

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S PANELS

120TH COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday 19th June 2010

10:00 -12:30

Edinburgh Marriott Hotel, 111 Glasgow Road, Edinburgh

- 120.1 **Sederunt and Apologies**
Present: R. McGivney (Dundee), A. Corbett (East Ayrshire), M. Gaughan (Glasgow South), I. Macdonald (North Ayrshire),
A. Lee (West Dumbartonshire), G. Reoch (Glasgow South East), M. Easton (Highland), A. McGroarty (Glasgow East), A. Martin (Angus), A. McGerr (Inverclyde)
Apologies J. Ferguson (Argyll & Bute), A. Philp (Aberdeen), S. Panton (S. Lanarkshire), B. Burke (Midlothian), P. Molloy (North Lanarkshire Area 1), K. Kelly (N. Lanarkshire Area 2)
- 120.2 **Record of Previous Meeting.** Accepted with minor changes. Proposed: M. Gaughan
Seconded: M. Kirk
- 120.3 **Matters Arising**
1) Training group. A. McGroarty attended the first meeting of this group on behalf of SACP.
- 120.4 **Chair's report**
1) A. Lee attended the long service awards ceremony. 12 panel members received awards. A. Ingram was there and thanked panel members and their families for their service.
2) A. Lee also attended the opening of TACT headquarters in Slateford House in Edinburgh. Premises include rooms for family contact. TACT is expanding into Scotland and their current focus is on young people leaving care.
Children Law UK is now part of The Adolescent and Child Trust and there is no longer any trusteeship involved for SACP.
3) Annual report is currently with the printer and a request has been made to Scottish Government for use of premises for annual posting to panel members.
- 120.5 **Reform of Hearing System - Update**
1) A. McGroarty attended the Strategic Project Board meeting. Redraft of bill read and discussed as well as the work of the two new groups – Implementation Group & Training Group.
2) A. McGroarty attended the Training group. The work of this group has very wide implications as it will look at training for whole system. Its recommendations will be presented to the Strategic Project Board and will form part of advice for the new convener, who may or may not accept recommendations.
The aim will be to ensure that high standards are set and adhered to across the system for the benefit of the children and panel members. A. McGroarty now has to produce a paper for meeting on 8th July looking at what is needed in the way of training for trainers/facilitators/ tutors. She has produced a questionnaire for completion by SACP representatives and by as many other panel members as possible within the tight time frame. Other members of the group will produce similar papers on other key areas such as CPAC training, e-learning, models for common standards, accreditation of learning.
3) M. Easton attended the Implementation Group meeting in May. She outlined the scheme of work which has been put in place for the next months. The group will look at issues such as Area Support Teams, legal representation, the voice of the child and the role of

the convener. It will consider the secondary legislation required to flesh out the bones of the system set in place by the Children's Hearings (Scotland) legislation.

120.6 **Issues raised by panel members**

1) Expenses continue to be a concern. Some authorities have cut mileage allowances without warning. This has been explained as a measure to help avoid tax, which panel members are extremely unlikely to be liable for, given the relatively small mileages involved. There are many variations between areas and different organisations. The feeling of the meeting was that panel members should be paid a realistic rate for travel as they are already giving of their time.

2) Some areas have refused travel expenses to allow SACP representatives to attend meetings. A. Lee has been in discussion with the Scottish Government to attempt to find a solution to this.

120.7 **Conferences**

- Workshops –attended by variety of panel members.
- Children in Scotland 4-5 November national conference.

120.8 **Treasurer's Report**

2010-11 will be paid quarterly in arrears which could have implications for attending conferences and other expenses.

There will be a need to prepare estimates before each quarter. M. Gaughan has asking for clarification of this.

120.9 **Website Secretary's report**

Items are with H. Glead for inclusion on website. Updated news has been sent. G. Reoch will send recent minutes and reports. Any representative who has a conference report from 2010, please send G Reoch copy by email.

120.10 **Venues for future meetings**

Holiday Inn Stirling remains cheapest option. Majority in favour.

120.11 **AOCB**

All representatives should be prepared to contribute to a response to the consultation on child protection for the August meeting.

120.11 **Points for feedback**

- Training group – SACP represented – feedback on training issues. And on any other issues via website.
- Expenses – differences across regions – raised with Scottish government
- Implementation group – continuing throughout set-up of new system. Among other things Implementation Group producing advice for convener as well as drawing up job description.
- How do panel members want to have their voice heard in the new set-up?