

Scottish Association of Children's Panels

123rd Council Meeting

Saturday, 5th February 2011

10.00 – 15.00

Millennium Hotel, George Square, Glasgow

Agenda

123.1 Sederunt

A. Corbett (E Ayrshire), D. Stalker(N Ayrshire), K. Kelly (N Lanarkshire), J. Smith (Inverclyde), A. Martin (Angus), M. Gaughan (Glasgow S), A. Lee (W Dumbartonshire), A. McGroarty (Glasgow E), M. Easton (Highland), G. Reoch (Glasgow SE)

Apologies

M. Kirk (Fife), R. McGivney (Dundee)

123.2 Input from T. McNamara (CHS Reform Team)

T. McNamara updated the group on the current progress of reform and the need for the views of panel members to be heard.

123.3 Record of Previous Meeting

Proposed: A. Martin Seconded: A. Lee

123.4 Matters Arising

i) As yet no replacement for P. Molloy. K. Kelly will inquire locally.

ii) 122 2b – letter to SCRA

123.5 Correspondence

i) email of thanks from Phil Reid (Scottish Government)

ii) R. McGivney has had to resign as representative for Dundee for health reasons. He will endeavour to find a new representative.

123.6 Chair's Report

Adam Ingram thanks SACP for input into consultation and groups.

The new act is now being fleshed out and secondary legislation is being prepared.

The finance bill currently going through parliament will determine future of CHTOs. Training will be direct remit of NC . The overall picture will become clearer after the NC is in post.

123.7 Treasurer's Report

- Not many conferences attended as there were cancellations due to bad weather. The number of new member packs is considerably reduced this year as recruitment is lower and there were sufficient stocks of pens and keyrings remaining. As there was no National School expense was also saved in this area.
- New meeting venue necessitates higher costs for sandwiches
- Some Local Authorities are unwilling to pay expenses for SACP reps to attend meetings.
- SACP will continue to produce annual report in hard copy this year until it is clarified whether it is sufficient to send out the report electronically.
- H. Gleed will produce an invoice for maintenance of the SACP website.

123.8 Issues raised by panel members

1) Availability of expenses, particularly mileage and subsistence, is not the same in every area. Panel members do not always realise what they are entitled to receive. N. Ayrshire have recently had mileage rate levels reinstated.

2) The furnishing in some hearing rooms has been found to be in poor condition and in some areas there are no longer waste bins in the room. There was some concern expressed that the professional image of the hearings system is being undermined by this. Concern to be communicated to SCRA.

123.9 Children's Hearings Reform

Although the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act is now in place there is still a great deal of work to be done and Scottish Government and the National Convener will still look to hear the views of panel members as secondary legislation is prepared.

123.10 Role of SACP

A paper will be prepared to present to national Convener. Input from representatives is requested.

123.11 Venue for meetings

The venue in Balloch has been checked out. It is not suitable due to the increased travel for those coming from a distance. The charges for several other venues were compared and the Ramada, Ingram Street, Glasgow presented best value. A. McGroarty will book this for 2 meetings.

123.12 Website report

- There has been some confusion regarding format. Alan and Haydn have cleared this up.
- Statistics re usage may be not as accurate as could be. H. Gleed will check this.
- As requested by Children's Hearings Reform team, the SACP website now has a link to the CHS reform website.

123.13 Conferences

Kay Kelly will apply for a place at the conference on active listening and Ann Lee hopes to attend the one on working together for additional support.

SASO has an evening session presented by Malcolm Schaffer. This will deal with the implications of legislative change on CHS practice.

123.14 Points for feedback

T. McNamara attendance and input.

Looking at future role of SACP within the new CHS organisation

Expenses to be raised with National Convener

Website - access to CHS website & newsletter

Continuing need for panel members to be actively involved in continuing discussions re reform of system