

**Minute of meeting  
Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
10:00-13:00**

Conference room 1. Victoria Quay.

**Attendees:**

Tom McNamara (SG) Acting Chair - TM  
Liam Slaven, MSYP - LS  
Rod Finan (SG) - RF  
Boyd McAdam (CHS) - BMc  
Jacqui Dunbar (SCRA – Young People's Board) - JD  
Neil Hunter (SCRA) - NH  
Gordon Brechin (SCRA) - GB  
Bryan Evans (Children 1<sup>st</sup>) - BE  
Elaine Sutherland (Law Society) - ES  
Carole Murphy (CYCJ) - CM  
Laura Crossan (Police Scotland) - LC  
Matt Forde, (NSPCC Scotland and CCPS Rep) - MF  
Marie-Louise Fox (SLAB) - MLF  
Liz Cuschieri (SLAB) - LCu  
Jackie McRae (CHS) - JM  
Elliot Jackson (CHS) - EJ  
Lisa Bennett (SCRA) - LB  
Malcolm Schaffer (SCRA) - MS  
Joanne McMeeking (CELCIS) - JMc  
Elaine Adams (CHIP L&D Lead) - EA  
Lynne O'Brien (Care Review) -LOB  
Liz Brabender (IROC) - LB  
Iain Fitheridge (SG) - IF  
Lauren Sorrell (SG) - LS

**Apologies:**

Michael Chalmers (Director, Children & Families, SG)  
Alice Bayles (SG)  
Susan Orr (SWS)  
Kate Rocks (SWS East Renfrewshire)  
Robert Gordon (Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service)  
Boyd McAdam (CHS)  
Mike Burns (Social Work Scotland)  
Gary Dover (Child Health Commissioner)  
Janine McCullough (Education Scotland)  
Kirsten Hogg (Barnardo's)  
Lex Baillie (Police Scotland)  
Ross McLaughlin (SOLACE)  
Sheriff Craig (Judiciary)  
Kyrsten Buist (COPFS)  
Pauline Stephen (ADES - Angus council)

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>Welcome and apologies</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies noted above.</p>	

**Minutes of 13 September 2018 and matters arising**

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes with the membership. The following amendments were noted:

- JD's apologies were noted twice
- Our Hearings Our Voice update page 5: influencing CHIP – SCRA and CHS should be included there.
- Slides not included in the minutes
- Better Hearings full evidence report will come out in June.

**Update on meeting with Cabinet Secretaries and Deputy First Minister in January 2019:**

TM updated members following a Ministerial meeting with the Cabinet Secretaries for Education, Justice and Health and senior health, care and justice officials held in January 2019. Issues around 16/17 year olds, secure care and the extent of the hearings system featured there. TM reassured the group that Ministers are focussed on child-centred approaches and looking for further opportunities to make improvements. Another meeting is expected, which might include discussions around the mental health review in Polmont.

Members are looking for opportunities for more joint work between CHIP and YJIB. The next YJIB meeting will be on 26 March. The planning subgroup is taking this work forward.

**PI to circulate slides.****PI to ensure key interests are represented.****Better Hearings – Neil Hunter (NH)**

NH gave a wide-ranging update on Better Hearings activity, and noted the importance of seeing this as an umbrella programme for this partnership, and emphasised the need for partners to make their own contributions to the agreed shared priorities.

His analysis was that a clear focus on 3 or 4 priority areas would help us deliver better hearings standards countrywide. NH has been involved in a lot of work around better hearings across the country, looking at practice and how they design elements of support for children and young people. A lot of open dialogue has taken place across the country, creating a better sense of working together proactively.

NH was keen to find a way to measure progress and feedback to the partnership. He reported good work with health and social care partnerships – engaging with families – picking up and attending to practice challenges that may have been missed over the years.

NH also outlined plans with CHS about digitally enabling better participation with children and young people.

**Children’s hearings blueprint**

This work needs to be completed around the first half of 2019.

**LB to contact SG to discuss accelerating Blueprint progress.**

<p><b>Glasgow CHIP – one year on - Better Hearing Multi-agency Event in January – Gordon Brechin (GB)</b></p> <p>GB noted that the first year offered many positive areas to reflect on, but there is still work to be done. There are a number of areas that we can say there has been a positive change, including around information provided by social work partners.</p> <p>GB had detected really good buy in at meetings from Celcis, legal professionals, education, social work, etc. Reporting format now used in Glasgow is much simpler. The aim had been to move away from 30-40 page GIRFEC assessments, instead creating something more tailored and focused.</p> <p>Glasgow established a good network and were proud of their learning and development work, a lot of work has been done in that area. GB happy to share the report with partners ahead of publishing.</p> <p>The group was encouraged to hear about partners working together, working out areas for improvement and tackling issues. General agreement that it would be helpful to have all this information shared across partners, to be placed on the CHIP website once it's ready to be shared.</p> <p><b>Update on structure of CHS – Boyd McAdam (BM)</b></p> <p>Hearings Management group was looking at panel member continuity, and a change in underlying presumptions (continuity to be default where possible, rather than an exception) was being implemented by CHS . Many people have the right to be in a hearing, and those rights had to be respected while seeking to maintain a focused, supportive, child-centred hearings experience. BM explained that they will be looking at supporting chairing members to inviting people in to contribute, and then asking them to leave when appropriate. BM also advised that CHS were looking at reinforcing the support for key volunteers.</p>	<p><b>PI to ensure this information is uploaded to the CHIP website.</b></p>
<p><b>Policy Scanning – Malcolm Schaffer (MS)</b></p> <p>Meeting took place in January 2019 around contact.</p> <p>Next meeting will be devoted to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complexity event that took place at end of December, which was very positive</li> <li>2. Lessons emerging from SCRA Home Supervision research.</li> </ol> <p><b>Update on Education and Skills committee – Tom McNamara (TM)</b></p> <p>TM advised that the Committee had come back to SG at the end of 2018 looking for update on progress, promises, and commitments. SG had been very grateful for information and updates from SCRA, CHS and other partners, and had provided an update to Parliament in February.</p> <p>He recalled that much of the evidence that the committee was interested in was around legal representatives. With the help of CHIP partners, the Government was able to extract good material and helpful information from better hearings, multi-disciplinary learning, etc.</p>	<p><b>PI to arrange for link to responses to be circulated.</b></p>

<p>It's useful to recognise that Ministers, Parliament and committees remain interested in the CHIP work. We need to be able to demonstrate continued progress.</p>	
<p><b>Learning &amp; Development</b></p> <p><b>L&amp;D update – Elaine Adams (EA)</b></p> <p>EA provided a learning &amp; development update and presentation. Her role had been extended, and was keen to take a steer from CHIP on priority areas where she needed to focus between now and end 2020.</p> <p>During the presentation, LS noted that children and young people going through a hearing are experts in this field. Perhaps CYP should be more involved in the design and delivery of multi-agency training?</p> <p>Champions' Boards could be helpful in developing and then implementing the CHIP communications strategy and plan.</p> <p>TM invited CHIP partners to consider and respond to EA's paper.</p> <p><b>CHS Academy Update – Boyd McAdam (BM)</b></p> <p>BM talked through the shift to online resources and the associated benefits. Increasingly, accessing learning through the new CHS Learning Academy rather than panel members having to travel to undertake training face to face. The learning academy is not just for the CHS volunteers system, it's for everyone across the partnership to inform the CHS community.</p>	<p><b>BM to circulate prospectus link to members.</b></p>
<p><b>IROC Stop-Go – Lynne O'Brien (LO) / Liz Brabender</b></p> <p>Care review update: in journey stage until the end of the year. Care experienced people are sitting in working groups – groups are developing work plans which will involve activities to undertake around the country. Best wishes and congratulations conveyed to Thomas C, who had just become a father and was unable to attend</p> <p>Stop-go challenges are not published yet. Discussion on how CHIP responses to those might be communicated to IROC while still in draft – to be finalised and publicly adopted after</p> <p>IROC will give an update soon as to when this will go live.</p>	<p><b>IROC to give update once this goes live.</b></p> <p><b>TM, LB to discuss alignment between Better Hearings Actions and Stop-Go challenges - convey drafts to IROC to see progress and outstanding issues</b></p>
<p><b>Advocacy – Tom McNamara (TM)</b></p> <p>In house SG staff will now oversee the management of grants for advocacy provision. TM noted that SG will be engaging with the partnership throughout this process. Early priorities would include an updated mapping exercise, and identify any existing local provision and unmet needs. The in-house team would likely focus on monitoring, quality assurance, and learning and development pathways for new services. The Children's Hearings team are working with SGLD around instructing draft regulations.</p>	

<p>A number of responses to the recent advocacy engagement paper had been received. The deadline was Friday 1st March, but TM is still happy to receive responses informally.</p>	
<p><b>Age of Criminal Responsibility – Tom McNamara (TM)</b></p> <p>Stage 2 has now concluded. Stage 3 timings are not yet confirmed, but not expected before Easter 2019.</p> <p>Currently, the bill will raise the age of criminal responsibility from 8 to 12. Lots of pressure on Ministers from children’s sector to go further.</p> <p>Update on psychiatric assessments ‘diminished responsibility’ non-Government amendment to the Bill – Government open to further conversations around this with all CHIP partners. There was concern that the proposal may pose a significant challenge to the current resources of the hearings system.</p> <p>TM recognised that a stage 2 summary highlight report was needed for members, and a link to the official report will be shared.</p>	
<p><b>Our Hearings, Our Voice update – Jackie Dunbar (JD)</b></p> <p>JD updated the group that Our Hearings, Our Voice have now moved to a dedicated office space. A number of helpful meetings had taken place, including the 2nd meeting with young people who have signed up to join the board. It was a successful session, and they have since began to finalise the design for the logo which the young people will get to choose.</p> <p>Our Hearings, Our Voice have since started looking into how young people will work together. 2 dedicated training sessions will take place next, which will look at what key areas young people want to focus on, what their agenda will be, development skills, etc.</p> <p>JD requested some information from the partnership, including a relaxed photograph and short intro. Papers to be circulated for all members to complete.</p>	<p><b>JD will circulate request for information across members.</b></p> <p><b>All – complete paperwork and submit alongside a picture back to JD.</b></p>
<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>It was noted that there are 2 new board members appointed at CHS.</p> <p>The group thanked MS as this would be his last meeting. His contribution to children and families served by the hearings system for over 4 decades had been ‘monumental’, and he had been instrumental in the inception and development of CHIP as a partnership for positive change.</p>	
<p><b>Close and date of Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p><b>10 June 2019 (10:00-13:00), CF Room 1, Victoria Quay.</b></p>	