

Scottish Association of Children's Panels

121st Council Meeting

Saturday, 21st August 2010

10:00 till 15:00

Express Holiday Inn, Sprinkerse, Stirling

121.1 Sederunt and Apologies

Present : A McGroarty (Glasgow East), A Martin(Angus), J Smith(Inverclyde), K Kelly(N Lanarkshire Area 2), A Lee(West Dunbartonshire), M Gaughan(Glasgow South), A Corbett(East Ayrshire), R McGivney(Dundee), G Reoch(Glasgow South East).

Apologies: M Easton(Highland), S Panton(S Lanarkshire), J Ferguson(Argyll& Bute), P Molloy(North Lanarkshire Area1), M Kirk(Fife).

121.2 Record of Previous Meeting. Accepted with minor changes to 120.4 – Children Law UK is now part of a Policy Sub-committee of T.A.C.T (The Adolescent and Child Trust) Proposed: Roy McGivney, Seconded: Margaret Gaughan.

121.3 Matters Arising

Angela's email – Need to type “Angela. McGroarty not A. McGroarty
John Smith's contact details are not on the list of representatives.

121.4 Chairs Report

1) There was general discussion re difficulties some reps are facing, when claiming expenses to attend SACP council meetings. Certain areas have refused to pay expenses for the last meeting in June, or for any future meetings. Angela is in communication with the Children's Hearings Team at the Scottish Government re this problem, as they have in the past stated that “no panel member should be out of pocket, due to their volunteer work for the Children's Hearings System”

One area has also stated that it will only pay travel expenses to training, but not overnight accommodation.

2) A preliminary meeting has been held with representatives of the Chairman's group, to look at how the Chair's group and SACP could work more closely together.

121.5 Reform of Hearing System, Update and Discussion

George Reoch attended the last Training group, looking at responses received from trainers and panel members re Training issues – Angela will circulate responses from panel members.

Responses re CPAC monitoring highlighted many differences. Some panel members would like more robust feedback.

Safe guarder Training- information from the CHTU, indicated that the 2 day training, then a 3rd follow- up day, was not well attended.

Any future Accreditation could not be backdated - it was felt that panel members should have some recognition of their training to show to employers.

Implementation Group met on 20/08 10.

1) Feedback from summer engagement events – a report on feedback from delegates/flipcharts/etc will be published on the website.

2) Area Support Teams – panel members seemed to settle on 14 areas.

Concerns: Losing the “local” link,

What is “local?”

Rural and Urban areas need to be treated differently

A matrix/table/questionnaire has been designed, to look at what CPAC do at present – so that this information can be fed back into AST’s.

3) Feedback loop – Lengthy discussions on what information was needed and how often it should happen, either monthly or 3 monthly.

4) Involvement of child in their Hearing – this is already incorporated in Best Practice; There are ongoing discussions as to who should/how to prepare a child for what happens when they come to a Hearing, and what procedures may be followed.

5) Qualities needed by the National Convenor.

6) Feedback from Joan Rose re Training.

Safeguarder Presentation – highlighted the many differences between the different areas.

All of these areas remain under discussion.

121.6 Issues raised by Panel Members

1) A new panel member, from this year’s May group, is resigning because she has felt totally unsupported since training finished. Some areas have a Buddy system for new panel members – some offer no obvious supports.

2) In some areas, panel members have to arrange their own swaps.

3) In some areas, panel members have to contact Reporters if panel papers are late.

4) Re Reform of the Children’s Hearings System:

a) Panel members want to be kept up to date with what is happening re the new Bill, and want to be consulted where possible.

b) They are keen that panel members should be represented in the new system at national level, not just down at their local level.

c) They want feedback locally, but also want there to be a more national overview of how well the system is working.

d) There are concerns about the number of social workers who seem unaware of the role and powers of a Hearing, and this is affecting how families see the Hearing at times.

121.7 Conference Update

Modernisation event – Several reps are already planning to attend from their own areas.

Margaret Easton will attend as SACP representative; Roy McGivney will also attend as we have been allocated 2 places.

SASO – Various conferences in Glasgow and Perth.

National Guidance for Child Protection Consultation Event - 30th August- 9.30- 12md in Edinburgh.

121.8 Treasurers Report

Next payment from our grant is due on 16th September. We will need to anticipate in advance, which conferences are relevant to the needs of panel members/what expenses we can anticipate, and to not be afraid to ask for more if we need to.

121.9 Website Update

Website should now be up to date as from 20/08/10.

It would be ideal if all issues raised by panel members could be highlighted on the website – with information on how it has been resolved. The webmaster will be asked to create a new section.

121.10 Consultation Child Protection Guidance

There was general discussion re this Consultation; it was decided that most of the actions identified, should have taken place prior to attendance at a Hearing, but there were 3 issues worthy of note:

- a) Only the Lead Professional to refer to the Reporter.
- b) A child's name would be entered onto the Child Protection Register but not categorised, as it is felt to be more important to address all of the child's needs, than just one category.
- c) Child's Plan -it was felt that panel members need to be able to question the Plan and the timescales involved.
 - Practitioners need to be more aware of the roles and responsibilities of the Children's Hearing.

121.11 Date and Location of Next Meeting

13th November – venue to be confirmed.

121.12 Key Points to be taken back to Areas

Expenses: for Accommodation for Training

: for Reps to attend SACP council meetings.

Support for new panel members

Panel members in some areas have to arrange their own swaps and contact the Reporter if Panel papers are late.

Reports back from Implementation and Training groups.