

101st Council Meeting

Saturday, September 30th 2006

10.30a.m – 15.00p.m.

**Ochil House
Springkerse Business Estate, Stirling**

Report By Barry McGugan



Copyright © 2006 Scottish Association of Children's
Panels (SACP).
All Rights Reserved

Scottish Association of Children's Panels

101st Council Meeting

Saturday 30th September 2006

10.30am – 15.00pm

Ochil House, Springkerse Business Estate, Stirling

101.1 Sederunt and Apologies

A.Philp(Aberdeen City), M. Fawcett (Aberdeenshire), J.Noble (Argyll & Bute), A. McGroarty(Glasgow 3), G.Reoch (Glasgow 5), B. McGugan (Inverclyde), S. McMenemy (N.Ayrshire), A. Lee (W. Dumbartonshire), W.Milne (Angus), B.Burke (Midlothian), L.Benton – (N.Lanarkshire), P.Maynard (Dumfries & Galloway).

Apologies: M. Easton (Highland), M. Stenhouse (Clackmannanshire), M.Gaughan (Glasgow 4), S.Panton (S.Lanarkshire), G.Adamson (Borders).

101.2 Minutes of Previous Meetings

100th Council Meeting:- Proposer: George Reoch, Seconded: Joyce Noble.

29th AGM:- Amendment to AGM minutes:- Executive members continue : Susan McMenemy, Aileen Philp, Joyce Noble.

Proposer: Susan McMenemy, Seconded: Aileen Philp.

141st Executive Meeting:- Proposer: Angela McGroarty, Seconded: Ann Lee.

101.3 Matters Arising From Minutes and other correspondence.

Responses from letters sent:-

Rossie School – how would CPCG communicate to panel members? CPCG responded by saying that they couldn't comment while an investigation was underway. Only affects a small number of areas, and care commission is investigating.

Photographic ID: George Anderson (CPCG): Some areas do have this, although it is not official yet, but he would check if this is to be rolled out across the country.

Autism Spectrum: Alex Neill responded with all correspondence they have on this subject.

Gordon Watt (statistics of children not allocated a Social Worker) – No statistics collated on this subject – Glasgow have been manually collating statistics on this type of information. It was suggested they might have some information.

Margaret Easton to write to Alan Hughes, vice chair, Glasgow City Council for statistics and the form panel members complete at each hearing and info they have on the subject. Margaret Easton to write to the Head of Social Work in Scotland to ask the same question.

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act – reply received from Margaret Cox (to be circulated separately). This should be taken back to our own areas and Margaret Easton to ask Margaret Cox to distribute this to all Reporters.

Colin McLean (Process review of the child protection Reform Programme) – After correspondence, SACP has now been added to their consultation distribution list.

101.4 Annual Report update

200 additional copies made available which will be distributed to areas who need them and at the National School in Dunblane Hydro on 3rd-5th November.

101.5 Database update

Database populated with all details, 370 names.

Barry to compile a list, for each SACP rep, of panel members, in their area, who have given permission to be contacted. Barry to construct a letter of communication to the people on the database.

101.6 Chairman's Report

1) Children Law UK. Draft manifesto -Justice for Children circulated for comments please. Minutes from the last meeting will be circulated as soon as they are available.

2) Ann attended the launch of the Children in Scotland manifesto.

101.7 Treasurer's Report

The financial position is satisfactory just now to perform our duties.

101.8 Press Secretary's Report

Website – looks good, and still being expanded. It will have contact details (SACP members to submit a brief synopsis of themselves to George Reoch for inclusion on the website). Conference reports, minutes and other information will be included or archived on the site.

www.sacp.org.uk

Press Reports

Evening Times – 24/7 - 1200 offences including 26 serious assaults, a rape, a robbery and reckless conduct with a firearm were carried out last year by kids under 10.

Press and Journal – 04/08 - Children as young as 8 being referred to a panel for drink and drug problems although a very small number (less than 5)

Evening Times – 11/08 - 2 children aged 12 caught in possession of a knives on a bus during the recent clampdown on carrying knives in Glasgow.

Herald -18/08 - ISMS or “tagging” branded a costly failure. Apparently the money (£12m) is being used for the support side of the legislation rather than the tagging part. Very few being tagged and those that are breach the order and end up in secure.

Herald – 18/09 - A 40% increase in girls involved in crime in the last 5 years. 4200 girls referred on offence grounds last year.

101.9 Conference Reports and future events

Aileen Philp to take over the Conference Secretary – phone 01224 703439

Up to date Conference List required.

G.Reoch/M.Gaughan - SASO Annual Conference– Peebles Hydro– 17-19th Nov (A.McGroarty facilitating).

Susan McMenemy - Hampden Park, Glasgow. 6th Oct, Attachment.

L.Benton – Holyrood – 13th Nov - Children in Care, are we failing them?

3rd – 5th Nov, CP National School, Dunblane Hydro – Barry McGugan & Billy

Burke to attend on behalf of SACP. Mary Fawcett attending for Aberdeenshire.

National School -Treasurer will contact Judith Bell to confirm our 2 reps

attending for SACP, and ask if there are still places available ,for us to send a 3rd representative.

Children in Scotland annual conference -Westerwood hotel , Cumbernauld, 2-3rd November," Building better childhoods for Scotland's children".

101.10 SACP Expenses

Gordon Watt replied to confirm that Local Authorities are responsible for paying SACP travel expenses. This has been communicated to the chairs. A copy of his letter is available for anyone who needs it.

101.11 Membership secretary

Mary Fawcett has written to all chair persons and she has had some mixed responses. Barry to check the database and identify contacts in areas where there have been negative responses. We should also approach individuals at the National School.

101.12 Printer

Both Barry and Ann now have SACP printers.

Marilyn Stenhouse has returned the SACP computer.

101.13 Issues raised by Panel members

Time off from work to attend panels? People having to take annual leave or make up time in lieu to attend training and panels. Glasgow did invite employers to a civic reception where they were recognised for supporting Panel members. Margaret Easton to write to Robert Brown and copy the Scottish Executive to clarify the position and to suggest that the Children's Panels should be considered as a tribunal.

New Member training. On the subject of reducing contact when freeing for adoption it is suggested that panel members should not pre-empt the Sheriff's decision and there is some ambiguity between training documentation and Social Work advice on reducing / stopping contact – Ref Page 80 of the Training Resource Manual, Permanency Planning.

New panel members seem to be unaware that recall training and Chairmanship training is mandatory. This should be re-emphasised to new panel members.

Appeals – The Reporter should provide feedback on upheld appeals (anonymous of course) so that panel members could learn from this.

Inter agency meetings – Aberdeenshire have a forum where panel members meet other agencies and discuss issues and solutions to ongoing problems. Some are resolved and dealt with from this meeting and some referred to senior people to change processes. This frank and open discussion in a small group has proved extremely beneficial.

GIRFEC progress – The National/Regional restructuring issue is still a concern, but it was felt that the consultation period was over and while the legislation has been delayed, it was felt it would be difficult to challenge this and therefore it was decided not to take this further.

101.14 AOCB

No items.

101.15 Key points for Feedback.

All SACP Reps to ask for input from their areas – points to be raised, questions, best practice for the next meeting?

Website

Photographic ID – are there any plans for this – N.Ayrshire have a great system.

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act – clarify to panel members the need for young people to understand this.

Contact considerations – Page 80 of the Training Resource Manual

Bring your Boss encouragement night organised in Glasgow to recognise supportive employers.

Time off for hearings – get feedback of panel members experiences.

Summary of Actions

Margaret Easton to write to Alan Hughes, vice chair, Glasgow City Council for statistics and form that panel members complete at each hearing. (Angela)

Margaret Easton to write to the Head of Social Work in Scotland to ask the same question about unallocated cases. (Ann)

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act – reply received from Margaret Cox (to be circulated separately). This should be taken back to our own areas and **Margaret Easton** to ask Margaret Cox to distribute this to all Reporters (Ann).

Margaret Easton to write to Robert Brown and copy the Scottish Executive to clarify the position and to suggest that the Children's Panels should be considered as tribunals. (Angela).

Barry to compile a list, for each SACP rep, of panel members, in their area, who have given permission to be contacted. **Barry** to construct a letter of communication to the people on the database.

Aileen Philp to create a new Conference List.

Ann Lee / Billy Burke (and anyone else) to check if they can attend National School from their area. If not, **George Reoch** to check with Linda Benton if we can send a 3rd Rep, if so, ask Judith Bell if we can have another place.

Barry to check the database and identify contacts in areas where there have been negative or no responses.