



**Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership Meeting
Wednesday 24 May 2023**

Note of Meeting

Attendees:

Tom McNamara, SG, Chair (TM)	Selwyn McCausland, National Advocacy Provider Network (SMc)
Elaine Adams, CHIP L&D Lead (EA)	Craig Milne, SG (CM)
Andrew Alexander, The Law Society (AA)	Fiona Muir, HSCP (FM)
Lisa Bennett, SCRA (LB)	Paul Mulvanny, SCRA (PM)
Stephen Bermingham, CHS (SB)	Susan Orr, Social Work Scotland (SO)
Cheryl Clark, COPFS (CC)	Louise Piaskowski, SG (LP)
Liz Cuschieri, SLAB (LC)	Chloe Riddell, The Promise (CR)
Julie Duncan, SG (JD)	Hazel Robertson, SWS (HR)
Fiona Dyer, CYCJ (FD)	Nick Rougvie, SG (NR)
Bryan Evans, Children 1st (BE)	Pam Semple, SG (PS)
Alistair Hogg, SCRA (AH)	John Urquhart, COSLA (JU)
Neil Hunter, SCRA (NH)	Carol Wassell, CHS (CW)
Elliot Jackson, CHS (EJ)	Megan Wharton, SG (MW)
Sheriff David Mackie (SM)	Leah Wilkie, SG, Secretariat (LW)
Janine McCullough, Education Scotland (JM)	Emma Wilson, SG (EW)
Caren McLean, CELCIS (CMc)	

Apologies:

Ian Donaldson,
Fi McFarlane
Helen Etchells
Alison Todd
Ian McKinnon
Tamar Jamieson
Kate Ramsden
Lynne McNiven
Brendan Rooney

Agenda Item	Action Points
<p>1. Welcome and apologies</p> <p>TM welcomed CHIP partners to the group, Apologies were noted.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Action Points</p>	

<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed, and the actions from the previous meeting were reviewed.</p>	
<p>3. Hearings System Working Group Final Report</p> <p>The Hearings System Working Group final report will be published on 25th May 2023. CR provided a summary of the chapters of the Hearings System Working Group final report, including touching on some of the recommendations. The group matched the recommendations with Our Hearings Our Voice 40 Calls to Action. The report has 97 recommendations overall. There will also be a child friendly and easy read version of the report available.</p> <p>SM advised that this ends the work of the working group, but committed to being available to assist in whatever way may be required to implement the recommendations. There are recommendations that may not need legislation however they recognise that many will need significant money and resource. There is no expectation that all of these recommendations will be acted upon straight away and the group recognises that some of the recommendations may need to be tested and piloted before they are implemented. He expressed his gratitude to the children and young people who have been involved and said he found the way the group worked with care experienced young people highly rewarding.</p> <p>JU thanked CR and SM for the update. At COSLA, they will need to read the report and reflect on that, consult with others and also take it through their internal structures, which means it will take time for their response to be formulated. JU asked if the report lays out the figure needed for additional costs?</p> <p>CR advised that on extra resource, it is clear that this won't happen overnight and some recommendations will take longer than others to implement and some may need more discussions. There is work being done on financial modelling with CHS and SCRA however it is not concluded yet.</p> <p>NH gave thanks to all of those involved, and reflected that it has been an intensive and challenging process, but highly collaborative. The direction of travel for the Children's Hearings System is set for the next couple of decades. There are areas within the report that need more discussions and working through. We now need to think of the challenges ahead when the report is published and Minister's give their considerations to the report.</p> <p>HR really welcomes the report and is looking forward to reading the content. She advised that there was anxiety amongst local authorities</p>	

<p>around the extra resource, particularly with social workers struggling to meet current demand.</p>	
<p>4. HSWG Response Planning</p> <p>EW expressed gratitude to all involved in the development of the circulated paper . One of the critical things to highlight is the need for momentum. We must make the best use of the month of June to agree and assemble the structures we will need to probably consider the report and plan and take forward any implementation. We are keen to map out current improvement and plans against the content of the report. She highlighted the need for sequencing across the different pieces of work. Effective programme management will be key. Key analysis will take place over the summer months and there will be engagement sessions surrounding the recommendations and impact assessments will need to be undertaken for anything that is progressed. There will be detailed legal analysis and we are currently undertaking policy analysis across government. While we will continue work apace, given the scale and complexity of the report we need to give adequate time and care to this.</p> <p>EJ impressed upon members that for operational partners we must ensure business continues as usual. While some of the recommendations are radical, and may cause disquiet, those changes will take many years and in the meantime the report has to land well with panel members.</p>	<p>Comments sought on the circulated paper by end of May.</p>
<p>5. Childrens Care and Justice Bill</p> <p>MW – provided an update on behalf of Brendan Rooney who was unable to attend. The evidence sessions for Stage 1 of the bill are now complete, with stakeholders and Ministers having given views to the various committees - the Education committee, Criminal Justice committee and Finance committee have all taken an interest. Largely the committees were supportive of the aims of the bill. The main concerns were around finance and resourcing. Since the evidence sessions, the Criminal Justice committee report has been published and the Finance committee have written to the lead committee with their views. The Education committee will publish their report around June. There is no confirmed date for the Stage 1 debate, however the deadline for this is 23rd June so we expect the debate to take place in the days leading up to this date.</p>	

<p>There is quite a lot of work running alongside that. A meeting has been set up with CHS next week on some of the ongoing issues. There is attention required on the revised financial memorandum and there are conversations needing to take place on how to approach the questions raised in evidence. There is a date in the diary to meet with Social Work Scotland to discuss this. The plan is for these sessions to be regular. The inception meeting for the implementation group is scheduled for 5th June. The focus of this first session will be on sequencing, and an interactive workshop on the needs and opportunities for supporting implementation of the Bill. Conversations are also taking place around the revision of the financial memorandum.”</p>	
<p>6. Language Leaders Work</p> <p>EA gave an update to CHIP on the work that has been happening on this with OHOV. The group is now well established with 6 young adults with lived care experience and professionals across the service. The energy of the young people is fantastic. The last time the group met they had 2 pages worth of what they would like to see in the recommendations. The overall aim was for everyone involved to recognise the power of language, tone and body language and for children to feel safe, included and at the heart of the Children’s Hearing. This must be personalised to meet the individual need of the child, so it is easily understandable and allows children to be fully involved. The only type of language that will be used in a hearing must be non-stigmatising. The OHOV website is being updated to reflect this and other work.</p> <p>BE asked if these are something that can be shared with the Safeguarder workforce so they can be integrated to the training?</p> <p>EA confirmed these are not finalised and more work is to be done on them but will let BE know when they are finalised.</p>	
<p>7. SG Updates</p> <p>TM – range of policy updates covered in the papers.</p> <p>CW asked if it was possible to see all organisations that have registered to be on the panel for the National Care Service Bill. TM agreed this would be helpful and is something he will take away to find out.</p>	<p>CM to find out organisations that have registered to be on the panel for the National Care Service Bill</p>



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8. AOB No points raised.	
9. Date of Next Meeting Joint CHIP and YJIB meeting 7 th June 2023. Next CHIP meeting scheduled for 23 August 2023	