

**MINUTES OF WEST OF SCOTLAND CHILD PROTECTION CHAIRS CONSORTIUM  
Held on 14 May 2009**

**PRESENT:** Anne Ritchie (Chair), West Dunbartonshire CPC  
 Claire Carthy, East & West Dunbartonshire CPC  
 Mary Fegan, North Lanarkshire, CPC  
 Gillian Buchanan, Glasgow CPC  
 Donald Urquhart, Glasgow CPC  
 Tim Huntingford, Renfrewshire CPC  
 Brenda Doyle, South Lanarkshire CPC  
 Dougie Dunlop, Argyll and Bute CPC  
 Bob Neilly, North Ayrshire CPC  
 Fiona McPherson, Strathclyde Police  
 Mike Briggs, Dumfries and Galloway CPC  
 Sam Carson, Strathclyde Police, East Renfrewshire  
 Douglas Robertson, Strathclyde Police, East Ayrshire

**APOLOGIES:** Dougie Dunlop, Argyll and Bute CPC  
 Tony Keogh, East Dunbartonshire CPC

**In Attendance:** Maggie Tierney, Child Protection Team, Scottish Government  
 Boyd McAdam, Getting it Right for Every Child Team, Scottish Government

	<b>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	Anne Ritchie welcomed those people attending for the first time and, in particular, welcomed Maggie Tierney and Boyd McAdam who were in attendance to discuss issues raised over recent months by the Consortium with the Scottish Government.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of Minutes held on 05 February 2009 and Matters Arising</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<u>Managed Clinical Network (MCN)</u> Anne Ritchie confirmed that Minutes are still being sent to Jennifer Bruce.	
<b>2.2</b>	<u>Did Not Attend Policy</u>  Donald Urquhart has followed up on this with Marie Valente and advised that this Policy has now been adopted. As some members reported they do not have a copy of it Donald will arrange to circulate.	<b>Donald Urquhart</b>

		<b>Action</b>
<b>2.3</b>	<p><u>Facilities for Visual Recording of JIIT Interviews</u></p> <p>Activity on identifying suitable sites was reported from a number of areas. Fiona McPherson confirmed that there is an overall plan for how many sites are required and where these would be best located and offered to circulate a paper updating the group on this.</p>	<b>Fiona McPherson</b>
<b>2.4</b>	<p><u>Attendance at Co-ordinators' Meetings</u></p> <p>Gillian Buchanan reported that attendance at the meetings has improved.</p>	
<b>2.5</b>	<p><u>NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Staff Leaflet</u></p> <p>It was acknowledged that by the time this issue was raised with the Child Protection Unit for NHS GG and C the leaflet had already been distributed. It was suggested that Anne Ritchie on behalf of the Group should write to Marie Valente to ask that the image of Victoria Climbié should not be used in any future re-print of the leaflet.</p>	<b>Anne Ritchie</b>
<b>2.6</b>	<p><u>Aberlour</u></p> <p>Claire Carthy has a summary of the current situation and will arrange to circulate this.</p>	<b>Claire Carthy</b>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Inter Agency Child Protection Procedures</b></p> <p>Tim Huntingford reported that the Reading Group has met with Maxine Hawthorn who is working on the revised draft and work continues for the Reading Group. The next task is to convene the Inter Agency Advisory Group and following that the procedures will be brought back to a meeting of the consortium. Tim advised that timescales for this work mean that any launch will be after the summer.</p> <p>Anne Ritchie advised the Group that Saafa Baxter had raised an issue on behalf of the MCN about there being no health rep on the Reading Group. Tim confirmed that he had discussed this with Saafa and had explained that this issue had already been raised by the health reps on the Inter Agency Advisory Group. Tim had said that he would welcome a health rep on the Reading Group and an attempt to identify someone had been made by one of the reps on the Inter Agency Advisory Group. However, this invitation has not been taken up.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Joint Investigative Interview Training Secondment</b></p> <p>Brenda Doyle reported that she has had a good response from CPCs regarding this with people confirming their continued support and funding for this post. At present this is on the same funding basis of a straight division by the number of contributing authorities.</p>	

		<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>On behalf of the group Anne Ritchie thanked Brenda for her positive contribution to resolving this and acknowledged Saafa's assistance in extending the secondment to allow time for matters to be resolved.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Discussion of Issues raised with Scottish Government</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<p><u>National Child Protection Register and Arrangements for Missing Children</u></p> <p>Mary Fegan summarised the issues. There is a particular local operational issue which has arisen as a result of the Lanarkshires' withdrawal from West of Scotland Standby. The Police now check three registers which is creating considerable additional work. However, this issue had been raised prior to that as any register check is, by definition, very limited as it only covers the immediate geographical area. Given that there is a national register for children missing from education and from health services it would seem reasonable to consider having a national register for child protection.</p> <p>During discussion it was acknowledged that the information gleaned from checking the Child Protection register is also limited by the risk assessment and thresholds being applied and there will need to be further discussion (possibly through the work being done on the 1998 guidance revision) on whether we should continue to have Child Protection registers in their present form.</p> <p>Maggie Tierney clarified that at national level, there is no enthusiasm for trying to create a National Child Protection Register because a more rounded solution to effective information-sharing is already well under development via the national e-Care framework.</p> <p>While being highly encouraging about data sharing, The Scottish Government is conservative about data ownership sharing and wants to avoid creating more data bases nationally. There would be difficulties in interpretation of the information, differences in reporting and recording and definitions. National Governments are too far from the frontline and are therefore not good at keeping information up to date in real time and, most significantly, it is believed that e-Care may prove to be a solution in the foreseeable future. Maggie pointed out that even if we embarked on setting up a National Child Protection Register now it would still be about two years before it would be functioning properly and that is the time span being offered by e-Care. She suggested that we should be looking at interim solutions to bridge that gap meantime.</p>	

		<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>The Police, with SG support, are developing a national system, The Vulnerable Persons System Database, and the question was raised of whether this could be extended to include children on the Child Protection Register, particularly as the Police are significant users in checking the register. Again, this would potentially be quite a lengthy process as user agreements are still being worked out for the existing Vulnerable Persons System Database. The children missing from education system operates with a time lag as children feature as nominally 'missing' if there is a gap of a month or longer between ending registration with one school and being re-registered at a new school are referred into the national system if they have not been located for a month in their originating area. The children missing from education (CME) also cannot capture under fives, nor can it easily capture children who are educated at home or those in residential schools. Managing the system requires central SG staffing and it would be expected that any national Child Protection Register would also impose additional staffing requirements within the SG.</p> <p>Boyd McAdam said that e-Care is being designed to provide solutions to these issues of the sharing of information. Each agency would continue to hold its own information but this would be able to be shared when necessary. This was the principle that applied in other areas, such as the proposed development of the Police Vulnerable Persons' System (VPS). This will enable information help on the 8 Police Force records to be shared across forces and, when required for a multi-agency information/consideration, through e-Care. The e-Care system allows children to be identified or flagged and any professional with a concern should be able to access and consult the information held. It was noted that we are estimated to be about two years away from having e-Care in place but Boyd pointed out that not all agencies may have the necessary technology to take advantage of e-Care when it is available. This is an issue which needs to go back to our individual data sharing partnerships. Boyd also noted that there are three workshops coming up in June to look at these kinds of issues and so far there has been a poor response to attending these.</p> <p>Brenda Doyle and Mary Fegan reported that the CP messaging system which has been set up in Lanarkshire is working well and has improved information sharing. It has led to greater ownership of responsibility for sharing information and there has been extensive training involved in setting up the systems.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>

	<p>Data sharing partnerships need to be moving towards the use of Child Protection messaging and it was agreed that Chairs should check with their data sharing partnerships to look at interim solutions.</p> <p>Not all areas are using the same system (for example West Lothian use a system called C-See Me) and Boyd clarified that CP messaging systems need to have data sharing protocols in place, need to be compatible with e-Care, have the necessary authorisations and consent to share. Adaptors for suitable systems are being supported by the Government.</p>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>There would still be issues about children moving into and out of Scotland and Maggie Tierney has planned discussions with her counterparts across Britain.</p> <p>Maggie also suggested that it might be useful for the planned e-Care session to arrange for an input on research undertaken on Child Protection Registers to the next national chairs group to include discussion of CP Messaging. A further piece of work, perhaps deliverable to a longer timescale, would be information about whether other countries maintain national Child Protection Registers (and if so, the context for doing so).</p> <p>It was agreed that a key piece of work was to link with local data sharing partnerships, both to look at progress in the longer term towards e-Care but also interim solutions. The data sharing partnerships can tend to focus on the hardware systems and need to focus on Practitioners' sharing information as well. More immediately, those areas where CP messaging is not yet in place need to look at this with their data sharing partnership.</p> <p>A practical operational difficulty at present is dealing with missing child alerts to Child Protection registers (and failure to notify when children are found) so a protocol to tidy up that existing system would be helpful. This may be an issue which Anne Ritchie's workstream for the 1998 Review might be able to cover.</p>	



	<p>SWIA and HMle have found variable quality in SCRs and there is now an inspectorate led interest in progressing some further research on process looking at SCRs.</p> <p>Inspectorates consider that other areas of activity, such as reports on the death of a child in care, for example, follow a similar SCR format and it may be that there should be a common approach to how these are undertaken.</p> <p>A key question is why lessons from SCRs seem not to be learned with many SCRs having similar recommendations. Any review needs to look at how lessons are learned and information disseminated.</p> <p>Gillian Buchanan informed the meeting that she had drafted a paper on how we might co-operate across CPCs to assist with SCRs. Gillian will circulate this paper to the consortium in the first instance for comment and thereafter it will go to the National Chairs Meeting.</p> <p>Moira McKinnon and Professor Pam Lister-Green have been undertaking a piece of research for ACPOS on the lessons from significant case reviews for the Police and this will also be useful information.</p> <p>During the course of discussion concern was expressed about the new arrangements for the creation of 2 new inspection bodies. The multi-agency division in HMle (D6) who currently deliver joint child protection inspections will move to the new Social Care and Health inspection body – a body which is social work dominated. Inspection of Child Protection Services which is proposed to move from HMle to SWIA. It was felt that this might reduce the focus which has been given to multi-agency responsibility for child protection and it was agreed that Anne Ritchie would write to Bill Eadie to ask that this be placed on the National Agenda.</p> <p>It was agreed that there was work that needed to be done not so much to review the guidance as to add to it.</p> <p>Maggie Tierney suggested that inviting Sharon Vincent from Edinburgh University who has conducted research into SCRs in Scotland to the next National meeting might be useful and people thought this would be a positive idea.</p> <p>Mary Fegan will circulate the OFSTED tools.</p>	<p><b>ACTION</b></p> <p><b>Gillian Buchanan</b></p> <p><b>Anne Ritchie</b></p> <p><b>Maggie Tierney</b></p> <p><b>Mary Fegan</b></p>
--	---	--

		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>5.4 and 5.5</b>	<p><u>Definition of Schedule 1 Offender Character Evidence and Seizure of Social Work Records</u></p> <p>Maggie confirmed that she has referred these matters to the Crown Office and Donald Urquhart agreed to contact the Crown Office to follow up.</p> <p>Sam Carson offered to circulate guidance in relation to this which he received recently at Fiscal's training.</p>	<p><b>Donald Urquhart</b></p> <p><b>Sam Carson</b></p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Expansion of Archway Service</b>	
	<p>Fiona McPherson explained that the Archway Service is the system for examining adolescents (thirteen to sixteen years) for Strathclyde Police. Fiona will send a letter outlining the service and plans to expand the area covered to CPC Chairs as more consultation is required. Mary Fegan and Brenda Doyle have already been in discussion with Fiona about issues for the Lanarkshires' which have now been resolved.</p>	<b>Fiona McPherson</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Freedom of Information Requests for Copies of Significant Case Review Summaries</b>	
	<p>Mary Fegan had already circulated information regarding this to the meeting and this had been dealt with under item 5.3.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Domestic Abuse Pathfinders</b>	
	<p>Boyd McAdam offered to meet at a future date to discuss the Domestic Abuse Pathfinders. It was agreed that this would be very helpful and Boyd's offer was welcomed. Boyd will try to arrange for Jim Carle, National Manager for the Domestic Abuse Pathfinders to attend along with him. A date was set for 4 June 2009 at 2.30 pm at Jackton. (Venue now Nye Bevan House, Glasgow) Anne Ritchie will write to the full circulation for this meeting inviting appropriate attendance.</p>	<p><b>Boyd McAdam</b></p> <p><b>Anne Ritchie</b></p>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Letter received collating the 40,000 responses following death of Baby P</b>	
	<p>Gillian Buchanan asked whether everyone had seen the letter sent to all CPC Chairs which is a collation of responses from the general public regarding child protection and suggested amendments to the law and practice. It was agreed that each CPC should decide what action they wished to take but it was generally felt that this was a very useful source of information about the views of the general public which should be acknowledged.</p>	<b>Each CPC</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Arrangements for future Meetings and Date of Next Meeting</b>	
	<p>It was agreed that it would be helpful for people's diary arrangements if meetings were held on a consistent pattern rather than trying to fit in with the National Meeting. The last Thursday of every 3<sup>rd</sup> month was proposed and agreed.</p>	

	Dates of next meetings are therefore 27th August at 2.00 pm and 26 <sup>th</sup> November at 2.00 pm both at Jackton.	
--	---	--