



MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2015

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Mrs Susan Maclaren	Head of Integrated Children's Services, The Moray Council (Ex-Officio)
Councillor John Divers	The Moray Council
Councillor Mike Shand	The Moray Council
Councillor Allan Wright	The Moray Council
Elizabeth Templeton	Authority Children's Reporter Representative
Mrs Sheila Erskine	Voluntary Sector Representative (tsiMoray)
Mr Patrick Hannon	Armed Forces Representative
Mr Laurence Findlay	Corporate Director (Education and Social Care), The Moray Council (Ex-Officio)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Ms Vivienne Cross, Mrs Phyllis Smart and Dr Wojcik.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs Jennie Williams (NHS Grampian); Mr Iain MacDonald, Children's Wellbeing Manager; Mr Stuart Lamberton, Partnership Officer (Child Protection); Ms Pat Bailey-McKay, Domestic Abuse Representative; Ms Doreen Watson, Care Inspectorate (Observer); and Mrs Caroline Howie, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Committee.

1. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE MORAY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2014

There was submitted the minute of the meeting of the Moray Child Protection Committee dated 10 November 2014.

Mrs Williams advised Mrs Smart had requested a change to the minute that hadn't been incorporated. Mrs Howie advised she hadn't received any changes from Mrs Smart.

In response the Chair advised she would forward the amendment to Mrs Howie.

With this amendment it was agreed to accept the minute as a true record of the meeting.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

3. CHILD PROTECTION COORDINATING GROUP MINUTE AND UPDATE

There was submitted the minute of the meeting of the Child Protection Coordinating Group dated 20 November 2014.

Under reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute in relation to a specific case review Councillor Wright sought clarification as to whether the case review had been started.

In response, the Partnership Officer (Child Protection) advised this had been completed and was now out for consultation.

Thereafter under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute in regard to the report on Sexual Exploitation, Councillor Wright sought clarification on funding for this.

In response the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) advised that following a call to group members for funding there had been an offer of potential funding from Police Scotland. The Children's Wellbeing Manager advised the RAF Benevolent Fund had contributed £1,000 towards funding.

Under reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute Councillor Wright endorsed the "Unseen Child Practitioner Guide" information, which in particular requires the question to be asked if a professional has seen a child and not a presumption made that this has happened.

Following consideration the Committee noted the minute of the meeting of the Child Protection Coordinating Group dated 20 November 2014.

4. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Partnership Officer (Child Protection) outlining the performance of Child Protection for the period from July to September 2014.

During discussion Councillor Divers sought clarification on paragraph 2.11 of the appendix to the report relating to attendance at case conferences.

In response the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) advised there were considerable concerns about the low level of attendance but that these related to issues of staffing within schools and further advised he would email all Head Teachers to ensure non-attendance was for genuine reasons.

There followed further discussion on possible solutions e.g. making meetings mandatory, evening meetings, telephone conferencing etc.

The Chair requested that all the relevant bodies in attendance report the importance of attendance at case conferences to their respective organisations. Attendance will be monitored closely.

Thereafter the Committee noted the report by the Partnership Officer (Child Protection) outlining the performance of Child Protection for the period from July to September 2014.

5. NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

There was submitted a report by the Partnership Officer (Child Protection) asking the Committee to note the content of the National Action Plan for CSE.

The Partnership Officer (Child Protection) gave an update on plans to hold sessions on CSE awareness. He advised there will be a twilight session taking place in Elgin Youth Café on 5 March with a full day session the following day. Further twilight sessions will be held in Buckie High, Milne's High, Speyside High and Lossiemouth High schools to which parents are welcome to attend.

The Chair suggested there should be a press release to highlight when the sessions will be held. This was agreed.

During discussion consideration was given by the Committee on whether or not P6 and P7 pupils should be involved in the CSE awareness sessions as many can be well versed in the use of mobile phones and therefore can be vulnerable. The Committee agreed that only S1 and S2 pupils would be included at this stage.

The Chair asked for a further report of CSE to come to a future meeting of this Committee.

Thereafter the Committee agreed:

- i) to note the content of the National Action Plan for CSE;
- ii) that a press release be issued highlighting when sessions on CSE awareness will be held; and
- iii) that a further report on CSE be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

6. NHS GRAMPIAN FAMILY NURSE PARTNERSHIP

There was submitted a report by the Partnership Officer (Child Protection) asking the Committee to acknowledge the function of the NHS Grampian Family Nurse Partnership.

Mrs Williams presented the report and advised that with 7 family nurses in Grampian it will equate to 1.5 whole time equivalent family nurses in Moray who will be based in Buckie.

During discussion Councillor Wright sought clarification as to why the nurses would be based at one end of Moray when they covered the whole county.

In response Mrs Williams advised NHS Grampian had wanted the family nurses to be based within a team of other practitioners and there was no space to base them in Elgin. She advised this would be reviewed to ensure it doesn't introduce obstacles.

Councillor Shand sought clarification on why, if the scheme has been running in England since 2007, it was too early to say if it is cost effective.

In response Mrs Williams advised it is the long term benefits they are looking to assess e.g. the child not missing school in later life.

Thereafter the Committee agreed to acknowledge the function of the NHS Grampian Family Nurse Partnership.

7. SELF EVALUATION GROUP AND FORCED MARRIAGE

There was submitted a report by the Partnership Officer (Child Protection) advising the Committee of the Self Evaluation Group and key information on Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage and asking the Committee to support and authorise the Self Evaluation Group to request information from agencies and support the appointment of a Champion for the Moray area in relation to Forced Marriage.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i) support and authorise the Self Evaluation Group to request information from agencies; and
- ii) task the Child Protection Coordinating Group to appoint a Champion for the Moray area in relation to Forced Marriage.

8. IMPROVEMENT PLAN – VERBAL UPDATE

The Chair advised this had been added as a standard agenda item following the last meeting of this Committee (paragraph 11 of the Minute refers). She further advised this would be a written report for future meetings.

The Partnership Officer (Child Protection) advised the Improvement Plan is being reviewed and an updated Plan should be available in April. Advising the Plan requires a multi-agency approach to ascertain what the Committee's priorities should be.

Areas that warranted highlighting are:

GIRFEC; in particular the 3 operational sub groups which are each leading on Key areas; these being the Named Person, National Practice Model, and the child's plan.

Child Protection Orders (CPOs); an audit of CPOs had been completed and was with the Chair.

Public information; it was advised how information is disseminated with practitioners and the public.

During discussion clarification was sought on how and where information is being provided.

In response the Partnership Officer (Child Protection) advised one of the main areas of information for staff is via Aspire, a magazine which is issued to all education and social care personnel. Mrs Williams advised it would be useful to have the information also disseminated via the NHS and undertook to get contact information for the NHS corporate media personnel and forward this to the Partnership Officer (Child Protection).

9. AGENCY UPDATES

The Committee noted the following verbal agency updates:

Domestic Abuse Representative

Ms Bailey-MacKay advised there would be a conference taking place soon to discuss and consult on a Strategy on Domestic Abuse and reminded the Committee that an awareness coffee afternoon was taking place in the Council Annexe and invited the Committee to attend following the conclusion of this meeting.

NHS Grampian

Ms Williams advised the Specialist Child Protection Team had held a seminar for agency colleagues on 10 February. This was to give agency colleagues an opportunity to meet with team members and for the team to explain the governance, accountability and work of the Team. A similar event is to be planned for Moray later this year.

The Protecting Children Group (Health) held a development event around the subject of Female Genital Mutilation. The discussion highlighted a need for further work in order to support staff and to raise awareness of the issue and a short life working group is to be convened to carry out investigations.

Guidance for Managing Children Missing from Health Services has been produced by the Child Protection Nursing Midwifery & Allied Health Professions Scotland group. The guidance is adopted fully by NHS Grampian and has been shared with colleagues at Scottish Government who are considering where the guidance should sit.

Authority Children's Reporter Representative

Ms Templeton advised they were currently advertising a post for a part time Reporter.

Care Inspectorate

Ms Watson thanked everyone for the informative meeting and advised the Care Inspectorate is looking at best practice that can be disseminated around groups.

She sought clarification if it was acceptable for her to attend one of the CSE awareness sessions and in response the Partnership Officer (Child Protection) advised he would send her information to allow her to check her availability.

Integrated Children's Services

The Chair advised minor changes were required to the current Child Protection Procedures in relation to letters of invite for child protection case conferences and a report would be brought to this Committee in due course.

10. AOCB

The Chair stated that most reports to the meeting are currently generated from within the Moray Council and requested that all groups look to producing reports for inclusion on the agenda. She reminded the Meeting that this is a Partnership and a mix of reports from other agencies could improve Partnership working.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 12 May 2015 at 2.00pm in the Council Office, Elgin