

**Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership Meeting
Thursday 5th August 2021**

Note of Meeting

Attendees:

Lesley Sheppard (SG) - Chair – LS	John Urquhart (COSLA) – JU
Elaine Adams (CHIP L&D lead) – EA	Bryan Evans (Children 1 st) – BE
Liz Cuschieri (SLAB) – LC	Neil Hunter (SCRA) – NH
Colin Convery (Police Scotland) – CC	Fiona Dyer (CYCJ) - FD
Kyrsten Buist (COPFS) – KB	Marie-Louise Fox (SLAB) – MF
Alistair Hogg (SCRA) – AH	Wendy Dalgleish (SLAB) – WD
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	

Apologies:

Sheriff Susan Craig (Judiciary)	Lynne McNiven (NHS)
Tom McNamara (SG)	Elliot Jackson (CHS)
Lisa Bennet (SCRA)	Aileen Nicol (CELCIS)
Gordon Main (OHOV)	Janine McCullough (Education Scotland)
Helen Etchells (SCRA)	

Agenda Item	Action Points
<p>1. Welcome and apologies</p> <p>The Chair welcomed CHIP partners to the group, apologies were noted and brief introductions made by new partners.</p> <p>It was agreed that a representative of Scottish Children's Rights Officer's Network (SCRON) would be invited to join CHIP.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Action Points</p> <p>Minutes of previous meeting have been agreed.</p>	
<p>3. Winter Funding Update</p> <p>LS reminded CHIP it agreed to take updates on the use of the additional funding agreed through the Winter Funding Scheme. The paper circulated gives a brief update on spend and the depth and variety of projects. It was agreed that the paper was not fully complete and that a further update to CHIP members was required. It was</p>	<p>AP1: To provide a further comprehensive and complete update on the projects</p>

<p>agreed that the projects supported should provide some learning for the future on approaches to improving outcomes.</p>	
<p>4. Promise Working Group</p> <p>LS introduced the paper from the joint boards of CHS and SCRA, recognising that not all was fully agreed and work was still in progress. The paper was for illustrative purposes at this stage and CHIP partners are asked not to share wider. She welcomed the hugely pragmatic way being suggested for the way forward. She invited FM, CW and AH to introduce the paper.</p> <p>FM advised the paper was written initially for the joint CHS and SCRA Board, in relation to the outcome plan for 2021 – 24 and the work that needs to be completed to give effect to the Promise. The change programme was published at the end of June which gave a timeline of how the work might be progressed over the next while. A Working Group is currently being established and it is hoped the Chair could be announced week beginning 9 August. The group will look at scoping and sequencing and is an opportunity to look at the underpinning legislative framework. The Promise will facilitate the group with some budget for research, data gathering and new system modelling. The proposal is for a gated model of governance and CHIP would be consulted/updated/advised at appropriate points throughout. It is proposed that this will be a small group and so it is important for work to continue across all partners.</p> <p>CW advised there is a huge amount of work going on which poses a challenge for the system and for individual organisations which requires a level of commitment and collaboration from all. Balance also needed - thinking of how to pull together individual pieces of improvement happening locally and scale those up and have national consistency.</p> <p>AH advised the next steps are crucial in terms of foundations of work going forward. Important to continually visit the Principles of the system when focussing on redesign. Viewed essential for a tight group of core partners but to have in mind as wide an inclusive approach as possible.</p> <p>The Partners provided a number of supportive views on the progress and plan going forward:</p> <p>AT – fit for purpose and aspirational TMc – great to see work happening, adding value to the system HR – voice and inclusion project supported by CELSIS would be a key contribution</p>	

<p>BE – legislation change needs to consider developing the right culture, what do we want to have that focuses on children and family relationships? Highlight a need for consistency around language and maintaining links with CHIP.</p> <p>NH – important that focus includes what happens before and after the hearing, not just the hearing itself, to fully comprehend and assist any redesign – local authorities have a huge and important role to play in reform.</p> <p>LS summed up that opportunity at next meeting to share more detail. CHIP to consider how the partnership can work most effectively and impact fully with the Working Group. Agreed an update at the next CHIP meeting.</p>	<p>AP2: further update required for next CHIP meeting</p>
<p>5. CH Covid Recovery Group – Future Role</p> <p>LS highlighted how well the CHCRG had delivered over the period of the pandemic, from the immediacy of a need for emergency legislation and through the various tiers out of lockdowns and recovery planning. The clear need running through this groups work.</p> <p>AH ran through the key areas of the improvement plan and the recent update paper provided for CHIP. From a SCRA perspective, the organisation has managed to recruit and induct a full new recovery team of reporters and ‘go live’ with the new case management system and digital platforms they now share with CHS, all successfully rolled out. From a CHS perspective, there has been a monumental effort in recruiting and retraining 700 panel members during significant restrictions. In partnership, working on improvements to virtual hearings with a significant emphasis or requirement to have some hearings hybrid with an eventual move back to face-to-face. Improvements in the quality of virtual hearings over last few months have been significant.</p> <p>. Forecasting is positive however and whilst CHCRG are still proceeding with a degree of caution it can be anticipated that a gradual transition back to ‘normal state’ is likely around spring.</p> <p>AH went on to say in order to support recovery the CHCRG have been meeting on a weekly basis since March/April last year. At the end of June the group broke for a 4 week period. The group reconvened and will meet on a fortnightly bases. The group have built good and trusting relationships and have become an important part of an agile system which can move quickly to meet a changing picture. Consideration should be given to a continuing role for this group e.g. monitoring and reviewing other activity.</p>	<p>AP3: CHCRG to provide a further update for the next CHIP and proposals for the way forward</p>

<p>CW thanked AH for a comprehensive update – there had also been significant work around the introduction of sections of the Children (Scotland) Act in particular on the rights of participation for brothers and sisters so as well as the recovery work the organisations have not taken focus of delivery of other significant matters.</p> <p>BE informed the group, on the whole Safeguarders have adapted and there is a sense that of adaptability and how child-centred they can be and how work/meetings can be carried out. He also asked if the previous sub group Better Hearings could be reconvened and whether a need for a wider conversation on all sub groups.</p>	<p>AP4: Secretariat to arrange a discussion and report back to CHIP</p>
<p>6. Our Hearings Our Voice</p> <p>LS gave a reminder that the details of the OHOV Survey were circulated to CHIP partners – hope everyone has had a chance to respond.</p> <p>She suggested a more detailed conversation around the ‘40 Calls to Action’ and whether organisations are assessing gaps and how partners can collaborate to deliver improvements. Suggested Gordon Main has an opportunity to give a bit of detail at the next CHIP meeting.</p>	<p>AP5: OHOV to be key substantive item at next CHIP</p>
<p>7. Any Other Business</p> <p>LS provided an update on the UNCRC Bill. CHIP partners are aware that certain parts of the Bill have been referred to the UK Supreme court on legislative competence grounds with the hearing held late June and we await the findings of the Supreme Court. The Scottish Government continues with implementation plans, as far as possible, whilst the findings of the Supreme Court are awaited.</p> <p>LS provided an update on the cross border deprivation of liberty cases. This relates to young people from outside Scotland placed in Scottish residential placements which are not registered as secure settings SG working with law officers and Ministers on a review of our approach to these cases.</p>	
<p>8. Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Next meeting has not yet been scheduled – agreed for November 2021.</p>	<p>AP6: secretariat asked to find a suitable date in November.</p>