

HIGHLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday 3rd September 2020, Virtually Via Microsoft TEAMS

PRESENT:

Ms Mhairi Grant – Independent Chair
Ms Karen Ralston – Head of Service (children, YP & Families), Highland Council
Ms. Gillian Pincock – Acting Principal Officer (Health), Highland Council
Ms. Donna-Marie Munro –CP Lead Officer – Highland Child Protection Committee
Dr Stephanie Govenden – Lead Doctor Child Protection, NHS Highland
DI Caroline Mackay – Police Scotland
Mr. Ian Kyle – Head of Integrated Children’s Services, Highland Council
Ms. Karen Erskine – Locality Reporter Manager, H&I Locality, SCRA
Ms. Tracie McDermott – Welfare Support Officer, Army Welfare Service
Ms. Norma Ruettimann – Training & Development Manager, CALA (Keeping Children Safe)
Ms. Linda Munro – Councillor/THC Children’s Services
Ms. Sally Amor – Child Health Commissioner/ Public Health Specialist, NHS Highland
Mr. John Skouse – Link Inspector, Care Inspectorate
Mr. James Martin – Head of Development, Highlife Highland
Ms. Suzann Barr – Lead Panel Rep, Children’s Hearings, Scotland
DCI Richard Baird – PPU, H&I Division, Police Scotland
Ms Nancy Healey – Acting Lead Nurse Child Protection (Health), Highland Council
DI Craig Thomson – Chair, Exploitation Sub-Committee
Ms Vicki Strange – Children’s Hearings Scotland
Ms Heidi May – Board Nurse Director, NHS Highland
Ms Donellen MacKenzie – Director Adult Social Care (in attendance)
Ms Jane Park – Chair CAPSM Sub-Committee
Ms. Mary Cameron – CPC Administration, Highland Council (**Minutes**)

APOLOGIES:

Ms Fiona Malcolm – Legal Manager, Highland Council

	Item	Summary
1.	Welcome & Apologies	Mhairi, in her first official meeting as Independent Chair, welcomed all to the meeting. She announced that Donna has now been confirmed in post of Lead Officer for the Committee.
2.	SCR/ICR Updates (in Camera)	Donna and Mhairi are planning an extra-ordinary meeting of the CPC to discuss outstanding case reviews. Action: Donna/Mhairi to organise date for extra-ordinary meeting
3.	Presentation: Impact of Covid. Donna & Ian	<i>IMPACT OF COVID ON CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES (SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT DATA REPORTING).</i> Donna presented national and local data relating to impact of COVID on children and families. This was based on report presented to Health, Wellbeing and Social Care Committee in August 2020. Copies of the report and presentation are available on request. Key issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to plan for future should further restrictions be put in place • Contact with families is key and risk assessments need to be put in place to ensure face-to-face contact can happen where possible • Support for staff working remotely is key Mhairi noted the CPC's thank you to all practitioners and managers who have done a huge amount of work to keep everything running. Keen for the audit to move forward. Heidi – We need a development session to help us find the solutions together. Action: Donna/Mhairi to organise date for Development Event
4.	Standing Items	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of Previous Meeting – Point 5 amendment: Karen Erskine's comment to be updated to read 'phased return to face-to-face hearings. Apologies Matters Arising – Learning Review findings. Stephanie asked the position of the review into Sexually Harmful Behaviour. A meeting needs to be set regarding RoSHOs, but the first meeting highlighted the issues around the justice system and these need to be resolved, in the past week these same issues have also been highlighted nationally. To be discussed at the case review meeting and ensure that education is involved. Tracie advised that the Armed Forces Protocol is almost ready regarding child protection, final agreement is needed with regard to levels of support for army children/families due to the nature of the lifestyle. Child Protection Dataset – This is the last set in the old existing format, it has run alongside the new format for the past three quarters. The new format provides more detail. Katrina Beaton has worked hard with the CareFirst team to meet all new requirements. It will be used at the December meeting. Stephanie asked if CPC still wanted the 'health' data, the new dataset has no health figures detailed. Yes, will add to the bottom of the form (there is no national log on the new dataset) and run it past the QA commission.

Mhairi advised her and Donna have reviewed the sub-committees, stream lining the reporting process to make sure they are delivered in the same format: standard wording, designated chair and co-chair (ensuring meetings can always proceed), formalization of process and what is expected. The Lead Officer will support the Chairs and look to create a 'year's diary' so there are no overlaps.

d. Sub-committee Updates – exception reporting only

i, Quality Assurance – Next session will focus on the improvement plan. It must be more than a scrutiny body. Calendar of audit to be set, starting with a register of children under CP. Lots of data to hand which will help improve services, but analysis expertise is needed. Proposal to request help for the CPC across all agencies for help with analysis. Agreement from Stephanie, Donellen, Donna and Karen Ralston. **Committee agreed the Mhairi will take the matter to the COG for approval.**

ii, L & D – L & D group met throughout COVID and training has continued on-line, proving very popular. There will be no training held in rooms for some time to come so two new sessions to be developed: Risk Assessment Tool Kit and CP Planning Process. Both are set to be developed by the end of October. Graded Care Profile Training (Neglect) to be opened up to more users. Viewpoint – five sessions set to show ALL social workers the ease of use (and its usefulness) and to launch the new phone app. Plans to open it up to Fostering and Adoption and CHAMPS. Training for the assessment of unborn children rolled out.

iii, CAPSM – Jane (new Chair) advised the group is currently reviewing title and terms of reference – group must have a firm strategic direction and be clear of where and what CAPSM is. Meeting to be held in November with other agencies to ensure there is no overlap of service and we are meeting the needs we are meant to. Donna noted that re-vamp will re-energise the group, CSE recently underwent a similar review (now Exploitation) and it has enlivened the processes. Agreed that CAPSM should be child focused rather than focussing on parental drug and alcohol use alone.

iv, Exploitation (formerly CSE) – Now addresses: sexual, criminal and trafficking (including County Lines). Success is paring back and focusing on specific issues, having realistic targets and having support from a wider group of experts. Early days but indications are good and lots of work being done. Interviews for the new Barnardo's position being held on 9th September. Formalisation of the process of reporting to the police/Barnardo's from home settings is being released tomorrow (04/09/20). Donna noted her thanks for the amount of work Craig has done, pulling this together (alongside normal duties). Protocol is being worked on for supporting 16 & 17 year olds coming to Highland for the purpose of County Lines. Karen E noted that we know our children are being coerced and the new committee is a great way forward. Craig advised the often, when dealing with 16 & 17 year old's, the line between victim and perpetrator can be blurred. He is planning on bi-weekly meetings to keep a check on all active cases.

		<p>v, Keeping Children Safe – Around 2000 child protection e-modules have been accessed. There has been an increase in users, including parents during lockdown. Positive feedback with one negative; those users with hearing impairment would like to have voice capture across the whole range. There has been a 100% increase in usage over the same period last year. A project is being developed in relation to communicating with children not yet at school. Being a large, and broad brief, it is taking time and is being tested at the moment. Delivering community events has not been possible but events have been held on social platforms.</p>
5.	Lead Officer Report	<p>Seminar for elected members, scheduled for 6th November, focusing on ages from childhood to adults. CPC members welcome to attend. Consultation on raising the age of referrals to the Reporter to 16/17 years. Response must be in by 1st November, Donna would welcome a response from CPC members. Karen noted that SCRA will put forward a few points but that it is a government led initiative.</p>
6.	Care and Risk Management Processes	<p>The national CYCJ CARM process was meant to be signed off but many areas do not have a CARM protocol in place. CPC did sign it off. CPC meant to receive regular reviews and data, it looks as though it will be combined with the new dataset. CPC is set to respond to a consultation in October. Since 2014 we should have had scrutiny. There is a requirement that if a child re-offends then an ICR should automatically be triggered. Two key questions: Are we happy with the process? What do we think of the process around case reviews?</p> <p>All to respond to Donna with any feedback</p>
7.	Covid Recovery	<p>It was agreed this topic was fully covered under meeting point 3.</p>
8.	Strengthening Relationships Across Public Protection	<p>CPC is working to strengthen links with Partners (ADP/VAWP/ASPC)</p> <p>All ideas welcome on how to improve working practice and how we can tackle the issues we all face.</p> <p>Mhairi to discuss at Chief Officer Group. Donna and Mhairi to meet with Chair of COG</p>
9.	National Updates	<p>Mhairi is on the National Trafficking Group. There is a three-year strategy on the Trafficking and Exploitation Act, which needs revision. Training to be carried out on Assessments of Children in Trafficking. Ongoing issues: Scottish govt CP guidance, Guardian Service for Victims – currently there is enough funding for 80 people, Ideas for a protocol for supporting 16 & 17 year olds’, Process for the decision making regarding said 16/17 year olds and their referral (a UK govt led initiative to be piloted in Glasgow, Jan 2021) and a national discussion around data.</p> <p>CPC members to let Mhairi or Donna know if they have or want to raise a national issue.</p> <p>National CP campaign is imminent, within the next two weeks. Possible reviewed to include ALL children.</p>
10.	AOCB	<p>Tracie – Director of Children and Young People (MOD) currently reviewing the EY provision offered to service children. An independent report into the armed forces and welfare support for families has been carried out. It is a damning report with 114 recommendations including engagement with outside agencies. Report is titled ‘Living In Our Shoes’.</p> <p>Tracie to share report with CPC members</p>

		<p>Nancy – Try and re-establish relations between CPC and Osprey House, they are keen to be part of the partnership.</p> <p>Gillian – concern over the number of, and method of, enquires from the NCA regarding children’s addresses. Extensive personal details are requested, usually out of the blue, not sent to the same point of contact. Gillian to send latest request to Richard and Craig who will investigate. We need a central point of contact to respond to such requests (the information is highly sensitive). Donna will check with other agencies to see how they handle the issue.</p> <p>Norma – Children’s Rights Legislation, will we look at specific articles in relation to the functions of CPC – to be future agenda item</p> <p>Donna – Congratulations to James and HLH on their Bounce Back programme.</p> <p>James – It has been a bumpy road and priority has been given to education but HLH have been acutely aware of the physical and mental wellbeing of children/young people and hopefully everything is on track to open within the next two weeks – situation permitting.</p> <p>Mhairi closed the meeting, thanking everyone for their time and advising a date will be issued regarding the extraordinary meeting on ICRs/SCRs.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held 03/12/2020.</p>
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