



## Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership

Paper 2 – CHIP 6/6/2017

## Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership Wednesday 22 March 2017

### Present:

Donald Henderson, Chair – Deputy Director, Care & Protection  
Alan Baird – Chief Social Work Adviser  
Tom McNamara – Head of Youth Justice and Children's Hearings Team  
Thekla Garland – Head of Children's Hearings team  
Catherine Dowe – Policy Officer, Children's Hearings Team  
Liz Murdoch – Policy and Implementation Manager, Care & Justice  
Hannah Keates – Team Leader, Getting it Right Team  
Belinda Robertson – Improvement Advisor, Looked After Children Unit  
Boyd McAdam – National Convener/Chief Executive, CHS  
Elliot Jackson – Depute Chief Executive, CHS  
Alyson Evans – Practice and Policy Officer, CHS  
Neil Hunter – Principal Reporter/Chief Executive, SCRA  
Malcolm Schaffer – Head of Practice and Policy, SCRA  
Lisa Bennett – Head of Strategy and Organisational Development, SCRA  
Gary Dover – Child Health Commissioner/Public Health Specialist, NHS Highland  
Kate Rocks – Chair of Children and Families Committee Social Work Scotland  
Paul Beaton – COPFS  
John Urquhart – CoSLA  
Angela Morgan – Chief Executive, Includem  
Joanne McMeeking – Head of Improving Care Experiences, CELCIS  
Claire Lightowler – Director, CYCJ  
Robert Gordon – Scottish Courts  
Marie-Louise Fox – Director of Operations, SLAB  
Elaine Adams – Learning and Development Advisor, CELCIS  
Jim Devoy – Inspector, Children and Young People Business Area, Police Scotland  
Lex Baillie – Chief Inspector, Police Scotland  
Debbie Lucas – Lead Officer Child's Plan, East Renfrewshire  
Pauline Stephen – ADES - Head of Schools and Learning, Angus Council

### Apologies:

Helen Cameron – Director SG Children and Families  
Barry McEwan – Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland  
Mike Burns – Vice Chair of Children and Families Committee, Social Work Scotland  
Mary Hoey – Assistant Director, Education Scotland  
Philip Denning – Assistant Director, Education Scotland  
Jan Marshall – Deputy Director Civil Law and Legal System  
Marie-Anne MacDonald – Director of Strategic Defence and Engagement, SSSC  
Catriona Whyte – Head of Legal Services (Civil), SLAB  
Tim Barraclough – Chief Development and Innovation Officer, SCTS  
Sheriff Andrew Cubie – Deputy Director, Judicial Institute  
Linda Jardine – Assistant Director, Children 1<sup>st</sup>  
Lesley Dowdalls – Law Society  
Katherine Hudson – Team Leader, Child Protection



		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Welcome and apologies</b></p> <p><b>DH</b> welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies / substitutions were noted. He confirmed that future meetings of CHIP were to be Chaired by Director of Children and Families, Helen Cameron. Special welcome extended to Elaine Adams – dedicated CHIP learning and development Adviser.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of December meeting and matters arising</b></p> <p>Minutes of the 8 December 2016 were agreed.</p> <p>Outstanding Actions – Actions from previous meeting were either complete or work was on-going. All matters arising were covered under this meeting's agenda items</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Education and Skills Committee – 15 March roundtable</b></p> <p>The Committee had decided to 'take stock' of the reforms to the hearings system. They took evidence from stakeholders – including some CHIP partners - on 15 March, 22 March and from the Minister on 29 March. The Committee's main focus had appeared to be on legal representation within hearings which some partners found frustrating given the relatively small numbers of hearings involved, and the even smaller numbers within which the conduct / practice of legal representatives was problematic. <b>KR</b> felt that there was an issue that may need to be dealt with, reflected in many of the submissions she received from local authorities prior to her giving evidence. Is there an opportunity to go back to re-visit training with the benefit of actually operating the 2011 Act arrangements? <b>GD</b> agreed that the perception that the presence of solicitors can be detrimental is more widespread.</p> <p>The SLAB/CELCIS research was signed off by members in 2016. It was agreed that this research should be looked at by the partnership to assess where things are at.</p> <p>UPDATE - The appearance by the Minister on 29 March covered a much wider range of topics and provided an opportunity to correct some of the misconceptions that may have arisen at the previous meetings.</p> <p>The Committee would like a much clearer understanding of this issue and a better perspective on the individual roles and responsibilities of those involved.</p>	<p>CHIP to progress action plan implementation following the SLAB/CELCIS research.</p> <p>CHIP to have a full discussion on the issues raised around Committee's interest at the next meeting. <b>SG</b> to prepare a paper for this with contributions from partners.</p> <p>Invite other organisations such as Barnardo's to attend CHIP to give them an opportunity to express their concerns.</p> <p><b>SG</b> to reflect on how Fiona Duncan's root and branch Review of</p>



		<b>Action</b>
		Care can feed into this work.
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Update from 13 March ‘Moving Forward’ workshop</b></p> <p><b>TM</b> said the workshop had been a useful exercise and he thanked those who had contributed. The discussions were reflective and raised some frustrations but resulted in many positive ideas.</p> <p>It was noted that an analytical review of each of the workstreams would be helpful in order that they can be used to best effect, and move into the critical phase of delivering to practitioners at local levels with a clear strategic working plan. There is the potential to feed into existing local sub structures such as integrated children’s services. It was agreed that consideration would be given to creating a separate workstream to look at engagement, participation and implementation across all the working groups and what links there are to YJIB.</p> <p><b>BR</b> suggested that a Logic Model would be an appropriate tool to use to help visualise what CHIP is trying to achieve.</p>	<p><b>Members</b> to consider a separate workstream</p> <p><b>SG</b> to look at designing a Logic Model.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Working Groups – Update On Progress</b></p>	
5.1	<p><b>Generating evidence &amp; Promoting Improvement</b></p> <p>The main focus has been on the Feedback Loop work. Noted that initial report published on 13 March. Measures of participation and outcomes are still big issues to be addressed.</p>	
5.2	<p><b>Getting it Right in the Hearings System</b></p> <p>The main focus has been on the Blueprint work with GIRFEC work being put on hold. Following discussions with GIRFEC colleagues it was agreed to delay any more local events until later in the year.</p> <p>It was noted that the draft Blueprint is complete and the next step is to pilot the suggested timescales and draft standards in some areas across Scotland. There are discussions ongoing with some of the PACE areas.</p> <p>CHIP discussed the proposals in more depth and agreed there should be a clear narrative drawn up that supports the implementation of the Blueprint and emphasises that the focus should be on the engagement with children and families not just the timescales.</p> <p>It was explained that there would be a fuller pack available to the test areas by the Summer which will set the context and expectations.</p>	<p><b>LB</b> to circulate a fuller pack, including narrative for members comments before circulating to the test sites.</p>



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<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Tri-Partite Group update</b></p> <p>The group has agreed to support the <i>Better Hearings</i> work and will draw up a delivery plan. It was agreed this work has close links to the Blueprint work and there is a role for Elaine Adams and the L&amp;D workstream. Consideration should also be given to testing in a PACE area if possible with links made to those reviewing Child's Plans. The Tri-Partite group will meet again in the summer. CYCJ and SLAB are happy to support this work if needed.</p>	<p><b>SG</b> to speak to Children's Rights / Participation team about the child's plan and links to the hearings system and youth justice.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Child Protection Improvement Programme</b></p> <p>The Minister made a statement in Parliament on 2 March. The statement highlighted the importance of recognising neglect as a primary maltreatment issue and the intention to create a national Child Protection Policy and a National Child Protection Register.</p> <p>It was noted that the Project Initiation Documents which many partners had been asked to complete with regards to CHIP and CPIP, would be used to prepare an action plan. Partners will be kept informed of progress and how they could assist.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Working Groups – Update On Progress (cont)</b></p>	
8.1	<p><b>Learning &amp; Development</b></p> <p>Elaine <b>Adams (EA)</b> the new L&amp;D Co-ordinator explained that her role will include looking at links between all the work streams and the synergies there and assisting with taking forward the recommendations of the SLAB research and Better Hearings work.</p>	<p><b>EA</b> will meet with key people from all four workstreams to discuss next steps.</p>
8.2	<p><b>Permanence</b></p> <p>The work of this group has involved reviewing legislation to identify areas which can potentially hold up key decisions. Various decisions in court can impact on achieving permanence and that lack of clarity can make PACE work more complicated. The group will also be looking at guidance on contact.</p> <p><b>BR</b> gave an update on the progress of the PACE pilots. These are currently taking place in 14 local authority areas and are at the stage of pulling together some real learning. The two biggest issues they have identified so far are contact and measuring data around a child's journey through the process.</p>	<p><b>BR</b> to circulate examples of good practice.</p>



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<b>9.</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Named Person</b></li> </ul> <p><b>HK</b> advised CHIP partners there was an intensive period of engagement between September and December 2016. The key points to arise from this were that information sharing needs to be done <i>with</i> consent; professional judgement must be maintained; and working with the children and families to prepare the plans together is imperative.</p> <p>The DFM made a statement to Parliament on 7 March, explaining that two tests will need to be satisfied to allow information to be shared and the SG is currently working with lawyers on how these provisions will look. A Bill should be introduced into Parliament before the summer 2017 recess. Officials in the policy team are now keen to reset and restate GIRFEC after the uncertainties of last year. They would like to bring confidence to the public and practitioners about this. <b>HK</b> is happy to discuss this further with partners</p> <p>There are links between GIRFEC work and the SG's Child Protection team's work on the neglect agenda.</p>	
9.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Independent Review of Care</b></li> </ul> <p><b>DH</b> gave the group an update on the review which is being Chaired by Fiona Duncan. The next stage will be a period of discovery and engagement with care experienced children and young people and practitioners to highlight issues of concern. Beyond that, Fiona Duncan has the freedom to choose the areas on which the review will focus.</p>	<b>BR</b> to meet with Sandra Aitken to explore links.
9.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Secure Care</b></li> </ul> <p><b>TM</b> spoke about the commitment in the Programme for Government to establish a Secure Care Board, and the reports from the national secure care adviser. Discussions around this are ongoing but they will need to take the Care Review into consideration. Partners will be kept informed of progress, and may be asked to contribute.</p>	
9.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Young Persons' Board – Now called Our Hearings Our Voice</b></li> </ul> <p><b>BM</b> and <b>NH</b> met with the Care Council in February and had a constructive conversation with them about the hearings system. They will meet again in April 2017. Films with young people relating to the Better Hearings work have been carried out. Colleagues from CAFCASS will be attending the next meeting on 3 April to give a presentation and partners are welcome to attend if they wish. CHIP's relationship with</p>	<b>NH</b> to invite partners to the meeting on 3 April.



		<b>Action</b>
9.5	<p>Our Hearings Our Voice needs to be discussed and clarified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Youth Justice Improvement Board</b></li> </ul> <p><b>CL</b> - YJIB is working on developing a performance framework through a logic model process. The Improving Life Chances group has published a paper on school inclusion and is looking for support to disseminate this. Some concern that the work of Whole Systems Approach is being diluted / degraded. It will be necessary to reclaim the momentum in this area. The YJIB workstreams will also be looking at any synergies with the work of the CHIP groups.</p>	<p><b>SG</b> to send a link to the ILC School Inclusion paper to partners.</p>
10.	<p><b>Date Of The Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Tuesday 6 June 2017 – 12:00, Insight Institute, 22 Richmond Street, Glasgow, G1 1XQ</p>	

