



## **MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 21 MARCH 2017**

**ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL CENTRE  
MORAY COLLEGE, MORAY 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 Allan Wright	Moray Council
Temporary Detective Chief Inspector Colin Morrans, substituting for Detective Chief Inspector Stewart Sloan	Police Scotland
Ms Phyllis Smart	NHS Grampian (Moray Representative)
Ms Sheila Erskine	Voluntary Sector Representative (tsiMoray)
Mr Patrick Hannon	Armed Forces Representative
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 Councillors John Divers and Mike Shand; the Head of Schools and Curriculum Development; and Mr Stuart Lamberton, Partnership Officer Child Protection (all Moray Council); and Ms Jill Richards, Scottish Children's Reporter Representative.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms Jennie Williams, Service Manager, Children and Young People (Health and Social Care Moray); Ms Katherine Lamb, Strategic Inspector (Care Inspectorate); Ms Caroline Clark, Interim Chief Nurse, NHS Grampian, Mr Iain Macdonald, Children's Wellbeing Manager; and Mrs Caroline Howie, Committee Services Officer, as Clerk to the Committee (both Moray Council).

## **1. FAREWELL AND THANKS**

The Chair advised that this would be Ms Smart's last attendance at Committee prior to her retirement. Committee joined the chair in wishing Ms Smart well and thanking her for her input during her time on the Committee.

## **2. 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 10 January 2017 was submitted and approved.

Under reference to item 4 of the minute, Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, the Chair advised that as yet there had been no inquiries made. She further advised she was aware that any inquiries would generate a considerable amount of work as it was her understanding that any enquiry would require answers to approximately 300 questions.

Under reference to item 8 of the minute, Agency Updates, the Chair advised she had received a quarterly report from Ms Richards, Scottish Children's Reporter Representative, however it had been received too late to be included in today's agenda. She advised the report would be presented to the meeting in June.

## **3. CHILD PROTECTION CO-ORDINATING GROUP MEETING MINUTE 8 FEBRUARY 2017**

A report was submitted by the Service Manager Children & Young People, Moray Health and Social Care Partnership advising the Committee of the Child Protection Co-ordinating Group meeting minute from 8 February 2017.

The Service Manager advised there had been a further meeting held since 8 February but had been too recent to include in today's meeting. She further advised there had been a misunderstanding as to who would be presenting a report on Child Protection and undertook to ensure a report would come to Committee in June.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) note the content of the meeting minute from 8 February 2017 included at Appendix 1 to the report; and
- ii) a report on Child Protection being presented to the meeting in June.

## **4. NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION REFORM AND CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE SCOTLAND UPDATE**

A verbal report by the Head of Integrated Children's Services advised that this had been discussed during the development session earlier in the day.

Anne Houston, Chair of Child Protection Committee (CPC) Scotland gave an informative presentation on the outcome of the CP Reform programme, followed by some input from delegates at the development session.

Anne also led a session on the role of the CPC Chair, this included a discussion on the merits of appointing an independent chair as opposed to having a 'service' chair. Whilst there were no very strong opinions expressed either way, the general impression was one of it being worth exploring an independent chair further. This would be fed back to the Chief Officers Group at their meeting on 24 March.

## **5. CHILDREN'S SERVICES INSPECTION REPORT 2017**

A verbal report by the Head of Integrated Children's Services updated Committee following publication of the Children's Services Inspection Report.

She advised areas of strength and areas for improvement had been identified and an action plan to identify how improvements will be made is to be produced. She further advised the Care Inspectorate would return in six months to review progress in the areas identified for improvement.

In response to a query from the Legal Services Manager (Litigation and Licensing) the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) advised the action plan would be presented to the Committee in due course.

The Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) advised the Children's Services Plan was currently under consultation however it was hoped to conclude this and launch the Plan at an event towards the end of April.

Councillor Wright advised the Committee of a presentation to Moray Council by Ms Susan Webb, Director of Public Health, NHS Grampian. He was of the opinion that it would be of benefit to Committee if the presentation were to be circulated to them.

It was agreed this would be of benefit and the Chair undertook to circulate the document.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to:

- i) the action plan being brought to a future meeting of the Committee; and
- ii) the presentation by the Director of Public Health, NHS Grampian being circulated following the meeting.

Mr Hannon entered the meeting during discussion of this item.

## **6. NEGLECT DISCUSSION**

A verbal report by the Head of Integrated Children's Services advised neglect was a key priority and was seeking to create a short-term working group to focus on the issues. She was of the opinion that a Chair for the group should be taken from the membership of this Committee.

Discussion took place on the number of groups currently in existence and whether it was necessary to create another group.

The Head of Integrated Children's Services advised that it was the intention to reduce the current number of groups but that neglect was a key priority that required a short-term working group to be formed.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to a:

- i) short-term working group being convened to focus on neglect; and
- ii) chair of the group to be agreed from within the membership of this Committee.

## **7. QUARTER 3 OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2016 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT**

A report was submitted by the Partnership Officer Child Protection (POCP) advising the Committee of the Quarter 3 October to December 2016 Performance Management Report (PMR).

Discussion took place on the content of the PMR with concern being raised as to the appropriateness of the referral process where a total of 112 CP investigations resulted in initial case conferences for nine children and all were added to the child protection register. This seemed a high number of referrals resulting in a low number of case conferences, and a 100% registration rate.

The Chair advised the important thing was that each child is considered on their own merits, however these figures need to be monitored over the next few quarters as it may be worthy of further scrutiny should the trend continue.

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

## **8. POLICE SCOTLAND CONCERN HUB – IMPLEMENTATION OF RISK & CONCERN 'PROOF OF CONCEPT' PROCESS**

Under reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of this Committee dated 7 June 2016 a report was submitted by Di Fiona Topping, Police Scotland Concern Hub, updating the Committee on the Police Scotland Concern Hub – Proof of Concept and advised of the permanent implementation of the process in North East Division.

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

## **9. AGENCY UPDATES**

The Committee noted the following verbal agency updates:

### **NHS Grampian**

Ms Williams advised a new Mental Health and Wellbeing worker had taken up post last week.

Ms Clark advised a review of transition work was underway and undertook to provide a report to a future Committee.

### Armed Forces

Under reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting dated 10 January 2017 'Refreshed Role and Remit for the Child Protection Co-ordinating Group' Mr Hannon advised that discussions had taken place on the requirement to have both the SSAFA Lead (Armed Forces) and the Army Liaison Officer in attendance at the Group but was as yet unable to provide an answer. He advised further discussion would take place on 31 March.

He further advised that this would be the last meeting he would attend as he would be transferring elsewhere and advised a new contact.

The Committee joined the Chair in thanking Mr Hannon for his support during his time on the Committee.

### Moray Council

Mr Macdonald advised a flow chart for Social Work had been finalised which includes one point of contact for issues.

Discussion took place on culture and behaviour across the partnership. It was agreed a clear approach was required to help everyone feel empowered to provide challenge when required.

The Chair advised that this would be Councillor Wright's last meeting and stated she was of the opinion the Committee had been enriched by the attendance of Councillors.

The Committee joined the Chair in thanking Councillors Divers, Shand and Wright for their support and wisdom during their time on the Committee.

### Care Inspectorate

Ms Lamb thanked the Committee for inviting her to attend and stated she had found it useful. She advised that as the Children's Services Inspection had now been completed she would be attending Committee as a link to the Care Inspectorate for the foreseeable future.

## **10. AOCB**

The Chair advised there were moves to change how the pan Grampian Child Protection Partnership is funded. She advised she would be discussing this at the Chief Officers Group.