

EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION CHIEF OFFICERS' GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2008 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S CONFERENCE ROOM, EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive and Jackie Donnelly, Executive Head of Social Work, both East Ayrshire Council; Divisional Commander Hamish Cormack and Chief Superintendent Russell Irvine, Strathclyde Police; Way Yin Hatton, Chief Executive and Liz Moore, Lead Director Child Protection, NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

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

APOLOGIES: Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; and Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, both East Ayrshire Council.

CHAIR: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council, Chair.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION CHIEF OFFICERS' GROUP

There were submitted and approved as a correct record Minutes of the previous meeting of the East Ayrshire Child Protection Chief Officers' Group held on 25 January 2008 (circulated).

MATTERS ARISING

2. CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE BUDGET

It was agreed to carry forward discussion on future funding for the activities of the Child Protection Committee to the next meeting of the Chief Officers' Group and noted that, in particular, the contribution from Strathclyde Police required to be ring-fenced in the early course.

2.1 EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

There were submitted for information and noted minutes of meetings of the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee held on 28 January and 8 February 2008 (circulated).

JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICES TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN EAST AYRSHIRE

- 3.** There was submitted a report dated 14 March 2008 (circulated) by the Child Protection Committee Chair which provided an update on progress with the Joint Inspection of Services to Protect Children and Young People in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to receive regular updates in respect of post inspection progress;
- (ii) to note that the current absence of a Child Protection Co-ordinator presented some operational challenges; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

SIGNIFICANT CASE REVIEW

4. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Child Protection Committee Chair which advised on the Child Protection Committee's decision to progress to a significant case review.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that an initial case review meeting involving key Child Protection Committee Members and accompanying officers was held on 5 March 2008, to consider the information to hand in the case, against significant case review guidelines;
- (ii) to note that the above group had agreed, on the basis of best practice, that the criteria for a significant case review was met;
- (iii) to note that a Review Team and Review Panel had been agreed and the Chief Officers' Group and Child Protection Committee lettered accordingly;
- (iv) to note that the Review Team would meet on 26 March 2008 to agree the remit and timeframe for the significant case review, for approval by the Chief Officers' Group in the first instance;
- (v) to note that chronologies were being prepared for the above meeting of the Review Team;
- (vi) to note that legal advice would be available from the Councils' Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services throughout the significant case review;
- (vii) to note the availability of guidance from the Scottish Executive regarding significant case reviews, and freedom of information;
- (viii) to note that the interview schedule for the significant case review would be proportionate and relevant to the review; and
- (ix) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The Executive Head of Social Work joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

ADULT SUPPORT AND PROTECTION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2007

5. There was submitted a report dated 14 March 2008 (circulated) by the Child Protection Committee Chair which advised on the implications of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 which is scheduled to commence in October 2008, and on current arrangements for adult protection in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the implications of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007;
- (ii) to note that the Act required each Council to establish a multi-disciplinary Adult Protection Committee to take a strategic overview in jointly managing adult protection policies, systems and procedures at local level;
- (iii) to note that Adult Protection procedures were already in place, albeit these, and training, required to be further developed;

- (iv) to approve in principal the establishment of an Adult Protection Committee, pending submission of a further report during May 2008 from the Child Protection Committee Chair on Adult Protection;
- (v) that the above Adult Protection Committee would report in due course to the existing Chief Officers' Group, who would convene as Protection Chief Officer's Group, to consider separately child and adult protection matters, albeit some would be common to both agendas;
- (vi) to work towards the broader protection agenda in due course, on the basis of further briefings; and
- (vii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

6. The Chair, on behalf of the Chief Officers' Group, congratulated Divisional Commander Hamish Cormack on his recent promotion, expressed appreciation of his contribution to protection work in East Ayrshire and welcomed Chief Superintendent Russell Irvine who henceforth would represent Strathclyde Police on the Group.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Chief Officer's Group would be held at the end of May 2008, the details to be confirmed.

The meeting terminated at 1445 hours.