

EAST AYRSHIRE CHIEF OFFICERS' GROUP (CHILD, ADULT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2009 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S CONFERENCE ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Eddie Fraser, Interim Chair of Adult Support and Protection Implementation Committee/Chief Social Work Officer and Head of Service: Community Care; and Susan Taylor, Chair of Child Protection Committee and Head of Service: Children, Families & Criminal Justice, all East Ayrshire Council; Chief Superintendent William Fitzpatrick, Strathclyde Police; Way-Yin Hatton, Chief Executive; and Fiona McQueen, Lead Director, Child Protection, both NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

ATTENDING: Diane Burns, Child Protection Co-ordinator; Donna Sinfioriani, Adult Protection Co-ordinator; and 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 MEETING

1. There were submitted and approved as a correct record, Minutes of the previous meetings of the East Ayrshire Chief Officers' Group (Child, Adult and Public Protection Arrangements) held on 1 September and 5 and 20 October 2009 (circulated).

1.1 Matter Arising - Co-location

It was noted that accommodation searches were continuing to co-locate the Child and Adult Protection staff and resources, providing touch-down space for public protection staff.

1.2 Significant Case Review

It was noted that background work was taking place and more information would be forthcoming in due course.

1.3 Annual Report and Business Plan

Following discussion at the last meeting, the Annual Report and Business Plan had been signed off by the Chief Officers' Group.

HMIE INSPECTION UPDATE

2. The Child Protection Committee Chair gave a verbal update on the HIME Inspection and it was noted:-
 - (i) Inspectors seemed very clear about progress made on areas identified for action during the last inspection;

- (ii) following the Chief Officers' Group's initial meetings with the Inspectors, additional details and evidence had been provided to the Inspectors to inform their gradings of specific areas of focus;
- (iii) following feedback from the Inspectors on the three good practice examples provided to them, three additional good practice examples had been submitted, these being Young Carers, Secondment of Solicitor and Leisure Facilities for Looked After and Accommodated Children. The Chief Officers would seek guidance from the Inspectors on measuring outcomes and articulating the process to produce evidence of good practice. There were process outcomes/milestones contained in the earlier examples given, which built on sustainability and securing public confidence;
- (iv) feedback also identified "tripartite discussions" and "access to paediatrician at time of referral" as issues for the Inspectors;
- (v) overall feedback to date had been relatively positive, with the Inspectors recognising that services were on a journey to self improvement. This should focus more on outcomes for children involved with services and their families;
- (vi) further information had been requested by the Inspectors on the Child Protection Committee's Performance and Audit Sub-Group, evidence of Self Evaluation, Paediatric Services, Pre-birth and Camhs;
- (vii) staff had been briefed on the inspection process and their meetings with the Inspectors were underway;
- (viii) the Inspectors would share their "high level" findings with the Chief Officers' Group at a further meeting to be held on 12 November 2009;
- (ix) the Inspectors would provide a draft report on their findings by 14 December 2009. A brief public report would be published in February 2010. A fuller report would be made available to Officers; and
- (x) a Special Meeting of the Chief Officers' Group would be arranged for consideration of the Inspector's draft report.

EAST AYRSHIRE ADULT SUPPORT AND PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

3. There was submitted a report by the Interim Chair of the Adult Support and Protection Implementation Committee which provided information on multi-agency progress in adult at risk reporting statistics and multi-agency referral systems within East Ayrshire to 22 September 2009, and further information through practice examples of the scope of work emerging from the introduction of the new legislation.

3.1 Act Against Harm/Adult Protection Local Awareness Campaign

Members of the Chief Officers' Group participated in a photo call for the Act Against Harm/Adult Protection Local Awareness Campaign which would run until the end of November 2009, following on from the National Campaign. The local campaign included:-

- press advertisements;
- act against harm leaflets;
- information on bus routes;

- public billboards;
- sound bites on local radio;
- information in East Ayrshire Council, South Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran payslips; and
- a feature in Headlines.

A telephone helpline had been established for general enquiries and information.

It was anticipated that there would be an impact on services arising from the local campaign, and from involvement with Community Groups and ongoing training and development work. Currently, referrals were steady.

The Adult Support and Protection website was now live.

3.2 Reporting and Referral Activity

The Chief Officers' Group then heard the Interim Chair of the Adult Support and Protection Implementation Committee on reporting and referral activity and it was noted:-

- (i) that there had been some increased reporting of elder abuse;
- (ii) within East Ayrshire, three Protection Orders had been granted which comprised two Banning Orders, one with powers of arrest, and a third Banning Order lodged at Court. Across Scotland, 11 Orders had been granted;
- (iii) there had been no Removal Orders Scotland-wide;
- (iv) "Adult at Risk" referrals would be audited to enable more accurate identification of category of harm, which was not always clear at the outset arising from an issue with the design of the referral pro-forma utilised by Strathclyde Police. In most cases, there were multiple categories of harm;
- (v) currently, most referrals received were from Agencies. However, the local campaign could lead to increased referrals from the public with expenditure implications. Scottish Government funding for adult support and protection had been utilised for direct support packages; and
- (vi) links had been established with the Girfec Group to identify victims of domestic abuse who were adults at risk.

3.3 Practice Examples

The Adult Protection Co-ordinator then presented three practice examples of Adult Support and Protection and during discussion on the cases, it was noted:-

- (i) Banning Orders had implications for intensive policing, jointly with other Agencies, to ensure compliance with the terms of the Order;
- (ii) there were implications for longer term family relationships and ongoing monitoring beyond the duration of Banning Orders. However, Orders could provide opportunity for any cycle of abuse to be broken and work to be done with individuals;
- (iii) communities could assist with the identification and monitoring of adults at risk;

- (iv) in terms of timescale from application to granting of an Order, a Temporary Order could be sought pending the Hearing and granting of a full Order after proof. Further application had to be made at the end of six months, showing that the Order was still required. Compliance with the terms of an order could reduce risk of harm, making renewal harder to justify;
- (v) consideration required to be given to developing the existing Legal Solutions Forum into a Multi-Agency Forum;
- (vi) Adult Protection differed from Child Protection on account of requirement for consent and non registration issues; and
- (vii) other means of protecting vulnerable adults included multi-agency protection packages and guardianship.

It was then agreed that the West of Scotland Procedures for the Protection of Adults at Risk of Harm be submitted to the Chief Officers' Group for formal adoption, following minor amendments to reflect local circumstances.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. The Chief Officers' Group received the following items for information:-
 - (i) East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee - Minutes of 26 and 31 August and 23 September 2009 (circulated); and
 - (ii) Adult Support and Protection Implementation Committee - Minutes of 22 September 2009 (circulated).

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5. It was noted that the next meeting of the Chief Officers' Group would be held on Tuesday 12 January 2010 at 1400 hours in the Chief Executive's Conference Room, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock. In the interim, as agreed above, a Special Meeting would be arranged for consideration of the draft report on the Follow-up Inspection of Services to Protect Children and Young People in East Ayrshire.

The meeting terminated at 1610 hours.