



**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 13 FEBRUARY 2008
AT 9.30 AM IN COMMITTEE ROOM 3, FIFE HOUSE, GLENROTHES**

Present: Ken Greer, Fiona Power, Jill McArthur (Notes), Bryan Kirkaldy, Joyce Greig, Alex Harkness, Rhona Cunningham, Kate Keddie, Scott Hunter, Val Hatch, Alistair Gaw, Duncan Simpson, John Flaherty, Ross Drummond, Anne Buchanan, Lorna Watson

Apologies: Ian Bease, John Mills

In Attendance: Lorraine Mullen, Chris Burns, Stefan Hoggan, Kay McMahon for Item 4
Joyce Leggate for Item 6

1 Welcome / Introductions / Apologies

Ken welcomed the group and introductions were made.

Lorna Watson replaces Maxine Moy. John Flaherty attended in place of John Mills and Alex Harkness in place of Ian Bease.

2/3 Notes from Previous Meeting / Matters Arising

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

- Alistair Gaw advised that the Child Protection Inspection will only pick up work at ground level therefore each service has to be sure of the work that is going on. Internal communications and face-to-face preparations across services is required. The scope of quality assurance around Child Protection is too narrow and it is important to look at this in the wider sense and consider children other than those on the Register. Agreed to have this on the agenda at the next meeting. Alistair will speak to Bryan re work on self-evaluation.
- The evaluation of youth work during the summer will be available for the next meeting.
- The Parenting Strategy Group will have their first meeting soon.

Ken advised that the Inspectors who observed the last meeting were very impressed with the work of the group. The INEA Inspection went well and provides a very clear message re other inspections and how people need to work together. Need to pull together for Child Protection inspection in October/November.

Ken thanked services for their input into the INEA Inspection.

4 Young People's Presentation (Big Shout)

Lorraine Mullen, Community Education Worker attended with three young people – Kay, Chris and Stefan to give a presentation on a recent trip to Norway. There were many cultural differences between Norway and Scotland in relation to young people

Action

AG/BK

DS

JB/Social
Work

with the main points noted:

- All pupils have access to free fruit and vegetables throughout the school day.
- Pupils call teachers by their first name which seems to promote a more relaxed relationship.
- Pupils do not wear school uniform.
- Teachers approach to discipline is calmer.
- Young people have close/relaxed relationship with the Mayor.
- Young people attend Council meetings.

Ken asked if it would be useful to have young people represented on this group. It is important for young people to set the agenda as well and for the group discussion to be more interesting and use less jargon.

Fife Youth Forum is a mix of young people from all areas of Fife. It would be good for all services to engage with young people through this forum.

There is a Young People's Event on 16 April 2008 and once finalised information will be circulated to the group.

Each service to feed back at May meeting on how young people are included in discussions.

All

5 Understanding Children's Rights and Responsibilities

Duncan advised that there is a lot of work ongoing in relation to Children's Rights but it is not co-ordinated. Activity in Community Services includes Big Shout, Children's Parliament, Young Scot and the Dialogue Youth Team who have been doing work in relation to looked after children and smart card. Also working on websites such as Big Shout and CPD for Community Services staff in relation to Children's Rights.

There will be an election in 2009 to elect MSYP's.

Scott advised that the challenge for the Children's Rights Service is around capacity building. Educating children on their rights is required and this sits alongside the social inclusion agenda. It is a huge agenda for the service.

Scott has had discussions with Joyce and Ross re training etc.

Alistair suggested there may be an opportunity to get info on trends/analysis in relation to this. Scott advised that this is ongoing and stats should be available by the summer.

Bryan advised it is a challenge for each organisation to integrate with rights and participation and services would benefit from a strategy across the board.

Ken suggested all services need to working jointly on this with the intent of bringing about some cultural change. Some behaviours will need to be challenged.

Scott will discuss devising a strategy with the Stakeholders Group and report back at the next meeting.

SH

6 Fife NHS Community Midwife

Joyce Leggate gave an excellent presentation on her work which covers the whole of Fife. Joyce and her team recently won an award for their work.

Ross asked if there would be any impact on Joyce's work with the new unborn baby policy due out but Joyce said the team are well aware of child protection policies etc and Social Work are involved throughout so it would be unlikely.

The team are funded via Surestart until 31 March 2008. However Fiona reassured Joyce that this should continue for 2008/09 due to the transitional period. Joyce advised that money is also sought from the Jennifer Brown Research Fund and this is used for a 12 hour post. Alistair suggested that this service needs to be increased rather than reduced when looking at future needs.

Anne advised that there is a need to transfer Joyce's skills to the core midwifery team as it is not sustainable with only one or two people. Training is provided on a monthly basis to other services.

Joyce reported good working relationships with other services especially the Addictions Service, Social Work and Voluntary Sector.

Duncan suggested that Joyce could give this presentation to the Education and Children's Services Committee as it is very powerful.

Bryan advised that this piece of work would be valuable to use in the Child Protection inspection as good practice.

Alistair reported that this work is a priority and should be linked to forthcoming Early Years Strategy.

Ken will speak to senior Councillors re Joyce doing presentation to Committee.

KG

Ken thanked Joyce on behalf of the group for an excellent presentation.

7 Children's Services Planning / Funding Update

Fiona and Carrie are meeting with services to look at local indicators. Also linking to single outcome agreement work. The Young People's event on 16 April should provide a few priorities.

At a recent meeting other Local Authorities and Scottish Government, Fife were seen as making very good progress with 08/09 plan.

The full Council meeting is on 14 February and provided the budget is approved, then reassurance will be able to be given to services about funding for 2008/09. This year will be a transitional period therefore funding is likely to remain more or less the same as 07/08. Social Work has set up a group to look at Surestart funding and section 10 monies. However, a Funding Group will be set up in 2008/09 to discuss future funding. This needs to be done early on.

Bryan suggested having one mechanism to look at CCSF and Surestart. Fiona agreed but the funding is very complex and it is not only these two streams to be considered. Services/projects have to show outcomes for funding provided.

Anne advised that clear criteria is required when making decisions re funding. Alistair suggested that the Children's Services Plan will help with this.

Fiona suggested that there is a need to look at local need when making decisions, not just in relation to money but staffing as well. It would be good to have an independent person(s) on the Funding Group to make sure decisions objective.

8 Quality Improvement Working Group / Getting It Right

The next meeting of the Quality Improvement Working Group is on 19 February. Bryan advised there are three main strands to this group, which are:

- GIR – building capacity to be more integrated and focused on valued outcomes.
- JAT's – review of how these are going underway. Services are giving their support to JAT's.
- Self-evaluation – Yvonne and Carrie have been looking at Quality Indicators and how these can be applied to groups such as LCSG's, SLG's and JAT's. Work is underway on how to apply key quality indicators to these groups.

The Group is also overseeing trying to make the Children's Services Plan slimmer and more focused for 2008/09. Fiona and Carrie have been working on this and hopefully it will be finalised at the next meeting. Bryan advised that there won't be direct correlation between funding and Children's Services Plan as the plan is more about how we are shifting the focus.

	<p>Anne queried the role of the Local Children's Services Groups. Joyce advised that these are being reviewed which will include looking at role, remit, membership and priorities. Once this has taken place, information will be circulated to the group.</p>	JG
	<p>Alistair suggested providing a briefing paper for each meeting as to how the LCSG's are progressing. Joyce agreed to feedback to the group.</p>	JG
9	<p><u>Children in Scotland Annual Conference 2008</u></p>	
	<p>Bryan advised that Children in Scotland are holding their annual conference in the Fairmont Hotel, St Andrews on 6/7 November. The theme is likely to be 'bridges'. This conference is seen as a way of developing relationships between Children in Scotland and Local Authorities. Fife will be asked to provide workshops on good practice therefore it would be good to have a planning group set up to look at this. Duncan suggested that young people could be part of this group as well.</p>	BK/DS
10	<p><u>Committee Updates</u></p>	
	<p>The next Education and Children's Services Committee is at end of February and the Early Years Report should be going to this.</p>	
	<p>The Health and Social Work Committee meeting is on 4 March.</p>	
	<p>Papers for both are on Council website.</p>	
11	<p><u>Round up from Services</u></p>	
	<p>Duncan advised that the Scottish Government are doing a Young People's Strategy and a meeting with Judy Waterman and a variety of services is arranged to discuss this. Duncan will feed back at the next meeting.</p>	DS
	<p>Anne advised that Fife will launch the National Child Protection Line on 19 February at Gallatown Nursery. Aberlour are hosting the event. Ken was invited to attend along with Stephen Moore.</p>	
	<p>Alistair made the group aware of the sudden death of an 8 year old looked after child.</p>	
12	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p>	
	<p>None.</p>	
13	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p>	
	<p>The next meeting will take place on 7 May 2008 at 1.30 pm in Committee Room 2, Fife House, Glenrothes.</p>	