



Children's Hearings
Improvement Partnership

Fife Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership

Better Hearings Update December 2022

Introduction

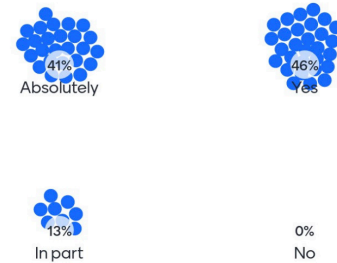
A leaner update than previous, but this is no reflection on the breadth of work being undertaken across Fife currently to improve the experience of children and families and to upskill our workforce.

Multi-agency Learning Event – 4th October

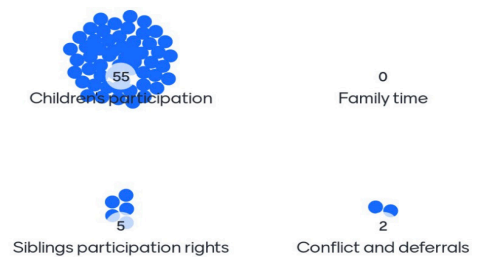


Our first post-pandemic multi agency learning and networking event was held at the Dean Park Hotel in Kirkcaldy on 4th October 2022. The evening saw partners come together from across Fife to learn, share best practice and build local relationships. For the first time invites were extended to colleagues in Education, Health and the 3rd sector, bringing a proper cross section of experience and knowledge to the evening. The session promoted discussion and enabled scenario-based learning. Elliot Jackson, CEO of Children’s Hearing Scotland, joined partners to commend the collaborative efforts of the last few years that stand Fife in good stead for the work ahead in terms of #keeping the promise. Arguably the loudest voices of the evening came from those with lived experience - Debbie Adamson, Panel Chair of Fife’s Permanence Team, shared video footage and excerpts of birth parents’ views that set the context for the nights’ discussions. The evening culminated in a step into the future, whereby feedback was gathered online through Menti metre! Here’s what attendees shared:

Do you feel tonight’s discussions added to your understanding of the topics covered?



Which aspect of the scenario generated the most discussion for your team?



What 3 words best describe your experience tonight



New Children's Hearing Participation Officers

Building on the success of Charlotte Guild's work, the Children's Hearing Participation Officer role has now been extended out to 3 new social work assistants. To align the work with corporate parenting, these posts will sit within social work's Quality Assurance and Development Team under the management of Alison Wishart.

Brogan Coll, Shannon Valentine and Helen Deehan will be building on the excellent work already undertaken to increase children and young people's participation in their children's hearings.

Shout out to newly qualified social workers!

On 22nd November, NQSWs attended the first face to face session of the re-launched Children's Hearing training module. Co-delivered by Katie Pacholek, SCRA and Linda Sheret, Service Manager, the session focused on preparing social workers for making referrals; attending children's hearing; and appearing in court as a witness.

The training is aimed at practitioners with limited experience of the hearing system and aims to offer a firm foundation and practical tips for work within this area.

Feedback from this first session was positive: ***"I found the training today extremely helpful ...I feel more knowledgeable now and although still nervous I feel a lot better about the process."*** Future dates are already on Oracle and can be booked now.

Children's Hearing Support - Autism Alert Cards



As an additional avenue to support in a hearing, following feedback from autistic children and young people, Fife are trialling an Autism alert card. The Autism Alert Card is a way for autistic people to let SCRA staff and/or panel members know

that they are autistic and that would like some help. There is space on the card for the person to include specific details of how they can be helped.

The Autism Alert cards are available at the reception area of the hearing centre. They can also be sent in advance to any person requiring one in a PDF version for them to print and bring to the hearing centre with them. As well as the autism alert card, there are also a number of visual stories available on the SCRA website to support autistic people coming to a hearing. The visual story for Glenrothes is available [here](#).

Why do you have Autism Alert cards and the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower scheme?

Having the Hidden Disability Sunflower scheme running alongside the Autism Alert cards will allow individuals a choice in how they wish to be identified. Many autistic individuals do not consider themselves to have a 'disability' and therefore may not wish to use a Hidden Disability Sunflower lanyard.

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