



**PERTH AND KINROSS
CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held on 14 December 2010 at 2pm
In MR10/11, Pullar House, Perth**

Minute

Present:

Bill Atkinson, Chair, Head of Children & Families' Services, Perth & Kinross Council
Ben Colvin, Consultant Paediatrician, Community Child Health, NHS Tayside
Anne Dalziel, Service Manager, Education Services, Perth & Kinross Council
June Doull, Senior Nurse, Child Protection, NHS Tayside
Ross Drummond, Child Protection Inter-Agency Co-ordinator, Child Protection Committee
Julie Flynn, Head of Primary Care/Acting Child Health Lead, Perth & Kinross, NHS Tayside
John Gilruth, Head of Community Care , Perth & Kinross Council
DS Dave Graham, Public Protection Unit, Tayside Police
Kirsty Hill representing Voluntary Sector
Tricia Illsley, Integration Manager, Cultural & Community Services, Perth & Kinross Council (late)
Alison Irvine, Service Manager, Children & Families' Services, Perth & Kinross Council
Caroline Mackie, Service Manager, Children & Families' Services, Perth & Kinross Council
John Malpass, Depute, Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service, Tayside Procurator Fiscal
Gordon McKay, Training and Development Officer, Child Protection Committee
Sarah Rodger, Senior Solicitor, Legal Services, Perth & Kinross Council
DI Jim Smith, Tayside Police
Margaret Steel, Admin Officer, Children & Families' Services, Perth & Kinross Council
Dave Thompson, Property & Systems Manager, Perth & Kinross Leisure

Apologies:

David Barnes, Independent Schools Representative
Jenny Blinkhorne, Chairperson, Children's Panel, Perth and Kinross
Neil Campbell, Housing Liaison Officer, Housing & Community Care, Perth & Kinross Council
DCI Colin Gall, Tayside Police
Cath Graham, Voluntary Sector Representative
Peter Kaye, Service Manager, Education Services, Perth & Kinross Council
Norma Ritchie, Authority Reporter, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
Linda Swan, Head Teacher, Breadalbane Academy

In Attendance:

Marion Latto, Child Protection Admin Support (minute)

	What	Who	When
1	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies		
1.1	The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.		
1.2	Apologies were duly noted.		
2	Self Evaluation & Inspection 2011 Presentation		
	Members noted that Link Inspector Ms Jacquie Pepper had not been able to attend today's meeting in light of extended inspection commitments due to the recent adverse weather conditions. Ms Pepper will attend the next Quality Improvement Sub Group meeting scheduled for 11 February 2011 at 10am.		
3	Minute of Previous Meeting – 26 October 2010 and Matters Arising		
3.1	The minute was approved as an accurate record, with no amendment.		
	<u>Matters Arising</u>		
3.2	<p><u>Visual Recording of Interviews (VRI)</u> - The Child Protection Witness Interview Room within Almondbank House has generated a high level of interest, including Police agencies across Scotland. The equipment and software installed is compliant with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.</p> <p>It was noted that six child protection interviews have been undertaken using the new equipment. Training on the equipment will be developed for colleagues.</p> <p>R Drummond advised that the National Digital Recording Project Group for Joint Investigative Interviewing, which he is a member of, has been visiting facilities to oversee the implementation of child protection witness interview suites throughout Scotland. National funding was available for equipment (hardware and software) which had been set aside by the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS). Portable equipment for Tayside may be a possibility. It was agreed to establish a small working group to take this forward. National guidance on interviewing child witnesses in Scotland will be published circa February 2011.</p> <p>Action R Drummond, DS Graham, G McKay and J Keenan (CP Duty Team) to consider Tayside requirements.</p>	RD/Group	
3.3	<p><u>Vulnerable Witness:</u> - The Sheriff Clerk, Perth Sheriff Court, had previously visited Almondbank House and the facility had been approved for interview vulnerable witness by the Sheriff Court and Scottish Government. A Irvine will continue to link with the Sheriff Clerk to arrange commencement of the use of the facility for this purpose.</p> <p>Action A Irvine to continue to link with the Sheriff Clerk and keep members informed of progress.</p>	AI	ongoing
3.4	<u>Children's Rights Officer:</u> – this post had been recently become vacant within Education & Children's Services. BA advised that this post will be advertised on a temporary basis.		

	What	Who	When
3.5	<u>Vetting & Barring</u> : it was noted that the PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) Group continued to meet to discuss the new membership scheme to replace and improve upon the current disclosure arrangements for people who work with vulnerable groups. It was anticipated further information on the national position would be clearer at the next meeting.		
3.6	<u>Stopitnow Public Engagement</u> : – B Atkinson advised members that a public engagement pilot was planned in the form of a questionnaire approach. The theme is public attitudes to sexual offences (organisation website: www.stopitnow.org.uk). Members will be kept apprised of the pilot's progress. Action: Pilot update to be provided at a future meeting.	BA	ongoing
4	Draft Child Protection Standards and Quality Report		
	The draft report was tabled at the meeting. Members were advised that this was a new style of reporting as CPCs were no longer required to produce an annual report and business plan. This is a comprehensive outcome focussed and evaluative document which had been submitted to the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership for their comments, which are awaited. Positive comments were received from members. R Drummond noted the request to include interior photographs of Almondbank House within the report. Action: Additional interior photographs of Almondbank House to be included.	RD	
5	CPC Self Evaluation Focus Groups		
	R Drummond's briefing paper was tabled at the meeting. Members noted the purpose, logistics and summary of findings contained within the paper. Four events were held between October and December 2010, with a total of 58 participants attending representing various agencies. The focus groups were positively received. Some of the group discussions included: transition (16-18 year olds); feedback from child care concerns; publicity campaign; engagement with the public; training (for new employees in particular); information sharing; and self evaluation. Raising the profile of child protection was discussed in depth. Suggestions included: holding focussed events within schools; installing screensaver message on pcs across agencies; uploading child protection information onto plasma screens in establishments etc. Action: Training and focussed events within schools to be remitted to the Training Sub Group. Action The Quality Improvement Sub Group to progress with the summary of key findings.	Training Sub Group Quality Improvement Sub Group	

	What	Who	When
6	Scottish Government Policy update (National CP Guidance & Under-Age Sexual Activity Guidance)		
6.1	National Child Protection Guidance (<i>link</i>): Perth and Kinross CPC Committee had made a contribution to the consultation of the draft guidance which was now published on 13 December 2010.		
6.2	<p>Guidance on Underage Sexual Activity (<i>link</i>): A response to the draft consultation was also submitted to Scottish Government and this document was published on 3 December 2010. The guidance has been developed to help practitioners, local services and agencies in considering what protocols and policies need to be in place to effectively meet the needs of children and young people who are engaged in under-age sexual activity.</p> <p>As a result of the new guidance, raising awareness sessions would be required for committee members on the implications; Central and North East Child Protection Consortium should discuss these documents in order to learn what agencies within the consortium are doing to take forward the guidance; and a review of Perth and Kinross' guidance and protocols would also be required.</p> <p>It was also agreed that both of these documents require to be submitted to various committees; the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership; Practice Sub Group and the Training Sub Group.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Item for discussion at the Central and North East Child Protection Consortium 2 Review of Perth and Kinross guidance and protocols 3 Committee reports to be submitted to various committee cycles including the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership and Lifelong Learning Committee 	<p>BA/RD</p> <p>Practice Sub Group/Training Sub Group</p> <p>BA</p>	
7	Feedback from the Sub Groups		
7.1	<p>Training Sub Group: it was noted that the Chairmanship of this sub group remained vacant. J Doull has been appointed Vice Chair of this group. Deputes have been nominated to cover members' absences.</p> <p>It was noted that a number of protocols have been reviewed and refreshed.</p> <p>Parental Mental Health pilot training sessions (three) have been undertaken with two additional sessions planned for early next year. Feedback on this course was positive, however, attendees considered the length of the course inadequate (three hours) and as a result, the course length will be extended.</p> <p>Guidance is being drawn up for parents and carers who do not engage with the child protection process.</p> <p>NHS Protected Learning day took place with 170 attendees including GPs and Practitioners. NHS will provide a copy of the evaluation of the day. A note of appreciation was proffered to speakers from Tayside Police, NHS Tayside and Education & Children's Services.</p>		

	What	Who	When
7.2	<u>Practice Sub Group</u> : work of the group included development of information sharing protocols; chronology guidance pilot; Sexually Active Under Age Protocol and the Multi-Agency CP Action Plan was being progressed.		
7.3	<u>Quality Improvement Sub Group</u> : the group has been focussing on the improvement action plan and monitoring progress. The next meeting was scheduled for 11 February 2011. The frequency of meetings of this sub group will be increased in light of the forthcoming inspection which is due to take place in August 2011.		
7.4	<u>Voluntary Sector Sub Group</u> : the group last met on 18 November 2010. Due to changes in staff/remits, the membership of this group has changed. Information sharing continued and members remained enthusiastic. C Graham has been involved in providing information for the management report.		
7.5	<u>Child Protection Messaging Sub Group</u> : a paper has been submitted to the Chair of the CPC outlining costs and benefits etc. B Atkinson undertook to take this report to the Senior Management Team of Education & Children's Services. Action: Report to be submitted to SMT	BA	asap
7.6	<u>GIRFEC Implementation Sub Group</u> : the group has been involved in piloting chronology guidance. GIRFEC training for practitioners is being developed. The next edition of the newsletter was being progressed also. It was noted that Scottish Government were concerned about the progress of the implementation of the GIRFEC agenda as it was at different stages across Scotland.		
8	AOCB		
8.1	<u>Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) Update</u> : it was noted that SCRA continues to work on the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Bill; this has realised significant changes to the structure and operation of the Children's Hearings system. The Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 25 November 2010.		
9	Date of Next Meeting		
	The next meeting will be held on 25 January 2011 in MR12/13, Pullar House, Perth.		