

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2013

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Sandy Riddell (Chair), Corporate Director (Education and Social Care), The Moray Council
Superintendent Mark Cooper (Depute Chair), Divisional Police Commander, Police Scotland
Councillor John Divers, The Moray Council
Councillor Mike Shand, The Moray Council
Councillor Allan Wright, The Moray Council
Mr Sean Coady, Moray Representative, NHS Grampian
Mr Patrick Hannon, Armed Forces Representative
Ms Susan Maclaren, Head of Integrated Children's Services, The Moray Council (Ex-officio)
Ms Margaret Forrest, Legal Representative, The Moray Council (Ex-officio)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs Elizabeth Templeton, Scottish Children's Reporter Representative and Mr Fabio Villani, tsiMoray

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Iain MacDonald, Integration Officer (Child Protection), Ms Pat Bailey-McKay, Domestic Abuse Representative, Ms Phyllis Smart, Consultant Nurse Child Protection, NHS Grampian (for items 1-3), Ms Jackie Campbell, Detective Inspector, Police Scotland (for items 1-3) and Mrs Lissa Rowan, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Meeting.

1. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 JULY 2013

The Minute of the Meeting of the Moray Child Protection Committee dated 2 July 2013 was submitted and approved subject to Superintendent Cooper's title being noted as Superintendent and not Chief Superintendent and Mr Patrick Hannon being noted as the Armed Forces Representative and not SSAFA Representative.

Under reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute, Mrs Forrest, Legal Representative offered clarification surrounding the core membership of the Committee and it was thereafter noted that Mrs Margaret Forrest, Legal Representative, Mr Laurence Findlay, Head of

Schools and Curriculum Development and Ms Susan Maclaren, Head of Integrated Children's Services were core members without voting rights.

Under reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute regarding an awareness raising session for teaching staff should a child disclose abuse within schools, the Head of Integrated Children's Services advised that this issue was addressed on the first in-service training day prior to the commencement of the Autumn term.

Under reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute, where Councillor Wright sought clarification regarding the recording mechanism used to capture statistics as it was recorded that sexual abuse statistics in Moray had been 12%, Aberdeen City 1% and Aberdeenshire 0% it was noted that in this instance the sexual abuse had been related to multiple members of 1 family. Councillor Wright further stated that it would be useful to have actual numbers detailed as well as percentages when making reference to statistics as when dealing with smaller population sizes, percentages can appear large. This was agreed.

2. SOCIAL CARE INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE (SCIE) MORAY CASE REVIEW REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advising the Committee of the recent publication of the SCIE Moray Case Review Report and asking the Committee to decide on a plan of action to address the issues raised within the report.

Ms Phyllis Smart, Consultant Nurse Child Protection, NHS Grampian and Ms Jackie Campbell, Detective Inspector, Police Scotland provided the Committee with a presentation which highlighted the key issues that required to be addressed as highlighted within the report.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Child Protection Co-ordinating Group and the Early Years Strategic Group be tasked to investigate the issues raised in the report and report back with an action plan to the next meeting of this Committee.

During further discussion it was noted that there would be a SCIE Learning Together Pilot – Reflections and Forward Planning Event held in Aberdeen where an opportunity would be provided for Moray, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen Child Protection Committees to reflect on the SCIE case review process, discuss specific outcomes and identify the next steps for each individual Child Protection Committee and also from a pan Grampian perspective and it was agreed that the Integration Officer (Child Protection) and Mr Coady, NHS Grampian would attend to represent Moray on that occasion and report back to the next meeting of this Committee. If however there were issues raised at the meeting that required to be addressed urgently, then these should be passed on to Superintendent Cooper, Police Scotland.

The Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) suggested that it would be useful for an inter-authority debrief with regard to this case and it was agreed that the Integration Officer (Child Protection) and Mr Coady, NHS Grampian would raise this issue at the SCIE event on 28 October 2013.

Thereafter the Committee agreed that:-

- (i) the Child Protection Co-ordinating Group and the Early Years Strategic Group be tasked to investigate the issues raised in the report and report back with an action plan to the next meeting of this Committee;
- (ii) the Integration Officer (Child Protection) and Mr Coady, NHS Grampian would attend to represent Moray at the SCIE event on 28 October 2013 and report back to the next meeting of this Committee; and
- (iii) the Integration Officer (Child Protection) and Mr Coady, NHS Grampian would raise the suggestion of an inter-authority debrief with regard to this case at the SCIE event on 28 October 2013.

3. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

Under reference to paragraph 5 of the meeting of this Committee dated 2 July 2013, there was submitted a report by the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advising the Committee of the recent Performance Management Information 1 April 2013 – 30 June 2013 and emerging trends for Moray children registered on the Child Protection Register.

During discussion Councillor Wright stated that it would be useful when considering statistics that actual numbers be detailed alongside percentages as percentages can often look high when taking into consideration small populations and the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advised that actual numbers would be included on the next performance management report. This was agreed.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to note:

- (i) the content of the report; and
- (ii) that when considering statistics, actual numbers would be detailed alongside percentages.

4. MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE JOINT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Under reference to paragraph 3 of the meeting of this Committee dated 2 July 2013, there was submitted a report by the Integration Officer (Child Protection) updating the Committee on the progress of actions within the Moray Child Protection Committee Joint Improvement Plan.

During review of the Joint Improvement Plan, it was noted that some reports that should have been presented at today's Committee had been delayed and the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) acknowledged the pressure and time constraints on staff and urged staff to consider realistic timescales when setting dates to report to the Committee.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to note that the following reports would be submitted to the next meeting Committee:

- (i) Improve the understanding amongst staff of different legal orders by Head of Integrated Children's Services and the Legal Services Manager (Litigation & Licensing);
- (ii) Routine check by Social work on "non-approved carers" by Jennifer Gordon; and
- (iii) Professionals and service users are aware of accessibility and discharge criteria for Allied Health Professionals (AHP) Services by Pauline Merchant.

5. CARE INSPECTORATE JOINT INSPECTION UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Integration Officer (Child Protection) updating the Committee on the joint Inspection process being carried out in each local authority by the Care Inspectorate.

During discussion, the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) advised that the Care Inspectorate had raised the bar in terms of standards and as such welcomed the audit that was to be undertaken by the Integration Officer (Child Protection) of local child protection processes in relation to the Child Protection element of the Joint Inspection Process.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to note:

- (i) the content of the report;
- (ii) that an audit is undertaken of local child protection processes based on the Joint Inspection Process currently being carried out in other Scottish Local Authorities;
- (iii) that the Integration Officer (Child Protection) would communicate with colleagues in the Continuous Improvement Team and colleagues in Health and the Police with an aim to audit local processes in relation to the Child Protection element of the Joint Inspection Process.

6. INFORMATION SHARING

There was submitted a report by the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advising the Committee on recent national practice developments with regard to information sharing following indication from the Scottish Government that each local authority will be expected to have a Practitioners Guide to Information Sharing and an Information Sharing Protocol in place.

During discussion, reference was made by the Legal Representative to a new guide not by itself aiding information sharing, if this continued to be of concern, despite existing guides being in place to support the current Information Sharing Protocol. The Legal Representative further advised that dissemination of an updated guide and training would also be important.

During further discussion it was agreed that progress be regularly monitored in relation to the formation of a new Practitioners Guide to Information Sharing and that it should feature on the agenda of each meeting of this Committee until it is complete.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the content of the report;
- (ii) approve the development of a new Practitioners Guide on Information Sharing and a review of the current Information Sharing Protocol; and
- (iii) note that progress be regularly monitored in relation to the formation of a new Practitioners Guide to Information Sharing and should feature on the agenda of each meeting of this Committee until it is complete.

7. MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE WEBSITE AND LOGO DESIGN

Under reference to paragraph 4 of the meeting of this Committee dated 2 July 2013, there was submitted a report by the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advising the Committee of the developments regarding the Moray Child Protection Committee (MCPC) website and logo design.

The Integration Officer (Child Protection) provided the Committee with an overview of the website and responded to comments from the Committee.

During discussion it was agreed that plain English be used in an effort to make information on the website easy to understand, that the "frequently asked questions" section be on the front page of the website and that feedback be obtained as to the number of "hits" on each page.

The Integration Officer (Child Protection) further advised the Committee that other local authority websites featured minutes of their Child Protection Committee on their Child Protection website and it was agreed that the Integration Officer (Child Protection) report back to Committee regarding what is recorded within the minutes of other local authority Child Protection Committees in order for a view to be taken in this regard.

With regard to the designing of a logo for the Moray Child Protection Committee, the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advised that 3 children had submitted designs and that those children were being assisted by the Council's Design Team in an effort to produce a new logo for the MCPC.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the continued development of the MCPC website and logo design process including the use of plain English in an effort to make information on the website easy to understand, that the "frequently asked questions" section be on the front page of the website and that feedback be obtained as to the number of "hits" on each page;

- (ii) that support be provided to a small group of young people to further develop a logo design for the MCPC; and
- (iii) that the Integration Officer (Child Protection) review what is recorded within the minutes of other local authority Child Protection Committees and report back to Committee in order for a view to be taken.

8. MOBILE PHONE AND INTERNET SAFETY

There was submitted a report by the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advising Committee of the risk posed by children and young people using mobile phone and internet technology and recommending a review of the current provision of information to children, young people, parents/carers and practitioners in an effort to identify any gaps in the information provided and asking the Committee to agree to the timing of a press release.

During discussion in regard to a proposed press release coinciding with the implementation of any changes in the information provided to children and young people, it was agreed that the press release be circulated for approval to members of the Committee prior to its release.

Thereafter following further discussion, the Committee agreed that:

- (i) the current provision of information to children, young people, parents/carers and practitioners be reviewed in order to identify any gaps in the information provided; and
- (ii) that a press release be timed to coincide with the implementation of any changes/additions in the information provided regarding minimising risks to children and young people who are using mobile phone an internet technology and that this press release would be circulated to members of the Committee for approval before its release.

9. MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE GENERAL UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Integration Officer (Child Protection) updating the Committee on recent developments in relation to the Getting Our Priorities Right (GOPR) update, the National Risk Assessment Framework and the Moray Child Protection Committee Communication Strategy.

During discussion on the Moray Child Protection Committee Communication Strategy, the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) advised that it should be in plain English in an effort to ease public understanding.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) that a brief practitioner guidance document is produced encompassing the strengths of both the GOPR documents and that three 1 hour briefing sessions be provided for practitioners;
- (ii) that with regard to the Risk Assessment Framework, that the next stage will be to test some of the processes highlighted in the new Framework on a small number of cases that require a multi agency risk assessment and that a group of social workers be coordinated to look at the new Framework in detail to determine potential practice implications; and
- (iii) to further work being undertaken to develop the Communication Strategy template as set out in Appendix 1 of the report and that plain English be used in an effort to ease public understanding.

10.AOCB

There was no other competent business.