



MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2014

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 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 Sheila Erskine, tsiMoray

Ms Susan Maclaren, Head of Integrated Children's Services, The Moray Council (Ex-officio) (from item 6)

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 Councillor John Divers, The Moray Council

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Iain MacDonald, Integration Officer (Child Protection) 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 8 October 2013 was submitted and approved.

Under reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute, Councillor Wright sought an update with regard to agreed action (i) improve the understanding amongst staff of different legal orders; which was to be actioned by the Head of Integrated Children's Services and the

Legal Services Manager (Litigation & Licensing). In response, the Legal Services Manager advised that discussions had taken place between herself and the Head of Integrated Children's Services and at present they were in the process of identifying the most effective way to take this forward, whether it be via training sessions, briefings or FAQ's on the website. This was noted.

2. Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) Moray Case Review Report

Under reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of this Committee dated 8 October 2013, there was submitted a report by the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advising the Committee on the recent publication of the SCIE Moray Case Review Report.

The Integration Officer advised that he and Mr Sean Coady, NHS Grampian had attended a Pan Grampian discussion on the findings of the case review where each Child Protection Committee advised how they intended to address the findings and recommendations from their specific reviews.

The Legal Services Manager (Litigation & Licensing) sought clarification as to who was investigating the issues raised in the report as it was agreed at the Meeting of this Committee dated 8 October 2013, that this would be tasked to the Child Protection Co-ordinating Group and the Early Years Strategic Group (paragraph 2 of the Minute refers).

In response the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advised that this was the case however representatives from the Moray Child Protection Committee had to attend the Pan Grampian discussion therefore he had attended with Mr Sean Coady, NHS Grampian.

The Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) stated that the Child Protection Co-ordinating Group should prepare an action plan addressing the findings in the report and present it to this Committee for endorsing. This was agreed.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the content of the report;
- (ii) that the SCIE Report would be circulated to members of the Child Protection Co-ordinating Group and Team Managers within Integrated Children's Services;
- (iii) that the findings of the SCIE report would be included in the forthcoming audit of Children and Young People Services scheduled to take place after April 2015;
- (iv) that small tests of change would be implemented to begin to address practice issues identified within the findings of the report;
- (v) that the Child Protection Co-ordinating Group prepare an action plan addressing the findings in the report and present it to this Committee for endorsing.

3. Performance Management Report

Under reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of this Committee dated 8 October 2013, there was submitted a report by the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advising the Committee of the recent Performance Management Information, 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013 and emerging trends, for Moray children registered on the Child Protection Register.

During discussion, clarification was sought as to why the statistics were called performance management as they did not appear to measure performance. In response, the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advised that if there was a concern regarding an increase/decrease in a specific statistic, then appropriate services would investigate the reason for the change. It was agreed that future reports would include narrative to this effect.

During further discussion, the Integration Officer (Child Protection) asked whether the Committee required sight of the NESCP statistics as set out in Appendix 1 of the report or whether statistics detailing the comparison between Moray, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report. In response the Committee agreed that only the statistics detailing the comparison between Moray, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City were required and that no separate appendix detailing NESCP statistics should be issued with the report.

Thereafter the Committee agreed;

- (i) to note the content of the report;
- (ii) that future reports include supporting narrative detailing the actions taken where a concern regarding an increase/decrease in a specific statistic had been noted; and
- (iii) that future reports would not include NESCP statistics.

4. Moray Child Protection Committee Joint Improvement Plan

Under reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of this Committee dated 8 October 2013, there was submitted and noted 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.

5. Care Inspectorate Joint Inspection Update

Under reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of this Committee dated 8 October 2013, 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 it was unlikely that Moray would be the subject of joint Inspection of Children's Services prior to April 2015. This was noted.

During further discussion clarification was sought as to whether the Care Inspectorate Reports on the Local Authorities that have already been inspected could be circulated to members of this Committee and in response the Integration Officer (Child Protection) agreed to circulate this information.

Thereafter the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the content of the report;
- (ii) to note that the proposed inspection of Moray Children and Young Peoples Services is unlikely to take place until after April 2015; and
- (iii) that the Integration Officer (Child Protection) circulate the Care Inspectorate Reports on the Local Authorities that have already been inspected, to members of this Committee

6. Information Sharing

Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of this Committee dated 8 October 2013, there was submitted a report by the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advising the Committee on recent national practice developments with regard to Information Sharing.

During discussion, the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advised that a meeting had taken place on the 20 January 2014 in Aberdeen where representatives from all three North East Local Authorities attended, as well as members of the Scottish Government GIRFEC team. Attendees at the meeting in Aberdeen agreed that a sub group should work together to update the Grampian wide Guidelines for Information Sharing and it was agreed that the Perth and Kinross guidelines for information sharing on the Scottish Government GIRFEC website would be used as a baseline and the revised guidelines presented at the Moray CPC on 15 April 2014.

During further discussion, it was agreed that recommendation (iii) in the report asking the Committee to consider the removal of the mandatory requirement for consent forms with regard to sharing information where there is a wellbeing concern about a child, be deferred for consideration at the next meeting on 15 April 2014, once the revised set of Guidelines for Information Sharing are presented for Committee approval.

The Integration Officer (Child Protection) further advised that Perth and Kinross Council had already updated their information sharing guidelines and at the request of the Committee, agreed to circulate a link so that the Committee could review the revised information sharing guidelines along with a link to the Scottish Government Website regarding Information Sharing.

Thereafter the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the content of the report;

- (ii) that the Integration Officer for Child Protection and GIRFEC will work collectively to draft a revised set of Guidelines for Information Sharing, and associated leaflets for presentation at the Moray CPC on the 15 April 2014; and
- (iii) that the Integration Officer (Child Protection) would circulate links to the Perth and Kinross Council's Guidelines for Information Sharing and the Scottish Government Website regarding information sharing, to members of the Committee.
- (iv) that recommendation (iii) in the report asking the Committee to consider the removal of the mandatory requirement for consent forms with regard to sharing information where there is a wellbeing concern about a child, be deferred for consideration at the next meeting on 15 April 2014, once the revised set of Guidelines for Information Sharing are presented for Committee approval.

7. Moray Multiagency Risk Assessment Process

Under reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of this Committee dated 2 July 2013, there was submitted a report by the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advising the Committee on recent developments with regard to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Processes in Moray following the decision of this Committee on 2 July 2013 to review the current Moray Risk Assessment Framework in relation to the National Risk Assessment Framework. The report further stated that various group based and individual discussions had taken place with regard to the review of the Moray Risk Assessment Framework and the findings were included in the report.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the content of the report;
- (ii) that the current Risk Assessment process be revised and that this revision should be led by the Training Facilitator and the Integration Officer for Child Protection in conjunction with the Integration Officer for GIRFEC, and a representative from Health, Police and tsiMoray;
- (iii) that the revised risk assessment process be tested by a small number of staff before being rolled out across Moray; and
- (iv) that once the revised risk assessment process is agreed, a multi agency training programme be put in place to update staff.

8. North East Scotland Child Protection Update

There was submitted a report by the Integration Officer (Child Protection) updating the Committee regarding the North East Scotland Child Protection (NECSP). Currently, the Grampian Chief Executive Group oversee the joint child protection activity across the North East comprising the Child Protection Register and 3 portfolio groups responsible for operations and practice (including child protection guidelines), significant case reviews and training.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (i) the content of the report;
- (ii) that the Chief Officers Group would continue with the current arrangement for the NESCP to oversee the joint child protection activity across the North East, comprising of the Child Protection Register and 3 portfolio groups responsible for operations and practice (including Child Protection Guidelines), significant case reviews and training.

9. Child Protection Messaging

There was submitted and noted a report by the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advising the Committee on the recent developments regarding Child Protection Messaging as set out in Section 3 of the report.

10. 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, Moray CPC Website and Logo Design. The report also sought the Committee's agreement to a questionnaire being sent to key practitioners/services to map current support strategies/initiatives that are in place in Moray to safeguard children and young people's use of mobile phone and internet technology.

The Integration Officer (Child Protection) advised that development of the Child Protection Committee web page had been completed and the Committee agreed to review it and submit any comments back to the Integration Officer (Child Protection).

Following discussion surrounding whether Moray Child Protection Committee agendas and minutes should appear on the website, the Integration Officer (Child Protection) advised that he had reviewed the websites of the other Child Protection Committees and found that around 50% had their agenda and minutes available for viewing on their website. The Legal Services Manager advised that the Business Rules, which had previously been signed up to by the Committee, provided for approved minutes to be placed upon the Council, Police and NHS websites although that had been prior to the Committee having its own site. It was therefore agreed that Moray Child Protection Committee agendas and minutes should be displayed on the Moray CPC website with careful consideration given to the content of the minutes with regard to confidentiality.

The Integration Officer (Child Protection) circulated a new logo for consideration by the Committee and it was agreed that the new logo was appropriate for the use of the Child Protection Committee.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the content of the report;

- (ii) review the Moray CPC web page in conjunction with the Child Protection Co-ordinating Group and contact the Integration Officer (Child Protection) with any suggestions for amendments; and
- (iii) a questionnaire being sent to key practitioners/services to map current support strategies/initiatives that are in place in Moray to safeguard children and young people's use of mobile phone and internet technology.

11. AOCB

The Head of Integrated Children's Services advised the Committee that Mr Iain MacDonald, Integration Officer (Child Protection) had recently been appointed as the Children Wellbeing Services Manager and that this now resulted in a vacancy for the post of Integration Officer (Child Protection).

The Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) further stated that, as this post was a vital part of the Child Protection Committee, it should not solely be funded by The Moray Council and that other partners should contribute to the financing of this post. This was agreed by the Committee and it was noted that this issue would be raised via the Children and Young People Partnership with a view to a recommendation regarding the funding of the Integration Officer (Child Protection) post, being made to the Community Planning Board.

Mr Sean Coady, NHS Grampian advised the Committee that funding had been secured for NHS Grampian to recruit 8 practitioners and a team leader in relation to the Family Nurse Partnership which supports women under the age of 19 with their first pregnancy. This was noted.

12. NOTE OF THANKS

The Committee joined the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) in thanking Mr Iain MacDonald for his valuable contribution to the Moray Child Protection Committee and wished him well in his new role of Children Wellbeing Service's Manager.