

Scottish Association of Children's Panels

119th Council Meeting

Express Holiday Inn, Springkerse Business Park, Stirling

Saturday, 10th April 2010

119.1 Sederunt & Apologies

Present: R. McGivney (Dundee), A. Corbett (East Ayrshire), M. Gaughan (Glasgow South), K. Kelly (North Lanarkshire Area 2), D. Stalker (North Ayrshire), P. Molloy (North Lanarkshire Area 1), A. Lee (West Dumbartonshire), G. Reoch (Glasgow South East), M. Easton (Highland), A. McGroarty (Glasgow East)

Apologies A. McGerr (Inverclyde), J. Ferguson (Argyll & Bute), A. Philp (Aberdeen), S. Panton (S. Lanarkshire), B. Burke (Midlothian), Allan Martin (Angus)

119.2 Record of previous meeting Accepted. Proposed: G. Reoch Seconded: R. McGivney

119.3 Matters Arising.

- Training group representation. D. Stalker/Angela McGroarty have been nominated for this working group once it is up set up.
- Pre-service packs have been completed and are ready for distribution
- Training weekend. Mid West recently held an excellent, very informative training session, looking at, among other items, the bond between parent child and the need to focus on positives in family relationships. Joe Nee, child psychologist, and Tam Baillie, children's commissioner, took part.

119.4 Chair's Report

- Where's Kilbrandon Now? A. Lee gave evidence to the group and she has distributed the report to reps. Many earlier (2003) recommendations of this group have still not been dealt with. e.g. the situation of older teen referrals is still variable with still some tendency to "offload" these. Local authority accountability can be crucial. Letter received from Maggie Mellon thanking us for submission.
- There have been instances recently where requests for submissions to the current legislative process of the Children's Hearings Bill have not been passed on to panel members. Similarly, not every panel member has had information from government passed on to them e.g. information about consultation events.
- SACP made a written submission to the Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture committee of the Scottish Parliament focusing on areas highlighted by panel members.
- Oral evidence to committee – 21st April. Panel members will be represented by trainers and chairs group.

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- A. Lee attended the most recent TACT meeting. The group has put together 10 reforms for next election manifesto. These reflect the wish to deal with children in similar way to Scottish system. They are looking at how child can be put at centre and have a voice throughout the process, including having a right to an advocate for meetings and court hearings. Other areas of concern are best practice for permanency, educational attainment and a wish to strengthen Children Leaving Care act so that all young people leaving care receive maximum support. TACT Scotland just moved into new premises in Edinburgh. Trialling intensive fostering rather than putting kids in secure.

119.5 Reform of CHS

Last project board discussed new bill. Last evidence session will be held on 5th May. Stage 2 will begin in September.

More detailed consideration is now being given to areas such as how area support teams will be constituted, support for panel members, consistency in delivery of support and training, and legal advice.

There are two-day consultation events in May-June being held in a variety of locations.

Currently the Implementation Working Group is looking to research examples of good practice and also fresh ideas for the setting up of area support teams. The next meeting of this group will be on 27th April.

119.6 Issues from PMs

Most communication has been concerned with the proposed changes. These included:

- concern that different expenses may be allocated depending on the nature of the hearing and that this might lead to the increased professionalisation of panel members
- Importance of local areas and disappointment that some hearing rooms have been closed
- Travel expenses reduced in N Ayrshire (also for CPAC, legal reps, safeguarders etc); E Ayrshire's were reduced last year "in line with Inland Revenue rules" so that members would not have to pay tax on them. However they would have to receive £8000 p.a. before this happens.
- due to reduced funding a number of resources have been threatened with removal of local authority funding in some areas (e.g. mentoring, CAMHS social worker, campus cop, Sacro)
- Concern re no training, big turnover of panel members leading to increased pressure on remaining ones
- If working cross-area in changeover time need to clarify who pays expenses and how much
- Integrated assessment forms – areas using these find them long, not clear, not as informative as previous social background report

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- Dundee- short of panel members even after recruitment (particularly men)
- Amount of training involved in new system, additional demands, putting people off

119.7 Conferences

7 May Child Mental Health and Law –Glasgow

10 June Glasgow Faculty of Medicine - Violence, Gang Culture and Young People – Patrick Molloy

27 May Edinburgh- Gang Culture and Young People

19 May Childhood and Youth Transitions

119.8 Treasurer's Report

Paid for pre-service packs and annual report printing.

119.9 Website

Needs updating . Two batches of information have been sent but not put on site as yet. G. Reoch will contact site manager.

119.10 Next meeting

19 June Council Meeting & AGM - Marriot Hotel, Edinburgh (train to Haymarket, bus to airport drops at hotel).

POINTS FOR PMS

22 June Strategic Board next meeting

27 April next Implementation Working Group meeting

Thoughts on Area Support Teams (Who should be on AST? How many? How many paid/volunteer?)

Good practice examples

How to meet local needs while maintaining nationally agreed standards?

Items for AGM