



Agenda Item 5 (vi)

EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE: 26 AUGUST 2009

INTER-AGENCY STAFF GUIDANCE FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF SIGNIFICANT HARM

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that Committee consider and provide views on the national proposal for a communication and risk strategy for young people who could present a high risk to public safety whilst accommodated out with their home area. This paper aims to capture the views of Child Protection Committees across Scotland about the need to define risk and consider whether to share information about children who are accommodated out with their home area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A national proposal for a communication and risk strategy for young people who could present a high risk to public safety whilst accommodated out with their home area was drafted by the National Chairs and Lead Officers group.
- 2.2 The paper was written as currently there is no formal arrangement for the notification between a placing authority and a host authority where a young person is deemed to be a high risk. The young person will remain the responsibility of the home authority area, but consideration is to be given to the risk to public safety for the host authority area. The consultation is to gain the views from Child Protection Committees about whether information should be shared, if so what information should be shared, who should be notified and what the outcome of this notification should be.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Child Protection Committee is asked to: -
- (i) discuss the consultation questions

Susan Taylor
Chair of the Child Protection Committee
18 August 2009

Report to: National CPC Chairs and Lead Officers Group

Subject: Proposals for a Communication and Risk Strategy for Young People Who Could Present A High Risk to Public Safety Whilst Accommodated Out with Their Home Area

Date: February 2009

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to consider the public safety issues regarding young people who are accommodated out with their home area. The National Accommodation Strategy for Young People Displaying Sexually Harmful Behaviour suggests:

*'Identifying young people who are at risk of offending sexually or are involved in sexually harmful behaviour is crucial in order to prevent further harm. Timely and appropriate interventions for these young people are the most effective way of changing their behaviour.'*¹ The provision of an intervention service may include a residential resource out with the home local authority area.

Whilst young people remain the responsibility of their home authority area, risk to public safety is also a consideration for the host local authority area. At present there are no formal arrangements for the notification between a placing authority and a hosting authority where a young person is deemed to be high risk.

This paper seeks to open up the discussion around planning and communication regarding young people who are considered to present such a risk.

General Principles

It is widely accepted that the issues in managing young people engaged in sexually offending behaviour have a number of complexities that are specific to this group. In particular the following points should be considered: -

- Successful interventions should not be compromised by a young person being identified as a sex offender and having that label throughout their lives which may have an adverse affect on any opportunity to change.

¹ National Accommodation Strategy for Young People Displaying Sexually Harmful Behaviour, Good Practice Working Document, January 2009. www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/12/22093927/0

- Public safety should not be compromised and there should be a presumption to share information where risks to the public have been identified.²

CONSULTATION

Completed by:

On behalf of:
(East Ayrshire CPC)

- 1. Do we need a criteria/definition of high risk?**
- 2. Should this criteria be broader than young people who are sexually aggressive?**
- 3. Do your existing local protocols for the management of young people presenting as a risk to the public consider local environmental factors, i.e. does the risk assessment include information about the area that the young person is placed in and any potential risk to the people in that area?**
- 4. Are there any similar arrangements within your area that also have a link to MAPPA?**
- 5. Who should be notified in the host area? (a, b or c)**
 - A. The person with responsibility for oversight of risk in the community within the host local authority could also be the person to have oversight of the risk for young people moving into the area.
 - B. A post holder with strategic responsibility such as the Director of Social Work or the Chief Constable
 - C. A locality based service in the area that the young person will live
- 6. What information should be exchanged? (a, b or c)**
 - A. An identification of high risk with no additional risk information
 - B. A brief detail of the child and where they are placed with some risk information
 - C. A full risk management plan
- 7. What should the outcome of any exchange of information be? (a or b)**
 - A. To record on an information system to alert staff to a potential risk.
 - B. To engage the host area in a review of the public safety issues/risks/management
- 8. Any other comments?**

² National Accommodation Strategy for Young People Displaying Sexually Harmful Behaviour, Good Practice Working Document, January 2009. www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/12/22093927/0