

Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership Meeting
Tuesday 12th December 2023 11:00 – 12:00

Note of Meeting

Attendees:

Tom McNamara, SG, Chair (TM)	Craig Milne, SG (CM)
Lisa Bennett, SCRA (LB)	Alison Todd, Angus CPC (AT)
Cheryl Clark, COPFS (CC)	Paul Mulvanny, SCRA (PM)
Liz Cuschieri, SLAB (LC)	Chloe Riddell, The Promise (CR)
Julie Duncan, SG (JD)	Hazel Robertson, SWS (HR)
Bryan Evans, Children 1st (BE)	Nick Rougvie, SG (NR)
Alistair Hogg, SCRA (AH)	Pam Semple, SG (PS)
Elaine Adams, CELCIS (EA)	John Urquhart, COSLA (JU)
Elliot Jackson, CHS (EJ)	Carol Wassell, CHS (CW)
Selwyn McCausland, Barnardo's (SM)	Leah Wilkie, SG, Secretariat (LW)
Janine McCullough, Education Scotland (JM)	Gordon Main, OHOV (GM)
Alison Wales, NSPCC (AW)	Louise Piaskowski, SG (LP)
Carly Elliot-Scott, CYCJ (CE-S)	John McDiarmid, Police Scotland (JM)
Taiba Ali, SG (TA)	Gita Sharkey, SG (GS)
Fiona Muir, HSCP (FM)	Jack Murray-Dickson, SG (JM-D)

Apologies:

Ian Donaldson, Scottish Government
 Fiona Dyer, CYCJ
 Neil Hunter, SCRA
 Tamar Jamieson, Police Scotland
 Caren McLean, CELCIS
 Karen Head, NSPCC
 Susan Orr, Social Work Scotland
 Kate Ramsden, Aberdeenshire Council
 Lynne McNiven, NHS
 Andrew Alexander, Law Society of Scotland
 Helen Etchells, SCRA
 Emma Wilson, SG
 Lynsey Smith, Includem
 Stephen Ferguson, COPFS
 Leanne Blacklaw, Police Scotland
 Juliet Henderson, Police Scotland

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 for Children” – Scottish Government Response – <i>Tom McNamara</i></p> <p>TM provided an update on the Scottish Government Response to the Hearings For Children report. TM thanked CHIP members for the contributions they have provided on this to help provide advice to Ministers. The Scottish Government continues to aim to respond to this by the end of the calendar year, pending the timing of Ministerial decisions. The advice pack has been assembled and sent to Ministers last week. In the pack, there is a draft response, policy analysis and a rehearsal of the detailed working and have also included the COSLA response that was issued in October. The next steps are preparing for the first meeting of the Redesign Board that hopes to take ownership of the non-statutory and non-structural changes across 2024, then onto a public consultation.</p> <p>GM asked if it was possible to say more about the advice that has been passed to Ministers. TM advised that as this is now sitting with Ministers, can't say much more as they may come back and look for further information or disagree with the recommendations given to them.</p> <p>EJ asked how many Ministers are involved in making the decision and who will have a say in the Government response. TM confirmed that while the Minister for Children, Young People, and Keeping the Promise was the lead, there are multiple portfolios with an interest in the response.</p> <p>CR advised Sheriff Mackie is keen to be involved. She appreciates the scale of the report and all the work that has gone into the response. TM confirmed Ms Don will most likely want to meet with Sheriff Mackie ahead of publication of the response.</p> <p>AW advised that the focus of the NSPCC has an interest in how the reforms will meet the needs of children and infants. She noted that the Redesign Board will have their first meeting in January and asked about the possibility of involving infant experts on the board. TM advised he doesn't want to pre-empt the work of the Redesign Board but it is likely that the board will identify relevant experts to work with and to update them on emerging evidence and additional studies.</p>	

<p>4. Children (Care and Justice) Bill - <i>CCJ Bill Team</i></p> <p>TM provided an update on behalf of the Bill Team for the Children (Care and Justice) Bill. He thanked CHIP partners that had contributed to the Parliamentary stages to date. There were 2 sessions held in October and November with additional issues raised by committee members. The decision had been made to delay the Bill, and Stage 2 proceedings will commence in mid-late January.</p> <p>AH noted that the Committee primarily heard from VSOs, and asked when and how it would be appropriate for bodies to respond to the points raised. TM advised that it is open for any organisation to communicate with the Committee in any way they see fit.</p>	
<p>5. Bairns' Hoose Update – <i>Jack Murray-Dixon</i></p> <p>JM-D gave an update on progress on Bairns' Hoose. Work has been published across the year, including the Bairns' Hoose standards which adapt European Standards to fit the Scottish landscape. A three phased approach to implementation trialling the standards has just recently begun and will move on to a pilot phase soon. The current pathfinder phase is about testing the standards across different areas, and will act as proof of concept moving into the next phase, and identify improvements. They have secured funding of £6 million for the pathfinders and development fund.</p>	
<p>6. UNCRC Incorporation Update – <i>Gita Sharkey</i></p> <p>Due to time constraints, this item was cut short, however GS advised that the Bill had been passed the previous week, and now the focus was turning to implementation and the development of guidance. She will attend a future meeting of CHIP to discuss in more detail.</p>	
<p>7. SG Updates</p> <p>The SG Updates were noted.</p>	
<p>8. AOB</p> <p>No points raised.</p>	

