

**EAST AYRSHIRE**  
**CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE**  
**NOTE OF MEETING**



**8 MARCH 2011**

**PRESENT:**

Susan Taylor, Chair of East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee/Head of Service: Children and Families and Criminal Justice, East Ayrshire Council;

Kay Gilmour, Head of Service: Community Support, East Ayrshire Council;

Chris McAleavey, Head of Service: Housing, East Ayrshire Council;

Cecilia Gray, Senior Manager, Locality Services, (Children and Families), East Ayrshire Council;

Karen Wallace, Authority Reporter, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration;

Maureen Bell, Nurse Consultant for Vulnerable Children, NHS Ayrshire & Arran;

Detective Inspector David Summerhill, Ayrshire Family Protection Unit, Strathclyde Police;

Joanne Sharp, Health Care Manager, Children's, Women's and Sexual Health Services, NHS Ayrshire and Arran;

Janet Marshall, East Ayrshire Children's Panel Chair; and

Liam Wells, Team Manager, (Substance Misuse), Community Care, East Ayrshire Council.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Elaine Docherty, Paediatric Trainee, NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

**ATTENDING:**

Diane Burns, Child Protection Co-ordinator; and

Gillian Hamilton, Administrative Officer, East Ayrshire Council.

**APOLOGIES:**

Eugene Fitzpatrick, Service Manager, Criminal Justice, Children and Families, East Ayrshire Council;

Dr Sheila Smith, Associate Specialist Paediatrician for Child Protection, NHS Ayrshire and Arran;

Superintendent Helen Swann, Strathclyde Police;

Donna McKee, Clinical Nurse Manager, (Early Years), NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

**CHAIR:**

Susan Taylor, Chair of Child Protection Committee/Head of Service: Children and Families and Criminal Justice, East Ayrshire Council.

	<b>SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <p>There were submitted Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 January 2011 (circulated).</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) to amend paragraph 7 of the Minutes to reflect that the Committee received a report on progress in refreshing, as to opposed to establishing, tripartite discussion arrangements;</li> <li>(ii) to note in relation to paragraph 8 on children subject to a supervision requirement, that the information requested from SCRA would confirm whether appropriate multi-agency discussions were taking place, prior to referrals being made to SCRA. Susan Taylor and Karen Wallace would agree a reasonable sample for this exercise and the Committee would receive a report back at their next meeting;</li> <li>(iii) to note that funding for the post of Child Protection Advisor will be reduced as part of East Ayrshire Council's efficiency savings. The funding for the post was previously through Changing Children's Services Fund, but following the removal of ring fenced budgets, the post is now funded by East Ayrshire Council. NHS Ayrshire and Arran is currently undertaking a risk assessment to consider the implications of this and will advise partners of the outcome. As one aspect of the post is to provide case supervision for Health Visitors, the Clinical Nurse Manager for the Health Visiting Service expressed concern if any changes would affect this; and</li> <li>(iv) otherwise to approve the Minutes.</li> </ul>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) to confirm whether managers were receiving information on non attendance at training courses;</li> <li>(ii) that the next statistical report include a sample analysis of attendance at case conferences and the process for addressing non attendance;</li> <li>(iii) that a timetable be established for collation of information, including workforce data, for future statistical reports, to ensure consistency across agencies; and</li> <li>(iv) that a report be submitted to a future meeting quantifying children detained in police custody.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>VISUAL RECORDING</b></p> <p>David Summerhill gave a verbal report on visual recording which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of Government funding for visual recording facilities for joint investigative interviews;</li> <li>• Impact of film (improved evidence);</li> <li>• Technical specification for court evidence;</li> <li>• Equipment suitable for purpose (discreet);</li> <li>• Tendering process;</li> <li>• One fixed site: preferred premises is Family Placement Centre, West Road, Irvine. Possible further funding allocation for more fixed sites in Strathclyde;</li> <li>• Minimum requirements for premises to host: parking, 24 hours access, security, child friendly, minimum cost implications;</li> <li>• Options for portable sites in Dumbarton, Cathcart, Motherwell and Erskine. Other venues considered;</li> <li>• Travelling implications; and</li> <li>• Training implications.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed:</p> <p>(i) that Kay Gilmour scope possible premises for the portable units; and</p> <p>(ii) all members would give consideration to the identification of suitable premises, covering the widest possible geographical area.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>NATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN - SHARED RESPONSIBILITY</b></p> <p>Celia Gray gave a verbal update on implementation of the National Guidance for Protecting Children - Shared Responsibility.</p> <p>Key issues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced timeframe for pre birth assessment; and</li> <li>• Register for unborn children.</li> </ul>	

	<p>West of Scotland procedures were being updated for compatibility with the National Guidance.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) whilst these documents provided a framework for Child Protection, there was also a need for more detailed local procedures at practice level;</li> <li>(ii) to receive a report back at the next meeting on the proposed approach to local implementation;</li> <li>(iii) to note that compliance with the National Guidance will be a feature of future inspections; and</li> <li>(iv) to note that discussions on links between Children's Services and Addictions Services were taking place through the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.</li> </ul>	
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>OUTCOMES GUIDE FOR PRACTITIONERS</b></p> <p>The Committee received a report which presented an Outcomes Guide for Practitioners (first draft) that set out outcome focused practice to assist Practitioners and Managers in the implementation of integrated assessment, planning and review. It also demonstrated an evidence based approach to support the operational and strategic planning work of the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee and wider Children's Services towards improving outcomes for Children, Young People, their families and their carers in East Ayrshire.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) to welcome the Outcomes Guide for Practitioners;</li> <li>(ii) to forward comments on the Guide to Diane Burns;</li> <li>(iii) to submit the Guide to the Officer Locality Group for Children and Young People;</li> <li>(iv) to give further consideration to measuring outcomes within the document;</li> <li>(v) that an implementation plan be developed, based on feedback from the Child Protection Committee and the Officer Locality Group for Children and Young People; and</li> <li>(vi) otherwise to note the report.</li> </ul>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>ENGAGING WITH THE INDEPENDENT SECTOR</b></p> <p>The Committee received a report which set out arrangements for Providers Forums to support engagement, consultation and</p>	

	<p>partnership work that the Community Health Partnership Officer Locality Group for Children and Young People, and the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee, wished to progress.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) to approve the proposed arrangements detailed in paragraph 3 of the report, to engage with the independent sector; and</li> <li>(ii) otherwise to note the report.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT SESSION - 19 APRIL 2011</b></p> <p>The Committee received a report which invited consideration of arrangements for the planned development session on 19 April 2011.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) that the development session focus on early years - early inventions linked to community capacity building;</li> <li>(ii) to invite Ruth Miller and Janie Allan to input to the development session; and</li> <li>(iii) to involve key practitioners.</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>FATAL ACCIDENT INQUIRY REPORT</b></p> <p>The Committee received a report which advised on arrangements which were being made to hold a fatal accident inquiry (FAI) in respect of a young person (Child G) who died after jumping with another young person from the Erskine Bridge into the River Clyde on 4 October 2009.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) that any findings relevant to the work of the Child Protection Committee be reported to a future meeting; and</li> <li>(ii) otherwise to note the report.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT</b></p> <p>The Committee received a report which detailed the Child Protection Co-ordinator's activity, and noted updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the research project being undertaken by Garth Associates;</li> <li>(ii) risk assessment toolkit;</li> </ul>	

	<p>(iii) MARS review of significant case reviews; and</p> <p>(iv) new data set as result of national guidance removing categories of registration.</p> <p>It was further noted that Diane Burns would circulate information and lodge an update on the Committee's portal in respect of (iv) above.</p>	
10.	<p><b>EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE SUB-GROUPS</b></p> <p><b>(i) Public Engagement and Information</b></p> <p>The Committee received and noted a report which provided an update on progress achieved by the Public Engagement and Information Sub-Group.</p> <p><b>(ii) Performance and Quality</b></p> <p>The Committee received a report on the work of the Performance and Quality Sub-Group.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <p>(i) that the findings of the audit activity detailed in the report be reported to the next meeting of the Child Protection Committee; and</p> <p>(ii) otherwise to note the report.</p> <p><b>(iii) Learning and Development</b></p> <p>The Committee received a report which provided an update on the activity of the Learning and Development Sub-Group.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <p>(i) to note the activity of the Learning and Development Sub-Group;</p> <p>(ii) to note the continued impact of non-attendance at development events, and the arrangements made for reporting on this; and</p> <p>(iii) otherwise to note the report.</p> <p><b>(iv) Practitioners</b></p> <p>The Committee received and noted a report which provided an update on the work of the Practitioners Sub-Group and Practitioners Forum.</p>	

11.	<p><b>STATISTICAL REPORT FOR PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2010</b></p> <p>The Committee received a report on child protection activity in East Ayrshire for the period from 1 October to 31 December 2010, informed by the Social Work Information System, and in discussion with the Locality Service Managers.</p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) to note the high incidence of “no further action” and that further analysis of this statistic was required;</li> <li>(ii) that the Performance and Quality Sub-group progress consistency of reporting on workforce data;</li> <li>(iii) that SCRA include a section on highlights for East Ayrshire in their statistical report; and</li> <li>(iv) otherwise to note the report.</li> </ul> <p>Joanne Sharpe left the meeting at this point.</p>	
12.	<p><b>SIGNIFICANT CASE REVIEW - CHILD E (2010)</b></p> <p>Diane Burns gave an verbal update on the significant case review for Child E (2010) which was noted.</p>	
13.	<p><b>NHS 24</b></p> <p>The Committee noted correspondence received from the Chief Executive of NHS 24 which recognised the importance of joint working with partners to ensure that the needs of vulnerable children and unborn babies are met.</p> <p>It was agreed that there were various options whereby NHS 24 could engage with the Child Protection Committee. Susan Taylor would write to NHS 24 inviting discussion on formulating an arrangement for linking with the Committee.</p>	
14.	<p><b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b></p> <p>Committee received for information and noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Minutes of the Chief Officers’ Group (Child, Adult and Public Protection) meeting held on 21 December 2010 (circulated);</li> <li>(ii) Minutes of East Ayrshire Adult Protection Committee meeting held on 13 December 2010 (circulated);</li> <li>(iii) Minutes of East Ayrshire Officer Locality Group (Children and Young People) meeting held on 25 January 2011 (circulated);</li> </ul>	

	(iv) Minutes of Scottish Child Protection Committee Chairs Forum meeting held on 20 January 2011 (circulated); and  (v) Minutes of West of Scotland Child Protection Chairs Consortium meeting held on 25 November 2010 (circulated).	
	The meeting terminated at 1320 hours.	