

92nd Council Meeting

Saturday, February 26th 2005

This report was written by an attending representative of SACP and is not an official minute of the event

SACP

Scottish Association
of Children's Panels

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SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S PANELS

Minute of 92nd Council Meeting

Saturday, 26th February 2005

92.1 Sederunt : A. Philp (Aberdeen), J. Noble (Argyll and Bute), P. Maynard (Dumfries and Galloway), M. Stenhouse (Clackmannanshire), G. Reoch (Glasgow SE), M. Gaughan (Glasgow SW), M. Easton (Highland), G. Murdoch (Moray), S. McMenemy (North Ayrshire), L. Benton (N. Lanarkshire), G. Adamson (Scottish Borders), B. Paterson (S Lanarkshire), A. Lee (West Dumbartonshire)

Apologies: C. Robertson (Angus), A. McGroarty (Glasgow), D. MacArthur (Inverclyde)

92.2 Minutes of previous meeting.

Amendments: 91.3 "distributed" to become "facilitated the distribution of"

91.5 "joint working between the Executive and....."

91.6 "A laptop has been purchased for the use of the chair. A. Leeto further her skills."

91.11 Add: "Thanks are due to Margaret for her contribution to the work of SACP."

92.3 Matters Arising from Minutes

Business Plan. The council expressed thanks to M. Easton for completing the updating of the business plan. Completed plan to be sent to M. Stenhouse for forwarding to SEED. A copy is to be sent separately to Boyd MacAdam. M. Easton tendered her resignation from the finance sub-committee.

92.4 Correspondence

- Duncan MacArthur resigned on 20/2/05 but is hopeful that he will be replaced.
- SCRA has sent a copy of its annual report for comment.
- A copy of the update on ASBOs and LA accountability has been received.
- Subscription to Children in Scotland is due. It was agreed that membership of this organisation should be renewed.
- CHRG. Several members have received invitations to an event recognising long service.
- ASBO master classes. More of these are to be held at venues throughout Scotland.

92.5 Chairman's Report

- A. Lee presented reports on meetings of the Children's Hearings Forum and Family Group Conferencing. Reports to be copied and sent to representatives as well as included on web site.
- Children Law UK will meet on 10th March. Official minutes will be sent to M. Stenhouse who will distribute them.
- Children's Hearings Representative Group will meet on 13th April.

92.6 Treasurer's Report

- It was agreed that next year the venue of SACP meetings should vary to accommodate representatives from areas out with central belt. G. Murdoch to look at relative cost of different venues.
- Cost of overnight accommodation at AGM venue to be considered with a view to SACP perhaps covering these costs.
- Representatives attending conferences in the near future should make sure receipts are with the Treasurer before the end of the financial year.

92.7 Consultation Documents

Parenting Orders. Extra copies were distributed. Comments must be with B. Paterson as soon as possible. Concern was raised that a parenting order could result in a delay in other arrangements while the parent(s) await counseling.

Other current consultation documents concern knife crime and mandatory drug testing.

92.8 Press Secretary Report

Website. Some reports are still to appear but are due to appear shortly.

All present agreed to the inclusion of their names and email addresses on the Children's Hearings Extranet.

Press Reports. Recent press interest has largely concerned the increased number of referrals to the CHS, increased youth offending, assaults on children in care, and peer courts. Most representatives were aware of the Herald article written by Jackie Kemp and the reaction to its misrepresentation of the Hearings system. Disquiet was expressed at the resignation of Alan Miller, coming as it did on the heels of the disagreement over figures on children offending.

92.9 Conferences

G. Bayfield updated the list of upcoming conferences. Places will be requested as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 10-11 March | Growing up in Rural Scotland. A. Lee and M. Stenhouse |
| 15 th March | Children Law UK A.Lee and G. Adamson |
| 5 th April | Working with Fathers B. Paterson, M. Stenhouse (Reserve:M.Easton)
ACBP Evidence Based Assessment of Children in Need A.Lee, S. McMenemy. |
| 20 th April | Supporting Foster Carers. Joyce Noble |
| 23 rd April | Opening the School Gates: bullying is a community issue. G. Murdoch, M.Easton. |
| 13 th May | Children's Mental Health P. Maynard, S. McMenemy, A. Philp
(Reserve: M. Stenhouse) |
| 20 th May | Out of Control L. Benton, G. Murdoch |

92.10 AGM Venue

Agreed venue is Macdonald's Four Seasons Hotel, Aviemore. G. Murdoch to ascertain overnight rate. Each representative should inquire before next meeting if local authority will cover overnight cost. Meetings will begin at 10.30 on 4th June. Request to be made to publicise SACP in the Communicator.

92.11 Annual Report and Distribution

- Chairman's report will be ready for the next meeting and the finished report should be available for distribution at the AGM.
- Report should also contain a brief report from the Secretary and a report on the business plan.

- SEED to be contacted to ascertain the current number of panel members and for aid in distribution of report to members in areas without representation.
- Representatives to request items for AGM agenda from local panel members.

92.12 A.O.C.B.

1. Disabled access to hearing rooms. There are venues, including some in South Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire, where this is still an issue. It is unclear how widespread this is.
2. Emergency protocol. Procedures in the event of an emergency within the hearing room vary widely. Some venues have a “panic button” others have no means of alerting appropriate help known to panel members working at these venues. Representatives are asked to ascertain procedures in their area and to alert panel members to the advisability of knowing such procedures.

92.13 Date of next meeting

Saturday, 16th April at Ochil House, Stirling

Key issues to be highlighted in area communications:

- Amended business plan
- Conferences and reports
- Information on extranet
- Issues for AGM
- Health and safety in hearing rooms (disabled access; emergency procedures)