

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC GROUP**

Minute of the meeting of the Children and Young People's Strategic Group held in Room 410, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Friday 5 December 2014 at 10.00am.

**Present:** B Malone, Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council (Chair)  
 Councillor B Band, Perth and Kinross Council  
 Councillor E Maclachlan, Perth and Kinross Council  
 Councillor B Vaughan, Perth and Kinross Council  
 B Atkinson, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services), Perth and Kinross Council  
 J Flynn, Perth and Kinross Community Health Partnership  
 K Fowlie, NHS Tayside  
 S Hay, NHS Tayside Board  
 J Kerr, Voluntary Action Perthshire (PKAVS Community Engagement)  
 J Pepper, Education and Children's Services, Perth and Kinross Council  
 L Swan, Education and Children's Services, Perth & Kinross Council

**In Attendance:** R Ogston (Perth College UHI); R Jamieson (PKAVS); S Hendry and H Rheinallt (both Chief Executive's Service)

**Apologies:** A Gerry (Scottish Children's Reporter Administration); J Fyffe, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); J Gilruth, Depute Director (Housing and Community Care, Perth and Kinross Council); F Steel (Action for Children Scotland); and J Walker, Executive Director (Housing and Community Care, Perth & Kinross Council)

B Malone in the Chair

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

B Malone welcomed R Jamieson and a young carer to the meeting. Apologies for absence were submitted and noted as above.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in terms of the relevant Codes of Conduct.

**3. PKAVS Young Carers Service**

**(i) Presentation**

R Jamieson thanked the Group for the opportunity to deliver a presentation. During the presentation, he made specific reference to

the support provided for young carers, and the difficulties of continuing this support due to a number of factors, including growing numbers of identified young carers, volunteer numbers and funding.

At the end of the presentation and the discussion, B Malone thanked both R Jamieson and the young carer for coming to the meeting of the Group and delivering their presentations.

**(ii) PKAVS Young Carers Service**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) providing an overview of the work carried out by the service and the level of support for young carers in Perth and Kinross.

During the discussion, particular emphasis was made on the importance of multi-agency work in this area.

**The Group:**

- (i) Agreed that more local business should be involved in local volunteering.
- (ii) Requested that B Atkinson lead on co-ordinating an action plan, including: multi-agency sharing information; staff training awareness; and future priorities for the support of young carers.
- (iii) Noted the work to date of PKAVS Young Carers Service in partnership with NHS Tayside, Perth and Kinross Council and the third sector.
- (iv) Requested a refreshed Young Carers Strategy for Perth and Kinross which sets out local trends and an associated improvement plan by the end of 2015.
- (v) Requested a report in due course setting out sustainability options for support for children and young people who are young carers.

**4. MINUTE OF MEETING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OF 3 OCTOBER 2014**

The Minute of the Meeting of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership of 3 October 2014 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

**(i) Feedback from Seminar on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – (Item 8 refers)**

J Pepper provided a verbal update on the current work regarding CSE. This included a Working Group which had been set up on the topic in Tayside, comprised of a broad representation on issues such as sexual health.

**(ii) Nominations to the Child Protection Committee**

R Ogston confirmed that Perth College UHI had requested to have a representative on the (CPC) and he was to be that representative. J Pepper advised that she had received his nomination.

**(iii) Update on Violence Against Women**

Bill Atkinson provided a verbal update on current work ongoing in the area to prevent violence against women.

**6. PERTH AND KINROSS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE (CPC)  
BUSINESS ACTIVITY REPORT SINCE 3 OCTOBER 2014**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (G/14/362) highlighting the main business activities of the Child Protection Committee (CPC) since the last meeting of the Children and Young People's Strategic Group (CYPSG) held on 3 October 2014.

In response to a query from the Group, J Pepper gave an assurance that she had maintained the focus on child protection in the local authority, where other authorities had not. B Malone advised that the first Care Inspectorate inspection agreed with the Council's own self-evaluation.

Cllr Vaughan pointed to the importance of Elected Member awareness of these issues. B Malone advised that B Atkinson would bring the finalised action plan to a future council meeting; and that more sessions would be held for elected members as well as joint sessions.

**The Group:**

- (i) Noted that the children's agenda must stay at the centre of any actions taken on health and social care integration.
- (ii) Requested that J Pepper update the Group on the current position relating to phased commencement of various parts of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and the implementation of GIRFEC.
- (iii) Noted the key activities of the Perth and Kinross CPC.
- (iv) Asked that a further update and action plan from the Perth and Kinross CSE Working Group to be brought to the Group in due course.

**7. PROPOSALS FOR TAKING FORWARD DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (G/14/363) setting out proposals for a new and appropriate structure of taking forward the enhanced duties and responsibilities of Corporate Parents towards children and young people who are looked after.

**The Group:**

- (i) Endorsed the proposal to set up a new Corporate Parenting Group which would report to the CYPSPG;
- (ii) Delegated responsibility for the development and set up of the new Corporate Parenting Group to the Executive Director, (Education and Children's Services);
- (iii) Requested a further report setting out the detail of the membership and terms of reference of the new Corporate Parenting Group be submitted in due course.

**8. EARLY YEARS COLLABORATIVE – PROGRESS REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Education & Children's Services) providing the Strategic Group with a further update on the current activity of the Early Years Collaborative. B Atkinson introduced the report.

In response to a query from Councillor Vaughan, K Fowle advised that in Perth & Kinross all eligible children are offered a health assessment, however, not all those who are offered the assessment complete it. J Flynn further advised that the NHS is trying to find inventive ways to make the assessment rate more successful. B Atkinson advised that there is a need to cross-refer this coverage rate with work done for vulnerable children in early years, however, this work also has a slow take-up rate.

**The Group:**

- (i) Noted that a Short Life Working Group was in place, which had identified the relevant problems for reporting for the Workstream 3 stretch aim in the interim period before national analysis is agreed.
- (ii) Noted that members would receive an invite to the 'celebration' event which was moved to January.
- (iii) Noted the progress being made in Perth and Kinross in the delivery of the Early Years Collaborative.

**9. EARLY YEARS CHANGE FUND – RETURN TO THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT**

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director, (Education & Children's Services) presenting the Strategic Group with the draft Early Years Change Fund 2013-14 to be returned to the Scottish Government for approval.

**Resolved:**

The draft Early Years Change Fund Return for 2013/14 for submission to the Scottish Government be approved.

**10. GIRFEC UPDATE**

There was a verbal report from J Pepper, Head of Children and Families' Services updating the Group on work done in Tayside with regard to GIRFEC. During the report, reference was made to:

- A working group being established to create a single child's action plan across Tayside; and
- A discussion at the Council's Executive Officer Team about raising awareness across the local authority about GIRFEC.

**The Group:**

- (i) Noted the update.
- (ii) Agreed to hear details of support provided to higher achievers and any future measures considered in due course.

**11. ATTAINMENT IN PERTH AND KINROSS SCHOOLS 2014**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (G/14/366) presenting a summary analysis of pupil attainment for academic session 2013/14 in Perth and Kinross, specifically in relation to Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) progress with learning and achievement in P4, P7 and S3, and Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) attainment at SCQF levels 5, 6 and 7.

It was noted that the report had been considered by the Council's Lifelong Learning Committee on 29 October 2014.

**The Group:**

- (i) Noted the contents of the report.
- (ii) Requested information be brought to the Group on the high level of attainment in other local authority areas and comparative results of young carers.

**12. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

There were no other items of business for discussion.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Group noted the next meeting would be held at the Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth on Friday 20 February at 10.00am.

