



**EDUCATION &  
CHILDREN'S  
SERVICES**

Ken Greer, Executive Director  
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  
Maxine Moy, 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 MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2007 AT 9.00 AM IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, FIFE HOUSE, GLENROTHES

**Present:** Ken Greer, Fiona Power, Jill McArthur (Notes), Bryan Kirkaldy, Joyce Greig, Ian Bease, Rhona Cunningham, Kate Keddie, Scott Hunter, Val Hatch, Alistair Gaw, Duncan Simpson, Lyndsay Macadam

**Apologies:** Ross Drummond, John Mills, Anne Buchanan, Maxine Moy

**In Attendance:** Sharon Turnbull for Item 5  
Rita Keyte for Item 6  
Joe Fitzpatrick for Item 7  
Jim Burke for Item 9

**Observing:** Two Inspectors from HMle: Bill Geddes and Sandra Love

#### 1 Welcome / Introductions / Apologies

Ken welcomed the group and introductions were made.

Ian Bease replaces David Russell. Rhona Cunningham and Kate Keddie now represent the voluntary sector. Lyndsay Macadam has taken over from Douglas McLellan at CVS Fife and attended to observe.

Apologies noted as above.

#### 2/3 Notes from Previous Meeting / Matters Arising

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

- Child Protection inspection will take place in October / November 2008.
- Alistair Gaw is new Chair of Quality Assurance Sub-Group and will provide an update at the next meeting on preparations for inspection.
- Some Domestic Abuse funding seems to have been mainstreamed but Fiona needs to look at this further and clarify.
- Jim Burke now Chairs the Corporate Parenting Theme Group.
- Ken/Fiona will take paper to the Council Management meeting in January.

#### Action

AG

FP

KG/FP

#### 4 Children's Services Planning / Funding Update

Fiona advised that five discussion groups have taken place and consultation with young people is ongoing. The next plan is for one year only and will be slimmer with a focus on a few strategic priorities. Fiona is trying to link with the Community Plan, Fife Council Plan and the outcomes and indicators which will form part of the single outcome agreements, as outlined in the recently published Concordat.

The funding for 2008/09 is changing with most ring-fenced money going into 'one' pot. The allocation for Fife will be confirmed in December. Further guidance on integrated children's services planning is due before Christmas. Funding is very complex with many streams which need looked at.

Ken asked partners if this outline of the planning framework is in line with their thinking. Alistair agreed there is huge potential in the structure and it links well with the strategic priorities within social work. Val attended the 'healthier' discussion group which threw up lots of debate and positive discussion. Ian agreed it fits in well with Police work. Although hard to speak for all of the voluntary sector, Rhona agreed it has appropriate and strong links to different agencies.

Fiona will take the 'draft planning framework' paper to the next QIWG meeting. A draft of the Children's Services Plan will be available in spring 2008.

FP

## **5 Community Safety Initiatives**

Sharon Turnbull updated the group on the work of the Community Safety Partnership. There are seven Area Committee Safety Groups and these are work in progress.

Sharon leads on Anti-Social Behaviour. The strategy is being reviewed and will be available shortly. However, the Anti-Social Behaviour Profile is available, if required (previously circulated to Children's Services Group).

Sharon advised that the team are trying to make connections with JAT's and LCSG's. Val commented that the links to these two groups is important and this will allow Health to link as well. Duncan suggested there is a clear link to the Detached Youth Work Team.

Ian advised the Police work well with the Community Safety Partnership addressing youth offending. Co-location meetings are held twice weekly which are having a fairly dramatic reduction on the number of referrals to the Reporter. The Scottish Government are using Fife as a 'good practice' area.

Sharon advised that the 'Youth Gangs Profile' should be available for circulation soon.

Work on 'Safer Travel on School Buses' has been undertaken. A survey was carried out. Results will be available soon. Ken has had positive feedback from parents.

Duncan advised that more activities were available during the summer for young people and an evaluation has been carried out which should be available for the next meeting. Duncan to distribute

DS

Ken suggested that very good partnership working was happening but it may be harder to tackle community perceptions. Sharon advised that a Media Plan is in place.

## **6 Fife Drug and Alcohol Action Team Update**

Rita Keyte updated the group on Fife DAAT. Rita gave a brief background and advised they are working towards eleven national targets. Rita advised that these targets and the Corporate Action Plan are available via email, if required. DAAT are accountable to the Government and Community Planning.

Rita advised there are a number of working groups and task groups based around national priorities. The team links in with the children's services plan and Rita has participated in recent discussion groups.

Fife DAAT has a close working relationship with child protection and Rita is the representative at Child Protection Committee and Quality Assurance Sub-Group. Fife DAAT and CPC have agreed to do a scoping exercise and then develop multi-agency protocols to give staff more confidence in identifying child protection issues.

Fife DAAT is reviewing how substance misuse is affecting families in Fife which is a major piece of work and will require close contact with other partners/agencies. Sustaining funding for projects is crucial.

A mapping exercise (in Kirkcaldy) has been done. The summary report was previously sent to CSG for information.

Fiona advised that Changing Children's Services Funding monies for Clued Up and DAPL has already been mainstreamed with Penumbra and part of Fife Youth Drugs Team due to be mainstreamed in 2008/09. Surestart monies are used to fund Time 4 U, a Community Midwife and Specialist Public Nurse/Health Visitor. Surestart monies are already mainstreamed and managed via Social Work Service. Funding for 2008/09 needs to be considered carefully. Processes not yet clear. It may be wise to use the year to continue the majority of funding as it is, and use the year to agree priorities for 2009 and beyond and match resources/funding. This would then allow a period of 'notice' for any funding that is to be diverted.

Val asked if there is any links to LCSG. Rita advised not as such but other colleagues feed in and information is linked that way.

Duncan suggested using Big Shout to get children and young people's views and Rhona suggested there may be an opportunity to engage with Voluntary Sector Children's Forum.

Bryan advised that work on 'Hidden Harm' agenda is very important.

## **7 More Choices and Chances Paper**

Joe Fitzpatrick updated the group on NEET which is now known as More Choices, More Chances and is led by Community Learning and Development.

Joe provided a brief background to the strategy and advised he has received positive feedback from Elected Members. The full plan can be emailed to the group, if required.

£75,000 funding was given for a two year period which ends in March 2008. The progress in Fife has been very good. The strategy group invested in seven schools to work with pre-16 year olds. An identification matrix has been developed for use in schools.

Fiona asked if the strategy will be refreshed in March and Joe stated it will be for at least another year although debate / discussion is required regarding funding and sustainability.

Bryan emphasised the need to embed some of the work within Education. Some strands can be merged with regeneration work.

Alistair suggested the work needs to link with care leavers and this requires quality care planning, better management information, and higher aspirations.

Joe advised that an event is being planned by Scottish Government for January but there was no mention of Looked After Children. Joe has fed this back to the Scottish Government.

Ken asked how services are making this work and not just showing it as activity. Alistair suggested it is basic good care planning and care management.

Joyce commented that there are a number of joint initiatives with Social Work and the Family Support Teams but these need strengthened.

Ian advised the Police links in with this in terms of JAT's.

An evaluation session is planned after the event and Joe will report back to group.

## **8 Quality Improvement Working Group / Getting It Right**

Bryan presented the work of the QIWG in relation to GIR. Bryan emphasised the need to secure a strategic approach to this in Fife. An organisational approach to children's services in Fife is required. Self-evaluation of all services is key.

JF

The next meeting of the QIWG will try and pull together the consultation work for the children's services plan.

Val agreed that initiatives such as ADHD Pathway are very important, and this one in particular has seen a significant drop in referrals to acute clinics.

Ken commented that the direction of the group is good as is the progress the group has made.

Bryan advised he will update on the draft outcome indicators at the next meeting.

BK

## **9 Parenting Strategy**

Jim Burke attended to discuss the Parenting Strategy. Although Fife has a wide range of parenting initiatives, these don't seem to be linked and there is no specific referral process. The aim is to link these together.

Jim advised that Christine Riach attended a seminar earlier in the year which created a range of discussion. She provided good advice such as the need to build on existing strategies and establish a parenting strategy sub-group to take work forward. It may not necessarily be social work who leads on this.

Alistair advised that it isn't clear what the scope and purpose of the parenting strategy is. The legislation from the Scottish Government is for Parenting Orders rather than parenting initiatives. Bryan advised that there is a case for supporting parents as this is vital across all services. Jim agreed and suggested parenting support is prioritised rather than parenting orders, providing preventative services.

Fiona advised that it is important to ensure that parenting initiatives are making an impact. Some of this will link to the Early Years Strategy due next year. Fiona suggested a short-life working group to take this forward. It may be possible to amalgamate groups such as the disability theme group.

Jim agreed to set up an initial meeting and feedback to this group.

JB

## **10 Committee Updates**

Fiona attends both Social Work & Health and Education and Children's Services Committee as there is a cross over with children's services and budgets etc.

Alistair asked about the situation with the seven Area Committees whilst only having six LCSG's. Joyce advised that due to lack of resources it would be unlikely a seventh LCSG could be established. The Chair of West Fife LCSG will inform both Area Committees. Locally, people seem to be able to work with situation so far.

There are still six LMU's and Child Protection Groups but the Police have changed to seven. NHS would not be keen to see further change for their structures.

Ken advised that this will probably be an ongoing issue which we need to review regularly.

## **11 Round up from Services**

All covered today.

## **12 Any Other Business**

None.

## **13 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 13 February 2008 at 9.30 am in Committee Room 3, Fife House, Glenrothes.