



**Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership Meeting  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**Note of Meeting**

**Attendees:**

Tom McNamara, SG, Chair **(TM)**  
 Elaine Adams, CHIP L&D Lead **(EA)**  
 Stephen Bermingham, CHS **(SB)**  
 Liz Cuschieri, SLAB **(LC)**  
 Julie Duncan, SG **(JD)**  
 Fiona Dyer, CYCJ **(FD)**  
 Helen Etchells, SCRA **(HE)**  
 Bryan Evans, Children 1st **(BE)**  
 Alistair Hogg, SCRA **(AH)**  
 Neil Hunter, SCRA **(NH)**  
 Elliot Jackson, CHS **(EJ)**  
 Tamar Jamieson, Police Scotland **(TJ)**  
 Selwyn McCausland, Partners in Advocacy **(SMc)**

Neil McIntosh, NSPCC **(NMc)**  
 Caren McLean, CELCIS **(CMc)**  
 Lynne McNiven, NHS **(LMc)**  
 Craig Milne, SG **(CM)**  
 Paul Mulvanny, SCRA **(PM)**  
 Hazel Robertson, SWS **(HR)**  
 Brendan Rooney, SG **(BR)**  
 Pam Semple, SG **(PS)**  
 Alison Todd, Angus CPC **(AT)**  
 John Urquhart, COSLA **(JU)**  
 Carol Wassell, CHS **(CW)**

**Apologies:**

CI Ian McKinnon, Police Scotland  
 Fi McFarlane, The Promise  
 Janine McCullough, Education Scotland  
 Susan Orr, Social Work Scotland  
 Gordon Main, Our Hearings, Our Voice

Agenda Item	Action Points
<p><b>1. Welcome and apologies</b></p> <p><b>TM</b> welcomed CHIP partners to the group, apologies were noted</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Action Points</b></p> <p>Minutes of previous meeting were agreed and the actions from the previous meeting were reviewed with the following items requiring further action:</p> <p>1. TM to consider Lady Dorrian item – TM advised this is still under consideration, and there are a number of pieces of ongoing work that will have a bearing on how this is taken forward. Concerns remain about the compatibility with the wider ethos of</p>	<p><b>Action 1 – TM to provide further update at next meeting.</b></p>

<p>the hearings system, and this will require careful handling. Further updates to follow.</p> <p>2. All to consider invitation to SCRON</p>	<p><b>Action 2 – SG/CHS/SCRA to discuss a workshop with SCRON</b></p>
<p><b>3. Hearings System Recovery</b></p> <p><b>TM</b> gave an update. At the recent meeting, there was agreement that while previous evolution of the group was a good intention, it became clear that there were significant emerging developments which obliged us to promote attention to those concerns around system resilience. The proposal is now to come back to CHIP to get authority to front-load consideration of concerns around system capacity, workforce resilience, and risk identification and management, overlaying it with a reinforced commitment to making the smaller group accountable to OHOV and to reconnect and update with HSWG work.</p> <p><b>NH</b> welcomed the paper and agreed that the proposal in the paper to focus on immediate priorities and provide reassurance to wider CHIP on co-ordinated delivery is consistent with its brief. He agreed with prioritising the OHOV 40 calls, and also called for the group to consider the programme of work on streamlining information to the hearing system.</p> <p><b>HR</b> raised the issue of Social Work engagement on the work of the group. There was a discussion on how this could best be achieved, but reassurance was provided by NH and AH that Social Workers have been engaged with some of the work, and this will continue to be considered.</p> <p><b>SMc</b> advised there is interest from National Provider's Network for advocacy providers to have representation on the group, as there are regular discussions about operational issues from a national perspective.</p>	
<p><b>4. Hearings System Working Group</b></p> <p><b>CW</b> gave update to the group. HSWG continues to meet, their focus has been setting up three working groups. Two are led by CHS, one by SCRA, and representation across the groups is diverse. They are looking at three separate topics: avoiding the need for compulsion; what happens in the hearing; and what happens after the hearing. These groups have met and are putting plans for delivery in place. The groups will have five meetings, including consulting with OHOV and the</p>	

<p>VIP project at CELCIS. This work is being delivered in partnership with office of the chief designer through the lens of user participation. It's asking big questions about what fundamental system changes are needed, and what legislation. Outputs will feed into the HSWG later this year, and the HSWG will then deliberate on the proposals and aims to report end April 2023.</p> <p>Sheriff Mackie has been heavily involved in engagement and consultation, and all this will be incorporated into his report. Social Work engagement proposals are under consideration. Over the summer, the focus has been getting work off the ground in other areas. Attention will likely turn to engagement with other agencies and professionals.</p> <p><b>AH</b> advised that timescales remain a keen consideration, and there is determination to meet the deadline. This is likely to be part of a bigger process which will encompass engagement, for example a potential conference with Social Workers.</p> <p><b>HR</b> advised a conference would be welcome, but expressed concerns that Social Workers are seeing many more young people in distress emotionally, risk taking behaviours, and the timing of the Promise and this review is impacted by the unprecedented circumstances of the last two years. More concern round the corner to be expected. <b>JU</b> noted the lack of involvement of Local Authorities in the HSWG work to date, which is also challenging.</p>	<p><b>Action 3</b> – feed back to The Promise that broader stakeholder engagement is required, in particular with Social Work and Local Authorities.</p>
<p><b>5. Youth Justice Improvement Board Update</b></p> <p><b>FD</b> gave an update to the group on ongoing YJIB work. Their main focus is the Children's Care and Justice Bill. Two implementation groups have been set up – one to consider the Whole Systems Approach and another Children's Rights. The first is looking at EEI and other ways of responding to children without the need for compulsion. The latter is looking at the alternatives to children appearing in adult courts, looking at youth court options, and have contacted Sheriffs Principals to see if there is the appetite for this work. <b>NH</b> advised they have reviewed WSA action plan and was happy that lots of the activity that was started a year ago is now being taken forward and finding its way into big programmes of work including legislation. Focus on embedding EEI across the country, and CARM in relation to complex needs and conflict with the law. <b>TM</b> was enthused by the potential for a more conscious crossover/joint session with YJIB regarding HSWG, CCJ etc.</p>	<p><b>Action 4</b> – A joint CHIP/YJIB meeting to be planned.</p>

<p><b>6. Language in the Hearings System</b></p> <p>Update from <b>EA</b> and <b>BE</b> on the ongoing work with children and young people on changing the use of language in the hearings system. Attendees have the paper that has been circulated, and there are asks from the group – to note the progress, to approve the approach of co-production, and to provide support and volunteers to come together with young people to continue the work and press for change.</p> <p><b>TM</b> advised he was very thoughtful about the pace with which we generate new things, making sure we're doing so in a measured and joined up way. <b>FD</b> offered that CYCJ would be happy to be involved. "Talking Hope" working in secure care would be a good link to make. Group on speech, language and communication in youth justice – linking with this work could feed into that. <b>TJ</b> advised Police Scotland would be keen to be involved. <b>AT</b> also said CPC would be good to engage so this can be fed back across Local Authorities.</p>	<p><b>Action 5</b> - members to sign up to the principles, and to identify a champion/main contact to engage in this work.</p> <p><b>Action 6</b> – EA and FD to connect.</p> <p><b>Action 7</b> – EA to map what work is going on across the board.</p>
<p><b>7. Children's Care and Justice Bill</b></p> <p><b>BR</b> gave update on the Bill, noting the context of discussions in the meeting so far and how that links into the broader context of the Bill. The consultation closed in late June, with around 100 responses. Analysis will be published soon, setting out broad opinions. Sessions at YJIB and SWS will be part of broader engagement in the Autumn.</p> <p>In terms of consultation responses, there are two key areas – firstly, information to victims, which is finely balanced in terms of the ethos of the hearings system, and this is reflected in the consultation responses. Secondly, the hearings system's remit beyond 18, which remains challenging and complex</p> <p><b>TM</b> advised that with timings, and the need for Ministerial sign off, there will be further conversations with partners to generate the next level of precision for introduction.</p>	
<p><b>8. SG Updates</b></p> <p>No questions or comments raised.</p>	

<p><b>10. AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-Hearing Panels</li> </ul> <p><b>SB</b> gave update on the work that's been ongoing in terms of PHPs in relation to children 5 and under. There was a discussion on the complexities of this and the context in which this work is taking place, and it was agreed that further discussion would take place between SCRA, CHS and the SG to consider next steps.</p>	
<p><b>11. Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>17 November 2022</p>	