

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **CHILD PROTECTION CHIEF OFFICERS' GROUP**

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER 2006 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S CONFERENCE ROOM, EAST AYRSHIRE 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; Superintendent Elizabeth Weir, Strathclyde Police Sub-Divisional Officer East Ayrshire; Dr Allan Gunning, Chief Operating Executive; and Liz Moore, Lead Director - Child Protection, both NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

**ATTENDING:** Sally Ann Kelly, Senior Manager, Children & Families and Criminal Justice; and Gillian Hamilton, Administrative Officer, both East Ayrshire Council.

**APOLOGIES:** Hamish Cormack, Divisional Commander, Strathclyde Police; and Way-Yin Hatton, Chief Executive, NHS, Ayrshire and Arran.

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

#### **MINUTES OF EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION CHIEF OFFICERS' GROUP**

1. There were submitted and approved Minutes of the meeting of the Chief Officers' Group held on 31 July 2006 (circulated).

#### **CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER STATISTICAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2006**

2. There was submitted a report dated 4 October 2006 (circulated) by the Child Protection Committee Chair which provided statistical information relating to child protection referrals, investigations and registrations for the period from 1 April to 30 June 2006.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the significant increase in child protection activity in East Ayrshire for the reported period, and that no children recorded as being on the register for over one year, reflecting the continued good practice within East Ayrshire of addressing children's need for protection timeously and implementing appropriate plans on a multi-agency basis;
- (ii) to note that training and greater awareness and understanding of child protection contributed to the increased activity;
- (iii) to note the recent receipt of child protection statistics for 2005/06 from the Scottish Executive which would be submitted to the Child Protection Committee and Chief Officers' Group for discussion;
- (iv) to note within NHS Ayrshire and Arran, the increase in pre-birth activity, mainly due to addiction issues and pre-discharge care plans, informed by "Getting our Priorities Right";

- (v) to note that Strathclyde Police Officers whose duties involved entering homes, had a heightened awareness of child protection;
- (vi) to note that registrations under physical neglect were often linked to parental substance misuse;
- (vii) to note that work was ongoing to ensure accurate recording of sources of referral, and to facilitate provision of a variety of statistical information requested by the Child Protection Committee;
- (viii) to note that since the reporting period, there had been a modest reduction in registrations; and
- (ix) otherwise, to note the report.

### **PROTECTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06 AND BUSINESS PLAN 2006/07**

3. There were submitted the Annual Report and Business Plan (circulated).

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note advice received at the National Child Protection Chairs' meeting that a single response across Scotland would be issued by the Scottish Executive, commenting on report format and the requirement for financial information in the Business Plan;
- (ii) to note that the Child Protection Committee had previously agreed to look at capacity planning to deal with the growing protection agenda;
- (iii) to note the requirement for a timetable/check list for the next Business Plan and for inspection. The Child Protection Committee would monitor the Business Plan to ensure undertakings were progressed;
- (iv) to note that `protection` required to be developed further within the community safety theme, there being opportunities for greater emphasis of child protection;
- (v) to note that the Community Plan was under review to cross reference with the Business Plan;
- (vi) that the Business Plan would remain on Committee Agendas and be reviewed on a six monthly basis;
- (vii) to note proposals to consult with voluntary organisations and forums early next year;
- (viii) to note proposals to promote understanding and awareness of Child Protection through the Council's Local Committee structure; and
- (ix) otherwise, to note the Annual Report 2005/06 and Business Plan 2006/07.

### **CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING REPORT**

4. There was submitted a report dated 4 October 2006 (circulated) by the Child Protection Committee Chair which informed on progress in the delivery of inter-agency child protection training in East Ayrshire and made recommendations accordingly.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the appointment of Training Officers, which provided a dedicated training resource for inter-agency child protection;
- (ii) to note that referrals had been received as a direct result of the awareness raising "protection" training recently carried out within the Council in partnership with Children First, the full impact of which required to be monitored. This could be carried out by the Practitioners Sub-Group, involving a sample group of participants;
- (iii) to note the foundation modules in Paragraph 2.1.4 of the report, which were being developed by the Training Sub-Group, linked to a wider training exercise by the West of Scotland Child Protection Chairs;
- (iv) to note the progress achieved in implementing a programme of inter-agency training; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **CHILD PROTECTION LOGO AND WEBSITE**

5. There was submitted a report dated 4 October 2006 (circulated) by the Child Protection Committee Chair which provided an update on progress with the development of the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee logo and website and plans for their formal launch.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the logo would be used on the website, communications from the Child Protection Committee, leaflets, mouse mats etc;
- (ii) to note the proposal to launch the website and logo simultaneously, this also being an opportunity to acknowledge the logo design competition winner;
- (iii) that the above launch would be carried out at the Council's Christmas Concert, during December, subject to the agreement of the competition winner, and that Councillors Farrell and Jackson be invited;
- (iv) that meantime, arrangements would be made for Members to view the website; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REVIEWS GUIDANCE - CONSULTATION**

6. There was submitted correspondence dated 13 September 2006 (circulated) by the Scottish Executive which attached draft guidance on Significant Incident Reviews developed by a Working Group commissioned by the Child Protection Reform Programme Steering Group.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that responses were being prepared by partners for submission to the Scottish Executive on an individual basis;
- (ii) to note the arrangements made for preparation of a joint response by the Child Protection Committee by the consultation deadline of 8 November 2006;
- (iii) to seek further clarification in respect of circumstances requiring a significant incident review to be carried out, when it would not be needed, and the role of

the Child Protection Committee when the child had not previously been known to services; and

- (iv) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REVIEW**

7. There was submitted a report dated 4 October 2006 (circulated) by the Child Protection Committee Chair which provided an update on the progress of the Significant Incident Review.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the key findings to date contained in Paragraph 3.1 of the report;
- (ii) to note the timescales for completion of the final significant incident report; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

8. There were submitted for information and noted, Minutes of the meeting of the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee held on 29 September 2006 (circulated).

### **MISSING PERSONS PROTOCOL**

9. It was noted that the Missing Persons Protocol had been reviewed by Strathclyde Police, Social Work and Education to ensure information exchange during holidays and out-of-hours, and links with Health. The protocol gave clarity about dealing with missing children and would be reviewed by agencies in order that a local protocol be incorporated into the Child Protection Procedures. There were concerns within Education about difficulties accounting for the movements of children habitually not at school. Although action had been taken to address the problem, including diversion activity, there were opportunities for more joint working and follow-up work with persistent truants.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

10. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Chief Officers' Group would be held at the end of November 2006, the details to be confirmed.

The meeting terminated at 1508 hours.