

HIGHLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held on 29TH September 2009, Committee Room 2, Highland Council HQ, INVERNESS

Present:

Mr Alistair Dodds, Chief Executive, HC (Chair)
 Ms Harriet Dempster, Director of Social Work, HC (VC)
 Mr Tom Boyd, Authority Reporter, Highland SCRA
 Ms Jan Baird, Director of Community Care, NHS Highland
 Mr Steve Barron – Director of Housing and Property
 Mr Bill Alexander, Head of Children’s Services, HC&NHS
 Mr Magnus Monaghan, Highland Youth Convenor
 Ms Audrey Anthoney, Snr Youth Dev Officer, HC
 DCI Stephen Mackay, Northern Constabulary
 Mr Ken Ross, Vice Chair Children’s Panel
 Ms Fiona Malcolm, Solicitor, Highland Council
 Ms Beth Smith, Director, MARS (By invitation)
 Ms Pene Rowe, CP Development Officer, HCPC
 Ms Lisa McClymont, Clerk to HCPC (minutes)

Apologies:

Mr Roger Gibbins, NHS Highland
 Mr Ian Latimer, Chief Constable, Northern Constabulary
 Mr Andrew Laing, Procurator Fiscal
 Mr Hugh Fraser Director of Education Culture & Sport, HC
 Ms Rhona Morrison, Chair of the Children’s Panel
 Detective Superintendent Ralph Noble
 Mr Stewart Fraser, Legal Manager, Highland Council

	Item	Summary of Discussion	Action Required
1.	Welcome and Apologies	Apologies were noted. It was noted that DCI Stephen Mackay was attending on behalf of DS Noble. Mr Alistair Dodds welcomed Mr Magnus Monaghan, Highland Youth Convenor and Ms Audrey Anthoney, Senior Youth Development Officer to their first meeting. Ms Audrey Anthoney is in attendance to support Mr Magnus Monaghan. Mr Magnus Monaghan then gave a short speech informing the HCPC of his role. Mr Alistair Dodds also welcomed Ms Beth Smith, Director of Multi Agency Resource Service who is at this meeting of the HCPC to give a presentation.	
2.	Minutes of 31st March and 23rd June 2009	31st March 2009 – These minutes were accepted as a true record of that meeting: Item 9 – Standing Items (LOG Minutes) – the following amendment was noted; should read “difficulty in covering the paediatric rota was due to national recruitment difficulties”.	

		23 rd June 2009 – these minutes were also accepted as a true record of that meeting.	
3.	Matters Arising	<p>March 31st:</p> <p>Item 4- Child Protection Messaging /e-care connection for GIRFEC – Mr Bill Alexander reported that whilst Social Work was ready by June 2009 as stated, unfortunately the software was not. Connection will be by the end of this year.</p> <p>Item 7-Baby P – the letter to staff has been circulated.</p> <p>Item 3-Annual Report – Ms Pene Rowe advised that a summary of the Annual Report has been distributed within Highland Life magazine and across Highland.</p> <p>June 23rd:</p> <p>All matters arising are dealt with on the main agenda.</p>	
4.	Multi-Agency Resource Service	<p>Ms Beth Smith, Director of Multi Agency Resource Service (MARS) gave apologies for Jane Scott, Implementation Co-ordinator, who was unable to attend this meeting. MARS is based at the University of Stirling and is supported by a multi-agency steering group. Ms Beth Smith came into post in May and to date has been concentrating on consolidating the team, visiting all CPC's and establishing networks and contacts. Ms Smith went on to give a presentation to the committee on the work of the Multi Agency Resource Service and distributed a leaflet to accompany her presentation. Feedback and questions after the presentation were heard. Mr Tom Boyd commented that it was a small team with a large remit and that managing expectations had come across strongly from the presentations. Mr Boyd asked Ms Smith to identify her top three priorities for the coming year and these were identified as 1) funding to be absolutely clear for long term sustainability, 2)the development of an interactive webspace and 3) CP Training. Mr Alistair Dodds queried how Ms Smith envisioned communication going forward with this CPC. Ms Smith advised that communication at the moment would be through Ms Pene Rowe but that this is one of the points this committee needs to consider, as set out in the distributed paper. It was agreed that HCPC would provide a formal response to this paper. The committee went on to discuss Quality Assurance with regards to the panel of experts and Ms Smith advised that there will be a database of expertise and all experts will need to evidence their knowledge and provide two references. Ms Dempster thanked Ms Smith for attending this meeting and wished her success with the launch of MARS. Ms Smith left the meeting.</p>	HCPC to formally reply to MARS paper.

5.	Public Protection	<p>Update – Mr Bill Alexander updated the committee. The next meeting of the group will be on the 9th of October and Ms Harriet Dempster will be the Chair.</p> <p>Populated Template – the revised workplan was distributed for ratification. Ms Harriet Dempster requested that a column is added to show what is happening when an item is on red. This was agreed. Ms Jan Baird requested a legend and timescale be added to the BRAG rating system as whilst the workplan falls within the three year timescale it would be helpful to have an indication of anticipated completion times within these three years. This was also agreed. Mr Tom Boyd requested that aim 11 – Evaluation be divided into two parts as whilst <u>process</u> is green at the moment <u>quality</u> should be noted as amber. This was agreed. The committee went on to discuss the workplan and self evaluation. It was further agreed that this would be looked at on the 1st of December.</p> <p>Mr Alexander went on to distribute the SAFE pages of the Children’s Plan and asked the CPC to consider the key outcome targets at the beginning of the document. It was agreed the Mr Alexander would meet with Mr Boyd. It was also agreed that Mr Alexander would then meet with Mr Dodds. The committee went on to discuss Child Trafficking and Runaways.</p>	<p>MS PR to make changes to workplan</p> <p>Mr BA to meet with MR TB and MR AD</p>
6.	Preparation for Inspection	<p>Mr Alexander talked through the preparation for inspection paper and proposed that this is worked through at the review day. This was agreed. Ms Rowe will be helping Mr Alexander produce the document by the end of November. Ms Rowe had provisionally fixed the 1st of October as the date which the Inspectors would be working back a year from, but this was based on the letter from HMIE having arrived by now. It was agreed that despite the letter not having arrived yet, this date should stand.</p>	
7.	Local Issues	<p>A briefing had been circulated with the CPC papers, for general information. Mrs Pene Rowe brought the following points to the attention of committee members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Support – Production of support materials for staff who disclose during training session. Agreed. • Swine Flu – The deployment of staff that have not been checked top work with children was discussed. Ms Dempster advised that guidance should follow on this. Mr Dodds advised that this is a serious issue and it was agreed that staff that have not been checked need to be working with a member of staff who has. • Sexual Health Group – LOG has suggested that the PF should be on this group – this was agreed. • Children’s Hearings – to be on next CPC agenda. Ms Dempster advised that Mr Boyd’s paper on this has been very influential nationally. 	<p>PF to be invited onto Sexual Health Group.</p>

8.	National Issues	National CPC Chairs Update – for info	
9.	Standing Items	LOG minutes – for info. Mr Alexander talked through his paper on JIIT and asked the committee to consider an amendment to the guidance for the next 12 months to cover new Social Workers who have not been able to access JIIT. Ms Dempster suggested a rewording to say that if possible staff should have JIIT. It was agreed that a temporary amendum be added and that this will be reviewed in a year. Mr Alexander agreed to make sure that the police are involved in the shorter focused course.	Temp amendment of guidance – review in 12 months
10.	SCR and CIRs	KK – Mr Alexander advised that Polish authorities have confirmed the safe arrival of KK. Mr Alexander suggested that the action plan is monitored at LOG and reported back to the CPC, this was agreed. Brandon Muir review - Mr Alexander presented the paper and advised that it is largely the same as Ms Dempsters report but has listed all recommendations that went to Dundee CPC and Highlands’s position in relation to these. Mr Alexander went on to report on Easter Ross pilot of Domestic Abuse management (MARAC) which is the only pilot of this kind that appears to be doing well in respect of working with GIRFEC. Mr Stephen Mackay explained the police position on this and agreed that an evaluation of what is happening with the pilot in Easter Ross is needed.	
11.	A.O.B	Ms Dempster advised the committee that Julia Nelson, a member of Integrated Services staff has received a Health Award. Mr Dodds raised the issue of CP training for Mr Magnus Monaghan; this was discussed further and agreed.	PR to speak to Donna Munro