

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 7 JUNE 2016

COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICE, HIGH STREET, ELGIN

PRESENT

Mrs Susan Maclaren	Head of Integrated Children's Services, The Moray Council (Chair)
Mr Sean Coady	Community Health Services Manager, NHS Grampian (Vice Chair) The Moray Council
Councillor Mike Shand	The Moray Council
Councillor Allan Wright	The Moray Council
Detective Inspector Alan Armit, substituting for Detective Chief Inspector Stewart Sloan	Police Scotland
Ms Sheila Erskine	Voluntary Sector Representative (tsiMoray) Scottish Children's Reporter Representatives
Mr Patrick Hannon	Armed Forces Representative
Mr Laurence Findlay	Corporate Director (Education and Social Care), The Moray Council (Ex-Officio)
Ms Vivienne Cross	Head of Schools and Curriculum Development, The Moray Council (Ex-Officio)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor John Divers, The Moray Council; and Ms Jill Richards and Ms Elizabeth Templeton, Scottish Children's Reporter Representatives.

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms Jennie Williams, Area Operations Manager; Ms Lorraine Currie, Strategic Coordinator for Child Health (both NHS Grampian); Ms Jenny O'Hagan, Continuous Improvement Officer (for item 2), Mr Stuart Lamberton, Partnership Officer Child Protection and Mrs Caroline Howie, Committee Services Officer, as Clerk to the Committee (all the Moray Council).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors G Alexander and A Skene attended to gain insight into the forthcoming visit by the Care Inspectorate and to observe proceedings.

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The meeting agreed to vary the order of business set down on the agenda and take item 10 "Children Services Inspection 2016" as the first item of business in order to allow Ms O'Hagan, who was presenting the report, to depart the meeting at the earliest convenience.

2. CHILDREN SERVICES INSPECTION 2016

A report by the Partnership Officer Child Protection updated the Committee on the upcoming Children Services Inspection.

Ms O'Hagan advised the meeting she had been informed the inspectors from the Care Inspectorate would be carrying out their inspection over 3 weeks from 22 August to 9 September. Where possible the inspectors may wish to attend a selection of pre-arranged meetings. Evidence of how self-evaluation takes place to identify where work is progressing well, where improvements can be made, and what is being done to make improvements will be required to be sent to the Care Inspectorate in advance of the inspection. It was requested that all provide relevant evidence to Ms O'Hagan.

The Chair requested that all contact with the Care Inspectorate be via Ms O'Hagan.

During discussion the Chair undertook to issue a link to the Quality Improvement Framework that the Care Inspectorate use, in order that everyone could familiarise themselves with the Quality Indicators when submitting evidence.

Thereafter the Committee noted the content of the report and agreed to:

- i) forward required evidence in advance of the inspection; and
- ii) the Chair issuing a link to the Quality Improvement Framework.

Councillor Skene and Ms O'Hagan left the meeting at this juncture.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE DATED 15 MARCH 2016 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minute of the meeting of the Moray Child Protection Committee dated 15 March 2016 was submitted for approval.

Ms Cross advised her role had been made permanent prior to the meeting of 15 March and asked for acting to be removed from her title.

With this change the minute was agreed.

4. KEY THEMES FROM DEVELOPMENT DAY HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2015

A report by the Partnership Officer Child Protection updated the Committee on the key themes identified from the development day.

Consideration was given to attendance at case conferences and it was noted there was no representative from Housing in attendance. The Chair undertook to review this with the Head of Housing & Property.

Discussion took place in respect of the Named Person (NP) scheme. Councillor Wright stated there was a lack of clarity and confusion amongst the public. The Chair advised the co-ordinating group will ensure the dissemination of information alongside the Child Protection Committee and that the roles and responsibilities of staff have become clearer with the ongoing Moray Learning and Development Group training.

The Chair advised there was a perception parents could opt out of the scheme but this is not the case; parents can refuse to engage with the NP but the NP still has legal responsibilities regardless of parental involvement.

During further discussion it was agreed a further Development Day would be held in November 2016.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to:

- i) note the content of the report;
- ii) task the Chair with contacting the Head of Housing & Property to seek a representative to attend case conferences;
- iii) the action to address the key themes identified in the development day feedback; and
- iv) a further Development Day to be arranged for November 2016.

5. CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES SCOTLAND

The Chair provided the meeting with a verbal update on Child Protection Committees in Scotland.

She advised she had attended the National Strategic Leadership Summit on Child Protection where a number of key personnel were in attendance. No decisions were taken at the Summit.

6. FUTURE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

A report by the Chair advised Committee of recent discussions in relation to the future governance for child protection in the Grampian area.

Concerns were raised over funding, as once the pan Grampian arrangements are removed the current funding arrangements will cease.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) note the content of the report and support the removal of the remaining pan Grampian arrangements given each Local Authority within Grampian has either established, or is in the process of establishing, its own Chief Officers Group (COG) as per National Guidance; and thereafter what impact this may have upon the Moray Child Protection Committee (CPC);
- ii) task officers to consider necessary funding to enable the CPC to discharge its role and function; and

- iii) the governance and reporting arrangements in relation to these matters in so far as they relate to the CPC.

The Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) entered the meeting during discussion of this item.

7. POLICE SCOTLAND CONCERN HUB – PROOF OF CONCEPT

A report by Detective Inspector Fiona Topping, Police Scotland Concern Hub, advised the Committee of the Police Scotland National Risk and Concern Project 'Proof of Concept' implemented on 1 February 2016 in North East Division.

Discussions took place in respect of the possibility of a single point of contact, the Named Person process and the validity of Concern Reports that were being issued.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to note the content of the report.

8. CHILD PROTECTION CASE CONFERENCE PROCEDURE

A report by the Partnership Officer Child Protection updated the Committee on the Child Protection Case Conference (CPCC) procedure.

During discussion it was agreed a link to the CPCC procedure, attached as appendix 1 of the report, would be put on the Child Protection website. It was agreed that a watermark would be applied to the document stating "Obsolete once printed" to indicate that only the copy on the website could be guaranteed as the up to date version.

Mr Hannon, the Armed Forces Representative, queried whether the Partnership Officer Child Protection had an updated copy of the form used by the Armed Forces. To ensure the current version was in use Mr Hannon undertook to forward a copy to the Partnership Officer Child Protection.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to:

- i) approve the CPCC procedure;
- ii) a link to the CPCC procedure being made available on the Child Protection website, suitably watermarked; and
- iii) Mr Hannon forwarding a copy of the current Armed Forces form to the Partnership Officer Child Protection.

9. MORAY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

A report by the Partnership Officer Child Protection updated the Committee on the Moray Learning and Development Group.

During discussion paragraph 3.5 of the report was highlighted. The Committee agreed the Moray Learning and Development Group would be tasked with doing a cost analysis of recent training. A report on the effectiveness of the training to be submitted to Committee in December for consideration of future funding and support.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to note the content of the report.

10. AGENCY UPDATES

The Committee noted the following verbal agency updates:

Police Scotland

Detective Inspector Alan Armit advised that Police Scotland would be focussing on child sexual exploitation during the month of June.

NHS Grampian

Ms Currie advised that the annual review of the Family Nurse Partnership was taking place on 16 June.

Ms Williams advised the specialist nurse for Child Protection was retiring and her replacement would be taking up post on 13 June.

11. AOCB

The Chair advised a Gold Meeting had been called in relation to a specific child protection investigation and if an update was required this would be issued in due course.

The Chair advised the SOLACE Chief Social Work Officer Meeting had been briefed on the historical abuse of children in care and undertook to issue a briefing. There is a significant amount of research to be carried out to establish how many establishments there have been in Moray previously and where the records are held.