

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S PANELS

113th Council Meeting

Saturday 28th February 2009

SCRA Headquarters, Stirling

113.1 Sederunt:

A Philp (Aberdeen City), A Lee (W. Dunbartonshire), M Easton (Highland), G Reoch (Glasgow S. East), M Gaughan (Glasgow S.), R McGivney (Dundee), L Taylor (Angus), A McGerr (Inverclyde), A McGroarty (Glasgow E.)

Roy McGivney and Lynne Taylor were welcomed as new reps for Dundee and Angus respectively. Roy has been a previous SACP rep and was welcomed back.

Apologies:

M Kirk (Fife), B Burke (Midlothian), J Noble (Argyll & Bute)

113.2 Record of Previous Meeting of 6 December 2008

Minor changes were made to the Record:

112.9 Margaret Easton "will attend" the 'Looked After Child' in January.

112.13 Date of Next Meeting – Saturday 28.02.09

The Record was adopted after these minor changes.

Proposed: Margaret Easton Seconded: Margaret Gaughan

113.3 Matters Arising

Website – Haydn has a new system to record the reps and is looking at a more user friendly manner for it.

113.4 Correspondence

1. Letter had been received regarding the follow up to a meeting held last August between Denise Swanson of the Scottish Government, CPAC and the Chairs Group regarding Review developments. This was to have taken place on 27.02.09 in Dunblane, but has been cancelled due to a ministerial statement not being available. The meeting has now been scheduled for March in the hope of same. The next round of the Review is still awaited. The publication of the proposals has reportedly been scheduled for the beginning of March. However, the date given for the meeting has been set for 19 & 20.03.09 with A Lee & M Easton invited to attend. Panel Chairs have also been invited.
2. Letter received from Tom Philliben, SCRA, regarding a possible meeting to discuss issues such as excluding children from Hearings, the number of Hearings per session and the use of laptops. Due to the possible changes about to happen it was felt better to wait until after any announcements.
3. E:Learning – M Easton had received an invitation to participate in the "Learning Community" to which she has agreed. This is to involve online learning with users requiring a password (still to be issued). The system was supposed to be live yesterday (27.02.09) but this failed to happen. This would also involve 'Integrated Working & Assessment' & how the Children's Plan is produced, involving everyone including children & families, "Sharing Good Practice" ["On Line Learning Community for the Exchange of Good Practice"]

4. CPAC Seminar, 15 & 16 May, Edinburgh – A Lee to attend on SACP's behalf. To be entitled "Kilbrandon Now" with aims to explore the relevance of the principles today and explore CPAC functions carried out.

113.5 Issues raised by Panel Members

Website message received from a Panel Member regarding non-disclosure of the child's details, stating that this must be about the child. This issue was discussed and felt that it should be looked at freshly at every Hearing and not just because it has been in the history. Discussion also revealed that the incidence of non-disclosure was increasing in some areas.

Evening Hearings – It has been heard informally from an Area Chair that these will cease. Some reps felt that the timings of these Hearings were good in that they enabled both parents and child to be there. It was wondered whether this cessation was due to Reporters not being paid. Discussion ensued and reps agreed to discover the future plans for their own area and to report back to the next meeting.

113.6 New Member Packs

Following discussion, the contents were decided upon and several reps will collate these in March. It was reported that as well as a pen, a keyring would also be included this year, with the cost being only slightly more than in previous years. There was some talk as to whether a follow up letter should be made available for new PMs at Area Welcome evenings, but no decision was taken regarding this.

Discussion ensued re the continuation of the database, especially with the website being up and running and Panel Members accessing this as well as sending comments, etc via it.

113.7 AGM

This year's event is to take place in Aviemore on 06.06.09. It has been booked presently for 15 at the same rate as last year (£550). Accommodation is available for 4* at £85 single, £65 twin/double or 3* £70 single, £50 twin/double. Anyone wishing to take advantage of these rates should state that they are attending the meeting.

113.8 Chair's Report

Child Law UK/TACT - A Lee brought reps up to date & issued a summary of their conference in November 2008. Once permission is obtained, a copy of this will go on the website.

A project is to be run for the next 2 years regarding children who go into care and go on to offend eg assault of staff. Reports to be forwarded re this.

There was a discussion re early intervention, citing what was felt to be the right action for the child in the decision. It was also emphasised that if PMs wish 'Through-Care' for a young person, ensure they are on Supervision at the date of their school leaving age.

A new TACT website is in the process of be redesigned and will carry a link to the SACP website.

113.9 Press & Website Secretary's Report

1. Move reported by the Scottish Government to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 8 to 12, querying whether an 8 year old should be criminally responsible for his actions. M Gaughan reported that a recent SASO meeting had also discussed this issue (report to appear on the website). The likelihood is that the age will be raised.
2. Website – Slightly out of date at the moment having 'disappeared' for a month. However, it is now up and running with just the National School and a couple of other reports still to go on. The main problem is the Reps list, but Haydn is reformatting this.
3. It was suggested that the website should be SACP's focus with the suggestion from G Reoch that it contains the main points from the last

meeting. This would not prohibit any rep also reporting back to their own Area.

4. Suggestion was made for PMs to enter a profile. E:mail addresses could be entered etc with a possible reminder set up to re-register, eg, in May if they had changed address. It was felt important to get the website well known and used even more than currently.
5. G Reoch will contact Haydn re the potential costs for a new website as well as ensuring all is up to date. A McGerr enquired about storage capacity and G Reoch agreed to clarify.
6. Currently the links to the Training Units can be used where, if a PM cannot find an answer to a query or issue, they or SACP can use these to obtain said information. Should a PM contact SACP's website or a rep we can redirect the query to the appropriate source. This also applied to the links to SCRA or others.

113.10 Treasurer's Report

M Gaughan reported that we are currently in credit with another payment still to be received, grant payments now being received monthly. There is around £600 still to be paid out. Keyrings will cost £350 with other materials for the New Member packs costing around £100 (to include printing and printer cartridges). The AGM cost of £550 will also be deducted. This would leave £950 from which the Annual Report, from printers 'Art Is An Option' will be paid. From this total will also come the costs of postage for the New Member packs, Haydn's costs, the 'Children In Scotland' annual membership (June) as well as conferences fees. Anyone planning to attend any of these should contact M Gaughan before 20.03.09 with the invoices.

113.11 Conferences

A Philp passed out the new list for the above, with M Gaughan attending the SASO meeting together with A McGerr, A Lee, R McGivney opting for others. Some events are free of charge.

113.12 A.O.C.B.

1. Pamphlets and books were passed around re the 'Action for Children' "Step Inside our Shoes" (Young people in Scotland's views on gun and knife crime) and "Rattle your Cool" – a collection of poetry and art by young people who are or have been looked after. These were felt to highlight and instruct us with the true views these young people to enable better understanding and more details can be found on 'Action for Children' website and www.thefea.co.uk ("Rattle Your Cool")
2. Consultations – G Reoch suggested that SACP should be selective in which are chosen – either have a specific meeting for a large consultation or, if smaller, make time at a Council meeting. There are no consultations open at the current time.
3. SCRA's response to GIRFEC, featured on the SCRA website. Discussion ensued regarding this with some Areas commenting that they have had meetings to discuss the situation in general.

113.13 Points for Feedback

- The following were agreed:-
- Evening Hearings
- AGM
- Points, issues or questions from Panel Members welcomed
- Age of Criminal Responsibility discussion
- E:Learning & Children's Plan – "On Line Learning Community for the Exchange of Good Practice"
- Planned meeting with Denise Swanson & others re update on next stage of Hearing Review (19 & 20 March)

113.13 Date for Next Meeting

This was set for Saturday 25 April in Stirling.