

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19 MAY 2009 AT 1330 HOURS IN THE NORTH WEST KILMARNOCK AREA CENTRE, WESTERN ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Susan Taylor, Head of Service: Children and Families and Criminal Justice; Kay Gilmour, Head of Service: Community Support; Chris McAleavey, Head of Housing; Cecilia Gray, Senior Manager, Children and Families; and Dorothy McAvoy, Assistant Principal Officer (Early Education and Child Care), all East Ayrshire Council; Karen Wallace, Authority Reporter, SCRA; Dr Sheila Smith, Paediatrician (Child Protection); and Maureen Bell, Consultant for Vulnerable Children, both NHS Ayrshire & Arran; Detective Inspector David Summerhill, Strathclyde Police; Joanne Sharp, General Manager, Children's, Women's and Sexual Health Services; Janet Marshall, East Ayrshire Children's Panel Chair; and Frances Milne and Diane Burns, Joint Multi-Agency Child Protection Coordinators.

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

ALSO ATTENDING: Duncan Binning, Charge Nurse with Addiction Services, NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

APOLOGIES: Stuart McMillan, Procurator Fiscal Depute; Anne Ritchie, Lecturer in Social Work, University of West of Scotland; and Superintendent Douglas Robertson, Strathclyde Police.

CHAIR: Susan Taylor, Head of Service: Children and Families and Criminal Justice, East Ayrshire Council.

WELCOME

1. The Committee welcomed Cecilia Gray, Senior Manager, Children and Families to her first meeting of the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee, and Duncan Binning, Charge Nurse who would give a presentation on NHS Addiction Services.

CHILD PROTECTION PORTAL

2. Arising from discussion of agenda circulation arrangements, it was agreed that the Administrative Officer contact IT Services regarding the possibility of a portal for Committee papers.

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3. The Committee approved the minutes of the Child Protection Committee meeting held on 9 February 2009.

3.1 Matters Arising

3.1.1 Non Disclosure of Place of Residence and Whereabouts

It was noted:-

- (i) NHS Managers were currently drafting non disclosure guidance for internal use;

- (ii) SCRA were issuing fortnightly a list of non disclosures to the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services. Karen Wallace undertook to check whether SCRA would consider widening distribution to include NHS and report back; and
- (iii) Jaine Best and Alison Findlay were working on a local protocol for non disclosure and would keep Maureen Bell apprised.

3.2 NHS Representation on Child Protection Committees

NHS had scheduled a meeting to review representation on Child Protection Committees and Joanne Sharpe would report back to the next meeting.

3.3 Independent Evaluation of GIRFEC Group

Susan Taylor would raise this matter with the Chief Officers' Group.

PRESENTATION ON NHS ADDICTION SERVICES

- 4. An overview of NHS Addiction Services was given by Duncan Binning, Charge Nurse, Community Addictions. This was followed by a question and answer session. The Committee then requested additional information on performance and successes and thanked Duncan Binning for his presentation. Duncan Binning and Janet Marshall left the meeting.

HMIE 3 YEAR INSPECTION CYCLE AND REVISED QUALITY INDICATORS

- 5. The Committee heard Diane Burns on this matter and noted:-
 - (i) the proposed 3 year cycle of HMIE inspections and revised quality indicators;
 - (ii) that the HMIE revisit to East Ayrshire would take place under the 3 year cycle of inspections and would be carried out between 26 November and 9 November 2009; and
 - (iii) that HMIE would help with building capacity for self evaluation by providing a Link Inspector to each local authority area and the link Inspector for East Ayrshire would be Fiona McManus.

PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT SUB-GROUP REPORT

- 6. The Committee heard Maureen Bell on:-
 - the Assessing Risks and Needs Action Plan which detailed self evaluation activity to be completed or overseen by the Sub-group, including gaining the views of children and their families who have experienced the child protection process;
 - the establishment of a file sampling group to carry out the file sampling work of the self evaluation plan;
 - the need for a full evaluation of the GIRFEC Group as part of the self evaluation process; and
 - a supervision checklist drafted as an aid to ensuring evaluation in child protection practice.

It was then agreed:-

- (i) that consideration be given to alternative ways to carry out file sampling, for example through a time out learning opportunity;
- (ii) that the Committee's calendar of meetings be amended to facilitate meetings at the end of August (as opposed to September) then October, to enable better alignment with the HMIE inspection timetable;
- (iii) to consider extending self evaluation activity beyond areas highlighted for improvement by HMIE; and
- (iv) that the Chair of the Child Protection Meeting meet with all Sub-group Chairs on a regular basis.

TRAINING SUB-GROUP REPORT

7. The Committee heard Francis Milne on:-

- the Multi-Agency Child Protection training calendar;
- the Multi-Agency Child Protection training day; and
- funding for training.

It was then agreed:-

- (i) to approve the training calendar for distribution to all agencies and publication on the Child Protection Committee web pages; and
- (ii) to note that dedicated and specific funding to support the work of the committee did not compare favourably with that available to other local authorities and Susan Taylor would take this up with the Chief Officers' Group.

PRACTITIONERS SUB-GROUP REPORT

8. The Committee heard Diane Burns on:

- reviewing the aims, functions and membership of the Sub-group;
- key issues raised by the Practitioners Forum in relation to the GIRFEC Group;
- a presentation on Social Work Eligibility Criteria; and
- proposals for future Practitioners Forums.

It was then agreed:-

- (i) that a Child Protection Committee newsletter be developed;
- (ii) that the newsletter be sustainable and in an electronic format;
- (iii) that sample single agency newsletters and the IAF newsletter be emailed to Diane;
- (iv) to consider voluntary sector representation on the Sub-group and extending representation from agencies; and
- (v) that Cecilia Gray revisit the GIRFEC Group operating procedures in light of the issues raised by the Practitioners Forum.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SUB-GROUP

9. The Committee heard Dorothy McAvoy on:-

- the online children and youth survey;
- child protection information for school homework diaries;
- West of Scotland Child Protection Committee Translation Project;
- the receipt of online submissions regarding the child protection concerns passed to social work services;
- the sub-groups involvement in Ross Drummond's research project on Child Protection Committee Public Information and Communication Strategies in Scotland;
- progress with actions from the business plan for HMIE inspection;
- development of a communications strategy in respect of which a draft proposal would be prepared for the next meeting;
- redistribution of child protection materials in the community during June 2009;
- comments received through the online youth survey in respect of the Child Protection Committee logo; and
- the children's safety week in Scotland commencing 1 June 2009.

It was then agreed:-

- (i) to approve participation in the Translation Project; and
- (ii) to continue with the current child protection logo until the end of the current business plan in 2011 at which time it could be reviewed.

ANNUAL REPORT AND BUSINESS PLAN

10. The annual report and business plan would be circulated to members for consultation two weeks before the Development Day on 22 June 2009. Thereafter, the Annual Report and Business Plan would be submitted to a Special Child Protection Committee meeting to be arranged during the summer.

JOINT AREA REVIEW HARINGAY CHILDREN'S SERVICES AUTHORITY AREA AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN ENGLAND: A PROGRESS REPORT

11. It was agreed that comments on these documents be forwarded to Diane Burns.

It was also agreed:-

- that the Performance and Audit Sub-group take forward the incorporation of single agency Action Plans into the table of Key Recommendations appended to the Haringay report; and
- that the recommendations from the Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report also be incorporated into the aforementioned table.

SIGNIFICANT CASE REVIEW

12. Maureen Bell reported that the ongoing significant case review report was being amended and would be submitted to the Chief Officers' Group for approval.

SIGNIFICANT CASE REVIEW

13. Joanne Sharpe reported that a first draft report on the new significant case review had been discussed by the Review Panel. There were no immediate actions arising from the review. The Panel were now considering a revised format for the report and would review a second draft during June. The final document would be submitted to the Child Protection Committee in August.

Susan Taylor advised that a recent case which was subject to criminal prosecution processes did not meet the criteria for a significant case review as the child had not been subject to a multi agency protection plan. However, consideration would be given to any broader child protection issues highlighted by the incident.

CHILD PROTECTION ORDERS

14. May Dunsmuir and Jaine Best were currently reviewing the use of Child Protection Orders over the past year and a report would be submitted to the next meeting. An initial impression was that there was no inappropriate action taken in respect of Child Protection Orders and usage trends were symptomatic of East Ayrshire. It was agreed to look at (i) the "Edinburgh case" for earlier opportunities for review prior to Child Protection Order requirement and (ii) level of evidence required for court.

GENDER BASED ACTION PLAN

15. Joanne Sharpe reported that the Gender Based Action Plan was still in draft. Further guidance was awaited from the Scottish Government regarding the required template. The Plan would be submitted to the Child Protection Committee in due course for information.

STATISTICAL REPORT

16. Diane Burns presented a statistical report for the period from 1 January to 31 March 2009.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to consider submitting a proposal to Community Planning Partners to fund research to inform better understanding of the statistics for East Ayrshire; and
- (ii) that a quarterly statistical report submitted by SCRA be presented separately to Committee pending incorporation into an integrated report in the longer term.

It was further noted that a common performance reporting framework for the 3 Ayrshire's had been raised at a meeting attended by Joanne Sharpe and the 3 Child Protection Committee Chairs.

INFORMATION ITEMS

16. The Committee received the undernoted agenda items for information:-
- (i) Chief Officers' Group minutes of 19 March 2009;
 - (ii) Adult Protection Committee minutes of 24 February 2009;
 - (iii) Annual Conference and Evaluation report;

- (iv) Trafficked Children report;
- (v) Information Sharing Protocol report;
- (vi) Child Protection Committee Development Day report;
- (vii) Future of Child Protection Conference report;
- (viii) HMle Inspection reports;
- (ix) National Chairs Minutes of 17 March 2009;
- (x) West of Scotland Minutes of 5 February 2009;
- (xi) Forced Marriage Consultation Response;
- (xii) Protocol for Member Application for External Training Events; and
- (xiii) Vulnerable Young Persons report.

Arising from discussion on the Chief Officers' Group minutes and Adult Protection Committee minutes it was noted that it was proposed that links between the Child Protection Committee, Adult Protection Committee and MAPPA be strengthened. This includes consideration of co-locating the Coordinators with a resource infrastructure, in respect of which feasibility work required to be carried out. Susan Taylor would circulate a draft report for comment in due course.

In relation to trafficked children, Diane Burns had attended a recent conference on formal procedures for tracking and recording trafficked children. The Practitioner's Sub-group would develop a protocol for this, possibly Ayrshire wide.

Comments on the Inter Agency Staff Guidance for Working with Vulnerable Children and Young People at Risk of Significant Harm were invited and should be forwarded to Diane Burns.

The meeting terminated at 1700 hours.