



# 94th Council Meeting

**Saturday, June 4th 2005**

**10.30a.m – 15.00p.m.**

**Macdonald Hotel, Aviemore**

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 94<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

Saturday, 4th June 2005

10.30 am, Macdonald Hotel, Aviemore

### 94.1 Sederunt and Apologies

A.Philp(Aberdeen), F. Patterson(Aberdeenshire), J.Noble(Argyll&Bute), P.Maynard (Dumfries & Galloway), A. McGroarty(Glasgow CE), G.Reoch (Glasgow SE), M. Easton (Highland), B. McGugan (Inverclyde), S. McMenemy (N.Ayrshire), L. Benton (N.Lanarkshire), G. Adamson (Borders), B. Paterson (S. Lanarkshire), A. Lee (W. Dumbartonshire), K.Marshall (CPCG)

Apologies: M. Stenhouse (Clackmannanshire), M.Gaughan (Glasgow SW), C. Robertson (Angus), G.Murdoch (Moray)

### 94.2 Minutes of previous meeting. (A. Lee)

Accepted as true record. Prop.: P. Maynard Sec.: A. McGroarty

### 94.3 Matters Arising.

- Conference reports. Several reports submitted for inclusion on website. (Supporting Foster Carers; Children's Mental Health; CPAC seminar) See also Chairman's report.
- SACP annual report. Copies ready for distribution.

### 94.4 Correspondence.

- Letter of thanks received from D. Capperauld.
- New Chairman appointed in Moray.

### 94.5 Chairman's Report

A. Lee presented reports from:

- *Children's Law UK* (15/03/05). Discussion of how Referral Orders are working in England and the differences between Scottish CHS and English Youth Justice System.
- *Children's Hearings Forum* (16/03/05). Part 2 of Review of CHS due to begin shortly. This may influence timing of proposed conference on "Children on the Wrong Side of the Opportunity Gap"(possibly September).
- *Children's Hearings Representative Group* (13/04/05). Among other items there was discussion of a conference in August to look at the problem of tracking children missing from education, timing of hearings and of the latest statistics relating to the age, ethnicity and socio-economic grouping of CP members.

The ensuing discussion raised the following issues:

- 1) There was disquiet that once again the Executive are planning to begin a major consultation exercise (CHS Review Part2) at a time of year when many individuals are on holiday and many organisations have a summer recess.
- 2) Evening hearings. These are still used in some areas and it was acknowledged that there could be problems if these were used indiscriminately – unsuitable for young children, babysitting, non-attendance of teachers, transport in rural areas. However there was general

agreement that for hearings where these were not an issue it would be beneficial for some families and panel members to attend evening /twilight hearings. There tend to be fewer problems with getting time off work and children do not have to be taken out of school for hearings relating to non-attendance at school. At present a morning diet of three hearings can mean losing part of the afternoon work period as well for all involved. The experience of representatives from areas with evening hearings is that these are often more relaxed as a result.

- 3) Membership and awareness of CHS. It was felt that increased awareness of the role and philosophy of the CHS might be helpful in encouraging a broader range of membership. It was suggested by the CPCG representative that presentations to community groups would raise awareness. There may be information packs available locally to help with such presentations.

The Scottish Executive has sent out a new folder of materials aimed at informing school pupils about the CHS. It was agreed that SACP should ask for a copy of this.

#### 94.6 Treasurer's Report

- The association has been invited to apply for a grant for next year.
- Balance as reported in Annual Statement of Accounts. The cost of printing the annual report and the cost of the AGM have to be deducted from this.
- The auditors appreciated the tightening of procedures for claiming expenses. (Receipt mandatory)
- Current mileage allowance is 49.3p per mile.

#### 94.7 Secretary's Report

- Report on CPAC seminar will be completed once official minute is available.
- List of representatives : new member Barry McGugan (Inverclyde)  
Christine McKechnie (CPCG) replaced by Jenny Ferguson

94.8 Consultation Documents. There are no relevant consultation documents at present.

#### 94.9 Press Secretary's Report.

- Recent press reports include comments on the lack of use of ASBOs, "happy slapping", the relationship between lack of care and offending highlighted by SCRA report, and the scheme to make young people in Lothian who attack fire service vehicles aware of the work of the service.
- G. Reoch is still in the process of updating the website information.

#### 94.10 Conferences

- Representatives are asked to make their own bookings for conferences following agreement with other council members. The Treasurer deals only with payment.
- It was agreed that application should be made as follows:  
Child Safety (27<sup>th</sup> June05) – Aileen Philp

#### 94.11 Distribution of Annual Report

- Distribution of the report remains problematic as SACP representatives cannot post them to panel members. In some areas addresses of panel members are not issued routinely. Postal communication must be courtesy of chairmen.

- Representatives took away reports for panel members in their own and any other areas whose representative was not present. They will ask their local chairman to distribute with newsletters.
- The SACP chairman will write to CP chairmen in areas without SACP representation to request distribution and inquire about representation.

#### 94.12 **Date of Meetings 2005-06**

Council meetings. To be held at SCRA headquarters in Stirling unless otherwise stated.

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2005 (if Phase 2 of Review begun)

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2005

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2005 (Glasgow)

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2006

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2006

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June Council and AGM (To be confirmed)