



Beth Smith, Director
Jane Scott, Consultant
Scott Reid, Business Manager

helping keep children safe

Background

R27 Scottish Executive should establish a multi-agency national resource for those working with complex child protection issues.

- consultancy and co-working for staff in relevant agencies...
- establish a register of recognised experts...
- set up a database of relevant research..
- contribute expertise to training and CPD...
- Develop a national register of staff suitably qualified in Joint Investigative Interviewing

Background

- R27 Western Isles
- R27 Working Group
- Reform Programme
- Consultation with CPC Chairs 2007
- Interviews with key stakeholders 2008
- Conclusion – facilitate access to a range of support
- Strategic planning, operational management, practitioner level
- Framework to include SCCPN, MARS, CP training and web space.

Context

- “ Staff at all level in the agencies lacked expertise...” (SWIA 2005)
- “Managers as well as practitioners should have up-to-date knowledge and expertise in child protection work...” (Lord Clyde 1992)
- “Frontline staff have a demanding task, their work requires knowledge, skill, determination, courage” (Laming 2009)
- “a virtual and real ‘expert pool’ to be a source of learning, advice, support” (Haringey 2009)

Consultation

- All welcomed the MARS, some concerns
- All spoke about the need for communication
- All spoke about the need to manage expectations
- Some broad agendas; some very specific
- Some viewed it as broad multi-agency team; others as small almost virtual team

Consultation

Clarity needed about:

- The role of MARS
- The team
- When the MARS might help

Concerns about:

- New industry?
- Capacity?
- Who will access the MARS?
- Quality assurance?

Functions

- Co-ordination and knowledge transfer
- Brokering, facilitating links, mentoring, consultancy, commissioning
- Advising – inform local and national policy & practice developments
- CP Training and CPD

MARS

- Small unit, funded by SG for 3 years
- Director, Implementation Co-ordinator, Business Manager
- Based University of Stirling, links to SCCPN, access to research, academics
- Supported by multi- agency Steering Group
- Links to GIRFEC

Steering Group

- to demonstrate that the MARS is a priority for all agencies across Scotland
- to provide a strategic overview, advice and support including the development of a business plan for sustainability
- to provide a range of networks for the MARS to access as necessary
- ADSW, ADES, NHS, SCRA, ACPOS, CCPS, HMIE, SCCPN & University, COSLA, CPC Chairs, Western Isles

Work Programme

June - September

- Set up and consolidate the team
- Terms of reference/membership/meeting
Steering Group
- Communication Strategy
- Establish networks
- Communities of expertise
- Monitoring and Quality Assurance

Work programme

September - December

- Business Plan and Risk Management Plan
- Deliverables and Measures of success
- MOU
- Invites to join “communities of expertise”
- Website and interactive Web space
- SLWG – Significant Case Reviews

Communities of expertise

- Virtual and real – more than one
- Expertise **not** expert
- Leadership and Learning Communities
- NHS, community of practice toolkit
- Role of the expert adviser – NPIA
- Role of Associate Inspector (SWIA, HMIE)
- Continuum of support
- Quality Assurance, processes and systems
- Draft models MOU

Child Protection Committees

- Collectively – CPC Chairs represented on Steering Group
- Interface between CPCs and MARS
- Individually - contact, dialogue and discussion, feedback
- Access to practitioners, single and multi-agency
- Views of children and young people



- Questions, clarification
- What do you require from the MARS?
- Example - area of good practice
- Gaps - further knowledge and experience
- Ideas for communication