

**Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership Meeting
Wednesday 24th November 2021**

Note of Meeting

Attendees:

Tom McNamara (SG) (acting Chair) – TM	John Urquhart (COSLA) – JU
Elaine Adams (CHIP L&D lead) – EA	Bryan Evans (Children 1 st) – BE
Wendy Dalglish (SLAB) – WD	Neil Hunter (SCRA) – NH
Colin Convery (Police Scotland) – CC	Fiona Dyer (CYCJ) - FD
Stephen Ferguson (COPFS) – SF	Marie-Louise Fox (SLAB) – MF
Alistair Hogg (SCRA) – AH	Kirsty Deacon (SCRA) – KD
Suzanne Orr (SWS) – SO	Carol Wassell (CHS) – CW
Alison Todd (Angus CPC) – AT	Hazel Robertson (SWS) – HR
Fiona McFarlane (The Promise) – FM	Tracey McFall (Partners in Advocacy) – TMc
Eilidh Graham (SCTS) – EG	Iain Fitheridge (SG) – IF
Leah Wilkie (SG) – LW	Lisa Bennet (SCRA) – LB
Gordon Main (SCRA) – GM	Janine McCullough (Education Scotland) – JM
Liz Brabender – LB	Jane Westall – JM

Apologies:

Sheriff Susan Craig (Judiciary)	Lynne McNiven (NHS)
Elliot Jackson (CHS)	Aileen Nicol (CELCIS)
Lesley Sheppard (SG)	Liz Cuschieri (SLAB)
Claire Burns (CELCIS)	

Agenda Item	Action Points
<p>1. Welcome and apologies</p> <p>The Chair (TM) welcomed CHIP partners to the group, apologies were noted and brief introductions made by new partners.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Action Points</p> <p>Minutes of previous meeting were agreed and the actions reviewed. TM provided updates, and two actions were to be covered in substantive agenda items.</p>	
<p>3. The Hearings System Working Group</p> <p>TM advised the group had now met twice, and produced material on shared values, methods, purpose, collaboration . They would meet again on 29 November, and are now focussed on producing clear plans and a timetable for the outputs of the work, and</p>	

<p>overall have made an encouraging start. The work promises to be bold and ambitious, unafraid of challenge, but respectful of the good things that are already present in the system. Actions that don't need to wait for legislative or structural change are being carved out for early attention.</p> <p>The challenge for the group will be keeping the work strategic, and making full use of the Promise oversight board's position to remove any blocks and barriers. This group is one part of the system which can influence decisions, however TM acknowledged they do not have full control over all aspects of the system, or of issues elsewhere that might impede progress. They will need to carefully plan the work over the next 18 months to ensure the group are doing what they can within their own services. The next meeting is scheduled for 29th November 2021. At each stage of the redesign the partnership will expand to hear from the relevanty partners and interests. It was fair assumption that they will need input from all CHIP partners at some stage.</p> <p>NH thinks the group need to find ways to deploy the capacity within the membership to find solutions, and then to come back together to network.</p> <p>FM confirmed the group will be getting into a publishing cycle and there will be publication of the issues list by the end of the year.</p> <p>BE thinks is it heartening to hear that the attention the group has paid to the culture and relationships, so vital to working together effectively. Many partners are currently working – on their own - on issues surrounding language and thinks it would be good to connect with each other rather than working individually.</p>	
<p>4. Recovery Plan and CH Covid Recovery Group – Future Role</p> <p>AH – there has been steady recovery in the hearings system. There have been improvements with virtual hearings and people have now become accustomed and reliant on this as a way of working.</p> <p>NH – SCRA have worked on engagement with children and families, and have put a support team in place to assist when there are issues. SCRA have seen demands on that team quadruple over the last few months and are trying to find a long term sustainable model. The report shows steady progress and have significantly removed the reliance on emergency legislation however there is still pressure on interim orders and court orders.</p>	<p>AP1: LB to find papers with data and statistics on attendance/participation in hearings and send this round partners.</p>

BE asked what the impact has been on children's attendance at hearings and as technology has improved, he wondered if and how that affected attendance, and if any statistics have been published?

CW – Understanding was growing that the critical measure was not just about attendance but participation too., There had been a reduction in attendance but have only very recently started collecting data and do not have statistics to compare to pre-covid. It is something we are closely attending to and know there is work that needs to be done around it.

TM confirmed authority from the CHIP group for the CHCRG to continue their work on recovery planning and data gathering. The group have continued to meet and this has proved really valuable. He was mindful that we are now going into winter and there is the uncertainty of what new impacts Covid may have during this period and how to support partners to meet them. The partnership felt it would be wise to continue to support the group and have reports sent to CHIP until the end of the business year. The group agreed this.

EA – thinks we should look at refreshing a core group of partners who can progress forward without delay. In relation the group itself if the focus is still on Covid does the group need to meet fortnightly? Can this be changed to every 3 weeks or monthly? If there is going to be a refresh or refocus then the group could meet more regularly.

LB – Suggested a clear joint agenda for the improvement work. Discussions have been had with what SCRA are doing in terms of 40 OHOV calls to action, Better Hearings work and the promise transformational work overlaying and are looking at how to combine them into programmes rather than looking at 1 action from each entry.

NH – There is a need to focus the work of the recovery group to the operational side to maintain impetus and demonstrate ongoing positive impact. Suggested that early challenges for attention should include streamlining reports for Children's Hearings and monitoring and oversight of the current issues.

LB – The areas that have been highlighted by CHIP partners are the key ones. It is helpful for the groups to have in terms of refresh of members and bringing in programme managers.

TM confirmed the group have built strong and effective relationships, and has been recognised and supported by a

<p>number of people.. The proof of the strength of the relationships and value of the group is on record. AP 2 – TM and CHCRG to produce a proposal for future focus of group beyond recovery and into renewal – attending to full implementation of Better Hearings, along with those elements of 40 Calls and Promise-keeping that can be delivered early without major structural or resourcing change..</p>	
<p>5. Better Hearings and Our Hearings Our Voice 40 Calls to Action</p> <p>AH provided an introduction to the evaluation report on OHOV. The sense from partners is that there is a really positive future for OHOV, and he wanted to get CHIP members involved in conversations surrounding that. SCRA want to publish this report however want CHIP endorsement before doing so. A shortened and child-friendly version is also to be published alongside the report.</p> <p>GM informed the group that the intentions in the very early new year 2022 is to recruit new young people onto the board and to support the older/original board members with a mentoring programme. In order to do that there needs to be more support in the team therefore the plan is to try and recruit a high quality participation officer. He gave a summary of projects OHOV have been involved in and advised they have engaged with partner organisations in the rest of the UK. Some organisations have provided feedback on the 40 Calls to Action. However, this has not been achieved fully across CHIP. The challenges is measuring if the actions are taking place and where they are happening. The intention is to keep driving and keep communicating with partners and keeping them relevant in the 40 Calls to Action. David Mackie and Minister for Children and Young People joined the most recent OHOV board meeting and very good feedback was received from this.</p> <p>KD provided an overview of the findings listed in the report. It is important to note that the children and young people from OHOV provided input into the construction of the evaluation and provided questions to the senior members of CHS and SCRA. There will be a child-friendly report published in due course.</p> <p>GM thinks it would be beneficial for CHIP to come together to discuss these issues and about the key requirements and to be involved in the ongoing conversation regarding ensuring the morale of OHOV and how this challenges the role of CHIP and how it supports CHIP with what they are doing. FM, LB, SO, BE</p>	

<p>and Scottish Government have volunteered to be involved in these discussions.</p> <p>AP3 – CHIP members to complete outstanding responses to the 40 Calls, and follow-up discrete meeting to consider the outstanding questions posed by the evaluation</p>	
<p>6. Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNCRC - cross border placements - Youth Justice Improvement Board (YJIB) - winter programme <p>TM advised that due to the meeting running over, an update will be provided via a report/bullet points. (attached in covering email)</p>	
<p>7. Any Other Business</p> <p>No other business</p>	
<p>8. Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Meetings for next year still to be scheduled.</p>	<p>AP4: To agree dates for 2022</p> <p>Suggested dates:</p> <p>24 Feb 19 May 11 August 17 November</p>