

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE (CHIEF OFFICERS' GROUP)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 APRIL 2007 AT 1002 HOURS IN MEETING ROOM 1, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; and Jackie Donnelly, Executive Head of Social Work, all East Ayrshire Council; Hamish Cormack, Divisional Commander and Superintendent Elizabeth Weir, both Strathclyde Police; and Liz Moore, Lead Director - Child Protection, NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

ATTENDING: Sally Ann Kelly, Senior Manager (Children and Families/Criminal Justice); and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer, both East Ayrshire Council.

APOLOGY: Wai Yin Hatton, Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

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

JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICES TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL AREA

1. There was submitted a report dated 30 March 2007 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, East Ayrshire Council, which described the outline arrangements for the Joint Inspection of Services to Protect Children in the East Ayrshire Council area.

During discussion there was an exchange of information on progress made to date by the partner organisations in preparing for the Inspection; consideration was given to a range of practical and operational matters which would need to be jointly addressed in further taking forward preparatory work; and a clear emphasis was placed on the necessity for a co-ordinated and coherent approach to the joint working arrangements, involving all partners concerned, both in preparing for, and during, the Inspection.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Chief Officers' Group would (a) inform all managers and partner organisations of the forthcoming Child Protection Inspection by HMIE; (b) ensure, through their management teams, that all staff were aware of the Child Protection Inspection; and (c) ensure that all information in relation to child protection and documents that were likely to be examined by the Inspectors would be readily available;
- (ii) that, in recognition of the key significance of the presentation to be made to the Inspectors by Chief Officers of the partner organisations, the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, East Ayrshire Council would liaise with HMIE with a view to re-arranging the proposed date for the presentation from Monday 18 June 2007, in view of the unavailability of Hamish Cormack, Divisional Commander during that week, to a date convenient to all parties concerned;

- (iii) that the Administrative Officer, East Ayrshire Council make arrangements for a further meeting of this Group to take place during week beginning 21 May 2007, to further consider the terms and content of the presentation to be made by Chief Officers to the Inspectors, and to finalise an associated written submission which was considered essential in effectively responding to the five key questions which would form the basis of the Inspection;
- (iv) that partners would work towards the first draft of the written submission to Inspectors being available by the end of April; and
- (v) that in view of the role of Scottish Children's Reporter Administration in relation to Child Protection, the Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council would contact Brian Lister, Reporter Manager to invite him to be involved in the work of this Group with regard to overseeing the arrangements for the Inspection.

The meeting terminated at 1120 hours.