MB)**
Catherine Dowe, Children's Hearings Team **(CD)**,
Thekla Garland, Children's Hearings Team Leader
(TG)
Kirsty Doull, Looked After Children Unit **(KD)**
Donna Turnbull, Children's Hearings Team **(DT)**
Marion Gillooly, Getting It Right Implementation **(MG)**
Tom McNamara, Youth Justice and Children's
Hearings Unit Head **(TM)**

In attendance:

Lyndsey Smith, Includem **(LS)**
Sandra Aitken, Child Protection **(SA)**
Jim Devoy, Police Scotland **(JD)**

Apologies:

Phil Denning, Education Scotland
Maria Walker, ADES
Kate McKay, Scottish Government
Angela Morgan, Includem
Mandy Brotherstone, NHS Borders
Jan Marshall, Scottish Government
Andreana Adamson, Scottish Government
Robert Gordon, SCTS
Donald Henderson, Scottish Government
Mairi-Anne MacDonald, SSSC
Sheriff Andrew Cubie, Judicial Institute
Rosie Wright, Police Scotland
Tim Barraclough, SCTS

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| 1. | Welcome and Apologies | | |
| 1.1 | RM welcomed everyone to the meeting, including those deputising for other colleagues. Apologies were noted (see front page). | | |
| 2. | Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising | | |
| 2.1 | Minutes of the previous meeting on 16 March 2016 were agreed. | | |
| 2.2 | RM explained that post-election, John Swinney MSP and Deputy First Minister had been appointed Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, and Mark McDonald MSP appointed Minister for Childcare and Early Years. | | |
| 3. | Working Groups – Update on Progress | | |
| 3.1 | Generating Evidence and Promoting Improvement | | |
| 3.1.1 | BMc explained that the evaluation of the 'How do I make Choices about my Children's Hearing' practice note is still underway and he will give a further update at the next meeting. | Next meeting | |
| 3.1.2 | The Argyll & Bute Improvement Project had yet to begin. | | |
| 3.1.3 | The sub group set up to develop work around measuring the system's contribution to better wellbeing outcomes has developed a draft proposal paper for limited consultation (to begin late June 2016). The intention is to produce a tool which can capture data indicating if the hearings system is making a positive difference to children's well-being – avoiding duplication of reporting systems already in use. KR referred to the wider use of the Viewpoint system suggested it might be possible to set up a pilot area. CL spoke about possible links to some work CYCJ are doing. She suggested BMc invite Emma Miller (who is leading evaluation work on secure care outcomes) to attend his group to discuss possible links. | September meeting | BMc will revert to September meeting with final proposal. KR and BMc will meet to discuss current work underway and possible pilot. BMc will invite Emma Miller. |
| 3.2 | Getting It Right in the Hearings System | | |
| 3.2.1 | MS reflected on the feedback on the 'Referral to the Reporter Guidance'. This indicates that the document is not widely known and perhaps needs further promotion among the organisations and communities represented by CHIP partners. | | All partners to take the guidance back to their organisations and test awareness of the guidance. |

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| 3.2.2 | <p>REFERRAL TO THE REPORTER GUIDANCE :</p> <p>http://www.scra.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Guidance-on-Referral-to-Reporter.pdf</p> <p>A <u>training package</u> is available from SCRA in support of the guidance. Locality Reporter Managers would be very happy to support colleagues - especially those in Education and Health who may be undertaking a Named Person role. RM asked CHIP partners - as leaders - to promote wider uptake of that opportunity.</p> <p>MS outlined the group's proposals for multi-agency local sessions to be delivered this autumn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AB and KR suggested that it would be better to hold the events in Sept/Oct after the roll out of the Named Person provisions in the CYPA on 31 August. • It was agreed that that the target audience should extend to legal reps and legal advisors. • Discussion round financial support – it was agreed the proposal should go ahead and that MS should seek to minimise cost and liaise with the SG. <p>RM raised the more general issue of CHIP members seeking to earmark some resource each year to contribute to the wider work of CHIP. That required a clear, well-managed PM approach to CHIP business, delivery and self-assessment.</p> | | <p>SCRA can provide support with a training package if necessary. SG will pick this up with colleagues absent from this meeting.</p> <p>SG to consider how best to develop sound, apt PM processes for CHIP– by next meeting.</p> |
| 4. | <p>Update on Work of the Tri-Partite Group</p> <p>4.1 NH updated CHIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Feedback loop'. It was agreed that CHIP members had to take more collective responsibility here - the data and intelligence that it will amass will be for all partners. An update will be going to Ministers soon to highlight progress so far and the identified challenges. BMc wished to record his thanks for the support he had received from the sub-group. <p>4.2 Others areas discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the 'better hearings' work; • research into the backgrounds of 8 to 11 year olds referred to SCRA for offending – praised and welcomed by all CHIP partners; • the LAC Strategy and how CHIP can interact with it; | | |

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| 4.3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> non-disclosure improvement work being undertaken jointly by SCRA, CELCIS and Glasgow City. <p>‘Aims, Visions and Values for the Hearings System’ (AVV) document. It was agreed that the opportunity here was to enable the statement to be used as a screening tool against which decisions, proposals or initiatives could systematically be tested – ie “does what we are trying to do align with our system’s agreed aims, vision and values”?</p> <p>After discussion, CHIP agreed the document. The group also asked for a ‘one page’ distillation of the document to be produced. Members were unanimous that this statement should be clear that it represented the collective agreement of the CHIP community.</p> <p>Further discussion centred around more effective dissemination and promotion of CHIP products and initiatives.</p> | | <p>NH will prepare and send out final draft of the statement plus one page ‘poster type’ summary.</p> <p>CHIP should review the AVV every 6 months starting December 2016.</p> <p>LD/NH to discuss AVV distribution within the Law Society.</p> |
| 4.4 | <p>Participation Charter – work is on-going. (When completed it will complement the work on the ‘Better Hearings’ agenda.</p> | | |
| 5. | <p>Working Groups – Update on Progress (cont.)</p> | | |
| 5.1 | <p>Learning & Development</p> | | |
| 5.1.1 | <p>Multi-disciplinary post. JMc indicated that this work strand was now ready for decision. It was agreed to progress to recruit the first CHIP L&D Co-ordinator.</p> <p>L&D - Synergies between CHIP/Girfec/ YJIB At was agreed that the L&D work had reached a natural point where it should review its objectives and examine connections and natural synergies.</p> <p>RM referenced the CHIP meeting in September being adjacent to the next YJIB meeting. He would try to ensure that the respective agendas were aligned.</p> | | <p>JMc to progress - recruitment strategy/job spec to go to partners to advertise. Any early indications of interest to go to JMc or NH.</p> <p>The Chairs of CHIP and YJIB to meet to discuss this and further synergies – SG to arrange in late August.</p> |
| 5.1.2 | <p>Permanence</p> <p>KD updated CHIP on this work. RM asked if there was still a need for a formal response to the SCRA Permanence Report. It was agreed not but that further updates would be helpful, especially around PACE, actual change and improvement where it is being rolled out more widely.</p> | | <p>September update re PACE. JD/CD to circulate PACE progress information in</p> |

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| 6. 6.1 | <p>SLAB Research</p> <p>MF updated CHIP on the SLAB-commissioned research into the role of legal representatives in the hearings system. In particular she indicated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the report indicates that solicitors generally have a positive impact on hearings it identifies a number of areas which could be improved there needs to be joint ownership of CHIP members taking the recommendations forward. <p>LD indicated that she did not yet have a formal position on behalf of the Law Society. She agreed that forward handling was important and that a collective CHIP approach would be helpful. It might also be helpful if the Chair were to visit the Law Society/Glasgow Bar Association/individual firms to follow up on the report, indicating that there was an agreed plan to act on the findings.</p> <p>MF agreed to draw up a collective narrative and action plan prior to publication (including who best might utilise its findings).</p> <p>BMc wished to consider the findings and recommendations to inform his review of panel member training with West Lothian College.</p> | | <p>MF to co-ordinate a collective narrative setting out an agreed system response. RM, TM and LD agreed to assist.</p> <p>BMc to be supported to reflect findings in panel training.</p> <p>Draft response to come back to CHIP for agreement in September.</p> |
| 7. 7.1 | <p>Time Intervals Blueprint</p> <p>TM spoke to the above.</p> <p>He sought agreement from CHIP that the work could progress with a view to producing a refreshed Code of Practice/Interagency Standards being in place from 2017. CHIP agreed.</p> | | <p>TM to revert to December meeting with an update.</p> |
| 8. | Update from Youth Justice Improvement Board | | |

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| 8.1 | <p>CL gave the highlights of the Minutes of the YJIB's last meeting. In particular she referred to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure Care Improvement Project - there will be a draft interim report ready in August which will be sent to CHIP. NH and JMc raised issues around mental health especially now we have a Minister for Mental Health. A longitudinal study looking at outcomes for young people who have been in secure care. CYCJ is looking for funding and asked for CHIP members to send on 'letters of support where appropriate. | | <p>CL to circulate interim secure care report.</p> <p>CD to facilitate letters of support from CHIP partners.</p> |
| 9. 9.1 | <p>Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP)</p> <p>TM - Ministers have asked CHIP to look at decision making in and around the hearings system, emphasising how the system responds to and supports younger children and those aged 16 & 17 and how this work reaches over to the youth justice world.</p> <p>He tabled a paper outlining a number of potential areas of work for the coming period that could possibly support the CPIP priorities. Preparing the plan should involve looking at good CHIP work already in train and refreshing this, as well as picking up areas that need attention.</p> <p>In discussion NH said there were some core priority issues to be covered such as the 'conflict' between the rights of parents and the rights of children, the issues of neglect and home supervision.</p> <p>CL would like to see boldness in our actions with children involved in offending – a breakdown of the distinction between children as offenders and victims. For example, figures show that 81% of young people who were referred on offence grounds were at risk from their parents.</p> <p>SA spoke about the establishment of a child protection review group and indicated that CHIP may be invited to send a representative to that.</p> | | <p>TMc to redraft & circulate paper for comments before next meeting.</p> |
| 10. 10.1 10.2 | <p>AOB</p> <p>Young Person's Board</p> <p>NH indicated this work was now progressing well. A meeting of 16 young people on 25 July would further this discussion.</p> <p>Update on research into 'What makes a good hearing?'</p> | | |

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| | MS explained that the report has been slightly amended and that consultation is on-going with young people from Includem and Aberlour. The final report should be ready for the September CHIP meeting. | | CD - Key item for the September meeting. |
| 11. | Date of Next Meeting | | The meeting will be the same day as the YJIB and colleagues will share lunch. |
| 11.1 | Thursday 15 September 2016, Conference Room 2, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh at 10:00am. | | |