



**EDUCATION &
CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**

Ken Greer, Executive Director, Education
 Alistair Gaw, Senior Manager, Social Work
 Fiona Power, Children's Services Adviser
 Bryan Kirkaldy, Senior Manager, Education Service
 Ian Bease, Fife Constabulary
 Rhona Cunningham, Gingerbread
 Kate Keddie, Barnardos
 David Millar, Children's Reporter
 Scott Hunter, Fife Children's Rights Service
 Duncan Simpson, Community Services
 Anne Buchanan, NHS Fife
 Joyce Greig, Integrated Community Schools Manager
 Lorna Watson, NHS Fife
 Val Hatch, Dunfermline and West Fife CHP
 John Mills, Housing Manager, Housing Service
 Ross Drummond, Lead Officer, Child Protection

CHILDREN'S SERVICES GROUP

**NOTE OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2008
 AT 1.30 PM IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, FIFE HOUSE, GLENROTHES**

Present: Ken Greer, Fiona Power, Jill McArthur (Notes), Bryan Kirkaldy, Rhona Cunningham, Kate Keddie, Scott Hunter, Val Hatch, Alistair Gaw, Lorna Watson, Ian Bease, Garry Crosbie

Apologies: Joyce Greig, Anne Buchanan, Ross Drummond, David Millar, Duncan Simpson, John Mills

In Attendance: Melanie Durowse (for agenda item 4)

1 Welcome / Introductions / Apologies

Ken welcomed the group and apologies noted.

2/3 Notes from Previous Meeting / Matters Arising

The notes were agreed as accurate with the following matters arising:

- The Parenting Strategy Group have yet to meet. Alistair to remind Jim Burke to do as part of Jim's exit strategy.
- Scott advised that a Working Group has been set up in relation to Children's Rights and Responsibilities.
- Children in Scotland Conference – draft list of workshops has been prepared but awaiting response from Children in Scotland.

4 Child Protection Inspection

Alistair and Melanie updated the group on preparations for the Inspection. The date of Inspection has not been confirmed but it will be before the end of the year.

Alistair distributed 18 Quality Indicators and advised that all staff need to be familiar with these. A Child Protection Inspection Management Group has been set up and meets every four weeks.

Melanie has a copy of the Pre-Inspection Return from East Renfrewshire if people would like to see it. Once the Pre-Inspection Return for Fife has been sent out there is a timescale of four weeks for return.

There will be 12 roadshows held for all staff (roughly 100 at each) and monthly newsletters are also being sent out.

Ken suggested asking Council Management Team to promote the importance of understanding the Inspection. Alistair to take this forward. Committee reports will be presented and Elected Members will get the newsletters.

Action

AG/JB

AG

Melanie advised that briefing sessions will be held with staff who are due to be interviewed by Inspectors.

The Voluntary Sector will be included in the preparations via representatives on Child Protection Committee and Local Child Protection Groups.

Bryan advised that it would be useful for the group to see the self-evaluation work. Alistair will prepare a briefing for the next meeting.

AG

A multi-agency case file audit has been undertaken and Melanie emphasised the importance of consistency with files across services. Chronologies must also be included. Alistair advised that advance warning of case files to be looked at will be given. Val informed that NHS also doing a case file audit. Security of files should be reviewed.

Alistair suggested a priority may be children and young people having a voice. More can be done on this with children's rights and what they should know about children's hearings etc. The Reporter needs to be included. Children/young people should be completing a 'Having your Say' form.

The joint approach to risk assessment is progressing. Health has also implemented this.

Fiona advised that Inspectors will need to be shown the links between Children's Services Plan and Child Protection Plan. The CSP signposts to CP Plan rather than everything being included in CSP, as was the case in the past.

Ken advised the INEA Inspection report will be published on 13 May 2008. One of the main themes is partnership working which is noted as a key strength. Ken informed the group of the mention of the CSG which is very positive.

5 Child Protection Update

The Child Protection Committee held a development day which went well. Alistair advised of ongoing attendance issue with Reporter's office which is being looked at.

6 Children's Services Planning Update

The Children's Services Plan has been finalised and will go to Committee on 22 May along with the Young People's version of the Plan. The Plan will also need to go to NHS Board. Val to speak to Anne regarding this.

VH

Bryan advised that the Plan will be a working document therefore identified key people from each service will need to take actions forward. Six monthly monitoring should be undertaken.

7 Quality Improvement Working Group / Getting it Right

Bryan advised of a proposed name change to 'Getting it Right in Fife'.

The Quality Improvement Working Group now has a set of principles, Children's Services Plan, set of mechanisms which will be mapped and a set of Quality Indicators. All of this will be pulled together then reported back to Children's Services Group. The briefing document can be used for a series of seminars/briefings.

Fiona suggested that it is important to have link to Early Years Strategy Group when set up.

The group agreed that Fife is doing well in relation to Getting it Right. Alistair advised that co-location meetings are an excellent example of Getting it Right.

Ian advised that co-location meetings are being used as good practice model and may be rolled out nationally. There has been a 46% reduction in number of referrals to Reporter and 39% reduction in persistent offenders. Ian to circulate information to group.

IB

8	<u>Children's Services Funding</u>	<p>Fiona advised there is still a lot of work to be done with children's services funding.</p> <p>The Social Work Funding Group is looking at Grants and Surestart but we need to look at expanding this group.</p> <p>Clare Brand is mapping out funding going to Committees etc which will cover Grants, Surestart and CCSF. Contracts need to be included although they don't go to Committees for approval.</p> <p>The funding for 2008/09 is more or less the same as previous year.</p> <p>Robert McGregor is leading on the Fairer Scotland Fund and this also needs to be monitored. The projects funded from Community Regeneration Fund monies will continue for six months, along with four projects which previously sat under CCSF.</p> <p>Fiona advised that the group has received HIF money (£93k) for three years. When funding projects there is certain criteria from JHIP which must be met and an outcome agreement must be completed.</p> <p>Fiona suggested giving Homestart £43k for 2008/09 as done previously which the group agreed. This will give Social Work time to look at review of Homestart which has been completed and then agree future funding.</p> <p>This leaves £50k for the group to distribute. Projects must be agreed by 5 June 2008. Fiona, Alistair and Dave Wright to discuss how this may be distributed.</p>	FP/AG
9	<u>Update on Feedback on Children/Young People Involvement in Services</u>	<p>Fiona received very positive feedback from the three young people who attended the February meeting.</p> <p>The Young People's Event held on 16 April went well. The Planning Group will meet with young people again to discuss the actions needed. It would also be good for Integration Managers to link this with Local Children's Services Groups.</p> <p>Ken suggested the young people do an action plan and prioritise this. Fiona will advise the Planning Group of this.</p> <p>Ian advised that a similar exercise was carried out with the Police and a lot of the issues mentioned are the same.</p>	FP
10	<u>Results of Partnership Questionnaire</u>	<p>The results of the questionnaire were noted. It was quite a lengthy questionnaire and ten people responded. Although responses were positive the response rate could have been better. Agreed to repeat in one year.</p>	
11	<u>Update on Committees</u>	<p>The Committees seem to have settled now. Fiona advised that relevant information may be discussed at Housing and Communities Committee and Police, Fire and Safety Committee.</p> <p>Alistair and Bryan are meeting Chairs and Vice Chairs of Education and Children's Services Committee and Social Work and Health Committee to sign off specific responsibilities of each Committee.</p>	AG/BK
12	<u>Any Other Business</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lorna asked who is leading on Health Promotion, in particular, sexual health. Garry has taken over this lead and is restructuring the team at the moment. Once finalised Garry will inform Lorna. • Lorna advised that an audit has been carried out in relation Sexual Health Strategy and she would like to present this to Headteachers. Lorna and Garry to 	GC
			LW/GC

- discuss.
- Rhona is concerned that the Fife Childcare Partnership has not met for nearly a year. Ken will raise with Steve Grimmond.

KG

13 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 20 August 2008 at 9.30 am in Committee Room 1, Fife House, Glenrothes.

Agreed items for agenda include:

- Child Protection (Alistair)
- Domestic Abuse Update (Sheila Noble to be invited)