

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP

7 SEPTEMBER 2005

MORAY COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS

ELGIN

Present

John Divers (Chairman)	Councillor, The Moray Council
Rhoma Hossack	Councillor, The Moray Council
Alistair Urquhart	Councillor, The Moray Council
Percy Watt	Councillor, The Moray Council
Claire Crossan	Youth Inclusion Development Officer
Ann Darlington	Assistant Director of Children's Services NCH
Andrew Fowlie	General Manager, MCH&SCP, NHS Grampian
Trisha Hall	Service Manager, Aberlour Child Care Trust
Sharon Munro	Assistant Director, Children 1 st
Peter Mutch	Youth Representative
Peter Riley	Child Protection Unit, Grampian Police
William Robertson	DI Child Protection, Grampian Police
Helen Robbins	Nurse Facilitator, MCH&SCP, NHS Grampian
Scarborough	Eric H/ESS, Moray Council
John Sullivan	HC&F&CJ, Moray Council
Alison Wright	Dialogue Youth Co-ordinator

Apologies

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Linda Gorn, Supt. A Smailes, Grampian Police (Moray Division), John Hammond, Authority Reporter and Naomi Graham, Acting Project Manager, NCH.

In Attendance

Alistair Keddie, Chief Executive	The Moray Council
Roddy Burns, Chief Legal Officer	The Moray Council
Bridget Mustard Corporate Policy Unit Manager	The Moray Council
Wendy Jamieson, Local Community Network Manager	The Moray Council
Karen Wiles, Principal Solicitor (Litigation & Licensing)	The Moray Council
Ron Ritchie, Senior Committee Services Officer	The Moray Council

1. MINUTE OF MEETING DATED 22 JUNE 2005

The Minute of the meeting of the Partnership dated 22 June 2005 was submitted and approved as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

Membership of the Partnership

Under Reference to Paragraph 4 of the Minute, Eric Scarborough advised the meeting that it had not been possible, due to school holidays, to appoint secondary and primary school representatives prior to this meeting. The appointments would be discussed at forthcoming secondary and primary Head Teacher meetings and it was anticipated that representatives would be in place before the next meeting of the Partnership.

2. COMMUNITY PLANNING STRUCTURE

Under reference to paragraph 5 (iii) of the Minute of the Partnership dated 22 June 2005 there was submitted a report by the Alistair Keddle inviting the Partnership to consider taking on the role of the Investing Children and Young Peoples Theme Group for the purposes of Community Planning.

The meeting noted that the Council has the lead responsibility for facilitating the work of the Moray Community Planning Partnership and assists in the progression of effective working between the partners in the Planning Partnership, the eight local neighbourhood forums and the seven Community Planning Theme Groups. The report also advised that in order to act as the Theme Group for Community Planning purposes, the Partnership was required to consider and if so disposed, approve Theme Group protocols set out in the Appendix to the report. These outline the responsibilities of the Theme Group required to support the Community Planning structure. The meeting also noted that in approving the proposed set of protocols, consideration would require to be given to the appointment of a representative to sit on the Co-ordinating Group.

During discussion it was noted that the list of partners, set out in Section 2.1.1 of the report, was not exhaustive and was included to give a broad overview of the partners. It was also noted that Local Community Networks would be included along with the Local Neighbourhood Forums and Community Planning Theme Groups in the progression of effective working between the partners. Reference was also made to an expression of interest from Careers Scotland to participate in the Moray Community Planning Partnership and it was noted that should a formal request be received from Careers Scotland due consideration will be given to their future participation in the Partnership.

Following consideration the Partnership agreed:-

- (i) to take on the role of investing in Children and Young People's Theme Group for Community Planning purposes and that a report on the Strategic Planning issues relative to the role be submitted to a future meeting of the Partnership;
- (ii) to approve the Theme Group protocols listed in the Appendix to the report;
- (iii) to extend the membership of the Partnership to a representative from Moray Youth Start; and
- (iv) that Councillor John Divers be appointed as the Partnership's representative to sit on the Community Planning Co-ordinating Group.

3. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES PLANNING AND REPORTING STRUCTURES

There was submitted a report by Eric Scarborough advising the Partnership of the Planning and Reporting Structures which currently exist within Moray to facilitate the integrated planning and delivery of services, at a local level, in respect of Children and Young People. Details of the structures were set out in the Appendix to the report.

During the discussion, reference was made to the possibility of hosting an annual seminar on Integrated Children's Services in Moray and the establishment of Performance Indicators for the various aspects of the services. In regard to performance indicators it was noted that the Scottish Executive were currently looking at this issue and had already issued the templates in respect of integrated Children's Services. Appropriate systems were currently being developed for implementation early next year. It was also noted that the Scottish Executive had launched a multi-agency pilot inspection in regard to Child Protection across Highland and Dumbartonshire and this was currently being evaluated and would be rolled out over all authorities over the next three years.

Following discussion the Partnership agreed:-

- (i) to note the planning and report on relationships set out in the report; and
- (ii) that it be remitted to John Sullivan and Eric Scarborough to consider and report to a future meeting of the Partnership on the implications and costs in regard to the possibility of the Partnership hosting an annual seminar on Integrated Children's Services in Moray

4. MORAY'S INTEGRATED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2005-2008 : SUMMARY

Under reference to paragraph 3.1(a) of the Minute of the Partnership dated 22 June 2005 there was submitted a report by John Sullivan providing the Partnership with a summary of the first integrated Children & Young Peoples Service Plan 2005-08.

The meeting noted that within Moray there exists established structures that facilitate the process of working together and the development of an Integrated Services Plan. It was also noted that the Children's Services Plan is an extensive document setting out priorities and actions for the next three years and incorporates the main elements of other service plans published by The Moray Council, NHS Grampian, the voluntary sector and Grampian Police. A "Summary Plan" focusing on the key overarching vision principles and priorities was appended to the report. John Sullivan advised the meeting that both documents need to be seen as active "working documents" which will require amendment and evaluation over time and that this should include a formal annual review process. He also advised that the summary document, which was still in draft form, required a number of indicators/measures and who the lead agency would be, to be set against a number of the priorities.

During discussion it was agreed that, given the size of the full version, the finalised summary be used for the purposes of consultation with a reference contained within the document indicating where access to the full version can be obtained, either electronically or hard copy.

Following consideration it was agreed that:-

- (i) it be remitted to John Sullivan and Eric Scarborough to finalise both documents for submission to the next meeting of the Partnership; and
- (ii) the finalised versions include identification of what agencies are resourcing what actions.

5. INFORMATION SHARING PROTOCOL : CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES

There was submitted a report by Eric Scarborough inviting the Partnership to note the terms of the final draft of the Protocol for the Sharing of Information in respect of Children and Young People's Services between Moray Council, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Grampian Police and NHS Grampian. The report also advised that the protocol will be referred to the next meetings of the Council's Educational Services and Community Services Committees for approval and seeking delegation of authority to the Chief Executive to sign the document on behalf of the Moray Council. A copy of the final draft of the Protocol was attached to the report as Appendix 1.

The meeting noted that there had been both real and perceived barriers to information sharing at both operational and managerial levels which may have been linked to legal requirements or ethical standards which require to be satisfied. On some occasions these impediments have focused on personal, inter-professional and inter-organisational mis-trust; on worries about responsibility and accountability for personal information; on the absence of enabling mechanisms; and on technical matters. It was also noted that where information sharing has occurred its value has often been reduced by mis-understandings in the use of language or inefficiencies in the communication channel and that these barriers have led to concerns and uncertainties regarding the circumstances of the information sharing.

In view of these concerns a sub-group of the Pan Grampian eCare Project and the Pan Grampian Development Group for Children's Integrated Assessment, developed a general protocol which follows, where appropriate, the General Protocol for Adult Services and others in place throughout the UK for Children's Services.

The purpose of the protocol is to provide a framework for secure and confidential sharing of information between the partnership organisations, in order to enable the partnership organisations to meet the needs of service users who require care, protection and support in accordance with government expectations and legislative requirements. It will also enable service users to utilise the services provided by the partnership organisations, to be informed of the reasons which information about them may be required to be shared and how this sharing will be managed across the Partnership organisations. It also represents an agreed understanding of the legal issues relating to the sharing of information amongst the partnership organisations

and outlines and the agreed principles, policies and procedures which must be adhered to by all members of staff employed within the partnership organisations in order to meet the requirements of the protocol.

It was further noted that the principle reason why the Partnership organisations are committed to information sharing is to enable them to meet the needs of children and young people for education, welfare, health and well being, care, protection and support in accordance with good working policy and practice.

Following consideration the Partnership agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the information sharing protocol to be referred to the Educational Services and Community Services Committees for approval and for delegation of authority to the Chief Executive to sign the document on behalf of the Moray Council; and
- (ii) that the Partnership's appreciation of the work undertaken in the production of this protocol be conveyed to all those concerned and in particular to Margaret Forrest, Senior Solicitor (Litigation & Licensing) Moray Council.

6. YOUTH STRATEGY FOR MORAY

There was submitted a report by the Roddy Burns seeking the Partnership's support for a range of possible actions which are considered key to the implementation of the "Youth Strategy for Moray".

The meeting noted that the first draft of the Youth Strategy for Moray entitled "Moray : A Place to be Young" had six topics of jobs, education, transport, accommodation, health, personal safety and security and had the support, in principle, of the Community Planning Partners. Since the production of the first draft, a group of Officers working on an inter-service/inter-agency basis have established a range of actions needed to achieve the tasks in the draft strategy, details of which were set out in the Appendix to the report. The meeting also noted that to assist in distinguishing the Strategy from the various children's plans and assist in the promotion of the Strategy it be renamed "Youth Strategy for Moray".

The report was augmented by an oral report by Roddy Burns, in his capacity as Dialogue Youth Champion, in regard to the three key areas identified in regard to opportunities, transport and accommodation and of the possible actions required to support these themes. He advised the meeting that the strategy was a work in progress and that, subject to endorsement by the Partnership and the Community Planning Group Partners as a way forward, it was proposed that the strategy be considered by CMT and the appropriate Committees in mid-September. This would be followed by a launch of the draft Youth Strategy around the week of 31 October-5 November 2005 with a publicity campaign, travelling road show and text messaging service also being used to canvas support for the strategy. During discussion clarification was sought in regard to the link between Youthstart and the proposed Youth Strategy and it was noted that Youthstart was considered an integral link in assisting in the development of the strategy.

Following discussion the Partnership agreed to endorse and support the proposals set out in the first draft Strategy being re-named "Moray Youth Strategy : Investing in Young People".

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Partnership will be held on Wednesday 2 November 2005 at 9.30 a.m within the Chambers, Council Headquarters, Elgin.