



AGENDA ITEM 4

EAST AYRSHIRE CHIEF OFFICERS GROUP: 25 MARCH 2011

FATAL ACCIDENT INQUIRY

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the Chief Officers Group (COG) of arrangements being made to hold a fatal accident inquiry (FAI) in respect of a young person (Child G), who died after jumping with another young person from the Erskine Bridge into the River Clyde on 4 October 2009.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 G was looked after and accommodated at the time of her death. Hull City Council had statutory responsibility for her care and had made the placement in the Good Shepherd Residential School.
- 2.2 Following the deaths of the two young women, Strathclyde Police conducted an investigation. This was subsequently co-ordinated to include other key agencies who had duties to fulfil in understanding the circumstances leading to the deaths and in considering the implications for the services / agencies involved. This included the Care Commission and the Social Work Inspection Agency. Latterly this included the relevant Safeguarding Board in Hull, England (which has similar functions to Child Protection Committees in Scotland).
- 2.3 G was known to professionals in East Ayrshire, as she had previously lived with extended family in the area. Consequently, professionals from Social Work and Health in East Ayrshire assisted the investigation, and staff may be called as witnesses in the FAI. When living in East Ayrshire, G latterly attended a school in Glasgow.
- 2.4 Two preliminary hearings have taken place and a further one is scheduled for 11 April 2011. The full hearing is planned for 15 June – 29 July 2011 and 29 August – 13 September 2011.
- 2.5 Given the circumstances outlined and the fact that lead role has rested with Hull City Council, it has not been appropriate for the EACPC to conduct any further review. It may however be appropriate to reflect on any issues arising from the FAI on a multi-agency basis.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Chief Officers Group: -

- (i) notes the contents of the report;

Susan Taylor
Chair of EACPC
4 March 2011