



Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership

CHILDREN'S HEARINGS IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

Note of Meeting
Tuesday 1 December 2015
10.00am – 1.00pm

Attendees:

CELCIS

Jennifer Davidson (JD)
Joanne McMeeking (JMc)
Kate Skinner (KS)
Liz Brabender (L/B)

CHS

Boyd McAdam (BM)
Elliot Jackson (EJ)
Alyson Evans (AE)

3rd Sector

Linda Jardine, Children 1st (LJ)
Angela Morgan, Includem (AM)

SCRA

Neil Hunter (NH)
Malcolm Schaffer (MS)
Lisa Bennett (LB)

Police Scotland

Paul Main (PM)

Scottish Government

Robert Marshall, Deputy Director Care & Justice (RM) Chair
Catherine Dowe, Children's Hearings Unit (CD)
Marion Gillooly, Better Life Chances Unit (MG)
Katherine Hudson (KH)
Donna Turnbull (DT)
Jan Marshall, Deputy Director Civil Law and legal System (JM)
Tom McNamara, Youth Justice and Children's Hearings Unit (TM)

Scottish Courts Service

Robert Gordon (RG)

SLAB

Marie-Louise Fox (MF)
Catriona Whyte (CW)

SWS

Mike Burns (MB)

Law Society

Lesley Dowdalls (LD)

CY CJ

Claire Lightowler (CL)

Crown Office

Paul Beaton (PB)

Apologies received from:

Robert Nicol, COSLA
Andreana Adamson, SG
Mary Hoey, Education Scotland
Phil Denning, Education Scotland
Andrew Cubie, Judicial Institute
Thekla Garland, SG
Sally Egan, NHS
Alan Baird, SG
Maria Walker, SSSC
Kate McKay, NHS
Kate Rocks, ADSW
Maria Walker, ADES

1.	Welcome and Introductions	Action
	RM welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted.	
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising	
	Minutes of the previous meeting on 10 September 2015 were agreed. Outstanding matters arising were discussed during the meeting.	
3.	Working Groups – Update on Progress	
3.1	Generating Evidence and Promoting Improvement- EJ	
3.1.1.	AE informed the group that the Practice Note – ‘Helping me make choices about how best to take part in my Children’s Hearing’ – has been finalised and will be ready for dissemination on Thursday 3 December. RM was looking for volunteers among the organisations for people who have experience evaluating the usefulness of such guidance. BMc will be happy to receive any offers of help.	All partners to disseminate new Guidance within their organisations from Thursday 3 December. Report evaluations of whether this has led to improvements in April 2016. BMc and JD will liaise to discuss evaluation.
3.1.2	The project in Argyll and Bute to examine how practitioners use evidence in their practice has begun on a small scale. CELCIS have agreed to support any further expansion.	
3.1.3	AE spoke about the difficulties the working group has been having looking at how to fill the gaps that exist in the evidence of wellbeing and outcomes for children and young people in the Hearings System. There will be a sub-group established to look at this in more detail. There was discussion around the kinds of problems this type of work can pose as quantifying exactly how a hearing improves long term outcomes for children can be notoriously difficult. RM wondered if there were synergies with the feedback loop work CHS is doing. BMc would like to have further discussions about this work.	AM, JMc and BMc will meet to discuss this work in more detail. RM will discuss further with SG’s Analytical Services to explore what support they may be able to offer.

3.1.4	AE is stepping down as chair of this group and BMc will be taking over in future.	
3.2	Getting It Right in the Hearings System – MS	
3.2.1	MS spoke about the attempt to set up an improvement project in Ayrshire looking at the outcomes of the Referral to the Reporter Guidance issued earlier this year. The timing of this was not right however and he will be exploring other options.	
3.2.2	MG announced that the statutory GIRFEC Guidance was being published today and MS spoke about the work DT is doing preparing a multi-agency practice guidance on the same area.	
3.2.3	MS then spoke about the proposed GIRFEC event to be held in 2016. He wants this to be a 20:20 vision for where we would like to see the hearings system properly embedded with GIRFEC. He will let the group know if he requires any more resources to assist in preparations.	JMc and AM will be happy to help with designing the event if necessary and adding input of young people.
4.	Non-Disclosure Directions	
4.1	MS said he would like to draw the attention of partners to the research that has been produced on this topic and the updates he has made to the practice guidance. He would also like to look at planning for any of the follow up work that will be needed for March/April 2016 when CHIP should begin to receive reports from Local Authorities.	SG team will re-write to LA's enclosing the updated guidance, which will include the CHIP brand, and remind them of the request to report back in 2016. DT will liaise with CHS and SCRA. MS will send CELCIS a comms line on the changes to the guidance.
5.	Update on work of Tri-Partite Group	
5.1	NH discussed the Minutes of the meeting. Their discussions included looking at the exercise on how to provide better hearings and the work of the round table which is examining possible conflict between practitioners in the system and establishing an ethos for the Hearings system that everyone can	NH will report back in March on the work of the round table. The exercise looking

	agree to.	at good hearings should have some results by late Spring.
6.	Working Groups – Update on Progress (cont)	
6.1	<p>Learning & Development/Raising Awareness across the Hearings System – JM</p> <p>JMc described the work of the L&D group and the introduced KS who spoke to her report on L&D delivery model work. The partners then discussed the findings. RM felt that the proposals were exciting whilst acknowledging they were substantial asks of partners. There was some further discussions around what the next steps should be. RM is looking to organisations to canvas their staff for people experienced in delivering the kinds of changes suggested in the report and who might be interested in taking this forward. He would like them to come to the next meeting with their proposals for advertising and recruitment. He also emphasised that any organisations with reservations should come back to him with them as soon as possible.</p>	<p>A Strategic and Development Group will be established as a leadership group to look at areas of testing small changes across the hearings landscape. BMc will be attending an Area Conveners meeting and will discuss with them the possibility of finding areas to test out proposals in the report. JMc to Develop some bullets of narrative for partners to take back to their organisations explaining why this work is so important. JMc will come back to the March meeting with a paper outlining clearly what is being asked in terms of resource</p>

6.2	Permanence – KH	commitment.
6.2.1	KH began by asking whether CHIP wanted this new group to be permanent and this was agreed. The group will be reviewing legislation and KH will lay out exactly what that will entail at the next meeting. The new Looked After Children Strategy was published on 26 November 2015 and KH will send this out to partners. She also offered to visit each working group and talk through the strategy in more detail.	
7.	Event 2016	
7.1	There was insufficient time to discuss. Carried over to the next meeting.	SG Team will circulate in due course
8.	Summary of SLAB/CELCIS Legal Rep Research	
8.1	RP and L/B described the results of their research to the group. Partners discussed the preliminary results and their implications.	Final Report will be ready by the end of December 2015 and will be circulated to the group. (CD) SLAB will contact other partners for assistance in pursuing this work if necessary.
9.	AOB	
9.1	Update from Youth Justice Improvement Board	
9.1.2	CL said this group has met once since it was established and it has begun deciding on its priorities. Three implementation groups have been created. RM felt it could be useful to conjoin some events on the agenda in future as some upcoming meetings are due to be held on the same day.	

9.2	Inquiry into Historic Abuse	
9.2.1	RM Recommended that those with an interest and ensure all were fully engaged with the Core Participation Team and expectations around record management. Young Persons Board	
9.3	NH explained that work is progressing well in establishing this Board and he will report ongoing progress to future meetings.	
10.	Date of Next Meeting	
10.1	Wednesday 16 March 2016, Conference rooms 4+5, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh	