



**Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership Meeting
Thursday 19th May 2022**

Note of Meeting

Attendees:

Tom McNamara, SG, Acting Chair (TM)	Janine McCullough, Education Scotland (JMc)
Elaine Adams, CHIP L&D Lead (EA)	Caren McLean, CELCIS (CMc)
Lisa Bennett, SCRA (LB)	Fiona McFarlane, The Promise (FMc)
Liz Cuschieri, SLAB (LC)	Craig Milne, SG (CM)
Julie Duncan, SG (JD)	Paul Mulvanny, SCRA (PM)
Fiona Dyer, CYCJ (FD)	Brendan Rooney, SG (BR)
Helen Etchells, SCRA (HE)	Nick Rougvie, SG (NR)
Alistair Hogg, SCRA (AH)	Pam Semple, SG (PS)
Elliot Jackson, CHS (EJ)	Joanne Smith, NSPCC (JS)
Gordon Main, OHOV (GM)	Alison Todd, Angus CPC (AT)
Selwyn McCausland, Partners in Advocacy (SMc) ,	John Urquhart, COSLA (JU)
Emma Wilson, SG (EW)	Carol Wassell, CHS (CW)
Andrew Alexander, Law Society (AA)	Jane Westall, PKC (JW)
Lisa Goodman, Children First (LG)	Karen Ralston, CYCJ, (KR)

Apologies:

Bryan Evans, Children 1st
Susan Orr, SWS
Deborah Nolan, SG
Hazel Robertson, SWS
Neil Hunter, SCRA

Agenda Item	Action Points
<p>1. Welcome and apologies</p> <p>TM welcomed CHIP partners to the group, apologies were noted and introductions were made. TM advised that papers for the meeting had been sent in advance.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Action Points</p> <p>Minutes of previous meeting were agreed and the 6 actions from the previous meeting were reviewed. All actions were complete, except Action Point 5 relating to the Lady Dorrian report – work is ongoing with</p>	<p>AP1: TM to consider substantive agenda item on the Lady Dorrian</p>

<p>the Recovery Group, and needs further time before being brought to CHIP.</p>	<p>governance group at next meeting.</p>
<p>3. Hearings System Recovery</p> <p>TM thanks members of the Recovery Group for producing the Fifth Update Report. AH discussed the recent shift back toward hybrid hearings, and the additional pressures this can have on staff and panel members. It was noted that outstanding court applications were still very high, and this was reflective of the pressures still on the court system.</p> <p>JW raised that children and young people can still feel intimidated in the Children's Hearings setting. Members reflected on the amount of work that had been done to date, and the amount of work still to be done to make hearings as child-friendly as possible. JW gave an open invitation to Partnership members to attend and share innovative work that's ongoing at the next Scottish Children's Rights Officers Network (SCRON) meeting, which is scheduled every 4 months.</p> <p>General approval and thanks were exchanged for producing the Fifth Update report.</p> <p>TM moved the discussion to the evolution of the Recovery Group to meet the obligations of CHIP members under current agreed improvement priorities, prior to, and anticipating, the publication of Sheriff Mackie's report – Annex C presented proposals for the agreement of CHIP. It was agreed that the CHCRG should become a strategic delivery group, with the group Terms of Reference endorsed by wider CHIP membership.</p>	<p>AP2: ALL to consider invitation to SCRON.</p>
<p>4. Hearings System Working Group</p> <p>FM updated on the Hearings System Working Group. It is considered likely that the Hearings System Working Group recommendations will require legislation to enact, but will honour the commitments contained in the Promise. Support has been indicated for the work of the Children's Care and Justice Bill, and how this can synergise with the HSWG. General agreement was noted.</p> <p>FM provided a general update on the work of sub groups which will feed back into the Hearings System Working Group to produce a set of key recommendations for the final report. The final report is provisionally scheduled to be published in Spring 2023. It was also noted that Sheriff Mackie had met with the Minister and also with the</p>	

<p>new chair of Children Hearings Scotland, Katharina Kasper, to discuss the work of the HSWG.</p>	
<p>5. Our Hearings Our Voice</p> <p>GM provided a general update which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the latest recruitment of the new board members which will support and facilitate young people's involvement and partner engagement • The Hearings System Working Group has strategically mapped 40 calls from young people in relation to redesign work. • Workshop planned with the office of chief designer and Sheriff Mackie in June. • OHOV has been invited to speak at CYCJ conference in June with young people speaking about rights in the hearing system. • Working with young people to provide a collaborated response to the Care and Justice Bill. • Recruitment for SCRA board to take place over summer. 	
<p>6. Language in the Hearings System</p> <p>GM highlights the key work that OHOV have done so far through a PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>There was general recognition of the importance of consistent language within the CHIP partnership, and how language should be used with young people and their families. .</p> <p>EA provided an update on work ongoing to review current resources available to the Hearings System and advised that she has overseen a multi-agency draft of principles for the consistent and accessible use of language.</p> <p>There was broad support for this work expressed by members. TM wanted to record CHIP's thanks to the young people and those supporting them.</p>	<p>AP3: EA & GM to share draft principles ahead of next meeting.</p>
<p>7. CHS Update</p> <p>EJ gave an update from CHS. The new Chair has been appointed, and is generating a sense of fresh momentum both internally and externally.</p> <p>There is work ongoing around the composition of panels, and members have been asked for their views.</p>	

<p>There are currently 550 new trainees for the national children's panel. CHS are working closely with SCRA around training, with additional information material considered around language and communication.</p> <p>EJ advised that the CHS senior team have been attending hearings to observe, and was very satisfied with the experience and with the progress around virtual hearings that has been made.</p> <p>There were general discussions around the current challenges of CHS being able to recruit Panel Members with EJ giving assurances on the mitigations that CHS are putting in place.</p>	
<p>8. Care and Justice Bill</p> <p>BR provided an update on consultation, which closes on 22 June 2022 and offered an open offer of engagement with the Bill Team to help answer any questions partners may have prior to submitting their responses. The consultation is intentionally open rather than prescriptive, and there are some big questions regarding the interaction with adult criminal justice.</p> <p>There has so far been positive feedback from stakeholders, including from Sheriff Mackie and the HSWG, which had been very encouraging.</p> <p>The Care and Justice Bill team has been closely engaging with various youth groups including Scottish Youth Parliament. There was a discussion around the Age of Referral to the Reporter and anonymity issues which had been raised in reference to the Bill.</p> <p>BR indicated it would be useful to understand how the consultation landed with stakeholders given the exploratory tone.</p>	
<p>9. SG Updates</p> <p>TM lead discussions around the cross-border proposals published in January 2022 which addressed some of the current issues, including underlying problems with the lack of suitable provision in England.</p>	<p>AP4 – TM to share links to latest Deprivation of Liberty guidance.</p>
<p>10. AOB</p> <p>A Powerpoint was presented by EA which celebrates the achievements of the partnership during the pandemic. TM expressed his thanks to EA, and to the wider group for their work.</p>	



**Children's Hearings
Improvement Partnership**

11. Date of Next Meeting

11th August meeting proposed by the group, with discussions to be had internally regarding the potential for meeting in person.