

# 106<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

Saturday, September 15th 2007

10.30a.m – 15.00p.m.

ENTERPRISE HOUSE  
Springkerse Business Estate, Stirling

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

The logo for the Scottish Association of Children's Panels (SACP) features the acronym 'SACP' in white, bold, sans-serif font on a dark blue square background. To the right of the square, the full name 'Scottish Association of Children's Panels' is written in a white, serif font. The background of the entire banner is a light blue gradient with silhouettes of children holding hands in a circle.

SACP

Scottish Association  
of Children's Panels

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# Scottish Association of Children's Panels

## 106th Council Meeting

Saturday 15th Sept 2007

10.30am – 13.00pm

Enterprise House, Stirling

### 105.1 Sederunt and Apologies

M. Easton (Highland), Enya Morris (Aberdeenshire), Gill McBride (Stirling), B. McGugan (Inverclyde), A. Lee (W. Dumbartonshire), G.Adamson (Borders), M.Gaughan (Glasgow 4), S.McMenemy (N.Ayrshire), D.Stalker (Chairman's Rep), K.Perfect (East Dumbartonshire),

**Apologies:** W.Milne (Angus), G.Reoch (Glasgow 5), M. Fawcett (Aberdeenshire), P.Maynard (Dumfries & Galloway), A. McGroarty (Glasgow 3), R.Graham, (Dundee), B.Burke (Midlothian), M.Stenhouse (Clackmannanshire), S.Panton (S.Lanarkshire), A.MacLeod (Western Isles), J.Noble (Argyll & Bute), L.Benton (N.Lanarkshire), A.Philp(Aberdeen City).

If you cannot attend, please try and arrange for someone else to come from your area in your place.

### 105.2 Minutes of Previous Meetings

143<sup>rd</sup> Exec Meeting minutes approved:- Margaret Easton (proposed), Margaret Gaughan (seconded).

105<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting minutes approved at the previous Executive meeting.

### 105.3 Matters Arising and correspondence

Unallocated Cases –Margaret provided a further update on the response from Local Authorities on the number of cases where there is no allocated Social Worker. It appears that this information is not easy to gather for the Local Authorities, which is surprising considering the need for such information. Gordon Watt replied to say he would contact the relevant authorities regarding the issues we raised from this exercise.

Time off from work – Gordon Watt responded that there is literature to explain the benefits to employers, but Gordon also said that the Scottish Government would take up the case with employers on the Panel Members behalf if they are having difficulties. They will also be looking at loss of earnings.

Letter from Boyd McAdam to advise what was happening with Children's Services and GIRFEC under the new government.

SCRA Letter received and confirmation from Alison Wright that we can publish her detailed response on the website. Clarification was provided on the following; Social Background Reports – if child not present and you want to exclude a relevant person.

Rehabilitation Act – pressure to carry-on the hearing when the child doesn't understand their rights.

Writing reasons in full for every child.  
Typing of reasons.

#### **105.4 Issues raised by panel members**

PM has removed from the rota as he had not attended Parenting Order training (due to work commitments), after clarification from the Scottish Exec. That is was mandatory training provided by the training unit. At least one other area has panel members still serving who has not been trained. Margaret Easton will write to Gordon Watt to clarify this.

#### **105.5 Chairman's Report**

Ann to attend Child Law UK/TACT on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The first since the merger.

#### **105.6 Treasurer's Report**

Margaret indicated that we have enough funds to cover SACP activities. Margaret in process of changing signatory details.

Conferences: approval should be sought prior to attending a conference, including conference fees, travelling expenses, loss of earnings, etc.

#### **105.7 Press Secretary's Report and Website update**

Press reports:-

Daily Express (Sept 6<sup>th</sup>) – parents could be fined for misbehaving/violent children.

General discussion on the deterioration of good parenting, family values and role models to teach children how to function effectively in society.

#### **105.8 Membership Secretary report**

Enya presented Mary's report. The investigation by the Commissioner for Information into the release of names and addresses to the SACP is still ongoing.

Reps not attending meetings –Mary agreed to contact representatives who have not been coming to meetings to clarify their position. It was made very clear to them the importance of attending meetings. It is not possible to fulfil the role of an area representative of raising issues from their local area to put on the agenda and feeding back relevant information if they are not prepared to attend meetings. Work is still ongoing to achieve representation from all areas across Scotland. Some feedback from one of these Reps generated a positive discussion around the relationship of the SACP and the Chairman's Group where it was agreed we should forge a closer bond, since both organisations are working towards the same goals. Gill McBride and Mary Fawcett to follow-up on comments made regarding SACP membership in Stirling, Clackmannanshire and Falkirk.

#### **105.9 Conference Reports and future events**

**Edinburgh, 5<sup>th</sup> Sept - Scottish Drugs forum – cross party alcohol and drugs misuse**– Ian McDonald (N.Ayrshire) attended and has supplied a report for inclusion on web.

**Edinburgh, 6<sup>th</sup> Sept, Alcohol & Drug treatment: International Perspectives** – Ian McDonald (N.Ayrshire) attended and has supplied a report for inclusion on web.

**6-7<sup>th</sup> Sept - Aviemore - Building Better Childhoods: Understanding the reform agenda** (A.Lee attended, report to follow). Conference reports and other information is available at [www.forhighlandchildren.org](http://www.forhighlandchildren.org) and [www.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.uhi.ac.uk)

**Falkirk, 25<sup>th</sup> Sept – Dad’s the Word: understanding the importance of fathers in families with children with additional support needs.**

**Edinburgh, 27<sup>th</sup> Sept, Scotlands futures Forum, Alcohol & Drugs Perspectives** – Ian McDonald (N.Ayrshire) attending.

**Edinburgh 28<sup>th</sup> Sept, Glasgow 19<sup>th</sup> Nov – Interagency support to families.**

**Glasgow 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct, Edinburgh 21<sup>st</sup> Nov – The additional support act: rights, duties and good practice.**

**Edinburgh, 4<sup>th</sup> October – Scotlands futures Forum, Alcohol & Drugs workshop with young people Perspectives** – Ian McDonald (N.Ayrshire) attending.

**Glasgow 4<sup>th</sup> Oct – SASO Debate – ‘This house believes that ASBO’s should be abolished’** - Ian McDonald & Susan McMenemy (N.Ayrshire) attending.

**Glasgow 8<sup>th</sup> Oct & Edinburgh Nov 1st - Children in Scotland, An encounter with Reggio Emilia: What is meant by the Reggio Emelio approach?**

**Edinburgh, 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct – Protecting vulnerable groups, The new vetting and barring scheme.**

**Glasgow 25<sup>th</sup> Oct - Children in Scotland, Dealing with conflict, anger and aggression (6-12)** – Susan McMenemy attending.

**Glasgow 25<sup>th</sup> Oct & Edinburgh Dec 6<sup>th</sup> - Children in Scotland, Dealing with conflict, anger and aggression (over 12’s)**

**Glasgow 1<sup>st</sup> Nov – ‘The future of electronic monitoring’** - Susan McMenemy (N.Ayrshire) may attend.

**Edinburgh 1<sup>st</sup> Nov – ‘Anger management: working with young people.**

**Peebles, 1<sup>st</sup>/2nd Nov, Children in Scotland, Healthy happy & wise** – Angela McGroarty attending.

**Dundee, 5<sup>th</sup> November – A public approach to better education: using consequential learning to link schools to communities and learning to life.**

**Edinburgh, 8<sup>th</sup> Nov – You can’t choose your parents, surviving exposure to chaotic lifestyles – one day training seminar.**

**Glasgow 19<sup>th</sup> Nov - Children in Scotland, Interagency support for families.** Kathleen Perfect to attend.

**Glasgow 19<sup>th</sup> Nov - Children in Scotland, Dealing with conflict, anger and aggression (6-12)** – Susan McMenemy attending.

**16th – 18th Nov, CP National School, Dunblane Hydro**

Margaret Easton and Susan McMenemy are nominated to attend, Ann Lee put herself on stand by. Margaret Easton confirmed we have places at the National School and allowed to have a stall. Still to decide on day delegates.

**Perth Concert Hall, 20<sup>th</sup> Nov – Restorative Justice Forum.**

### **Christmas Lunch**

**Millenium Hotel, Glasgow – Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec – SACP meeting in the morning (10.00) and then Christmas lunch (13.30) – cost of £14.50. Agreement was reached (with some dissention) on inviting the following people to the lunch:- Gerry McEneany (Chair of Chairman’s Group), Gordon Watt, Boyd McAdam, Alison Wright (SCRA Head of Practice).**

**Boyd to be invited to the last hour of the meeting to provide an update on GIRFEC.**

A hearing could be conducted without a Reporter. New panel members are being told this during training. Heated discussion on whether this was a good idea, generally thought not, but legally, this is the case.

North Ayrshire due to be inspected by HMI.

**105.12 Key points for Feedback.**

All SACP Reps to ask for input from their areas - points to be raised, questions, best practice for the next meeting?

Boyd McAdam's letter on GIRFEC  
Gordon Watt's letter – Time off for hearings  
Alison Wright Letter  
Conferences available

**Summary of Actions**

Letter to Gordon Watt on Parenting Orders training to clarify this is mandatory.  
Margaret will send invitations to the guests for the Xmas lunch.

**Date of next meeting:-**

8th December (full council meeting) in Glasgow