

**110<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL MEETING**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**10:00 -12:00**

**Garten Boardroom, Macdonald Highland Resort, Aviemore**

**110.1 Sederunt and Apologies**

M. Easton (Highland), G.Reoch (Glasgow SE), M. Fawcett (Aberdeenshire), A. McGroarty (Glasgow East), A. Lee (W. Dumbartonshire), G.Adamson (Borders), M.Gaughan (Glasgow South), A.Philp(Aberdeen City), D. Stalker (N.Ayrshire), J.Noble (Argyll & Bute), W.Milne (Angus), A. McGerr(Inverclyde)

**Apologies:** K.Perfect (East Dumbartonshire), P.Maynard (Dumfries & Galloway), B.Burke (Midlothian), M.Stenhouse (Clackmannanshire), S.Panton (S.Lanarkshire), A.MacLeod (Western Isles), M.Kirk (Fife).

**110.2 Record of Previous Meeting**

Proposed: Joyce Noble Seconded: Margaret Gaughan

**110.3 Matters Arising**

- a). Gordon Watt has moved to a new post and has been replaced by Denise Swanson.
- b). Adam Ingram has responded to enquiries regarding Parenting Orders training. Some CPACs reason that members who have not completed Parenting Order training can read the training materials and be put on the rota once more. This information will be raised with Network 100 and a copy of the letter sent to clerks to CPAC & Chairmen's group
- c). Expenses. There have been alterations to arrangements for payment of travelling expenses in a number of areas. These arrangements vary depending on which region is involved. No panel member should suffer financial loss as a result of attending hearings and SACP representatives will raise this at Network 100 as part of the future planning for the Children's Hearings System.

**110.4 Correspondence**

a). Tom Philliben will speak to either Ann Lee or Margaret Easton regarding issues raised in recent letter. The issues raised are ongoing. There are a variety of practices currently used even within one area, depending on the reporter. In some instances the reporter types the reasons, in others the reasons remain handwritten and in others laptops are used. Advice to sheriff is always typed in Glasgow but in other areas this is not done out of concern that the typed version may differ from what was written. There are also variations in the type of information sent out to panel members eg don't know who sat on hearing before. Much seems to depend on reporter, who in some cases does not sit in on the hearing.

b). A panel member expressed concern that too often social workers in Glasgow are letting children down by not being at hearings or not producing reports on time. The panel member feels that children are not being represented properly at hearings by social work and there is pressure from reporters to go ahead at times even if SR is not running out. Panel members have to be very strong to withstand this. Training organisers have produced information to go on website with reference to this.

**110.5 Chair's Report**

Ann Lee attended the recent CPAC seminar. A full report will be available shortly. At the seminar the formation of a new National Body was discussed and there was disappointment that the promised consultation document had not been issued at that point. Although due to appear in the fortnight after the seminar the consultation document not yet been published. Nine panel members received long-service awards from Adam Ingram who said he was impressed by panel members and the support they receive from their partners.

## **110.6 Issues raised by panel members**

1) In Aberdeenshire a CPD training website for teachers is to include information on Hearings for teachers and, hopefully, a video clip (prepared by Inverness) which can be used by teachers preparing kids for hearings.

2) The representative from Angus raised the issue of excusing children from attending their hearings, which appears to be happening increasingly often and accepted by panel members and reporters even where the reason given seems inadequate.

3) Two areas (Glasgow & North Ayrshire) reported that SCRA guidelines of 3 hearings per session are being broken, resulting in long sessions which are both stressful for panel members and have implications for time off work.

4) SCRA will be contacted re 2) and 3)

## **110.7 Annual report arrangements**

The reports are ready to go and rooms are available at Victoria Quay on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> July. Addresses will be printed as before. Envelopes have also been ordered and will be delivered to Victoria Quay along with reports.

## **110.8 GIRFEC**

A training meeting for Highland panel members was held in May. Panel members raised concerns regarding the role of the hearing as an independent tribunal within the new system and regarding the apparent lack of involvement of panel members in setting up the new arrangements.

## **110.9 Press Secretary's report**

### Press

- 1) Plans to decriminalise under-age sex abandoned. Cases to be referred to reporter.
- 2) Move to refer 16-18 year olds to CHS. New initiative, driven by Kathleen Marshall, Children's Commissioner.
- 3) Local paper in one area reported that a child escaped from secure accommodation and committed an offence. This appeared as a negative comment on CHS. Panel had recommended secure but was overturned by LA, went to residential instead from where he committed the serious offences. The panel was criticised although their decision had been overturned. There appears to be no method of addressing this effectively.

### Website

- 1) Mike Burr will be asked for email copy of training information for website. Everything else is up to date.
- 2) Training unit at Glasgow will put together interactive quiz for website.

## **110.10 Treasurer's Report**

Account stands at around £1500. There are some bills outstanding. Phil Reid has promised an early interim payment.

## **110.11 Membership Secretary's report**

CPAC chair Aberdeen city (depute chair CPAG) was asked to put SACP membership issues to conference. However this was not felt to be appropriate for CPAC.

Roy McGivney would like to be Dundee rep again and is going through official channels to do this. Peter Mortimer would also like to return.(Glasgow)

Sue Bytheway from Clackmannanshire is new observer from chairs group.

Mary Fawcett will email Denise Swanson to highlight difficulty in getting representatives and other communication difficulties – eg newsletter blocked in Glasgow..

There is still a need to increase representation. SACP representatives' expenses can still be problematic.

## **110.12 Conferences**

New conferences circulated.

Ann Lee attended a conference on children's mental health in May. A report on this will be available shortly. Key issues from the conference included the need for early intervention; positive intervention in school, preferably primary; proactive work on parenting to tackle problems early; the link between drug/alcohol problems (child's and parents') and mental health; need for effective, timely joint working.

## **110.16 Points for feedback**

- 1) Inconsistency – see issues for SCRA
- 2) When to continue a hearing – info on website “Holding the Line”
- 3) GIRFEC issues
- 4) Consultation
- 5) Looking for new reps from areas not represented.