



# Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership

## Minutes of the last meeting

Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018

10:00-12:30

Conference room 1. Victoria Quay,  
Edinburgh

### Attendees:

Michael Chalmers (SG) Chair  
Peter Imrie (SG) Minute taker  
Tom McNamara (SG)  
Lauren Sorrell (SG)  
Rod Finan (SG, Better Life Chances Unit)  
Elaine Adams (CHIP L&D Lead)  
Joanne McMeeking (CELCIS)  
Jacqui Dunbar (Our Hearings, Our Voice – Young People’s Board)  
Malcolm Schaffer (SCRA)  
Boyd McAdam (CHS)  
Nicola Dickie (COSLA)  
Kate Rocks (SWS East Renfrewshire)  
Jim Devoy (Police Scotland)  
Kirsten Hogg (Barnardos)  
Lisa Bennett (SCRA)  
Bryan Evans (Children 1<sup>st</sup>)  
Karen Brady, Convenor Guernsey  
Gordon Brechin (SCRA)  
Liz Cuschieri (SLAB)  
Lynne Harrison (CHS)  
Janine McCullough (Education Scotland)  
Lynne O'Brien (Care Review)  
Thomas Timlin (Care Review)

### Apologies:

Iain Fitheridge (SG)  
Lesley Dowdalls (Law Society)  
Neil Hunter (SCRA)  
Jackie McRae (CHS)  
Jamie Lipton (COPFS)  
Claire Lightowler (CYCJ)  
Fiona Dyer (CYCJ)  
Marie-Louise Fox (SLAB)  
Alice Bayles (SG)  
Elliot Jackson (CHS)  
Pauline Stephen (ADES - Angus council)  
Mike Burns (COSLA)  
Robert Gordon (Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service)  
Lynsey Smith (SG)  
Claire Arias (COPFS)  
John Urquhart (COSLA)  
Matt Forde, (NSPCC Scotland and CCPS Rep)

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>Welcome and apologies</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies will be reflected in the minutes.</p>	
<p><b>Minutes of 13 September 2018 and matters</b></p> <p>The Chair reviewed the previous minutes with the membership. There were no issues highlighted and the September minutes will now be published on the CHIP website.</p>	
<p><b>Policy Scanning – Malcolm Schaffer (MS)</b></p> <p>MS updated the group on the activities of the working group, there had been no meeting since the last CHIP – the group are due to meet in January.</p> <p>The intention is to discuss contact decisions and sibling contact, in particular the implications for practice.</p> <p>The group have a complexity seminar taking place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – if any member wishes to attend let Peter Imrie (PI) know.</p> <p>Bryan Evans (BE) asked that he (as part of the safeguarder's group) could be included in future group discussions. (Invite sent 10/12/18)</p> <p>The ethnic minority (BME) subset met last week and findings will inform future process around recruitment and practice. The hope is to produce a set of guidelines to look at how we work with communities, for approval at the next meeting (March).</p>	
<p><b>Better Hearings working group update – Lisa Bennett (LB)</b></p> <p>The workstream took on the better hearings standards and applied these to actions. A full evidence report is due at the end of June 2019.</p> <p>LB presented a six month interim report and spoke about how they plan to gather the evidence and set out how they will measure improvement. This has included a baseline and plan to drive change forward locally.</p> <p>The main issue highlighted the difficulty in getting the multi-agency local partners together. The emphasis is on sustainability and implementation of the local action plans towards full incorporation of the blueprint/better hearings recommendations.</p> <p>There has been concern around the accuracy of information that is being provided, as this is informing SCRA of good practice and perhaps more importantly recognising barriers and issues. A number of tools have been used to get accurate information, including discussions with panel members, reports and will also include a future participation event. LB confirmed that she can get analysis for each area that can identify if there are any known issues.</p>	

**Blueprint - Lisa Bennett (LM)**

The pilot scheme operated last year and checked that standards were workable. The subsequent outcomes created standards and these were then tested as being functional and clear. The standards will be further evaluated with a view to refining these in the new year. The hope is that a final position will be available thereafter.

**Advocacy – Tom McNamara (TM)**

TM provided an update. The advocacy position has changed lately, but only within the context of the ACR Bill. Ministers have intervened around the planned support for children under the Bill. It seems likely that advocacy and within the hearing systems will become separate. It is hoped that further information will be known shortly and any update on consultation, procurement will be provided with the minutes.

**Learning & Development****L&D update - Elaine Adams (EA)**

EA provided an update on the three CHIP test sites. The key themes coming out of this work accord with those that have been identified in the Better Hearings assessments and by the Independent Care Review:

- report writing (quality and format),
- the participation of children and young people and
- the management of hearings.

Area to highlight from the Partnership Group include the benefits to be derived from the development of a clear strategic Communications Plan to strengthen inter-agency awareness of CHIP work, particularly amongst front-line practitioners and middle managers, and the consideration of one template for report-writing for hearings.

Work from the CPD Modules Group is continuing with conversations taking place with SG. Next steps will include the development of a framework for delivery.

The completion of three learning events in Glasgow has not only highlighted the inter-connectedness of all agencies operating in the hearing system, but also identified some gaps in the knowledge of Health and Education partners.

This provides an opportunity to explore further learning opportunities and could include work around ACES.

**CHS Academy Update – Boyd McAdams (BM)**

BM confirmed that the contract for the academy was won by West Lothian College. He further advised that the training academy is up and running and resources will now be available online. This will be supported by “master classes” that when conducted, will be made available to panel

<p>members on-line.</p> <p>MC commented that the above should improve coherence and consistency throughout the system.</p>	
<p><b>IROC Stop-Go - Thomas Tinlin (TT) / Lynne O'Brien (LO)</b></p> <p>LO provided an update on the progress of the Care Review and also focused attentions on what the plan to deliver ahead of the care review recommendations. All workgroups consist of a combination of care experienced individuals and practitioners. These groups are considering the on-going review with a view to identifying any areas of change that has been identified and can be taken forward within their "change programme".</p> <p>The Care Review has the aspiration of creating the best care system in the world and will be supported by these findings and recommendations.</p> <p>The Stop-Go discussions have been with all 32 Local Authorities and the Chief Social Workers within each of the areas. All 32 Local Authorities have 'signed up' to working with each other/partners and the Care Review Team to progress the stop/go actions forward. They have engaged with over 2500 care experiences individuals. Currently developing a change framework to support best practice.</p> <p>JD (OHOV) intends to set-up a group of Young People who have been through the Hearing system and ensure that their needs are being met. CHS also need to give consideration to the Stop/go issues identified.</p> <p><b>CHIP re-enforced their commitment to supporting the Stop/go agenda and the subsequent change programme.</b></p> <p>TT talked about the development of a list of recommendations taken from the Discovery Phase. The intention is to promote best practice and eradicate poor practice, whilst taking the opportunity to facilitate change as effectively as possible.</p> <p>The synergy between the Better Hearings recommendations and the work of the Review was highlighted. E.g. identifying suitable premises at a hearing to enable families to have sufficient time to say farewells etc. prior to an accommodation order being enforced.</p> <p>A number of changes are underway within the existing system. There was a concern that localised differences will exist and that sufficient flexibility is required to enable all local authorities to fully participate.</p> <p>The test of change may need to consider changes to the existing law – it is hoped that most changes will be in practice, not law, but where required this will become part of the recommendations.</p> <p><b>NB – all partner must not share the stop/go “list” until the Care Review have published.</b></p>	<p><b>The L&amp;D lead intends to address the comparison between the Stop/go “list” and the proposed Better Hearings standards, before checking with the Care Review. (unsure what the actual action point was here, as I was out the room?)</b></p> <p><b>AP - IROC to return in March.</b></p> <p><b>All partners need to consider the “stop/go” proposals within their organisations .</b></p>

<b>Data Evidence &amp; Quality Improvement</b> - held-over <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mapping exercise update</b> – Iain Fitheridge</li></ul>	<b>AP – agenda item for next meeting</b>
<b>16/17 Year olds within the hearing system</b> – Malcolm <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Child Protection System review</b> – paper refers. There is an understandable question posed for those that require support outside of the current system, as highlighted by recent events.</li><li>• <b>Kilbrandon Again speech</b></li><li>• <b>CYCJ consultation</b></li><li>• <b>SG Update re mapping of current legislation</b></li></ul>	<b>AP – SG (TMc) to establish Ministers' appetite for any proposed changes and establish timeframe (with Neil) and report to the group.</b>
Forward actions – on-going preparatory work for full UNCRC incorporation is on-going. Ministers may need to offer their thoughts and perhaps a consultation (capturing many of these points) is required to promote change.	
<b>Our Hearing Our Voice update</b> – Jackie Dunbar (JD)  JD provided an update and presentation on the work of OHOV to date.  The initial meeting was held and young people met with staff and existing young people who are presently within the OHOV arena. Good progress was made, including the creation of a logo .  Training and board meetings have been agreed for 2019.  Initially plans will be made to determine a mechanism to engage and influence the work of CHIP, SCRA and CHS - possibly using the engagement model adopted by the Care Review. CHIP thanked Jackie for taking this large piece of work forward.	<b>AP - Copy slides to be provided with minutes.</b>
<b>Karen Brady (KB) presentation</b>  KB is the Children's Convenor for Guernsey. KB has previously worked for SCRA as a practice reporter, practice manager and head of practice.  KB offered her observations about the experience of the Hearing system in Guernsey. There is a wide range of financial and cultural differences. A high number of young people are seen with regards motoring offences – access to scooters from age 14.  One key difference is the determination of a child: all children under 18.  Another is the separation from the tribunal to agree “grounds” – this enables all parties to discuss what has gone before and what will happen going forward. This allows for questions of who is there, what their involvement will be etc.  The system does not require young people to attend a hearing, consequently a	<b>Copy slides to be provided with minutes.</b>

<p>child's voice may become lost.</p>	
<p>The Hearing outcomes can include compulsion on parents and the local authority, as well as the young person.</p> <p>Decision reasons has been challenged by the court and an increased emphasis on the reasoning behind the decisions – resulting in increased detail on the decision, resulting in enhanced quality of report writing.</p>	
<p><b>Opportunities for joint work CHIP and YJIB</b> – this paper was agreed by the group.</p>	<p><b>AP – a request will be made to members following the next YJIB meeting in January.</b></p>
<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>CHIP Priorities for 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection on 2018 outcomes – “we said, we did”</li> <li>• Plans for 2019</li> </ul> <p>LB led a short discussion about the priorities for 2019 for consideration. It was agreed that the challenges facing the group will be taken forward into 2019.</p>	<p><b>AP – the planning group will take forward and report.</b></p>
<p><b>Close and date of Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p><b>04 March 2019 (10:00-13:00), CF Room 1, Victoria Quay.</b></p>	