



## Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership

Children's Hearings Improvement  
Partnership  
Thursday 15 September 2016

### Present:

Donald Henderson, Scottish Government (DH) – Chair  
Tom McNamara, Scottish Government (TM)  
Thekla Garland, Scottish Government (TG)  
Liz Murdoch, Scottish Government (LM)  
Belinda Robertson, Scottish Government (BR)  
Katherine Hudson, Scottish Government (KH)  
Catherine Dowe, Scottish Government (CD)  
Neil Hunter, SCRA (NH)  
Malcolm Schaffer, SCRA (MS)  
Boyd McAdam, CHS (BM)  
Elliot Jackson, CHS (EJ)  
Kate Rocks, SWS (KR)  
Gary Dover, NHS (GD)  
Paul Beaton, COPFS (PB)  
Marie-Louise Fox, SLAB (MF)  
John Urquhart, COSLA (JU)  
Rosie Wright, Police Scotland (RW)  
Philip Denning, Education Scotland (PD)  
Andrew Cubie, Judicial Institute (AC)  
Linda Jardine, Children 1<sup>st</sup> (LJ)  
Angela Morgan, Includem (AM)  
Joanne McMeeking, CELCIS (JM)  
Lesley Dowdalls, Law Society (LD)  
Claire Lightowler, CYCJ (CL)  
Tim Barraclough, SCTS (TB)  
Robert Gordon, SCTS

### In Attendance:

Elaine Walker, SCTS  
Indiya Kurlus, SCRA (IK)  
Gordon Brechin, SCRA (GB)  
Aileen Nicol, CELCIS (AN)

### Apologies:

Robert Marshall, SG  
Jennifer Davidson, CELCIS  
Jane O'Donnell, COSLA  
Catriona Whyte, SLAB  
Alan Baird, SG  
Jan Marshall, SG  
Kirsty Doull, SG  
Marion Gillooly, SG  
Andreana Adamson, SG  
Kate McKay, NHS

Mairi-Anne MacDonald, SSSC  
Lisa Bennett, SCRA  
Alyson Evans, CHS  
Mary Hoey, Education Scotland  
Marie Walker, ADES



		Timescale	Action
1.	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>		
1.1	<b>DH</b> welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained he was acting as Chair on behalf of Robert Marshall. Apologies were noted, and substitute members were welcomed.		
2.	<b>Minutes of June meeting and matters arising</b>		
2.1	Minutes of the previous meeting of 10 June 2016 were agreed.		
2.2	Outstanding Actions – [refs to minutes in square brackets]		
2.2.1	[3.1.3] – <b>BR</b> suggested that Dumfries and Galloway could be a suitable area for testing the well-being measurement tool as it is a PACE area and already has a multi-agency group in place.  [3.2.1] – <b>MS</b> repeated his offer of support and training to agencies around the referral to the Reporter guidance.  [4.1] – <b>NH</b> confirmed he had discussed the Aims, Vision and Values document with the Law Society. They had no material objections but wanted more clarity on the purpose of the vision. The comms team in SCRA are working on innovative ways to ensure that the essential elements of that will be visible in every hearings room.		<b>BR and MS to meet to consider testing the well-being measurement tool in D&amp;G</b>
3.	<b>Named Person Update</b>		
3.1	<b>DH, referring to the material circulated,</b> confirmed that a three month intense engagement with relevant stakeholders would now take place following the Supreme Court judgement and the change to the commencement plans for the Named Person provisions. It was agreed that it was important for organisations to understand that business as usual should continue for those with information sharing protocols already in place.		
4.	<b>‘What Makes a Good Hearing’ Final Report</b>		
4.1	<b>IK</b> and <b>GB</b> outlined the headline findings from their research. The group were broadly supportive of the research but agreed the challenge will be to change culture and perceptions in services. The report has produced a number of standards for further consideration. It was agreed that the paper could be disseminated to a wider audience to allow all organisations to consider their role, potential contributions and what the potential barriers might be.		<b>BR to meet with SCRA to share the work of PACE and how it relates to the research</b>  <b>Tripartite group to develop a project plan (immediate and longer term actions) for the December CHIP</b>



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			Members to circulate the report within their organisations for wider discussion on the standards and consideration of the recommendations
<b>5.</b>	<b>Working Groups – update on progress</b>		
5.1	<b>(i) Generating Evidence and Promoting Improvement</b>		
5.1.1	<b>CHS</b> is preparing its first formal report for the Minister for Childcare and Early Years on the Feedback Loop.		
5.1.2	The proposal for a tool to measure well-being was presented to partners for discussion. <b>BM</b> said it was unlikely to be possible to devise a ‘one size fits all’ for the system and to implement it in one phase. Some concerns were raised that this would place an added burden onto already overstretched Local Authorities, or might be a duplication of data gathering; collation and reporting work that already takes place. It was agreed that more discussion was needed, especially around the need for and fit of the proposed measuring tool. As an early step, links should be made to the PACE work being taken forward by <b>BR</b> .		<b>The proposals should be considered further by the working group before reverting to the main CHIP meeting</b>  <b>BR to send information to BM about the tools used for PACE</b>
5.2	<b>(ii) Getting it Right in the Hearings System</b>		
5.2.1	The Blueprint work on timely processing is progressing but still in the early stages.		
5.2.2	Links will be made to the Better Hearings work to ensure that qualitative aspects are not lost.  The proposed locality events looking at GIRFEC in the hearings system were discussed. It was agreed, in principle, that planning for these should proceed.		<b>MS to provide a fuller report at the December CHIP</b>  <b>MS to stay in touch with CHIP ( especially SG) about the resources that will be needed</b>



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<b>6.</b>	<b>SLAB Research – CHIP response</b>		
6.1	The draft response, and proposed actions, had been circulated. They were welcomed by the group and signed off. All the named partners would be responsible for taking their elements forward and for acting on the report's findings in the agreed way. The group agreed that, while focused on the contribution of legal reps, the research had learning points for all partners and promoted a better collective understanding of what happens in the hearings system. It also offered clear points for action and chances to improve.		<p><b>Partners should send any comments on the plan to TM or MF</b></p> <p><b>Final version will be published on the CHIP website with the research</b></p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>CPIP</b>		
7.1	<b>TM</b> explained that he had reviewed the paper with key partners. There were now four main issues to focus on, at least two of which are reaching maturity or are in progress. It was noted that links would be made to the wider work being taken forward as part of the Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP).		<b>DH to assist with links to work being taken forward as part of CPIP</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Project Management of CHIP – activity going forward</b>		
8.1	<b>TM</b> will engage with all partners to look at priorities going forward and developing an appropriate programme management approach. There was a need to look back at what the reinvigorated CHIP originally set out to do, the extent to which that had been delivered, what we didn't do and what still remained to be done. Recent absence had prevented his bringing more developed proposals – to come back in December.		<b>TM to discuss with partners and revert to the December CHIP</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Working Groups – update on progress –</b>		
9.1	<b>(iii) Learning and Development</b>		
9.1.1	There have been expressions of interest for the L&D advisor post.		
9.1.2	The group has been having discussions about what their forward priorities should be. They are mindful that any work should align with and contribute to the plans of the main CHIP group. They felt that they could assist with actioning some of the findings from the SLAB research.		<b>JM to have a conversation with SLAB about how the L &amp; D group can assist them with their priority work</b>
9.2	<b>(iv) Permanence</b>		
9.2.1	The group had met in July to discuss responses to the SCRA permanence research. They will be focussing on work specific to moving this agenda on in purposeful way. There are a		<b>Working group to produce a report by September 2017</b>



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9.2.2	<p>number of legal representatives on the group which will enable them to examine systems, procedures and decision making in depth.</p> <p>The group is meeting again in October. It will discuss a process map and three other main areas –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• practice change</li> <li>• policy change</li> <li>• legislative change</li> </ul> <p><b>AN</b> gave a short update about the work that has taken place in the PACE areas across Scotland. The key message was that PACE needs <i>national strategic leadership</i>.</p>		
10.	<p><b>Update from Youth Justice Improvement Board</b></p> <p>10.1 <b>CL</b> updated partners on the last YJIB meeting and the work being taken forward by the working groups. <b>CL</b> explained that interesting data from Polmont about the backgrounds of young people there had been presented at the meeting, although challenges were identified about using and sharing that.</p> <p><b>CL</b> also provided an update on the secure care work undertaken by Alison Gough. A draft interim report has been prepared. The final report should be ready in early 2017. <b>CL</b> highlighted that secure issues had been specifically acknowledged in PfG, with the commitment to establishing a strategic board.</p>		<b>CL to circulate Alison Gough's interim report</b>
11.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>11.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Young People's Board is holding an 'Engagement Jam' in Inverness in October. Hope to have the first iteration of a Board by Jan/Feb 2017.</li> <li>• <b>TB</b> spoke about the developments in relation to child witnesses and child complainants. He offered to speak to anyone interested in learning more after the meeting.</li> <li>• <b>TG</b> said that the University of Strathclyde had been awarded the contract for the safeguarder research and urged partners to participate if approached.</li> <li>• Multi-Agency Practice Resource – <b>TM</b> thanked everyone for their engagement with the work. Links will be made with the Better Hearings work.</li> <li>• Mental Health Strategy – the consultation closed on 18 September.</li> <li>• Secure care – Contracts are up for renewal next year. See item 10.1.</li> <li>• Non-Disclosure –15 responses to the letter have been received. It was agreed that a conversation should take place with those areas that had not responded, and with those who had not offered a meaningful or clear reply.</li> </ul>		<b>MS and RM/TM will discuss non-disclosure and whether Local Authorities who have not responded should be</b>



		<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Action</b>
			<b>pursued</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>		
12.1	Thursday 8 December 2016, Room GH515, Graham Hills Building, Level 5, Strathclyde University, Glasgow		

