

AGENDA ITEM 9

EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE NOTE OF MEETING

24 JANUARY 2011

(POSTPONED 7 DECEMBER 2010)



PRESENT:

Susan Taylor, Chair of Child Protection Committee/Head of Service: Children and Families and Criminal Justice, East Ayrshire Council;

Cecilia Gray, Senior Manager, Locality Services, Children and Families, East Ayrshire Council;

Maureen Bell, Nurse Consultant for Vulnerable Children, NHS Ayrshire & Arran;

Donna McKee, Clinical Nurse Manager, Early Years, NHS Ayrshire and Arran;

Janet Marshall, East Ayrshire Children's Panel Chair;

Liam Wells, Team Manager, Substance Misuse, Community Care, East Ayrshire Council;

Eugene Fitzpatrick, Service Manager, Criminal Justice, Children and Families, East Ayrshire Council.

ATTENDING:

Diane Burns, Child Protection Co-ordinator; and

Gillian Hamilton, Administrative Officer, East Ayrshire Council.

APOLOGIES:

Karen Wallace, Authority Reporter, SCRA;

Detective Inspector David Summerhill, Ayrshire Family Protection Unit, Strathclyde Police;

Superintendent Helen Swann, Strathclyde Police;

Joanne Sharp, Health Care Manager, Children's, Women's and Sexual Health Services, NHS Ayrshire and Arran;

Kay Gilmour, Head of Service: Community Support, East Ayrshire Council;

Chris McAleavey, Head of Service: Housing, East Ayrshire Council;

Stuart McMillan, Procurator Fiscal Depute; and

Dr Sheila Smith, Associate Specialist Paediatrician for Child Protection, NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

CHAIR:

Susan Taylor, Chair of Child Protection Committee/Head of Service: Children, Families and Criminal Justice, East Ayrshire Council.

	SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>There were submitted and approved as a correct record Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 September 2010 (circulated).</p>	
2.	<p>SERVICE REDESIGN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES</p> <p>The Committee received a presentation from Cecilia Gray on work which was taking place within the Children and Families Social Work Service to improve outcomes for children and young people. This has involved structural, cultural and practice changes. Details of the new service design was shared with staff.</p> <p>The Committee noted the presentation.</p> <p>The Committee also noted that a report on recommendations approved by the NHS Board in respect of a review of Community Nursing would be considered by the Officer Locality Groups.</p> <p>Janet Marshall joined the meeting during the above presentation.</p>	
3.	<p>CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT</p> <p>The Committee received a report on the Child Protection Co-ordinator's activity and it was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to note the launch of national guidance for child protection in Scotland; the completion of the West of Scotland Interagency Child Protection Procedures and the publication of national guidance on underage sexual activity. These documents were reported to the Chief Officers Group at their meeting on 21 December 2010; (ii) to note that Cecilia Gray would lead on implementation of the procedures and Maureen Bell would provide support with this task; (iii) to receive a full report on progress at the next meeting; (iv) to note progress with the review of the Girfec early screening process; and (v) otherwise to note the report. 	
4.	<p>EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION SUB-GROUP</p> <p>(i) Public Engagement and Information</p> <p>The committee received a report which provided an update on the Public Engagement and Information Sub-Group and sought approval for forward planning changes.</p>	

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the development of a combined Adult and Child Protection Public Engagement and Information Group;
- (ii) to note that the proposal for a bespoke infomercial would be taken forward with the University of West of Scotland;
- (iii) to approve the recommendations in paragraph 4 of the report relating to forward planning; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the group's progress.

(ii) Performance and Quality

The committee received a report on the Performance and Quality Sub-group and it was agreed:

- (i) to recognise the challenges associated with achieving the case file audit, as detailed in paragraph 2.4 of the report;
- (ii) that 8 case files be audited during February and 8 during March 2011;
- (iii) to take steps to develop, with input from Organisational Development, a wider pool of file auditors; and
- (iv) to note the report.

(iii) Learning and Development

The committee received a report which provided an update on the Learning and Development Group and it was agreed:

- (i) to note the establishment of a short life working group to address the need for chronology and record keeping training;
- (ii) to note progress with the development of a multi-agency training requirements matrix;
- (iii) to note details of non-attendance at training courses as appended to the report;
- (iv) to seek clarification as to whether line managers were receiving information to enable them to establish reasons for non-attendance; and
- (v) to note the report.

(iv) Practitioners Group

	<p>The committee received a verbal update from Diane Burns and agreed that a full report on progress with the Practitioners Sub-group and Practitioners Forum be submitted to the next meeting.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>STATISTICAL REPORT</p> <p>(i) Statistical Report for Period 1 July to 30 September 2010</p> <p>The Committee received a report on Child Protection Activity in East Ayrshire for the above period based on data taken from the Social Work Information System divided between the North and South of the Authority to allow for an analysis of key themes and demand in the specific areas.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to note the new reporting format; (ii) to note that future reports would include a comparative analysis of statistics with the preceding reporting period; (iii) that a year end statistical report be submitted to Committee analysing trends; (iv) that an analysis of attendance at case conferences be submitted to the next meeting, to enable the Committee to identify and where possible tackle reasons for non-attendance. An appropriate time period for this exercise would be considered; (v) to note the statistics relating to the work of the Girfec early screening group; (vi) to note the snapshot of workforce data, and that this should correspond with the statistical reporting period; (vii) that NHS Ayrshire and Arran be advised of the reporting dates and times for (vi) above; (vii) to develop the health workforce data to show the number of people in post against full establishment; (ix) that future reports include workforce data for Strathclyde Police Public Protection Unit (for joint investigations); and (x) to note the report. <p>It was further agreed to request that Strathclyde Police submit a report to a future meeting on the detention of children, to provide Committee with an understanding of the issues and reasons for holding children in custody.</p>	

	<p>(ii) SCRA Statistical Report</p> <p>It was agreed to request a statistical report from SCRA for consideration at the next meeting.</p>	
6.	<p>SIGNIFICANT CASE REVIEW - CHILD E (2010)</p> <p>The Committee noted a verbal update from Diane Burns.</p>	
7.	<p>INVOLVEMENT OF HEALTH IN CHILD PROTECTION INVESTIGATIONS (TRIPARTITE DISCUSSION)</p> <p>The Committee received a report on progress in establishing tripartite discussion arrangements (circulated).</p> <p>It was agreed to note the report.</p>	
8.	<p>CHILDREN SUBJECT TO A SUPERVISION REQUIREMENT</p> <p>The Committee received a report which provided details of supervision requirements for children from 2003/4 to 2010/11.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to request SCRA to provide further details of referrals, reason for referral and appropriateness, on a single agency basis, to inform the Committee's processes and understanding; and (ii) to note the report. 	
9.	<p>EAST AYRSHIRE GIRFEC WORKSHOP</p> <p>The Committee received a report on a joint workshop which had considered the implementation of Girfec particularly in relation to domestic and non offence referrals.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to note that the workshop process concluded that a "Hybird Model" be adopted; (ii) to adopt the position that East Ayrshire would be informed by the Girfec early screening group research and local learning; (iii) to note that a report will be presented to a future committee, enabling consideration of the research findings and the implications for the future operation of the Girfec early screening group; and (iv) to note the report. 	

10.	<p>NON DISCLOSURE OF PLACE RESIDENCE OR WHEREABOUTS</p> <p>The Committee received a report on finalised guidance for non disclosure of place of residence or whereabouts.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to endorse the guidance for non disclosure of place of residence or whereabouts appended to the report; (ii) that the guidance be made available on the Child Protection Committee's portal; (iii) that a test check on the guidance be undertaken during summer 2011; and (iv) to note the report. 	
11.	<p>ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON "PROTECTION" - "IMPROVING OUTCOMES - MANAGING RISK" - 26 OCTOBER 2010</p> <p>Committee received a report on the outcome of the annual conference and subsequent evaluation form multi agency attendees and agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) that more seminars based on practice be developed with Practitioners and the Practitioners Sub-group; (ii) to give consideration to the topic for the annual conference on "protection" for 2011; and (iii) to note the report. 	
12.	<p>HARINGEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD SECOND SERIOUS CASE REVIEW "CHILD A" PUBLISHED 26 OCTOBER 2010 AND BIRMINGHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD SERIOUS CASE REVIEW - CASE NUMBER 14 CHYRA ISHIQ PUBLISHED 2010</p> <p>The Committee received reports on both reviews and agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to remit the recommendations to the performance and quality sub-group for incorporation into the Committee's business plan; and (ii) to note the report. 	
13.	<p>EAST AYRSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PLAN: ANNUAL REVIEW 2009/2010</p> <p>The Committee received a report from the Head of Service: Community Support which sought endorsement of the 2009/10</p>	

	<p>annual review of the East Ayrshire Children and Young People's Services Plan 2008/11 and it was agreed:</p> <p>(i) to endorse East Ayrshire's 2009/10 annual review of the 2008/11 Children and Young People's Services Plan; and</p> <p>(ii) to note the report.</p>	
14.	<p>ENGAGING WITH THE INDEPENDENT SECTOR</p> <p>The Committee received and noted reports on the role and remit of the undernoted groups, viz:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Young People's Support Services; • Corporate Parenting; and • Early Education and Child Care <p>It was agreed to continue discussion on the above at the next meeting.</p>	
15.	<p>VISUAL RECORDING SUITE</p> <p>Diane Burns reported that one fixed visual recording suite for Ayrshire would be based in Irvine. Further mobile units would be available for use as required at interview locations.</p> <p>The Committee had concerns about the travelling distance to Irvine and issues associated with transporting mobile units and requested a presentation to improve their understanding of issues associated with the mobile units, and implications of using the fixed suite to be based in Irvine.</p>	
16.	<p>WEST OF SCOTLAND CHILD PROTECTION NETWORK</p> <p>The Committee received correspondence from the West of Scotland Child Protection Network which requested input to their future workplan and it was agreed:</p> <p>(i) that Maureen Bell be advised of any issues for inclusion in the workplan; and</p> <p>(ii) to note the correspondence.</p>	
17.	<p>INFORMATION ITEMS</p> <p>Committee received the following items for information:</p> <p>(i) Chief Officers Group Minutes of meeting held on 28 September 2010 (circulated) - noted;</p>	

	<p>(ii) Adult Protection Committee Minutes of meeting held on 14 September 2010 (circulated) - noted;</p> <p>(iii) Officer Locality Group (Children and Young People) Minutes of meeting held on 16 November 2010 (circulated) - noted;</p> <p>(iv) Alcohol and Drug Partnership Minutes of meeting held on 1 October 2010 (circulated) - noted;</p> <p>(v) Minutes of West of Scotland Child Protection Chairs Consortium meeting held on 26 August 2010 (circulated) - noted;</p> <p>(vi) Scottish Guidelines to Support Parents with Disabilities (circulated) - noted; and</p> <p>(vii) Children's Hearing (Scotland) Bill - update (circulated) - noted.</p> <p>It was further noted that Susan Taylor would circulate Minutes of the National Child Protection Committee Chairs meeting.</p>	
<p>18.</p>	<p>FUNDING FOR CHILD PROTECTION ADVISOR POST</p> <p>The committee noted the proposed plan to meet the costs of this post on a 50/50 basis in 2011/12 between East Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran. The postholder is the manager to health visitors, and NHS Ayrshire and Arran is currently considering the implications of this proposal. A risk assessment is being undertaken by NHS Ayrshire and Arran to enable consideration of the potential impact of the post being unsustainable.</p>	
<p>19.</p>	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 8 March 2011 at 1000 hours, in the Chief Executive's Conference Room, East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock.</p>	
	<p>The meeting terminated at 1245 hours.</p>	