



Briefing Sheet 3 – January 2019

Introduction:

This is the third of our quarterly briefing sheets to help members communicate and disseminate key messages from the CHIP with their colleagues.

Members are asked to please distribute this briefing sheet via email or via their staff intranets. It is also available on the CHIP website.

This briefing sheet gives a flavour of discussions/actions at the CHIP meeting on 10 December. The full minutes will be approved, then available after the next meeting on the [CHIP website](#).

December meeting – highlights

- Better Hearings work continues apace. Read on for more detail.
 - Work is underway to consider the best approach to the areas that are common to both CHIP and YJIB.
 - CHIP is liaising with the Care Review to agree shared areas of work and a common direction for improvement, thus avoiding duplication of effort.
 - CHIP / SCRA complexity event – more information is available about this on the [CHIP website](#).
 - Karen Brady, Convenor of Guernsey & Alderney presented an insight into their version of their Hearings System. You can view her presentation [here](#).
 - Jacqui Dunbar from Our Hearings, Our Voice provided an update on creating a young people's board for the Children's Hearings System. See below for more detail.
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September minutes approved

The minutes of the meeting on Thursday 13 September 2018 were approved. You can view them [here](#).



Better Hearings

Lisa Bennett, Head of Strategy and Organisational Development at SCRA provided the meeting with an update on Better Hearings Actions Plans...

Steady progress is being made across Scotland in responding to the Better Hearings challenge and delivery of evidence-based standards to improve children and young people's experiences before, during and after a Hearing.

All areas have completed their baseline assessment work and all 32 partnerships will have an action plan with clear priorities by the end of 2018/19, with half already there.

Capacity and operational pressures have been identified as barriers to be overcome. Sharing of good practice and initiatives across areas is an area we have identified to rapidly spread momentum and encourage innovation and creativity in meeting the standards.

Significant progress continues to be made however, and many areas have already begun to put some of their actions into practice - as well as the relatively consistent focus on quality of reports, written reasons for decisions of Hearings and improved engagement and participation other local initiatives to support Better Hearings are beginning to emerge - a snapshot of these is described below:

- ~ Agencies have produced an Aide Memoire for professionals to use in preparing children and young people for Hearings.
- ~ Made changes to the Hearing rooms or centres to make them more user friendly.
- ~ Training on the guidance upon referral to the Reporter.
- ~ Monitoring the chairing of Hearings. Case sampling of the quality of reports has been initiated as part of processes in a number of areas.
- ~ Training of Panel Members by Advocacy Workers has been put in place.
- ~ Focus groups of children and young people have been created to garner their views and further ideas for improvement.
- ~ Checklists have been created to gather feedback from children and young people to improve future practice around Hearings.
- ~ One area has carried out an analysis around attendance at the Hearing of children and young people with a view to increasing this as one element of improving participation and engagement.
- ~ There are a couple of pilots underway to support the improved use of technology around Hearings to encourage better participation.

The next steps will be to focus on measuring improvement - working with areas to develop mechanisms for assessing the changes that have been made and building on them (or not).



Six monthly reporting and an annual report on progress is now being taken forward by SCRA on behalf of partners.

Our Hearings, Our Voice

Following an introductory input at the September CHIP meeting, Jacqui Dunbar, Development Worker for Our Hearings, Our Voice, provided an update on progress towards creating a young people's board for the Hearings System.

Since the last meeting, following a successful recruitment campaign, OHOV held the 'Let's Get Started' event in Glasgow. Eleven young people, along with their trusted adults attended the launch event on 10 November at The Lighthouse. The young people were supported by the OHOV events team which included three young advisors and staff from CHS, SCRA and Falkirk Children's Rights.

During the day, the young people took part in several team building events and found out more about being a Board Member.

A powerpoint presentation giving more detail about the day is available [here](#).

The young people will get together again in early February.

Further updates will be provided to the CHIP as OHOV develops further.

Any questions???

If you have any questions about the work of the CHIP, please contact your organisation's representative or alternatively contact [Peter Imrie](#) at the Scottish Government.

What we need from you

Please promote the work of CHIP within your own teams, workplaces and your organisations, send links to your external partners to improve the exciting reform and improvement agenda happening in Children's Hearings across Scotland – and last but not least, please think about you can contribute to this important and meaningful work.