

**Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership Meeting
Monday 2 December 2019**

Note of Meeting

<p>Attendees: Lesley Sheppard (SG) Chair – LS Jackie Reid (ADES) - JR Susan Orr (SWS) – SO Neil Hunter (SCRA) – NH John Urquhart (COSLA) – JU Rod Finan (CSWOs Office) – RF Elaine Adams (CHIP L&D lead) – EA Janine McCullough (Education Scotland) – JMc Alistair Hogg (SCRA) – AH Jacqui Dunbar (OHOV) – JD Tom McNamara (SG) – TM Lauren Sorrell (SG) – L/S Elliot Jackson (CHS) – EJ Jackie McRae (CHS) – JM Bryan Evans (Children 1st) – BE Norma Devlin (SG) - ND Craig Milne (SG) – CM Iain Fitheridge (SG) – IF</p>	<p>Apologies: Catherine Dowe (SG) Joanne McMeeking (CELCIS) Lisa Bennett (SCRA) Shona Spence (SG) Steve Collins (Glasgow HSCP) Lynsey Smith (Includem) Kirsten Hogg (Barnardo's) Colin Convery (Police Scotland) Fiona Dyer (CYCJ) Gordon Brechin (SCRA) Michael Chalmers (SG) Kyrsten Buist (COPFS) Jane O'Donnell, (CYP Chief Officer) Mark Allison (The Law Society of Scotland) Matte Forde (CCPS) Marie-Louise Fox (SLAB) Pauline Stephen (Angus City Council) Kate Rocks (Social Work Scotland)</p>
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Agenda Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome and apologies</p> <p>LS welcomed all those attending – apologies received as noted above.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of 9 September 2019 and Action Points (Paper 1)</p> <p>Minutes of 9 September were agreed. The Chair ran through the previous action points and confirmed progress; as follows:</p> <p>Item 2 - Only 2 volunteers had come forward to support the 'Joint working with YJIB' group - Melissa Hunt and Elaine Adams - Helpful to have one more volunteer.</p> <p>Item 3 – the Better Hearings report had been published. The Minister had written to acknowledge progress.</p> <p>Thanks to those who have provided JD with picture profiles for the OHOV wall. She was still looking to expand the number of profiles.</p>	<p>CHIP members – contact Secretariat to volunteer.</p>

<p>Item 6 – Summaries of the output from the September Home CSO session have been circulated. We will look at a further separate meeting to consider progress and actions.</p>	
<p>3. General Updates (Paper 2)</p> <p>A general updates paper was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>LS particularly highlighted:</p> <p>Advocacy - work on track for delivery in spring; tender process almost complete. It was agreed after discussion to look at roles of other 'like' practitioners who may deliver similar advocacy type services, and raise awareness of differences whilst recognising potential similarities. TM agreed to meet separately with COSLA to ensure they are kept in loop as this work develops.</p> <p>Age of Criminal Responsibility – important milestone - regulations commenced previous week meaning that no under 12 can be referred under offence grounds.</p> <p>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) incorporation– to note the Deputy First Minister's announcement on the incorporation of UNCRC into Scots Law via a 'maximalist' approach.</p> <p>16/17 year olds joint referrals and Children's Hearings - NH confirmed work being co-ordinate with CHIP/YJIB/CPIP and Justice Board. Small working group set up to discuss capabilities/resourcing and training etc. paper that is being issued to Justice Board on the terms and conditions of the working group will be shared with CHIP. Must be borne in mind that offence grounds for 16/17 is likely to be a smaller part of all 16/17 referrals.</p> <p>IF said that the general updates paper had been a trial to see if this would assist awareness and aid discussion for CHIP. Agreed this should be a regular agenda item and that IF would trawl the wider CHIP group in preparation for the next meeting.</p>	<p>TM will commission work on clarity of roles with partners. Update – discussion at ERG on 11 December.</p> <p>AH will supply paper on SCRA briefing to partners.</p> <p>NH to circulate Justice Board paper to CHIP</p> <p>IF to seek general updates for February meeting</p>
<p>4. Better Hearings Working Group</p> <p>NH provided his report as Chair of the Better Hearings Workstream. In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow but steady progress 	

- First better hearings report release and a positive stocktake of progress to date; moving forward a need to add in some hard data.
- Differences across local areas have been identified, and will be analysed.
- Looking to harvest learning to encourage self-generated momentum across the locality groups, will be deploying L&D to support as appropriate.
- Next report including rigour June 2020.

TM wished to acknowledge the work led by Lisa Bennett which had been validated by Minister for Children and Young People. The Minister will be visiting Falkirk Friday 6 December to meet with the local better hearings partners.

LS pointed out one of the challenges will be to ensure we make best practice the norm and the role of multidisciplinary L&D to make the change.

Other thoughts included:

- Understanding variation in approaches and best practice.
- Utilisation of OHOV at local levels
- Likely impact from establishment of ASIPs supporting local teams
- Consideration of engaging local senior leaders and using inspection regime to drive and influence progress
- Joint testing, joint working and joint support

Time and Quality Standards Update

NH – the previously named Children's Hearings Blueprint had been reshaped, with a focus on time intervals and quality of measurement. These metrics have been drawn back together in the new Time and Quality Standards. Now tested in 3 LA areas. Time savings yielded by reporter improvements had been recycled into offering more time to Social Work reporting timescales. One area still to address is a standard for the court system with ongoing conversation with SCTS.

Agreement given by CHIP to proceed without the court standard, but that work should continue on bringing this into the standards in future.

5. Our Hearings Our Voice – Becoming 1 Year old

JD gave a brief update on progress since inception of Our Hearings, Our Voice working with 12 Board Members, aged 12-18, from across Scotland for the last 12 months. The group has met 5 times in Glasgow, Inverness and Edinburgh and has hosted visits from the Minister for Children and Young People and the First Minister. Recent

<p>Exhibition at Scottish Parliament – outputs can be shared, subject to prior clearance with JD. Plans are being made to roadshow the exhibition.</p> <p>A detailed Evaluation of the Project will commence in 2020. Meantime, JD shared some of the key learning from the last 12 months and will circulate a paper on project work to date.</p> <p>JR and JMc also offered to share practice from their work areas</p> <p>NH highlighted the outputs from OHOV are current. Members have current or very recent experience in the Hearings System rather than reflecting back on historic experience. AH also mentioned a need to ensure JD and other team members are best supported.</p> <p>LS suggested a future agenda item for CHIP either February or May should focus on 'How best CHIP maximises the outputs from OHOV'.</p>	<p>JD agreed to provide Projects work to date and 10 points paper for circulation. (Completed)</p>
<p>6. CHS Update</p> <p>EJ provided some of his key thoughts of his initial period as the new National Convener:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He had been testing whether the change agenda and better hearings work was filtering down and ensuring awareness of panel members. • National conversation to take place with volunteers. EJ feedback to CHIP. • On development priorities – EJ would be focussing on improving panel diversity, language skills and ensuring panel members are trauma informed • Digital roll out in good shape and being tested at present. Update in early 2020. • Wishing to continue to develop collaborative and partnership approaches. • Happy to take observations and deal with any issues raised about the work of CHS. CHS stood ready to help other partners with their own challenges. 	
<p>7. Learning & Development Working Group</p> <p>EA's L&D update had been circulated prior to the meeting. EA confirmed work plans going forward covering hosting of learning materials, delivery of learning, wider awareness around roles and responsibilities and promoting good decision making</p>	

<p>8. Structure of CHIP and Planning for 2020</p> <p>IF raised a number of things to consider that will ensure CHIP retains focus and direction in 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the success of the Home CSO workshop meeting, he suggested a balance of 2 Business Meetings and 2 Workshop Meetings in 2020. • Clear subjects arising in 2020 which will be areas of significant focus for CHIP such as Better Hearings, Independent Care Review, UNCRC, Outcomes for Children and Families, OHOV etc. • There is a clear need to maintain a broad remit, but there are opportunities to focus on particularly complex issues. • There should be consideration of the structure of the workstream sub-groups – do these need to be refreshed and refocussed? • Consideration of timing and notification that we have provisionally booked accommodation on Tuesdays and Thursdays for dates in 2020. <p>There was a variety of views from the group, which included some support for a smaller group for business meetings to assist better dialogue and decision making – relevant organisations could be invited on an “as and when required” basis. The involvement of young people from OHOV and beyond was raised, and as discussed above it was agreed that this should form part of the agenda for the next meeting. There was discussion about hosting a large scale collaborative event with representatives from all group members and a wider range of practitioners, which could cover the various legislative and practice changes that will be coming in 2020.</p> <p>It was agreed that a February meeting focussing on the outcome of the Independent Care Review would be beneficial, followed by a May meeting focussed on the work of OHOV.</p>	<p>Secretariat to coordinate.</p>
<p>9. Any Other Business No other business items were raised.</p>	
<p>10. Future Meetings:</p> <p>Provisional ‘hold the dates’ for 2020 Thursday 27 February Tuesday 26 May Tuesday 18 August Thursday 19 November</p>	