

## 1.1 NOTE OF MEETING

### Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership Meeting Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019

#### **Attendees:**

Lesley Sheppard (SG) Chair – LS  
Tom McNamara (SG) – TM  
Liz Murdoch (SG) – LM  
Luiza Leite (SG) Minutes – LL  
Hannah Keates (SG) – HK  
Neil Hunter (SCRA) – NH  
Gordon Brechin (SCRA) – GB  
Bryan Evans (Children 1<sup>st</sup>) – BE  
Rod Finan (Chief Social Work Officer's Office) – RF  
Matte Forde (CCPS) – MF  
Elaine Adams (CHIP L&D lead) – EA  
Susan Orr (SWS) – SO  
Marie-Louise Fox (SLAB) - MLF  
Aileen Nicol on behalf of Joanne McMeeking (CELCIS) – AN  
Lisa Bennett (SCRA) – LB  
Kate Rocks (Social Work Scotland) – KR  
Alistair Hogg (SCRA) – AH  
Elliot Jackson (CHS) – EJ  
Boyd McAdam (CHS) – BM  
Liz Cuschieri (SLAB) – LC  
Mark Allison (The Law Society of Scotland) – MA  
Pauline Stephen (Angus City Council) – PS  
Janine McCullough (Education Scotland) – JMc  
Laura Crossan on behalf of Lex Baillie (Police Scotland) – LCr

#### **Apologies:**

Fiona Dyer (CYCJ) – FD  
Iain Fitheridge (SG) – IF  
Jackie McRae (CHS) – JM  
Christine Mullen (CHS) – CM  
Janine McCullough (Education Scotland) – JMc  
Gary Dover (NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde) – GD  
Lauren Sorrell (SG) – LSo  
Michael Chalmers (SG) – MC  
Kirsten Hogg (Barnardos) – KH  
Jacqui Dunbar (OHOV) – JD  
Kyrsten Buist (COPFS) – KB  
Mary Hoey (Education Scotland) – MH  
Jane O'Donnell, CYP Chief Officer – JO  
Mike Burns (Social Work) – MB  
John Urquhart (COSLA) – JU

	<b>Action:</b>
<p><b>1. Welcome and apologies</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and congratulated BM for his OBE.</p> <p>Apologies noted above.</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of 04 March 2019 and matters arising</b></p> <p>The minutes are to be amended to reflect that BM was at the meeting.</p> <p>Actions – LM noted a joint paper was submitted to YJIB in March requesting volunteers to meet with CHIP volunteers to discuss joint areas of work. There have been no volunteers as of yet, LM is looking for a couple of volunteers from both groups to come together to consider synergies and how to take work forward.</p> <p>There was an action for TM and LB to discuss alignment between Better Hearings actions and ICR Stop Go challenges. It was noted that further practical work is required. TM, LB and EA will pick this up with this meeting.</p> <p>LB reminded colleagues to send their profile to Jackie Dunbar as requested at the March meeting.</p> <p>All other actions were complete.</p>	<p><b>PI to amend minutes of the last meeting.</b></p> <p><b>All to contact IF they wish to volunteer for the group working across CHIP and YJIB.</b></p> <p><b>TM, LB and EA to meet to discuss alignment between better hearings and ICR</b></p> <p><b>All to send JD their profiles if not already done so.</b></p>
<p><b>3. Structure of CHIP</b></p> <p>It was agreed that this item would transfer to the next meeting. TM assured colleagues that work will be progressed on this over the summer.</p>	<p><b>PI to add this to the agenda for the September meeting.</b></p>
<p><b>4. Better Hearings</b></p> <p>NH provided an update on the Better Hearings work. The Child protection leadership group met recently to discuss significant case reviews and how that Framework can be developed in Scotland. NH highlighted work which is happening in Wales, learning from past events, the Sky framework, and data to support CPC.</p> <p>NH provided an update on the work of the partnership and noted links in relation to 16/17 year olds.</p>	

NH advised that there had been a refresh of 2015 National Protection Guidance following the short life working group, which had been set up to look at the recommendations from the CPIP.

LB spoke to the progress report paper, which captures all the work that has been done, as well as some areas for consideration. LB highlighted challenges around how we pitch this and showcase what we are trying to achieve.

The report is looking at 8 cluster areas of standards and how local authorities assess themselves. This came as feedback from Better Hearings.

Some areas are progressing into the model of improvement, others are still laying the foundations. It is hoped that the foundations will be laid this year and they can progress with the improvement work next year. The areas that have made the most improvement have a strong focus on a partnership approach. There are challenges around geography, capacity and resources.

There is still a need to find a systematic way to monitor and evaluate these services. This links back to work on Children's Services Plans.

It was noted that the report is for CHIP members, and is still in draft. Once the messages are agreed then these messages can be pulled out and distributed to partners and children and families.

It was agreed that this would be built into an evaluative document, which will feature good practice. Local authorities will need to support this.

Challenges remain around ownership of this work by local areas. Some areas meet regularly, and some areas are still working together to pull together a multi-agency group and have different frequencies for how often they meet.

LB ensured that children and young people, and local partners will be included in this evaluation process from the start. Making that change happen on the ground is a challenge, but this is the template for that. LB noted that all local areas are aware of this report and have contributed to it.

Discussion followed around including the voices of the youngest children and babies and the importance of advocacy.

It was noted that this should be integrated into the children's services plans, as local areas are being asked to report around similar areas of work already. There was agreement that it would be good to introduce better hearings into "business as usual" practice, and children's services arrangements locally.

**LB to circulate a further draft for comment.**

**PI to add blueprint**

<p>LB affirmed that this work is still in draft, and agreed to collate any further comments from members for inclusion.</p> <p>NH advised that a meeting took place in early June to discuss all the blueprint standards. It was agreed that the 2019/2020 blueprint standards will be discussed at the next CHIP meeting in September.</p>	<p><b>standards to the September meeting and NH to provide an update.</b></p>
<p><b>5. Policy Scanning</b></p> <p>It was noted that the group has not met for a while. SG are currently trying to establish a new chair for the group. SG will follow up on this with the group.</p> <p>Home CSO work has progressed and is nearly ready to publish. The Chair asked members to have a think about what the best model is to distribute this.</p>	<p><b>SG to establish a chair for the policy scanning group.</b></p>
<p><b>6. Learning &amp; Development</b></p> <p><b>L&amp;D update</b></p> <p>EA advised that phase 1 of multi-phase learning event is now complete. Positive feedback had been received, some which is available in the Better Hearings document. EA noted they are now in the position to scale things up, but would require more facilitators to do that. Glasgow CHIP had agreed that they can scale up across Glasgow. A program will be developed for facilitators so they can manage the events with confidence.</p> <p>EA will update once a program of development for facilitators is ready, this will likely be at the December meeting.</p> <p>A model of Children's Hearings System training has been developed and delivered to SG officials in VQ.</p> <p>EA asked group to consider how the CHIP website could be used for this. Concerns raised around the material becoming out of date, so a coordinator would be needed to ensure this is updated regularly. Some members discouraged putting the resources on the website as it might dilute the quality of training.</p> <p>It was noted it would be good to find long term, sustainable partners to deliver this training in their local areas long term.</p> <p>EA noted the information would need to be hosted somewhere, but the materials would be available on request.</p>	<p><b>EA to provide update at December meeting.</b></p> <p><b>EA to ask each area for contact details of learning and development lead in their areas.</b></p>

<p>A suggestion was made that each local area could provide details of their learning and development contacts. It was noted that some areas would not have a designated contact and if not then discussions would need to take place to consider how messages could be distributed.</p> <p><b>Research</b></p> <p>There was agreement to discuss the need for wider awareness/understanding of research projects being carried out across CHIP partnership, and how best to link resources.</p> <p><b>CHS Update</b></p> <p>Confirmation was provided that the new national convenor from October will be Elliot Jackson. It was also noted that CHS has now moved into Thistle House.</p> <p>BM provided an update on the investment by SG to CHS for the appointment of 9 area support roles. Interviews took place in May and 8 out of the 9 posts have been identified. The new candidates will start on 24 June, their role is to help drive improvement and change within CHS. These roles will be based in the local area, and they will be working on the ground to support area convenors.</p> <p>The Learning academy launched in January. 2 new courses on Neglect and ACEs have been included. The uptake has been very encouraging. This will be to help panel members think more about self-reflection.</p> <p>The Digital platform is in the final year of development. Current ongoing discussions are taking place as to how panel members and reporters will engage with this platform. This work is on track, and a further update will follow in September.</p>	<p><b>BM to provide an update on the digital platform at the September meeting.</b></p>
<p><b>7. Advocacy</b></p> <p>SG now has a dedicated team leader for the development of advocacy scheme. Pam Semple will engage with partners across the summer.</p> <p>SG have produced a paper with a draft evaluation criteria for grants which we will look to issue in Autumn.</p> <p>TM advised that he would circulate advocacy papers with the note of this meeting.</p>	<p><b>SG to circulate advocacy paper alongside papers for this meeting.</b></p>
<p><b>8. Age of Criminal Responsibility</b></p> <p>TM recognised that a stage 2 summary highlight report was needed, and a link to the official report will be shared.</p>	<p><b>PI to circulate stage 2 summary highlight report.</b></p>

TM provided an update on the Bill, which passed in Parliament on 7 May and is now waiting royal assent. No major changes to stage 3.

Ministers committed to an early and ongoing refresh of 2016 advisory group with a view to look at impact of operation of the ACR change to 12, what would be needed for future changes, whether that is 14/16/18. TM is keen that this advisory group is set up and meets in the summer. It was agreed that any requests for membership to the advocacy group go to organisations, rather than individuals.

TM thanked members for all their support throughout the Bill process.

### **9. Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) Update**

HK provided an update on the strategic visits for children's services across Scotland which have been undertaken by HK, Iona Colvin and Michael Chalmers. All CPP areas have now been covered. The aim was to identify where practice has been applied to improve outcomes for children and young people, and also hear what the challenges are.

Statutory guidance is out for consultation and will be closing on 17 June.

Key themes coming out of the visits are that the current legislative and reporting landscape is very complex and cluttered for children's services. Collaboration of resources at local level are quite variable, we need to think about how we can work with local areas on this.

Different messages can come from different directorates within government, a clear message on improving outcomes is needed. Data came up as an issue consistently. A lot of data is being gathered at local level, but we need to have a better understanding what data we are collecting and why for the national performance outcomes.

Multi-disciplinary approach which embeds GIRFEC is very promising. Improving outcomes for looked after children is very high in everyone's agenda, as well as early intervention for mental health and wellbeing.

HK noted we are addressing this through statutory guidance, which is based on what local areas shared in the visits. A strategic leads event is taking place on 24 June which will bring together all strategic leads from local areas. We are ensuring that we create a proper network across Scotland so strategic leads can ensure they can communicate easily with each other. That way we can support local areas, and local areas can support government.

<p>Members asked if HK felt the hearings work had enough visibility across the country. HK said the topic did come up in some areas, but the main purpose of the visits was to hear how the local areas were doing more generally.</p> <p>It was noted that it would be helpful for HK to provide an update to YJIB.</p>	<p><b>LL to contact HK about providing an update at YJIB.</b></p>
<p><b>10. Any Other Business</b></p> <p>It was noted that SG is intending to undertake a consultation process on guidance to support C&amp;YP with additional support needs. It was agreed SG would look in to this and provide further information.</p> <p>Our Hearings Our Voice (OHOV) is progressing really well and they now have a new logo. It has been fully co-designed with young people. It was agreed that CHIP would write to members of OHOV to welcome their work and support.</p>	<p><b>PI to obtain information on support for C&amp;YP with additional support needs.</b></p> <p><b>LB to circulate Our Hearings Our Voice email address.</b></p>
<p><b>Next Meeting: 2 September 2019, CHS, Thistle House, Haymarket, Edinburgh</b></p>	