

HIGHLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st July 2014, CR1, Highland Council HQ, INVERNESS

Present		Apologies	
<p>Mr Bill Alexander, Director of Care and Learning (Chair) DCI Pamela Ross, PPU, H&I Division, Police Scotland (Vice Chair) Mr Tom Boyd, Locality Reporter Manager, Highlands & Islands Ms Kathleen Clarke, Principal Child Protection Advisor, HC Ms Sally Amor, Child Health Commissioner, NHS Ms Carolyn Thain, Housing Policy Officer, HC Cllr Linda Munro, Children's Champion Ms Suzann Barr, Children's Panel Mr Gordon McPhee, HighLife Highland Mr Pat Hannan, Welfare Officer, Forces Welfare DCI (Acting) Vince McLaughlin, PPU, H&I Division, Police Scotland Ms Pene Rowe, CP Development Officer, HC Ms Lisa McClymont, Business Support, HC (minutes)</p>		<p>Dr Margaret Somerville, Director of Health, NHS DSup. Kenny Anderson, H&I Div., Police Scotland Dr Annie Griffiths, Lead Doctor in CP, NHS Mr Jim Steven, Head of Education, HC Mr David Goldie, Head of Housing, HC Ms Stephanie Bruce, Director of KCS Mr Andrew Laing, Procurator Fiscal Ms Linda MacLennan-Shareef, PO CP & TCAC Ms Fiona Malcolm, Legal Manager, HC Ms Donna Munro, CP Training Officer, HC Ms Dawn Grant, Area Children's Services Manager – North, HC Mr David Brown, Head of Operations, HMP Inverness Mr Ian Murray, CEO, Highlife Highland Ms Maggie Brownlie (Barnardos), 3rd Sector Interface Mr Steve Barron (Sponsor), CEO Highland Council Ms Mary Morris, Care Inspectorate</p>	
	Item	Summary	Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	<p>Pamela Ross introduced Vince McLaughlin as her successor on the CPC. Bill Alexander expressed the committee's gratitude for Pamela's work as Vice Chair, recognising the enormous impact she had had on child protection in Highland over the years, and wishing her a happy retirement. He welcomed Vince and asked members to introduce themselves for his benefit.</p>	
2.	Minutes of the meeting on 29th April 2014	<p>The minutes were agreed to be a correct account.</p>	

4 cont.		<p>c) E-safety Pene Rowe reported that current arrangements for considering issues around e-safety no longer meet the needs of the CPC. <i>Action: Pene Rowe to organise a meeting between Robert Quigley, Chair of the e-safety group, and Bill Alexander, Sally Amor, Tom Boyd, Fiona Malcolm, the new Youth Convener and a representative of Police Scotland.</i></p>	PRowe
5.	Information Sharing Protocol:	<p>Pene Rowe reported that feedback fell into two camps; those who felt that the 'Highlandised' version of the Perth & Kinross Information Sharing Protocol was exactly what partner agencies needed and those who felt that it duplicated, albeit in greater detail, the information sharing guidance contained in the Highland Practice Model. After some discussion, it was decided to enhance the Highland Practice Model rather than create a separate document. Bill Alexander also requested an updated data-sharing agreement, using the new, standardised template, to include reference to the Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, the guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office and the Caldicott Guardian's interpretation of this. Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bill Alexander to send Pene Rowe the template.</i> • <i>Sally Amor to send Pene Rowe the Caldicott Guardian's wording.</i> • <i>Pene Rowe to produce an updated data sharing agreement.</i> • <i>Bill Alexander to ensure that recommendations are included in the next update of the Highland Practice Model and Pene Rowe to ensure this is mirrored in the next update of the CPC Inter-agency Guidance.</i> 	BA SA PRowe BA/PR
6.	Standing items:	<p>a) Update from Safer Highland: Pamela Ross reported that the Safer Highland structure (circulated with the papers) had been confirmed and verbal updates on progress against current Improvement Plans had been given by partnership Chairs. Of particular interest to the CPC was funding for VAW Partnership to take forward work for victims of crime. MAPPA progress was also relevant.</p> <p>b) Update from National Groups: Pene Rowe spoke to the Scottish Government quarterly briefing paper that had been circulated. Of particular note were:</p> <p>i) Review of SCR Guidance - the consultation paper had been circulated previously for comment. ii) Child Death Reviews - the CPC should be alert to the possibility that it may, in future, be a requirement to follow the English model of reviewing all unexpected child deaths.</p>	

<p>6 cont.</p>	<p>iii) Disabilities Toolkit - This was launched on July 1st. All who attended from Highland would be meeting later in the week to discuss how to take this forward. Action: Donna Munro to bring a report to the October CPC.</p> <p>iv) C&YP Act Guidance Framework - The guidance should be available for initial consultation early in 2015 and the Act is expected to be implemented in the summer of 2016. There was considerable concern expressed at SCPCCF at the suggestion that interpretation of the Act meant that, legally, information could only be shared with the 'named person' and it would be their decision whether the concern was sufficiently significant to share. It had been agreed that Scottish Government would convene a meeting to explore this interpretation further and seek advice from the Information Commissioners Office.</p> <p>v) E-safety Review Tool - A tool had been launched that would allow schools to review their e-safety measures. Pene reported that she had forwarded this information to Robert Quigley.</p> <p>vi) Managing Allegations - CPCs are asked to review the guidance on managing allegations against foster carers and approved kinship carers and feed back to Scottish Government. Action: All to read: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/05/7759 and give feedback to Pene Rowe.</p> <p>vii) CPO ruling – Attention was drawn to the following information: <i>“In February 2013, Lord Brailsford issued an Opinion on two conjoined cases (Jackson and Hackett) that related to the use of child protection orders (CPOs) and requirements to notify parents. They arose from petitions against Sheriff Court rulings on the granting of CPO’s in Renfrewshire and Glasgow City Councils, and it was argued that the parents did not have an ability to make representations before the Sheriff which contravened their right to a fair trial under Article 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) and also Article 8 ECHR, and their right to a family and private life. The court rejected the Article 6 claim, but held that Article 8 had been infringed as in these two specific instances there was no risk to the child or evidence that delay would endanger the child and they were not therefore emergency situations and there was an alternative to a CPO. These cases were very fact specific, and the court does not suggest that parents must be given a chance to be heard before the Sheriff in all CPO’s.”</i></p> <p>c) Update from Health CP Coordinating Group - The minute of this group was noted.</p>	<p>DM</p> <p>All</p>
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7.	FGM:	<p>a) Resource for Schools: Pene Rowe reported that a new resource on identifying the signs that a girl might be at risk of FGM had been launched by Scottish Government. This information had been passed to Cath King and Eliz Macintosh. The resource can be found at: http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/f/fgm.asp?strReferringChannel=educationscotland&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-713590-64</p> <p>b) FGM Protocol: Pamela Ross reported that VAWP has produced a protocol for women and girls, with input from some CPC members. However, Pamela felt that all cases where there might be a risk to the child should be referred for further exploration and determination of the level of risk. The protocol would need to fit with the Police Scotland SOP. Others felt that there was a need to deal with cases proportionately or run the risk of being labelled as racist, as has happened elsewhere. <i>Action: Pamela Ross and Kath Clarke to work with Gillian Gunn to arrive at an amicable compromise position and bring the revised protocol to the October meeting of the CPC.</i></p>	PRoss/ KC
8.	Sexual Violence in School Settings:	<p>Pene Rowe reported that Cath King had produced the circulated protocol as part of the VAWP Improvement Plan and the CPC was asked to endorse it as a cross-cutting issue. A question was raised in respect of which schools had been worked with and what research accessed. Pamela Ross stated that she had some comments to make in relation to rape and MAPPA issues. <i>Action: Bill Alexander to speak with Cath King and request her to consult Pamela Ross about her concerns.</i></p>	BA
9.	Information for Noting	<p>a) Equally Safe – Pene Rowe drew attention to the publication, on June 25th, of Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls.</p> <p>b) SCRA Newsletter – Pene Rowe also drew attention to Issue 17 of the SCRA e-news published on 30th June.</p>	
10.	A.O.C.B	<p>a) Honour for Suzann Barr - Tom Boyd announced that Suzann Barr had been awarded the MBE, for ‘services to vulnerable children in the Highlands’, in the Queen's birthday honours. All present expressed their congratulations.</p> <p>b) Organisational Chart - members asked whether an organisational chart was available for the new Care and Learning Directorate. <i>Action: Bill Alexander to share when finalised.</i></p>	BA
11.	Date of next meeting	<p>The date of the next meeting of the Highland Child Protection Committee is: 21st October 2014 in CR1 at Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Rd, Inverness.</p>	