

CHIEF OFFICERS' GROUP/CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT SESSION

MINUTES OF DEVELOPMENT SESSION HELD ON MONDAY 31 AUGUST 2009 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE GLENCAIRN ROOM, DOWER HOUSE, DEAN CASTLE COUNTRY PARK, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive, Chair of Chief Officers' Group (Child, Adult and Public Protection Arrangements); Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; Kay Gilmour, Head of Service: Community Support; Chris McAleavey, Head of Housing; Eddie Fraser, Interim Chair of Adult Protection Committee, Chief Social Work Officer/Head of Service: Community Care; Susan Taylor, Chair of Child Protection Committee, Head of Service: Children, Families and Criminal Justice; and Eugene Fitzpatrick, Service Manager, Criminal Justice, all East Ayrshire Council; Superintendent Douglas Robertson and Detective Inspector David Summerhill, both Strathclyde Police; Wai Yin Hatton, Chief Executive; Joanne Sharpe, Health Care Manager, Children's, Women's and Sexual Health Services; and Maureen Bell, Consultant for Vulnerable Children, all NHS Ayrshire & Arran; Karen Wallace, Authority Reporter, SCRA; and Diane Burns, Child Protection Co-ordinator.

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

ALSO ATTENDING: Frances Milne, NHS Ayrshire and Arran (previous 0.5 FTE Child Protection Co-ordinator).

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1. Susan Taylor, Chair of the Child Protection Committee, Head of Service: Children, Families and Criminal Justice welcomed everyone to the Development Session and introductions were made.

OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT

2. A presentation was given by Fiona Lees, Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council, Chair of Chief Officers' Group, which provided an Overview and Context for the Development Session.

PURPOSE

3. Susan Taylor, Chair of Child Protection Committee, Head of Service: Children, Families and Criminal Justice gave a presentation on the Purpose of the Development Session, Business Planning and National Developments.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

4. A presentation was given by Frances Milne (former 0.5 FTE Child Protection Co-ordinator) on the Annual Report 2008/09 and Business Plan 2008/11.

The past year's key achievements were noted and include:-

- Establishment of Girfec Group;
- Child Protection Committee Conference;

- Statistical Seminar;
- Introduction of Initial Response Teams;
- Cogs;
- Corporate Parenting Seminars;
- Sunnyside Children's Unit;
- Break the Silence;
- Solihull Approach to Parenting;
- Children's Charter;
- SCRA Disclosure Report resulting in improved communication;
- Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements;
- Pan Ayrshire Integrated Assessment Framework (IAF) principles well established; and
- Children and Young People's Forum.

It was agreed that Members would reflect on any more evidence of continuous improvement pre 31 March 2009, and that reflections link closely with HMIE quality indicators.

Further achievements post 31 March 2009 for year 2 of the Action Plan were noted as follows, viz:-

- Examples of pan Ayrshire work;
- Learning outcomes from File Sampling;
- Pan Ayrshire Training Sub-group;
- Data Sharing Partnership; and
- Consideration of issues related to Out of Hours Service.

It was agreed to review the actions contained in the Chief Officers' Group's previous presentation to Inspectors during the last inspection of services to protect children and young people and to identify further milestones and actions for year 2 of the Business Plan.

It was further agreed that a specific year 2 Business Plan be produced.

SELF EVALUATION AND CO-ORDINATION OF INSPECTION

5. A presentation was given by Diane Burns, Child Protection Co-ordinator on self evaluation and inspection co-ordination, which covered key recommendations from HMIE's January 2008 Inspection Report, the Child Protection Committee's response, HMIE Inspection phase 2 and the Inspection Process.

It was noted:-

- (i) the Child Protection Committee's Performance and Audit Sub-group were progressing the multi-agency self evaluation report and it was anticipated that a draft would be available week ending 11 September 2009;

- (ii) all issues raised previously by HMIE required to be address in the above report; and
- (iii) verbal feedback on their findings would be provided by HMIE on 12 November 2009.

GROUP WORK – QUALITY INDICATOR 9

6. Members then split into groups to consider “How do we rate ourselves” and “What are the key issues for the Child Protection Committee for the next year”.

Thereafter, feedback was provided as follows, viz:-

6.1 Quality Indicator 9.1 – Visions, Values and Aims (Excellent/Excellent)

- strong commitment through consistent membership of Child Protection Committee and Chief Officers’ Group;
- shared vision, values, aims, communicated in different formats at different levels;
- Chief Officers’ Group’s leadership, strategic planning and monitoring of actions. Issues taken seriously. Commitment evidenced through special meetings for single item agendas;
- evidence through Minutes, Action Plans, Conference Evaluations;
- good practice – Girfec example;
- no sense of any deterioration in performance; and
- maintaining “excellent” is a challenge. Demonstrate “cutting edge”.

6.2 Quality Indicator 9.2 – Leadership, Direction (adequate/very good)

- strong leadership/direction acknowledged, however some children’s risks/needs not addressed quickly enough;
- drive – Girfec, remodelling Social Work Service, managerial changes;
- Single Outcome Agreement, drugs/alcohol awareness, campus cops, integrated resource framework, IAF, linked strategies, corporate parenting, Elected Member involvement, related initiatives e.g. MAPPA, parenting strategy; and
- work to be done to provide greater understanding of reasons for high rate of referrals and looked after children. Consider training. Report to Chief Officers’ Group recommending independent evaluation of Girfec Group and statistical trends in East Ayrshire.

6.3 Quality Indicator 9.3 – Developing People and Partnership (Very Good/Very Good)

- learning partnerships – developments, reason for change and anticipated improved outcomes;
- links strengthened through MAPPA;
- good work by Sub-groups – staff at different levels;
- reviewed membership of Child Protection Committee/links to other structures;

- Voluntary Sector not represented on Child Protection Committee, but good work taking place with the Sector and they are involved. Jim Lyons work on engaging the Voluntary Sector;
- Community Health Partnership and Locality Group; and
- Extrapolate information on partnership working from Council Employees Survey.

6.4 Quality Indicator 9.4 – Leadership, Improvement, Change (Good/Very Good)

- joint commitment of resources;
- support, challenge staff across agencies;
- training and Practitioners Sub-group;
- supervision of Social Workers;
- increasing capacity of Child Protection Committee through Pan Ayrshire work;
- proactive approach to developing Committee's work for example disclosure, analysis of Child Protection Orders, File Sampling Group national reports on SCR's/incidents progressed through Performance and Audit Sub-group, range of guidance, Child Protection Committee Chairs Ayrshire Wide Group, tripartite arrangements;
- Girfec – resources, sustainability and development;
- NHS work, how children receive medical assessment; and
- Clinical Manager for Health Visitor across Ayrshire, good practice and economies of scale.

6.5 Areas to be Developed

- Child Protection messaging;
- Management/performance information;
- IAF implementation rollout;
- learning from SCR's – need to evidence learning;
- self evaluation to be shared with wider staff group;
- supervision;
- learning workshops (on recommendations from SCR's);
- research originating from statistical seminar;
- Pan Ayrshire Single Data Set;
- transparency between agencies/moving resources around; and
- performance indicators linked to Child Protection Committee on Council's new Performance Management System, for example re-registrations.

SUMMING UP

7. It was agreed:-

- (i) that themes for year 2 be set out at the beginning of the Action Plan;

- (ii) that the Action Plan be submitted to a special meeting of the Child Protection Committee towards the end of September *;
- * **subsequently agreed 23 September 2009 at 1000 hours, venue to be confirmed; and**
- (iii) that improvement areas were well evidenced.

The meeting terminated at 1645 hours.