



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC GROUP

Minute of meeting of the Children and Young People's Strategic Group held in Room 410, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Friday 13 June 2014 at 10.00am.

Present: B Malone, Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council (Chair)
 Councillor E Maclachlan, Perth and Kinross Council
 Councillor B Vaughan, Perth and Kinross Council
 D Caldwell, Perth and Kinross Community Health Partnership
 (substituting for J Flynn)
 J Fyffe, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services),
 Perth and Kinross Council
 B Atkinson, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services),
 Perth and Kinross Council
 A Gerry, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
 S Hay, NHS Tayside Board
 M Hussain, NHS Tayside Board
 J Kerr, Voluntary Action Perthshire (PKAVS) Community
 Engagement
 F Steel, Action for Children Scotland
 J Walker, Executive Director (Housing and Community Care), Perth
 and Kinross Council

In Attendance: R Drummond, T Ilsley, J Thewlis (all Education and Children's Services); P Frazer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also in Attendance: J Alexander and H Jones, (both Barnardos Scotland)

Apologies: Councillor B Band (Perth and Kinross Council); J Flynn, K Fowlie, B Nicoll (all NHS Tayside) and L Swan.

B Malone in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies 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. MINUTE OF MEETING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OF 21 MARCH 2014

The minute of meeting of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership of 21 March 2014 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(i) STV/Hunter Partnership (item 4(i) refers)

B Atkinson advised that negotiations were taking place to include Renfrewshire as a pilot site for the initiative. The project would include three phases:

- (a) Phase 1, months 1-3 of analysis, mapping expenditure and developing area profiles.
- (b) Phase 2, months 3 -12 identifying what 'being-well' means and how communities can be developed.
- (c) Phase 3, months 12-15 developing and preparing an action plan.

The Group noted that, as yet, no start date had been agreed for the project.

(ii) Children and Domestic Abuse (item 5 refers)

J Walker provided an update on A Irvine's presentation on children and domestic abuse to the Group on 21 March 2014 in respect of court mandated programmes. An eight-week discretionary programme on positive relationships had been developed in conjunction with HMP Perth and currently eight prisoners were taking part. Further discussions had taken place with Police Scotland with the aim of encouraging courts to make such programmes mandatory as part of bail conditions.

Following discussion the Group agreed that a progress report be submitted to the meeting in six months' time.

Action: J Walker

5. PUBLIC SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP

The Group heard a presentation by Julie-Anne Alexander and Helen Jones, Barnardo's, Scotland on the Perth and Kinross and Angus Family Support Initiative. Hand-outs (G/14/213) on the presentation were distributed to the Group.

The following topics were covered in the presentation:

- Supporting families to develop their parenting skills.

- Improving outcomes for children affected by parental imprisonment.
- Building on programmes from the implementation of the Evidence2Success project.
- An overview of partnership organisations.
- The criteria for referrals and their sources.
- Service user outcomes.

B Malone thanked Julie-Anne Alexander and Helen Jones for their informative presentation and invited them to provide an update to the Group in March 2015.

The Group:

Agreed to hear an update on the Perth and Kinross and Angus Family Support Initiative at the meeting of the Group in March 2015.

J ALEXANDER AND H JONES LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

THE GROUP AGREED TO COMBINE ITEMS 6 AND 12 ON THE AGENDA AT THIS POINT.

6. PERTH AND KINROSS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE BUSINESS ACTIVITY SINCE 21 MARCH 2014

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (G/14/192) highlighting the main business activities of the CRC, since the Children and Young People's Strategic Group (C&YPSG) last met on 21 March 2014 and focused on the following:

- (a) Care Inspectorate's Scrutiny and Inspection of Services for Children;
- (b) Getting Our Priorities Right (GOPR2): Working with Children, Young People and Families Affected by Problematic Alcohol and/or Drug Use;
- (c) Scottish Government's National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014;
- (d) Scottish Government's Children's Social Work 2012 -2013 and key Perth and Kinross Child Protection Management; and
- (e) Bullet Point Updates – Other key CPC ongoing/forthcoming Child Protection Policy and/or Practice Developments.

In discussion, concerns were raised in respect of possible changes to the current reporting process for child protection referrals. This would result in referrals being made through the named person rather than the Multi-Agency Screening Group as at present. This could be detrimental to consistency and information sharing. The Group agreed that B Atkinson would investigate further and if appropriate write to the relevant Government department to express the Group's concerns.

The Group:

- (i) Noted the current update on the Care Inspectorate's Scrutiny and Inspection of Services for Children.

- (ii) Noted the current progress made on implementing the Getting Our Priorities Right (GOPR2): Working with Children, Young People and Families Affected by Problematic Alcohol and/or Drug Use Guidance.
- (iii) Noted the publication of the Scottish Government's National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014 (Refresh).
- (iv) Noted that publication and presentation on the Scottish Government's Children's Social Work Statistics 2012-2013 and key Perth and Kinross Child Protection Management Information and Statistics.
- (v) Noted bullet point updates; other key CPC ongoing/forthcoming child protection policy and/or practice developments.
- (vi) Requested the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) to submit a report on the Inspection Framework for Children's Services to the next meeting of the Group on Friday 3 October 2014.

7. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NATIONAL CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORK STATISTICS SCOTLAND 2012-13 (1 AUGUST 2012 – 31 JULY 2013)

There was submitted a report (G/14/196) outlining the Scottish Government's National Children's Social Work Statistics for 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013. The Group also heard a presentation by the Depute Director, Education and Children's Services highlighting key statistics contained in the report.

The following points were noted:

- There had been a reduction in looked-after children.
- It would be helpful to record the ethnicity of looked-after children against the national average.
- More children were going into foster and kinship care.
- An increasing number of young people were staying in care beyond their 16th birthday.
- Child protection concerns continued to rise with outcomes being recorded in all cases.
- It would be helpful to have a breakdown of the outcomes: case conference, child protection orders etc.
- The Multi-Agency Screening Group reviews all Police Concern reports.

8. EVIDENCE2SUCCESS – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services), Perth and Kinross (G/14/194) outlining the development of community engagement activity as part of the Evidence2Success project; in particular the report focused on progress made in engaging parents to improve positive outcomes for all children and young people in the community.

In summary B Atkinson highlighted the following developments:

- There had been recent improvements in community engagement.

- A partnership of Elected Members, professionals and local people had been developed in North Perth and was in the process of identifying priorities.
- Community capacity building was taking the form of working with young people to organise a parent conference in September 2014 in order to share learning.
- Head Teachers were providing support for Parent2Parent, the family literacy unit and the development of community skills.
- Community meetings would take place later in the year to look at how outcomes could be improved.

The Group:

- (i) Noted the progress made in establishing and developing the E2S Community Partnership to date.
- (ii) Requested that the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) submit a further report outlining the progress of the activities identified in the E2S Community Partnership Action Plan to a meeting of the Group in six months' time

9. PERTH AND KINROSS GIRFEC UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services), Perth and Kinross Council (G/14/195) updating the Children and Young People's Strategic Group on the ongoing work surrounding Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC).

The Group noted that work was still required in order evaluate young people's understanding of well-being and how they could be engaged through existing community groups; for example, the Youth Council and the voluntary sector.

The Group:

- (i) Noted the content of Report G/14/195.
- (ii) Requested the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services), to conduct a scoping exercise to look at ways of facilitating engagement with young people through the third sector and the community.

10. NHS TAYSIDE/PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL BUDGET DECISIONS

There was submitted a report for information (G/14/197) by the Depute Director, Education and Children's Services, Perth and Kinross Council providing an update on budget decisions taken by both NHS Tayside and Perth and Kinross Council that may have implications for the Children and Young People's Strategic Group.

The Group noted the content of Report G/14/197.

11. PERTH AND KINROSS PARENTING STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services), Perth and Kinross Council (G/14/193) providing a draft Parenting Strategy for Perth and Kinross for approval. To date the Strategy had been had been amended and approved by the Early Years and Early Intervention Board on 29 April 2014 and Education and Children's Services Senior Management Team on 29 May 2014. The Parenting Strategy is a key document for Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partners in ensuring "Our children have the best start in life" and "families are nurtured and supported".

T Ilsley advised the Group that the Parenting Strategy had been developed in response to a number of other policies with a focus on engaging with priority groups of parents. The parents themselves had produced a quick-read version on the Strategy to make it more accessible to parents. B Malone agreed that parents would welcome a shorter leaflet and suggested it would also be helpful to have a similar version for staff and Elected Members.

The Group:

- (i) Approved the content of the Parenting Strategy for Perth and Kinross.
- (ii) Noted the monitoring reporting and implementation arrangements through the Community Planning Partnership.

12. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Role/Remit/Responsibility of Children and Young People's Strategic Group

There was tabled a report for information by the Depute Director, (Education and Children's Services) Perth and Kinross Council (G/14/214) setting out the role, responsibility, and remit of the Children and Young People's Strategic Group. The Depute Director advised that comments from the Group would be welcomed and that the issue would be discussed again at a future meeting.

The Group noted the position.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Group noted the next meeting would be held in the Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Friday 3 October 2014 at 10:00am.