



## Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership

### Note of Meeting - Draft

Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 10:00-13:00  
Conference room 1. Victoria Quay,  
Edinburgh

#### Attendees:

Michael Chalmers (SG) Chair - MC  
Tom McNamara (SG) - TMc  
Iain Fitheridge (SG) - IF  
Peter Imrie (SG) Minute taker - PI  
Elaine Adams (CELCIS) - EA  
Fiona Dyer (CYCJ) - FD  
Claire Arias (COPFS) - CA  
Lisa Bennett (SCRA) - LB  
Malcolm Schaffer (SCRA) - MS  
Neil Hunter (SCRA) - NH  
Boyd McAdam (CHS) - BMc  
Elliot Jackson (CHS) - EJ  
Jackie McRae (CHS) - JMc  
Jim Devoy (Police Scotland) - JD  
Joanne McMeeking (CELCIS) - JMc  
Jacqui Dunbar (SCRA – Young People's Board) - JD  
Rod Finan (SG, Office of Chief Social Work office) - RF  
Hannah Keates (SG) – HK  
Kirsten Hogg (Barnardos) - KH  
Robert Gordon (Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service) - RG  
Matt Forde, (NSPCC Scotland and CCPS Rep) - MF  
John Urquhart (COSLA) - JU  
Kate Rocks (SWS East Renfrewshire) - KR

#### Apologies:

Donald Henderson (SG)  
Liz Murdoch (SG)  
Liz Cuschieri (SLAB)  
Marie-Louise Fox (SLAB)  
Gary Dover (NHS)  
Pauline Stephen (ADES - Angus council)  
Bryan Evans (Children 1<sup>st</sup>)  
Gordon Brechin (SCRA)  
Jane O'Donnell (COSLA)  
Lindsay MacDougall (SG, Child Protection Team)  
Lucy Smith (SG)

Agenda Item:	Actions:
10:00 - Welcome and apologies – The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were recorded.	

<p><b>Minutes of 12 June 2018 and matters arising</b> – the previous minutes were agreed, with minor amendments to attendees and the organisation they represent.</p> <p><b>Update on actions from 12 June:</b>  There was only one action point:  “SG to consider the Minister’s attendance at the December meeting.”  PI has contacted Ms Todd’s office to invite her to the December or March meeting and awaits a response. SG would advise members once position was clarified.</p>	
<p><b>CPP Children’s Services strategic engagement</b></p> <p><b>HK</b> updated the group on the Children’s Services Strategic Engagement. The Children Services Plans have been sent to CELCIS for review and the visits to all CPP areas will commence in October and run until June ‘19.</p> <p>The aim of the visits is to hear about and share good practice, understand local areas challenges and provide more focussed and targeted deployment of SG resources such as support for improvement work, Realigning Children’s Services, etc. It should also provide intelligence on themes at a national level and where there are gaps.</p> <p>Children Services Plans Statutory guidance will be reviewed in 2019 and CPP areas will be consulted, including multi-agency partners.</p>	
<p><b>Policy Scanning</b></p> <p><b>MS</b> updated the group on the activities and work-plan of the newly formed work-group. Specific areas considered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- use of section 25 agreements, the association with Kinship care and their use. Local investigation will be required to drilldown on this area, particularly in light of the recent Supreme Court judgement  <a href="https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2017-0037-judgment.pdf">https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2017-0037-judgment.pdf</a> (A practice note will be produced and circulated to practitioners).</li> <li>- PACE update from CELCIS which effectively offered encouragement that things were going in the right direction</li> <li>- BME work-stream – a recent meeting in Edinburgh highlighted some of the failings of our collective engagement and a further event is due later in September in Glasgow. The hope is that these events will enable further work on the recent paper produced by CELCIS and SCRA.</li> </ul> <p><b>MS</b> asked that complexity be brought to the fore once more with CHIP. He proposed that a specific event looking at Complexity and Home Supervision be held in Victoria Quay on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. This will enable members to gain further knowledge, beyond the previously supplied paper and consider</p>	<p>SCRA will design and host the event.  <b>Invitations to follow.</b></p>

recent developments. Members agreed that there was potential benefit in this event.

**Better Hearings:**

**Better Hearings Working Group update**

**NH** updated the group on the activities of the newly formed group – 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August.

It was explained that the previous Tri-partite group had been drawn to a close, in favour of the Better Hearings group. Work that will be considered includes the Better Hearings agenda, Blueprint, participation and Advocacy, Role of Solicitors, Sibling contact (whilst cutting across other strands) and Child’s Plans – particularly around information for decision making.

Topical issues include engagement with young people throughout the hearings process, not simply the hearing itself. Report quality to reporters and improving the written reasons for decisions were priority areas that clearly link to Better Hearings standards.

Good working practice is being highlighted and subsequently recorded by local partnership groups and fed back via Better Hearings evaluation work, to ensure this is not lost and can be shared across the network.

**Blueprint**

**LB** offered a brief update on matters relating to the Blueprint. A report will be produced on the Standards and will include rollout plans, actions so far and refinements to better explain the intention of the standards. A narrative is being produced to explain the Blueprint purpose and the timescales for delivery of the Blueprint standards.

The standards when finalised - hopefully November - will be retained within the CHIP website.

**L&D co-ordinator update**

**EA** provided an update on the localised pilot sites. A recent event in Glasgow had gone very well and this has looked particularly at solicitors’ L&D material.

The first phase roll-out of development sessions, testing out new material with a multi-agency group of practitioners, has begun and has been well received. The proposed next phase is to deliver this learning in the other two CHIP test sites.

A group of 10, including solicitors across the legal sector and representatives from SCRA and CHS have assembled to develop CPD modules for solicitors. This group has considered module topics and content and contributed ideas around delivery. They will report into the next meeting of the CHIP

**AP – professionalism specific L&D will need to be shared with local partnerships to enhance knowledge and visibility of training to all. This will be taken forward by the group.**

Partnership Group.

Contact has been made with the Scottish Young Lawyers Association (SYLA). Discussions are underway around holding an event to provide solicitors with information about the CHS and what is expected of them. The SYLA has a membership comprising solicitors who have been qualified for up to 10 years.

Development work is continuing in test sites. Meetings are taking place in Falkirk and North Lanarkshire in the next few weeks to move forward with the action plans that have evolved out of the Better Hearings baseline assessments.

The meeting agreed, with members stressing the need for chairing members to be assertive (in a supportive context) with all participants, including legal reps, to ensure a child centred, non-adversarial approach is adopted.

**JMc** indicated a desire to include training modules to be multi-agency oriented (when produced) and to include roles & responsibilities, to de-bunk some of the myths surrounding the various players' responsibilities.

**BMc** emphasised that the responsibility of chairs has been highlighted as key to an effective hearing. They were looking to do more to support panel members, but needed additional resources.

**KR** asked to ensure that Better Hearings standards and awareness of the solicitor work be shared widely to promote conversation and awareness, and to support good practice across the disciplines. It was also pointed out that social workers receive minimal training on responsibilities in a hearing setting and would value access to new materials..

**RF** asked that emphasis be given to lessons learned being shared.

### 11:05 Data Evidence & Quality Improvement

#### Mapping exercise update

**IF** highlighted that additional work may be required on mapping and to minimise duplication due to other data gathering/data sets being established. Information gathered already includes YJIB, SCRA publications, however some gaps include the data sharing.

CHIP members were asked about this work's future direction – should this be added to the workload of one of the working groups?

**(NH** - Vulnerable children data-set is a major issue. SCRA have consulted with Oracle Learning Management (OLM) to

**Action Point: IF / NH – SG to lead this.**

<p>identify if they can extract this data from existing LA platforms. It was highlighted that under PACE the definition of what data is sought is required to enable OLM to source the data. It is also a concern that some of the outcome is not known by local authorities, but held elsewhere (CHS, SCRA etc.).</p> <p>The belief is that a select group may be required to help determine what data is sought with regards well-being outcomes and Children's Plans and where this may be sourced.</p> <p><b>SCRA – on-line statistics</b></p> <p><b>LB</b> spoke to the SCRA 2017/18 data published in July. An explanation was provided as to the rationale around the stats – from high-level to local level trends, specifics etc. It was agreed to look more closely at the numbers, and supporting analysis, in December.</p>	<p><b>Consideration to presenting these outcomes at a future meeting.</b></p>
<p><b>Our Hearing Our Voice update</b></p> <p><b>JD</b> provided a presentation to the group on the work (to date) with regards the OHOV agenda, actions to date and recruitment of children and young people.</p> <p><b>An ask of CHIP</b> – if organisations have any “Children’s Hearings” related ‘commissions’, particularly around the impact of legislation, changes to process etc. then contact should be made with OHOV and they will determine if this work can be taken forward by the group.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are individual members’ organisations promoting OHOV?</li> <li>• Can organisations offer shadowing days, learning opportunities, business mentoring etc. within their team and with a link to CHIP?</li> <li>• What hopes for OHOV do organisations have?</li> </ul> <p>Questions were taken:</p> <p><b>Q</b> – How will OHOV and their young people’s involvement remain fresh?</p> <p><b>A</b> – Young people will be asked to commit to a 2 year involvement, in this way keeping them keen and enabling some effective change to be seen. (This may be subject to change.)</p> <p><b>Q</b> – What will be the practicalities of commissioning a piece of work?</p> <p><b>A</b> – Organisations via OHOV and young people will determine what, when, why?</p> <p><b>Q</b> – Will there be opportunities to engage with local “Champion’s Boards”?</p> <p><b>A</b> – Yes, and recognition that this may be a slow burn, but their influence may prove to be invaluable.</p>	<p><b>Presentation will be sent with minutes.</b></p>

<p><b>Q</b> – What happens in the event that there is minimal engagement?  <b>A</b> – A review of processes and as an add-on, it may be that Scottish Youth Parliament and Children’s Parliament representatives may not be representative of care-experienced young people.</p> <p><b>Q</b> – How would payment be made to young people for commissioned work?  <b>A</b> – this is being explored, training, support and consideration of recompense may happen.</p> <p><b>CHIP</b> offered their thanks to Jacqui for her efforts to date with the progress made in the short time that she has been in post.</p>	<p><b>JD to contact CHIP members with a request for a professional profile and photo, to help young people learn more about CHIP and the organisations represented.</b></p>
<p><b>12:15 Any Other Business</b> (10 minutes)</p> <p>YJIB update – <b>FD</b> attended the YJIB on 11 September and provided a brief update to members.  <b>CPP - Children’s Service Plans</b> –as per HK update today.  <b>Disclosure</b> – a very useful update from Disclosure Scotland, where they indicated that all options are still being discussed, following the recent consultation. They are happy for organisations to review their contributions, in light of more information being made available and welcome contact to discuss further. It was hoped that all parties represented by YJIB would share a similar desire for disclosure.  Disclosure Scotland made it clear that they continue to be happy to engage with any party to establish opinion, suggestion and to clarify the implications to encourage support.</p> <p><b>EI Information sharing</b> – Police Scotland were able to advise that their Executive team are reviewing their advice to colleagues. It is hoped that this will contribute to enhanced co-operation with colleagues from local authorities and the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector.  Members were reminded of the recent letter sent by the Minister for Children &amp; Young People that set-out a desire for organisations to offer assurances to staff that doing the right thing would be supported.</p> <p><b>Future direction of Youth Justice &amp; Audit of Youth Justice 2020</b> – a paper was produced by one of the sub-groups and there was consensus that the December meeting would mostly be dedicated to reviewing YJIB – this will include the direction of travel, membership, readiness for a likely forthcoming Audit and anything else felt to be appropriate.</p>	<p><b>Regular YJIB update should be on-going agenda item</b></p>

<p><b>Cross-cutting issues</b> between CHIP/YJIB - <b>IF</b> updated the group on an “off-table” discussion considering the similarities and consideration to joining-up the strategic groups on collective decisions.</p>	<p><b>IF will bring a paper to the next CHIP and YJIB</b></p>
<p><b>12:25 Date of Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>10 December (10:00-12:30), Conference Room 1, Victoria Quay.</p> <p><b>PI reminded CHIP members the commitment that a newsletter will be produced every quarter and posted on the CHIP Website. A need to agree no more than 5 points that all partners will go back to their respective organisations and deliver to their staff – thus increasing the purpose and messages of CHIP. PI offered up the following key messages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Attempt to engage with C&amp;F Minister, with a view to her attending the next CHIP.</b></li> <li>• <b>CHIP agreed to a future “complexity &amp; Home supervision” event (2/11/18)</b></li> <li>• <b>L&amp;D products to be delivered to all participants in a hearing (extension of roles &amp; responsibilities on CHIP site).</b></li> <li>• <b>OHOV promotion.</b></li> </ul>	