

- it was suggested that we should respond to these, online; 1) has already started, with the response to be in by mid-January.
- She had also had feedback on closed consultations – namely that on the retention of DNA, and who responded. SCRA had a lengthy input as well as the police, and SACP responded.

Angela McGroarty had information on a SCRA document of August 2008, but just received, on non-disclosure of place of residence. A copy of the child's notification will NOT be included in panel papers. The full document is added as a separate addendum to the minutes.

112.5 Issues raised by panel members –

- safeguarders' reports, where a poor report was highlighted that did not seek the views of the child
- from a panel member who is pursuing a dispute with her chair; it seems that although there is a grievance procedure available to the CPAC, they are under no obligation to use it.

112.5- Chair's report

Network 100 – only people involved in hearings were present at the last meeting – there were no reporters. At the moment there is no national forum up and running, but yet the focus of Network 100 seems to have changed, with only the Continuity of Panel Members, and the Early Reviews projects going ahead. From now on, Network 100 will only convene as and when necessary, and the Communicator will be used for disseminating information.

Recruitment campaign seems to have been successful at a national level. Glasgow and N Lanarkshire have an increased drop-out rate. There seems to be no investigation as to why panel members resign, and when it is experienced members, all that expertise is being lost – is it enough to replace an experienced member with a newly trained one, without knowing why the resignation happened? The radio campaign seems to have brought a lot of interest.

Child Law UK - The Chair attended the TACT ball, which was a useful forum for exchange of ideas. Child Law UK are hoping to acquire small conference space in Scotland, to enable conferences to be held here.

112.6- Treasurer

Grant payments are now coming quarterly. The National Weekend bills are paid. If we have to pay the expenses of reps to come to our meetings, this could become an issue, but we can apply for more money, if we can justify it. It also raises the issue of some Local Authorities paying, and some not, which could become a problem when they are all having to look carefully at their budgets.

The bank account is fairly healthy at the moment – anyone having bother getting expenses, please let the chair know.

112.8 - Website

At the National Weekend, lots of people commented on the ease of using the website. It is getting revamped at the moment, with Hadyn working on a new system to record members.

There is a steady stream of enquiries about SACP.

The Network 100 button is to be removed, and the information put into 'Conference Reports'.

We are trying to get more interactive things to make it more attractive.

Our target should be for most panel members to tune in to the website with the

unified feedback (the key points) – we want this to be our source of information.
The official website chatroom is not being used – SACP cannot staff a chatroom

112.9 - Conferences

Margaret Easton attended the 'Looked After Child' in January, and the GIRFEC report from last September is now on the website.

Angela McGroarty circulated the information about the SASO meetings:

5. 02. 09	Early Release
5. 03. 09	GIRFEC
11.05. 09	Annual Conference – Women & Children in the Criminal Justice System

112.11 - AOCB

There was no other competent business

112.12 - Key Points for Feedback

1.

There will be a meeting in February, one of a series of meetings planned with various bodies who have a role to play in the hearing system, to discuss the next steps.

Support for panel members including representation, arbitration and training.

The proposals will be open to the public at the Committee stage, but you have to apply for a ticket – see the Scottish Executive website.

The Bill will be fully costed before it is presented to Parliament

The local identity of panels is to be retained. The welfare principle is still paramount, but there is a raised awareness of public protection, and a higher public expectation. Local training means *localised* training.

Watch for the report of the consultation document responses on the Scottish Executive website in January.

2. **SACP website – reports coming on from ;
The National Weekend
GIRFEC
Family Group Conferencing**

112.13 - Date of Next meeting: Saturday 28th February in Stirling

A provisional date was set for the AGM as 6th June in Aviemore

SCRA Addendum: issued 28 August 2008

Summary

- SCRA consolidating and expanding on our existing guidance for reporters on non-disclosure of place of residence or whereabouts.
- area of practice where considerable care is required to ensure risks to children, relevant persons and carers are managed.
- interagency engagement at a national and local level to raise awareness of the provisions and their applications

Legal Provisions

- relevant persons have a right to receive information in relation to their children - this right is qualified.
- 3 groups of person can make the decision that information can be withheld – a children’s hearing, a sheriff, and a reporter
- the legal tests for each case are different, the persons to whom the provision can apply are different, and the information that can be withheld is different.
- the hearing can when making or reviewing a supervision requirement require that any place where a child is required to reside by the supervision requirement must not be disclosed to any person or class of person. Similar provision in relation to warrants and the continuation of child protection orders.
- the reporter when carrying out certain functions can withhold the whereabouts of the child or any relevant person where there is a risk of serious harm to that child or relevant person.

Implications

- Need for ongoing careful consideration of whether to withhold information and clear reasons justifying any decision to do so.
- Around 10% of current supervision requirements have a non-disclosure provision
- Need for careful handling of the case to ensure that information that should not be disclosed is not inadvertently disclosed.
- Need to take reasonable steps to ensure that all appropriate other persons are aware of the existence of the non-disclosure provision

What Might Look Different for Panel Members

- Requests to withhold place of residence within panel papers
- Details of the place of residence submitted at the hearing rather than in the main report.
- Reporter may seek opportunity to review any reports submitted at the hearing before the hearing decides on its response or any further distribution of the report.
- A copy of the child's notification will now no longer be included in the panel papers.