



MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 15 APRIL 2014

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Sandy Riddell (Chair)	Corporate Director (Education and Social Care), The Moray Council
Chief Inspector Willie Findlay	Police Scotland (substituting for Superintendent Mark Cooper)
Councillor Mike Shand	The Moray Council
Councillor Allan Wright	The Moray Council
Ms Jennie Williams	Moray Representative, NHS Highland (substituting for Mr Sean Coady, NHS Grampian)
Ms Sheila Erskine	tsiMoray
Mr Patrick Hannon	Armed Forces Representative
Ms Susan Maclaren	Head of Integrated Children's Services, The Moray Council (Ex-officio)
Ms Morag Smith	Legal Representative (substituting for Ms Margaret Forrest, The Moray Council (Ex-officio))

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Superintendent Mark Cooper, Divisional Police Commander, Police Scotland, Councillor J Divers, The Moray Council, Mr Sean Coady, Moray Representative, NHS Grampian, Mrs Elizabeth Templeton, Scottish Children's Reporter Representative and Ms Margaret Forrest, Legal Representative, The Moray Council.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Iain MacDonald, Children's Wellbeing Service Manager, Ms Pat Bailey-McKay, Domestic Abuse Representative 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 21 JANUARY 2014

The Minute of the Meeting of the Moray Child Protection Committee dated 21 January 2014 was submitted and approved.

Under reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute, Councillor Wright sought an update regarding the action plan that was to be prepared by the Child Protection Co-ordinating Group in relation to the Social Care Institute for Excellence Moray Case Review Report.

In response, the Head of Integrated Children's Services advised that the Child Protection Co-ordinating Group is due to meet on 29 April 2014 and the action plan will be presented to the next meeting of the Moray Child Protection Committee. This was noted.

Under reference to paragraph 1 of the Minute, the Chair sought an update with regard to training for staff with regard to legal orders.

In response, the Head of Integrated Children's Services advised that a training needs analysis has taken place with regard to legal orders and that this had been passed to Ms Jo Fergusson, Acting Training Manager for progression. This was noted.

2. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

Under reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of this Committee dated 21 January 2014, there was submitted and noted a report by the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager advising members of the Committee of the recent Performance Management Information, 01/10/13 – 31/12/13 and emerging trends, for Moray children registered on the Child Protection Register.

The report detailed that performance during Quarter 3 had been positive with only a few improvement points raised and for the first time since 2010/11, the rate of Moray children on the Child Protection Register was lower than in Aberdeen City, though remains above Aberdeenshire. It was also noted that the average age of children on the register is reducing however the proportion of children aged 4 years and below is increasing and that children are remaining on the register for longer with the proportion registered for between 6 and 18 months at its highest level since 2010/11.

During discussion, the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager advised that the figures indicated a potentially positive trend towards an early intervention and preventive approach to supporting children and families, however further analysis would be required during the next quarter to determine the specific reasons for the trends. This was noted.

3. ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

There was submitted a report by the Children's Wellbeing Manager providing members of the Committee with a draft copy of the Moray Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2013/14 and invited comments from the Committee by 1 May 2014 so that the Annual Report could be presented to the Children and Young People Partnership.

During discussion, the Chair requested that more narrative accompany the statistics in the table under the heading Performance Management to explain what the statistics actually reflect.

In response, the Head of Integrated Children's Services advised that this would be included prior to the Annual Report 2013/14 being submitted to the Children and Young People Partnership.

During further discussion, the Chair expressed concern that, when trying to visit the Moray Child Protection Website, it had taken approximately 4 steps before eventually arriving at the Moray Child Protection Website, and asked if there could be a link on the front page of the Moray Council website that could take you straight to the Moray Child Protection Website.

In response, the Head of Integrated Children's Services advised that she would liaise with IT with regard to this matter.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the content of the report;
- (ii) to provide any comment on the Annual Report, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, to the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager by 1 May 2014 so that it could be presented to the Children and Young People Partnership;
- (iii) that the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager will arrange for more narrative to accompany the statistics in the table under the heading Performance Management prior to the Annual Report 2013/14 being submitted to the Children and Young People Partnership; and
- (iv) that the Head of Integrated Children's Services liaise with IT to provide a link to the Moray Child Protection Website on the front page of the Moray Council Website.

4. MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE JOINT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Under reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of this Committee dated 21 January 2014, there was submitted a report by the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager updating members of the Committee on the progress of actions within the Moray Child Protection Committee Joint Improvement Plan 2013/14 and asking members to approve the draft Joint Improvement Plan for 2014/15. The purpose of the Joint Improvement Plan is to clearly articulate the work of the Child Protection Committee and will be fully incorporated into the Moray Children and Young People's Service Plan.

During discussion, the Head of Integrated Children's Services sought clarification with regard to whether a named Paediatrician had been appointed specifically in relation to Child Protection.

In response, Ms Jennie Williams, NHS Representative, advised that a Consultant Paediatrician with an interest in Child Protection had recently been appointed and was based in the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital and agreed to pass the contact details on to the Committee Clerk for circulation to the Committee.

In response to a query from Councillor Wright as to how child protection incidents in Moray would be dealt with effectively as the Child Protection Paediatrician was based in Aberdeen, Ms Jennie Williams, NHS Representative advised that it was her understanding that there was a Lead Consultant for Child Protection in Moray however she agreed to clarify this and circulate this information to Members of the Committee. This was noted.

During further discussion surrounding the task to be carried out by Ms Pauline Merchant, NHS Grampian regarding the review and evaluation of the support offered to children and parents in key meetings, which featured in the proposed Joint Improvement Plan 2014/15, the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager advised that as this task was much broader than first anticipated and relates to work being carried out by all agencies and not only NHS, the deadline for this task should be March 2015. This was agreed.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- (i) agreed to note the contents of the report;
- (ii) agreed to note the progress recorded within the Joint Improvement Plan for 2013/14 as set out at Appendix 1 of the report;
- (iii) approved the draft Joint Improvement Plan for 2014/15 as set out at Appendix 2 of the report;
- (iv) agreed that Ms Jennie Williams, NHS Representative would pass the contact details of the newly appointed Child Protection Paediatrician to the Committee Clerk for circulation to the Committee;
- (v) agreed that Ms Jennie Williams, NHS Representative would clarify who the deputy Child Protection Paediatrician at Dr Grays Hospital in Elgin was and circulate this information to Members of the Committee; and
- (vi) agreed that the deadline for the task regarding the review and evaluation of the support offered to children and parents in key meetings, be postponed to March 2015 as it is much broader than first anticipated and relates to work being carried out by all agencies and not only NHS.

5. CARE INSPECTORATE UPDATE

Under reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of this Committee dated 21 January 2014, there was submitted a report by the Head of Integrated Children's Services updating members of the Committee on a recent visit from the link inspector and providing clarification in respect of Care Inspectorate involvement in the Moray Child Protection Committee in the future.

During discussion, the Chair informed the Committee that a letter had been received from Dr Peat, Director of Inspection, Care Inspectorate informing the Committee that it was the expectation of the Care Inspectorate to have a place on the Child Protection Committee as a non-voting member and therefore sought the opinion of the Committee with regard to this matter.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that having a member of the Care Inspectorate on the Committee would result in a conflict of interest for the Care Inspectorate. Concern was also raised by the Committee regarding the practicalities of the Care Inspectorate attending meetings.

During further discussion, Sheila Erskine, tsiMoray suggested that perhaps the Care Inspectorate could be represented on another strategic partnership group such as the Children and Young People Partnership.

In response the Committee agreed with this suggestion and it was therefore agreed that the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager would respond to Mr Donald Urquhart, Chair of Scottish Child Protection Committee Chairs Forum, highlighting the Committee's concerns regarding a member of the Care Inspectorate having a place on the Child Protection Committee due to conflict of interest and also with the suggestion that the Care Inspectorate be represented on another strategic partnership group such as the Children and Young People Partnership.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report; and
- (ii) that the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager would respond to Mr Donald Urquhart, Chair of the Scottish Child Protection Committee Chairs Forum with the Committee's concerns regarding a member of the Care Inspectorate having a place on the Child Protection Committee due to conflict of interest, the practicalities surrounding the attendance at meetings and also with the suggestion that the Care Inspectorate be represented on another strategic partnership group such as the Children and Young People Partnership.

6. JOINT CHILD PROTECTION UNIT PROTOCOL

There was submitted a report by the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager updating members of the Committee on the revision of the Joint Child Protection Unit Protocol. The Joint Child Protection Unit is a joint initiative between Moray Council, Police Scotland and NHS Grampian which was set up in response to the growing recognition of the need for close multi-disciplinary working and co-operation in the area of child protection.

Under reference to paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 of the Joint Child Protection Unit Protocol, Ms Morag Smith, Legal Adviser advised that Section 53 of the Children's (Scotland) Act 1995 had been replaced with Section 60 of the Children's Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011 and Section 61 of the Children's (Scotland) Act 1995 had been replaced with Section 56 of the Children's Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011 and should be amended accordingly. This was agreed.

Under reference to paragraph 8 of the Joint Child Protection Unit Protocol, the Chair suggested that reference to "My World Triangle" should be changed to "National Practice Model". This was agreed.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- (i) noted the content of the report;
- (ii) ratified the Joint Child Protection Unit Protocol, as set out at Appendix 1, for publication and dissemination subject to the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager making the necessary amendments to paragraphs 6.1, 6.2 and 8 of the protocol.

7. MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE LEAD OFFICER ROLE

Under reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of this Committee dated 21 January 2014, the Head of Integrated Children's Services provided the Committee with a verbal update regarding the Moray Child Protection Lead Officer role. She advised that a job description had been drafted with regard to the position of Moray Child Protection Lead Officer however no offer of funding had been received from any of the partners.

During discussion, the Head of Integrated Children's Services suggested that consideration could be given to the set up of a partnership/inter-agency hub where existing inter-agency posts could be based along with administrative support. She further advised that funding was available for the Integrated Officer and Administration post however there was no funding to support the delivery of training and developments.

In response the Chair agreed that the creation of an inter-agency hub would be a positive development and sought the Committee's agreement to ask the Head of Integrated Children's Services to provide further information regarding the proposal of an inter-agency hub and the training and development requirements at the next meeting of this Committee with a view to being presented to the Children and Young People's Partnership Group. This was agreed.

Thereafter the Committee agreed:-

- (i) that the Head of Integrated Children's Services provide further information regarding the proposal of an inter-agency hub and the training and development requirements at the next meeting of the Moray Child Protection Committee with a view to being presented to the Children and Young People's Partnership Group.

8. MORAY MULTI AGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT

Under reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of this Committee dated 21 January 2014, the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager provided the Committee with a verbal update regarding the Moray Multi Agency Risk Assessment. He advised that a multi-agency team had been working on the Moray Multi-Agency Risk Assessment for several months and had come to the conclusion that the Moray Child Protection Committee should adopt the National Risk Assessment Framework in full, for all multi-agency risk assessments in Moray. He further advised that agencies will continue to use their own risk assessment materials for single agency assessments.

Thereafter, the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager sought the agreement of the Committee with regard to the proposal and advised that, if the Committee were in agreement, Service and Team managers would be notified of the changes and staff briefing and training sessions would take place between May and September 2014. He further advised that, once the final draft Moray Multi-Agency Risk Assessment has been agreed, information would be provided to all agencies who receive risk assessments.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to adopt the National Risk Assessment Framework for all multi-agency risk assessments in Moray;
- (ii) that Service and Team managers will be notified of the changes and staff briefing and training sessions will take place between May and September 2014; and
- (iii) that the final draft Moray Multi-Agency Risk Assessment will be provided to all agencies who receive risk assessments.

9. INFORMATION SHARING GUIDELINES

Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of this Committee dated 21 January 2014, the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager provided the Committee with a verbal update with regard to Information Sharing Guidelines. He advised that there had been three Grampian wide meetings that were progressing well. He further advised that the group had recently finalised draft Information Sharing Guidelines which will go to each of the three authorities Child Protection Committees and GIRFEC Groups before being finalised. He highlighted that the basis for developing the guidelines was not in relation to legislative changes to information sharing/data protection and is based on a need for greater clarity and understanding of the current guidance.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the verbal update from the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager on Information Sharing Guidelines.

10. GETTING OUR PRIORITIES RIGHT TRAINING

The Children's Wellbeing Service Manager provided the Committee with a verbal update on Getting our Priorities Right training. He advised that the training was focusing on the most effective way to support families where problematic alcohol and/or drug use is an issue. He further advised that six half day briefing sessions had taken place throughout Moray facilitated by Child Protection Committee, Moray Alcohol and Drug Partnership, GIRFEC and Action for Children staff, and that sessions had been very well received with very positive feedback.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the verbal update from the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager with regard to Getting Our Priorities Right training.

11. PRACTICE REFERENCE GROUP

The Children's Wellbeing Service Manager provided the Committee with a verbal update on the progress of the Practice Reference Group and advised that this group had now met on two occasions and displayed a positive, varied membership reflective of the Child Protection Committee and Coordinating Group. He further advised that the Minute of the Practice Reference Group would be published after each meeting and that key points raised would be taken to the Coordinating Group and escalated to the Child Protection Committee if appropriate.

With regard to the last meeting of the Practice Reference Group, the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager advised that two key concerns had been raised with regard to the dissemination of information and requests from advocates for copies of minutes from Initial Child Protection Case Conferences and Looked After Child Reviews, and were being dealt with accordingly.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the verbal update from the Children's Wellbeing Service manager with regard to the Practice Reference Group.

12. VOTE OF THANKS

The Committee joined the Chair in thanking the Children's Wellbeing Service Manager for his increased efforts over the last few months in carrying out the duties of his previous role as Child Protection Integration Officer as well as his new position of Children's Wellbeing Service Manager.