

EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION CHIEF OFFICERS' GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5 MAY 2009 AT 1530 HOURS IN THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S CONFERENCE ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; and Susan Taylor, Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice, all East Ayrshire Council; Chief Superintendent William Fitzpatrick, Strathclyde Police; and Fiona McQueen, Lead Director (Child Protection), NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

ATTENDING: Gillian Hamilton, Administrative Officer, East Ayrshire Council.

ALSO ATTENDING: Kay Gilmour, Head of Service: Community Support, East Ayrshire Council and Maureen Bell, Nurse Consultant for Vulnerable Children, NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

APOLOGIES; Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; East Ayrshire Council; and Wai Yin Hatton, Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

CHAIR: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council, Chair.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. There were submitted minutes of the previous meeting of the Chief Officers' Group held on 19 March 2009 (circulated).

It was agreed:-

- (i) to amend paragraph 2 of the minutes to reflect that the Significant Case Review (AH) report contain separate chronologies for each family member, that all agencies be interviewed during the review and that the Significant Case Review report contain a description of what the family were like to work with;
- (ii) to amend paragraph 3 (ii) of the minutes to reflect that agencies would only be interviewed during the review process to clarify information which was not available from case files; and
- (iii) otherwise to approve the minutes.

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REVIEW

2. There was submitted final draft report dated 30 April 2009 by the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee on a Significant Incident Review (circulated).

During discussion on the report it was noted that:-

- (i) the passage of time did not prevent information being obtained on M's prescribed medication (page 5, paragraph 2) however subsequent information contained in the report was more significant in terms of understanding M's lifestyle;
- (ii) information on East Renfrewshire's last recorded contact in July 2003 (page 5, paragraph 3) was taken from East Renfrewshire cases files. The Review Team had experienced difficulty in obtaining the case files from

East Renfrewshire and the whole files had not been made available to them;

- (iii) the family received no support from East Renfrewshire Social Work Services after July 2003. The first time East Ayrshire Social Work Services came involved was in June 2004 in response to M's request for Social Work assistance with a housing application;
- (iv) in the Review Team's opinion, interviewing East Renfrewshire Police and GP would not inform the review further;
- (v) during 2003/04 the family had a nomadic lifestyle moving between a number of addresses in East Renfrewshire and East Ayrshire. This made contacts with the family difficult;
- (vi) F2 had 4 other children to 3 previous relationships. All are now adults;
- (vii) if medication prescribed to M caused illness in child A, this raised questions about prescribing practice (page 9, paragraph 1);
- (viii) tenancy concerns highlighted risks to the children which were not acknowledged by workers (page 10, paragraph 1); and
- (ix) there were issues with the case discussion held on 30 November 2004 in terms of decisions made in the family's absence and subsequent recording and decimation of information to relevant agencies.

It was then agreed:-

- (i) to seek clarification of some issues prior to the report being finalised;
- (ii) to make further amendments to the report as contained in the Appendix to these minutes;
- (iii) that the report and action plan be finalised for consideration at the next meeting of the Chief Officers' Group to be held on 2 June 2009; and
- (iv) that the Child Protection Committee liaise with the Council's Freedom of Information Officer regarding a proposed plan for disseminating the key findings and recommendations.

The meeting terminated at 1545 hours.