



Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership

Children's Hearings Improvement
Partnership
13 September 2017
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

Present:

Michael Chalmers (MC) (Chair) - SG
Peter Imrie (PI) (Minutes) – SG
Thekla Garland (TG)– SG
Liz Murdoch (LM) – SG
Donald Henderson (DH) – SG
Hannah Keates (HK) – SG
Shona Spence (SS) – SG (Observing)
Iona Colvin (IC) – Chief Social Work Advisor
Boyd McAdam (BM) – CHS
Neil Hunter (NH)– SCRA
Elaine Adams (EA) – CELCIS
Lisa Bennett (LB) – SCRA
Indiya Kurlus (IK) – SCRA (attendance for this meeting only)
Gordon Brechin (GB) – SCRA (attendance for this meeting only)
Joanne McMeeking (JM) – CELCIS
John Urquhart (JU) – COSLA
Robert Gordon (RG)– Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service
Angela McLeod (AM) – Police Scotland
Marie-Louise Fox (MLF) – SLAB
Mike Burns (MB) – SWS
Dr Pauline Stephen (PS) – ADES –Angus Council
Claire Arias (CA) - COPFS
Duncan Dunlop (DD) - Who Cares? Scotland
Kirsten Hogg (KH) - Barnardos
Julia Donaldson (JD) – NSPCC
Bryan Evans (BE) – Children 1st

Apologies:

Tom McNamara – SG
Belinda Robertson – SG
Judith Ainslie – SG
Jan Marshall –SG
Gary Dover - NHS
Malcolm Schaffer – SCRA
Jane O'Donnell – COSLA
Linda Jardine – Children 1st
Catriona Whyte – SLAB
Claire Lightowler – CYCJ
Angela Morgan - Includem
Kate Rocks – SWS
Sheriff Andrew Cubie – Judicial Institute
Lesley Dowdalls – Law Society
Mary Hoey – Education Scotland



		Action
1.	Welcome and apologies MC welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	Minutes of March meeting and matters arising Minutes of the previous meeting of 6 June 2017 were agreed. All actions were either complete or work was on-going.	
3.	Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility DH provided an update of the MACR Bill in Paul Beaton's absence advising that policy instructions are currently being drafted and that the Bill team are looking to carry out engagement over the autumn. The group were asked to think about the impact on training, system change and other resourcing implications for further discussion in December.	All asked to consider the impact raising the age will have, for discussion in December.
4.	Named Person HK provided an update explaining that evidence had been called for at committee and that the Bill team are progressing Stage 1. Stage 2 will be in January, Stage 3 February with the hope of Royal Assent in March. Concerns were raised with regards to multiple layers of policy development which were not always co-ordinated. It was agreed that a further update will be provided at the December meeting along with a fuller discussion around the issues and challenges. It was brought to the groups attention that lessons can be learned from the adult care world and confirmation that links are being made through Social Work. It was agreed that further discussion would take place.	HK to provide a fuller update and lead discussion at the December meeting. IC to follow up on discussions with colleagues around the link to adult services.
5.	Education and Skills Committee MC welcomed KH, JD and DD to the meeting to follow up on issues they had raised at the Committee. Concerns highlighted included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal representation at hearings leading to negativity • Lack of consistency with hearings and bad practice at hearings • Decision making process for very young children • Under 5's - concern that a high number of pre-school children continue to be in attendance and the experience can be traumatic. • Advocacy needs to be available, to enable participation of children and young people • Multi-agency training needs to be progressed to enable a greater understanding of needs to be highlighted to all concerned. All 3 organisations highlighted recommendations for improvements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review operating standards 	



		Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More flexible hearings • Creativity with how panel members deal with young people's attendance at a hearing • Implementation of SLAB report recommendations • Involve children in development of training and recruitment of panel members • Can "effective participation", as opposed to attendance be encouraged - albeit legislative change may be required? <p>It was stressed that CHIP is already progressing a number of the concerns raised, but that the group, through engagement, need to continue to progress change.</p> <p>It was agreed that the child should be at the centre of considerations and discussions. The Our Hearings Our Voice group of young people may be an important sounding board. It was agreed that there is a need to review decision making on a wider viewpoint in care provision putting the child first.</p> <p>Members were made aware that externally people are unaware of the progress being made by CHIP. It was agreed that external communication would be looked at.</p> <p>The third sector were invited to attend the December meeting.</p> <p>The chairs of the workstreams were asked to consider third sector involvement on the workstreams.</p> <p>Connections would also be made with the Coalition of Care Providers Sector (CCPS).</p>	<p>NH to liaise with DD regarding involvement of young people towards delivery of change.</p> <p>All to consider external communication.</p> <p>SG CH team to invite DD, KH and JD to the December meeting</p> <p>Chairs of the 4 workstreams to consider 3rd sector involvement.</p> <p>PI to liaise with CCPS regarding the work of the board.</p>
6	Lunch	
7.	<p>Working Groups – update on progress</p> <p>Learning and Development - JM and EA explained that work is being carried out with Falkirk, Glasgow and Lanarkshire to look at the Better Hearings agenda and the creation of local working groups.</p> <p>On-going work looking at the role of solicitors and training. Engagement has taken place via the Glasgow Bar and other agencies.</p> <p>A reminder of the requirement to provide appropriate roles and responsibility information to enable the on-line multi-agency resource to be populated. The guidance as it stands was previously circulated to members.</p>	<p>All partners to review the information contained within the multi-agency guidance and provide comments to PI.</p>



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	<p>Getting it Right in the Hearings System and Blueprint - LB advised that a GIRFEC meeting is scheduled for 27 October. The Blueprint was rolled-out to 2 pilot sites in July. The sites are collecting data via SCRA and proposals will be put to CHIP in December to agree the way forward.</p> <p>Generating Evidence and Promoting Improvement – BM advised that some of the work had been put on hold due to overlaps with other work-streams.</p> <p>Feedback Loop – implementation is problematic as all LA systems are not compatible for information gathering and delivery, however, alternative sources of gathering information are being explored.</p>	<p>LB to provide an update on Blueprint “lessons learned” at the December meeting.</p>
8.	<p>Tri-Partite Group and Better Hearings NH provided a synopsis of the note from the meeting from June 2017 which highlights secure care and the complexity of needs for that population.</p> <p>Better hearings – NH explained that engagement with other agencies is on-going and progressing well across Scotland. A self-assessment tool is contained in the report as a measure to reporting progress on targets. Further work is required to triangulate between the base-line, national findings and localised engagement.</p> <p>Glasgow City Partnership arrangements – GB delivered feedback on the paper. Strategically it was identified that there are weaknesses in consultation. Progress is being driven towards a localised CHIP arrangement with the intention of driving better hearings. It was highlighted that participants would have the authority to drive change and steering towards improvement in the system. This has led to a streamlining of organisation within the Glasgow area. Early intervention regarding attendees at the hearing and particularly removing non relevant persons from attending, other than where their contribution is welcomed.</p> <p>It was further stressed that the drive to reduce participant numbers in the hearing, was as a direct result of the Skills Committee recommendations.</p>	<p>LB and NH to consider engagement with 3rd sector organisations and young people</p>
9.	<p>Ethnic Minority Research IK explained the methodology of the paper along with the main findings to barriers to reporting concerns. CHIP were asked to consider the 3 recommendations in the report.</p> <p>It was noted that SCRA currently has BME data gaps but is improving data gathering to include race.</p> <p>Inter-agency engagement is required to drive awareness amongst partners knowledge of these concerns. It was agreed that this is not just an issue for the hearing system and links across to child protection and education.</p>	<p>SCRA /AI to consider engagement of the report with other areas.</p>



		Action
10.	<p>CPIP Update TG explained that PIDs had been requested under the areas of work which fit under CPIP.</p> <p>NH highlighted the work of the short-life working group which had been set up to consider compulsory measures of supervision and the resilience of the system to cope, particularly in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation.</p>	<p>NH to report back to CHIP in December in particular regarding the legislative changes required.</p>
11.	<p>AOB YJIB - The group last met before the CHIP meeting in June, therefore, an update was provided at the last CHIP meeting. YJIB are due to meet again on 26 September. Update - The outcomes tool for practitioners continues to be developed with the hope of piloting next year. Further discussions have taken place with the Justice Board, where agreement has been given for both areas to consider diversion, disclosure, links to community justice and relationships (including ACES).</p> <p>Safeguarders - Research has been completed. It is hoped that this will be published at the same time as the multi-agency on-line resource.</p> <p>Drug strategy - NH is keen to gather expertise from members on substance misuse.</p>	<p>NH to speak with members regarding expertise on substance misuse.</p>
12.	<p>Date Of The Next Meeting 13 December 2017, Glasgow. Please note this meeting will be followed by YJIB.</p>	

