



Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership

Children's Hearings Improvement
Partnership
Thursday 8 December 2016

Present:

Robert Marshall, Chair – SG Care & Justice
Helen Cameron – Director SG Children and Families
Donald Henderson – SG Care & Protection
Tom McNamara – SG Care & Justice
Thekla Garland – SG Care & Justice
Catherine Dowe – SG Care & Justice
Liz Murdoch – SG Care & Justice
Hannah Keates – SG Creating Positive Futures
Katherine Hudson – SG Care & Protection
Kirsty Doull – SG Care & Protection
Boyd McAdam – CHS
Elliot Jackson - CHS
Alyson Evans – CHS
Neil Hunter – SCRA
Malcolm Schaffer – SCRA
Lisa Bennett – SCRA
Gary Dover – NHS
Kate Rocks – ADSW
Paul Beaton – COPFS
John Urquhart – COSLA
Jane O'Donnell – COSLA
Philip Denning – Education Scotland
Angela Morgan – Includem
Joanne McMeeking – CELCIS
Claire Lightowler – CYCJ
Robert Gordon – Scottish Courts
Barry McEwan – Police Scotland
Gordon Brechin – SCRA
Joe Kelly – SLAB

Apologies:

Alan Baird – Chief Social Work Advisor
Belinda Robertson – SG Care & Protection
Mike Burns - SWS
Mary Hoey – Education Scotland
Marie-Louise Fox - SLAB
Jan Marshall – SG Civil Law and Legal System
Marie Walker – ADES
Andreana Adamson – SG, Mental Health
Marie-Anne MacDonald – SSSC
Catriona Whyte – SLAB
Tim Barraclough – SCTS
Sheriff Cubie – Judicial Institute
Linda Jardine – Children 1st
Lesley Dowdalls – Law Society



		Action
1.	Welcome and apologies	
1.1	RM welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies / alternates were noted.	
2.	Minutes of September meeting and matters arising	
2.1	Minutes of the previous meeting of 15 September 2016 were agreed.	
2.2	Outstanding Actions – Actions from previous meeting were either complete or work was ongoing.	
3.	Working Groups – Update On Progress	
3.1	3(i) – Generating evidence & Promoting Improvement	
3.1.1	The last two meetings of the group had been cancelled so there was only a short update. BMc explained that the Feedback Loop had been delayed but should be in position to report by January 2017. RM emphasised the importance of the Feedback Loop for all partners and observers. It was agreed this linked to the work of the Youth Justice Improvement Board. He also underlined the importance of attending the working groups and the need for organisations to ensure they liberate those who need to be on the groups so that the vital work they do can continue.	
3.2	3(ii) – Getting it Right in the Hearings System	
3.2.1	The first local GIRFEC event was held in Glasgow on 5 December, and had gone very well. MS thanked CELCIS for their support in organising this event, and Mike Burns from SWS had offered invaluable input on the day. It was noted that the presence of health and education colleagues at the event was lacking. PD and GD agreed to try to ensure representatives attend future events. MS would alert them so they could arrange to support them.	MS to organise a GIRFEC event in the East. To advise PD and GD of the date so representatives from Education and Health could come.
3.2.2	Reflecting on the event, MS reported some confusion around the role of the Named Person and the Lead Professional. The day also allowed professionals to raise some concerns about the format of the Child's Plans and whether it was fit for the legal setting. It was agreed that local groups would take forward the issues and a further event would take place in the east in 2017.	PD and MS to discuss linking local events in to shared risk assessments
3.2.3	It was agreed that local events need to be built in to shared risk assessments.	
	LB updated the group on the Blueprint work and the	



		Action
3.2.4	proposed project plan was discussed. The initial aim was that the new Blueprint would go live in January 2018, but timescales were tight and the work would be reliant on others engaging. DH highlighted that the work may be affected by the forthcoming review of child care.	RM to seek involvement of a Sheriff Principal.
3.2.5	The GIRFEC group was looking for support for a communications strategy and Members agreed that they would obtain support from their own organisations. COSLA offered a commitment to support this work.	SG to produce a narrative for the CHIP website.
3.2.6	It was agreed that a narrative would be produced for the CHIP website with a link to the project initiation document for the Blueprint work. It could then be used on partner websites.	
4.	Tri-Partite Group update	
4.1	The Tri-Partite Group has been focussing almost exclusively on the <i>Better Hearings</i> work. The group has developed a draft action plan. Partners agreed that the CHIP branding should be used to support this. Any discussions around potential changes to legislation would need to be investigated further at a later date, perhaps under the family justice workstream embodied within the CPIP work.	NH would meet with Chief Social Work Officers to discuss moving this work on.
4.2	Partners were asked to review the draft action plan; to consider their own potential contribution, and to provide support with the practical aspects. AM confirmed she would raise this at the next Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) meeting, which she chairs.	All partners to send any comments on the plan to NH by the end of January 2017. AM and Fiona Garven (Director of SCDC) will meet with MS to discuss how to raise awareness with community organisations so they can promote this at a local level.
5.	Child Protection Improvement Programme	
5.1	TM explained that CHIP is contributing to a wider programme. The main CPIP will report to Ministers in December 2016 with the final reports due in February/March 2017. Members agreed the recommendations in the paper.	All partners to send any comments on the paper to TM .



		Action
	<p>As a starting point, CHIP has focused on specific areas –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decision making in and around the system and the legal representatives' impact • 16-17 year olds • decision making for younger children 	
6.	Working Groups – Update On Progress (cont)	
6.1	6(i) – Learning & Development	
6.1.1	The L&D Advisor post has been successfully filled and Elaine Adams would start in January 2017. It will be necessary to look at how all CHIP activity is connected and what the role of the Advisor will be.	
6.1.2	The working group leads will meet in early 2017 to discuss the Advisor role and group synergies in more detail.	
6.2	6(ii) – Permanence	
6.2.1	The group plan to meet in 2017. They will identify the main areas for future focus, and prepare plans for taking these forward.	BR to provide an update on the PACE work at the next meeting in March 2017
7.	AOB	
7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Agency Guidance Concerns were raised around editorial control to ensure there was no duplication in content. TM explained that the concept was for the practice resource to be a 'living' document which should ensure it was future proof. He would explore whether a 'dummy' test version could be set up to enable partners to explore it in a non-live environment. 	TM, KR and BM to meet to discuss the guidance.
7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Management of CHIP activity It was agreed that an approach similar to the blueprint work would be adopted. (see item 3.2.4) 	DH to update the group on progress at the March meeting.
7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Care System DH confirmed there have been a number of meetings with Ministers to discuss the review. It was hoped an announcement would be made before Christmas. 	
7.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure Care The establishment of a Secure Care Board was announced by the Scottish Government and this will be progressed in the early part of 2017. CHIP will be asked to support this work. 	



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7.5	<p>The cross-border placements were also raised as an issue. It was noted that a satisfactory outcome had been reached and legal mechanisms are in place to continue current practice, until the case called again in February 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Named Person The three month engagement announced in September has been widened. The DFM will report to Parliament on findings in 2017. 	
7.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Persons' Board NH outlined progress. There has been a Planning and Development Group established with two events held in the last six months in Glasgow and Inverness to promote the Board. It is hoped there will be a formal launch in February 2017. 	
7.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Justice Improvement Board CL updated CHIP on the work of the YJIB and its 3 sub-groups. 	
7.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RM announced that Jennifer Davidson will be stepping down from CHIP and Joanne McMeeking will be taking her place. He expressed his appreciation of Jennifer's invaluable support on over the years. 	
7.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RM also formally announced that he is leaving his post as head of Care and Justice to take up a new role in the SG and that this would be his last meeting as Chair of CHIP. HC spoke on behalf of partners to express huge thanks to RM for his leadership on this agenda and the work he has done championing CHIP. She wished him well for the future and said the SG will ensure it continues its support of CHIP. 	
8.	Date Of The Next Meeting	
8.1	Wednesday 22 March 2017 – 10:00am, Conference Room 1, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh	

