



MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 13 JUNE 2017

**COMMITTEE ROOM
COUNCIL OFFICE, HIGH STREET, ELGIN**

PRESENT

Mrs Susan Maclaren	Head of Integrated Children's Services, Moray Council (Chair)
Mr Sean Coady	Head of Primary Care, Prevention and Child Health, Health and Social Care Moray (Vice Chair)
Councillor Frank Brown	Moray Council
Caroline Clark	Interim Chief Nurse Acute Sector NHS Grampian
Councillor Paula Coy	Moray Council
Councillor Ryan Edwards	Moray Council
Ms Jill Richards	Scottish Children's Reporter Representative
Ms Sheila Erskine	Voluntary Sector Representative (tsiMoray)
Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Walker	Police Scotland
Mr Laurence Findlay	Corporate Director (Education and Social Care), Moray Council (Ex-Officio)
Mrs Margaret Forrest	Legal Services Manager (Litigation and Licensing), Moray Council (Ex-Officio)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Ms Fiona Miele, NHS Grampian (Moray Representative); Mr Richard Anderson, Head of Housing and Property, Moray Council; Armed Forces Representative (awaiting new appointment).

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms Katherine Lamb, Strategic Inspector (Care Inspectorate); Mr Iain Macdonald, Children's Wellbeing Manager; Mr Stuart Lamberton, Partnership Officer Child Protection; and Ms Andrea McArthur as Minute Taker (all Moray Council).

1. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE DATED 10 JANUARY 2017 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minute of the meeting of the Moray Child Protection Committee dated 21 March 2017 was submitted and approved.

The Chair welcomed the new Elected Members to the meeting and thereafter introductions were made round the table.

Under reference to item 4 of the minute, National Child Protection Reform and Child Protection Committee Scotland Update the Chair advised that the role of CPC Chair has been discussed nationally and it is not the same in each region of Scotland. Consideration for an independent chair is being discussed at the Chief Officers Group (COG) and a Job Description/Person Specification developed, discussion is ongoing with COG.

The Children's Services Plan was launched on 21 April 2017 and can be found at <http://interchange.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file112637.pdf>.

2. CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATING GROUP MEETING MINUTE 10 APRIL 2017

A report by the Service Manager Children & Young People, Moray Health and Social Care Partnership advised the Committee of the Child Protection Co-ordinating Group meeting minute from 10 April 2017.

The Partnership Officer Child Protection (POCP) advised that the Child Protection Co-ordinating Group were not clear on the new remit of the Child Protection Committee and their role in terms of relationship to the coordinating group. The Chair advised that there is clarity of remit and purpose and has been well circulated, there were concerns that this has been raised again.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Co-ordinating Group needed to be reminded of their remit and it was suggested that an Induction Session would be useful to provide an outline and raise awareness.

Discussion took place around the case conference minute audit and the POCP confirmed that this audit and also others that are currently being undertaken, are all clearly linked with the Quality Assurance team.

Councillor Brown sought clarification on a recent Supreme Court Judgement around evidence and wondered how this would shape out in Moray. The Scottish Children's Reporter Representative confirmed that the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) are careful in the recording of documents to distinguish between opinion and fact. Decisions can only be made on fact, not a 'feeling'.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to:

- i) note the content of the meeting minute from 10 April 2017 included at Appendix 1 of the report; and
- ii) task the Partnership Officer Child Protection with providing an induction session for new members of the Child Protection Committee and the Child Protection Co-ordinating Group.

3. NEGLECT GROUP UPDATE

A verbal report by the Head of Integrated Children's Services advised that neglect is a key priority and a short term working group had been formed with Fiona Meile, NHS Grampian Lead Nurse Child Protection as the Chair.

There has been one formal meeting which was attended by representatives across the agencies. Role and remit was agreed and it was also agreed that membership of the Neglect Group should stay the same. The Action Plan was considered and there are 10 points relating to neglect. Work is going forward with the Quality Assurance and Planning Performance groups. Agreed that it would be useful for the minutes of the meeting and task lists be included in a report to this Committee.

Following discussion the Committee agreed to:

- i) note the informative verbal update by the Head of Integrated Children's Services; and
- ii) request a report to the next meeting including the Neglect Group action plan.

4. INTER-AGENCY REFERRAL DISCUSSION AUDIT

A report by the Partnership Officer Child Protection (POCP) updated the Committee on the recent Inter-Agency Referral Discussion (IRD) audit.

The POCP provided Committee with a presentation on the IRD audit findings and the new procedures. It was agreed that the new procedures should be launched to a multi-agency audience.

The POCP highlighted two areas of the IRD Procedures that still required agreement:

- i) under section 2, page 4 it was agreed that any subsequent meetings after an IRD has taken place will be called 'Child Planning Meeting' in accordance with the GIRFEC pathway;
- ii) under section 3.2, page 5 it was suggested that Police Scotland would minute all telephone IRDs and that social work would minute all other IRDs.

Further work is required to ensure that regular dip sampling of IRDs is undertaken and that a QA process is developed.

Following consideration the Committee requested that:

- i) the Inter-Agency Referral Discussion procedure (IRD) be presented in a more readable format and circulated round the CPC members for final comment by 22 June 2017;
- ii) Police Scotland to confirm if it is feasible for the IRD desk to minute telephone IRD's
- iii) all confirm that the contact details contained within appendix 1 are correct
- iv) the CP co-ordinating group consider how to audit IRDs

- v) that a launch is planned for August and the date circulated as soon as possible, NHS Grampian will provide the venue.

5. CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER

A report by the Partnership Officer Child Protection (POCP) updated the Committee (CPC) on the recent increase of children being placed on the Child Protection Register (CPR).

During discussion it was advised there is no definitive reason for the increase of children being placed on the CPR. It was also stated that the reviewing team have sight of and contribute to performance reports.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to note the content of the report on the increase of children being placed on the CPR.

6. QUARTER 4 JANUARY TO MARCH 2017 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

A report was submitted by the Partnership Officer Child Protection (POCP) advising the Committee of the Quarter 4 January to March 2017 Performance Management Report (PMR).

Discussion took place on the content of the PMR. Cllr Coy requested further information regarding the figures for the Forres locality as they seemed relatively high, Iain Macdonald advised that the Locality Wellbeing Officer in that area would be able to look at this.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the content of the Quarter 3 October to December 2016 Performance Management Report.

7. CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A report by the Partnership Officer Child Protection (POCP) advised the Committee of the draft Child Protection Committee Improvement Plan.

The POCP confirmed that this plan is not complete however the Chair had recommended that it is 'tabled' today in order to gather comments whilst recognising that it is work in progress and there are still many gaps. Also to reassure the CPC that we are going forward with this. Susan Maclaren advised that this Improvement Plan will be considered further on Thursday morning by the Executive Leadership Group (ELG) to ensure tasks/actions are as should be and allocated to the appropriate people.

Following consideration the Committee noted the content of the draft CPC Improvement Plan.

8. SCOTTISH CHILDREN'S REPORTER ASSOCIATION PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

A report by the Locality Reporter Manager, Scottish Children's Reporter Association advised the Committee of The Scottish Children's Reporter Association (SCRA) Report for the academic year. This report covers the period from 1st February 2016 to 31st January 2017.

The reports are available on the 10th March 2017, 10th June 2017, 10th September 2017 and 10th December 2017 which means they do not tend to not tally with the CPC meetings but helps provide an outline of what has been happening.

Susan Maclaren and Jill Richards will be meeting for their regular liaison meeting soon and this will provide an opportunity for further discussion around some cases.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the content of the report.

9. CHIEF OFFICERS GROUP

A report by the Partnership Officer Child Protection (POCP) provided the Committee with an update on the establishment of the Chief Officers Group (COG) and further areas of development required to ensure robust governance is in place for Child Protection in Moray.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:-

- i) approved the report being presented to the Chief Officers Group; and
- ii) present the feedback from the COG at the next Child Protection Committee meeting for further development and discussion.

10. CASE CONFERENCE REVIEWS

A report by the Head of Integrated Children's Services advised the Committee of two recent reviews of Initial Child Protection Case Conferences carried out by Head of Integrated Children's Services (ICS) following a split decision.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the outcome of the reviews and the feedback given to the Reviewing Officers.

11. HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015

A report by the Senior Solicitor (Litigation And Licensing) advised the Committee of the duties imposed on local authorities by the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Act 2015 ("the Act").

Whilst such cases are infrequent in Moray when we have one staff embark upon a steep learning curve, and there is a need for intense involvement from all.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the content of the briefing note in relation to local authority duties imposed by the Act in respect of trafficking victims and will remit the paper to the CP co-ordinating group for further consideration.

12. DEVELOPMENT DAY FEEDBACK

A report by the Chair of the Child Protection Committee advised the Committee of the feedback from the Development Day held on 21 March 2017.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the content of the Development Day feedback.

13. AGENCY UPDATES

The Committee noted the following verbal agency updates:

Police Scotland have changed responsibilities with DCI Kevin Walker covering Moray and Aberdeenshire.

Education Vivienne Cross represented Moray at the Education Scotland CPC meeting yesterday, the current vacancy for lead officer for GIRFEC will be going to advert at end of June.

SCRA have appointed a new Reporter Manager - Roma Bruce-Davis who will cover Moray and will attend more frequently, a Senior Practitioner has also been recruited.

NHS Grampian and Moray Council are joint funding 2 mental health development workers who are in post and are linking in closely with schools and Glasgow School of Art. The recent difficulties in relation to school nurses are being addressed with one appointed and another to be appointed soon. NHSG are currently in the process of recruiting a CP trainer and Fiona Miele is on secondment covering the Lead Nurse role.