



Annual Report 2007-08

www.sacp.org.uk

Chairman's Report

The Scottish Association of Children's Panels was formed in 1977, and we celebrated our 30th Anniversary with a lunch at the Millennium hotel in Glasgow. As well as existing representatives, we welcomed Boyd McAdam, GIRFEC lead at the Scottish Government, and Alison Wright from SCRA, along with representatives of the Chairman's Group, and past chairs and representatives of SACP.

The Association was formed because it was felt that panel members needed to be able to share in and be kept up to date with ongoing developments, by being able to communicate with each other through a national organisation. On the 18th January 2008 the Minister Adam Ingram, announced the proposal to set up a new "National Body" to deal with all aspects of the Children's Hearings System e.g. recruitment, training and support for panel members. One of SACP's main aims for this year was to promote better support for panel members and greater consistency of practice across the country, in response to issues brought to us for discussion and clarification by panel members. To achieve these aims, we have engaged, on your behalf, in frequent liaison with SCRA and Gordon Watt's team at Victoria Quay and we appreciate their engagement.

Thirty years have passed since SACP was set up and the Hearing System has seen many changes; some evolving perhaps in response to local issues, others as a result of new legislation, e.g. Children (Scotland) Act 1995. As we await the next consultation to look at the scope of the Reform Agenda, and what the National Body should look like, as well as its proposed functions, we are assured we will have national standards, so that every child in Scotland can expect the same standards of service, whilst retaining the local element of Children's Hearings, in local areas by Panel members from the local community. Change is inevitable. If you continue to do things the same way you can only expect the same outcomes. The aim of the Children's Hearings System is to improve outcomes for every child we see.

Communication with panel members remains an issue. Each Panel area is entitled to send a representative, elected by their area panel colleagues, to our meetings, but we still have areas without representation.

The SACP is financed by the Scottish Government, but representatives expenses are claimed from the Local Authorities as with other panel duties.

DOES YOUR AREA HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE.....?

If not, why not fill in your contact details on the form at the back, to join our database and think about volunteering to be your area's representative?

SACP continues to meet at SCRA Headquarters in Stirling; a central location, accessible from all areas and we continue to be grateful to the Reporter's administration for allowing us to use their premises. We continue to meet 6 times in the year in Stirling, with our AGM in different venues. This year we will be in Aviemore.

We continue our efforts to make contact with all panel members, and with agreement from the 4 Training Unit Organisers, newly trained panel members have received an SACP new member's information pack.

We are delighted that panel members as well as outside agencies have also accessed our website www.sacp.org.uk to make contact with us or pass on issues requiring debate. On the website you will also find details of your local Representative and reports of our meetings and conferences attended.

“Network 100” is a newly formed representative group of all branches pertaining to the Children's Hearing System, as well as representation from COSLA, set up to improve communications during the Review.

SACP has 2 representatives who attend these meetings, and a record of each meeting will be published on our website www.sacp.org.uk

Our continued membership of Children Law UK, which since the merger is now a sub committee of The Adolescent and Children's Trust (TACT); continues to provide a forum for exchange of information and to promote our unique Children's Hearing System nationally and internationally.

TACT is keen to retain representation from Scotland and Northern Ireland, as well as from England and Wales, to explore our uniquely different approaches to dealing with Youth Justice and Child Welfare at the same time.

I have attended 3 meetings on your behalf and I thank the Children's Hearing Branch of Scottish Government for their continued support to allow me to attend these meetings.

Representatives of SACP continue to attend conferences relevant to the work of panel members, including Restorative Justice: Dealing with conflict, anger and aggression; The Scottish Association for the Study of Offending (SASO); Children and Young People's Mental Health, and the National School in Dunblane. Through feedback at Council meetings and reports on our website, we contribute to informed debate on topical issues affecting children and their families in today's society.

I attended the CPAC Annual Seminar, entitled “Challenge and Change” where there was much discussion around the proposed National Body, as well as disappointment that the Consultation document was not available for discussion/debate during the conference. SACP has responded to relevant consultations including;

- Looking After Children Regulations;
- Retention of fingerprint evidence;
- Protection of Vulnerable Groups

Finally, I would like to thank my SACP colleagues for their continued enthusiastic support and help during a particularly busy year.

Change and many challenges lie ahead of the Children's Hearing System as we know it. I believe that our unique system, and its volunteer panel members, have the ability to face up to these challenges, will continue to focus on the needs and best outcomes for the child and whilst retaining the principals of Kilbrandon, move forward to make that difference in the lives of children in 21st century Scotland.

Ann lee, Chair, May 2008

Receipts and payments account - Year to 31st March 2007

	2008	2007
	£	£
Receipts:		
Grant Funding Scottish Executive	9,200	8000
Contribution towards meals	<u>511</u>	<u>234</u>
Total receipts for Year	<u>9,711</u>	<u>8,234</u>
Payments:		
Secretarial	1,739	3,819
General	1,569	719
Travel and Conference Fees	3,849	3,337
Subscriptions		75
Independent Examiner's Fee	<u>294</u>	<u>294</u>
Total Payments for Year	<u>7,451</u>	<u>8,244</u>
Net (Payments) for Year	2,260	(10)
Cash and Bank balances at 31 st March 2007	<u>732</u>	742
Cash and Bank balances at 31 st March 2008	<u>2,992</u>	<u>732</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st March 2008

Monetary Assets:

Bank Current Account £2,992

Other Assets:

Held for use by the Association:

Inspiron S160 laptop	(cost £711 November 2004)
Epson CX3200 printer	(cost £80 August 2004)
HP All in 1 printer	(cost £147 August 2006)
Inspiron 1525 Laptop	(cost £446 February 2008)

Independent Examiner's Statement.

In the course of our examination, no matter has come to our attention

1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the requirement :

- To keep accounting records in accordance with the Association's constitution
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the Association's constitution

Have not been met, or

2. to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Johnston & Co, Chartered Accountants, Independent Examiners,
New Custom House, Register Street, Bo'ness, West Lothian, EH51 9AE

A full copy of the accounts can be obtained from the Association's
Treasurer, Margaret Gaughan.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S PANELS

If you would like to be contacted from time to time with information of common interest to panel members or be notified regarding the activities of the above group, please supply your contact details.

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

Postcode:.....

e:mail:.....

Panel Area:.....

Signature:.....

Please give completed forms to your SACP representative or send to:

Ms Margaret Gaughan, 1/1 121 Holmlea Road, Cathcart

Or E-mail mgtgaughan@hotmail.com

Many thanks.

This information will not be shared with any other group.

