



## PERTH AND KINROSS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Virtual Meeting held on  
Tuesday 25 January 2022 at 9.30am  
Via MS Teams

### MINUTE

#### Present:

Bill Atkinson, Independent Chair, Child Protection Committee	(BA)
Ray Birnie, Detective Chief Inspector, Police Scotland	(RB)
David Barnes, Chair, Independent Schools Child Protection Group/Children's Hearings Representative	(DB)
Ben Colvin, Consultant Paediatrician, Community Child Health, NHS Tayside	(BC)
John Cunningham, Locality Reporter Manager Scottish Children's Reporter Administration	(JC)
Elaine Liney, Head Teacher, Pitlochry High School	(EL)
Ross Drummond, Child Protection Inter-Agency Coordinator, P&K	(RD)
Rhona Corbett, Communities and Learning, Culture Perth & Kinross	(RC)
Deborah Lally, Head of Student Experience, Perth College UHI	(DL)
Elaine Ritchie, Head of Housing Services, PKC	(CM)
Hazel Robertson, Head of Services for Children, Young People & Families, PKC	(HR)
Margaret Steel, Business & Management Team Leader, Services for Children, Young People & Families	(MS)
Michelle Nicol, TRIC Learning & Development Lead Officer, PKC	(MN)

#### In Attendance:

Liz Magee, NHS Tayside (on behalf of J Smith)	(LM)
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#### Apologies:

Jayne Smith, Lead Nurse Child Protection, NHS Tayside (Vice-Chair)	(JS)
Andrew Brown, Head of Contracts and Compliance, Live Active Leisure	(AB)
Elaine Cruickshank, Lead Nurse, Children & Families, NHS Tayside	(EC)
Alison Fairlie, Service Manager, HSCP – Mental Health, PKC	(AF)
Brian Hutton, Improvement Officer, Services for Young People, PKC	(BH)
Chris Lamont, Perth City Health Locality Manager, P&K Health & Social Care Partnership	(CL)
Fiona Mackay, Service Manager, Inclusion, ECS, PKC	(FM)
Sarah McLauchlan, Lead Nurse Children and Young People, NHS Tayside	(SM)
Peter Nield, Assistant Director, Barnardo's Scotland – North East	(PN)
Victoria Beesley, Associate Director, Horsecross Arts, Perth Theatre and Perth Concert Hall	(VB)
Jacque Pepper, Depute Director, ECS / Chief Social Work Officer, PKC	(JP)
Susie Turner, Inclusion Manager / Principal Educational Psychologist, PKC	(ST)
Jane Westall, Children and Youth Rights Worker, PKC	(JW)

#### Minute:

Claire Gray, Management Assistant, Services for Children, Young People & Families, PKC	(CG)
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#### Correspondence Only:

Graham Binnie, Chief Inspector, Police Scotland	(GB)
Jill Drummond, Procurator Fiscal Depute, COPFS	(JDr)
Michelle Nicol, TRIC Learning & Development Lead Officer, PKC	(MN)
Sarah Rodger, Legal Manager, Legal Services, PKC	(SR)
Mary Willis, Communications Officer, Corporate and Democratic Services, PKC	(MW)
Sharon Watson, Team Leader – Communications, ECS, PKC	(SW)

	What	Who	When
1	<b>Welcome, Introduction and Apologies</b>		
	BA welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies were noted as above. BA extended a warm welcome to Elaine Liney who is a new member and has replaced John Devine as one of our education (Schools) representatives.		
2	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting, Action Points and Matters Arising</b>		
	The Minute of 7 December 2021 was approved as an accurate record subject to a minor change. Action Points 2 to 5 – Completed / Agenda Item.  <i>Action 1: Jacquie Pepper to explore further the concept and approach of contextual safeguarding with key people and to report back to the CPC on what is best / the next steps for P&amp;K – BA to get an update from JP and circulate to members to try and progress this.</i>		
<b>Action 1</b>	<b>Bill Atkinson to obtain an update from Jacquie Pepper around the concept and approach of contextual safeguarding within P&amp;K and circulate to all CPC members as soon as possible.</b>	<b>BA / JP</b>	<b>ASAP</b>
3	<b>CPC Multi-Agency Monthly Dataset Report</b>		
	<p>BA noted that we had captured the comments made at the last CPC around more trend analysis and this is now included. RD noted we also agreed to continue with monthly reports accepting some nuances to that – fluctuations month to month etc – given the pressures at key points in child protection processes. Noted the CPC Monthly Dataset Report was received last week and sent to the core agencies for validating (some validation still ongoing).</p> <p>Members noted the figures for December 2021; noting an apparent reduction from the previous month in: CCRs, CCRs where domestic abuse is a feature, UBB referrals, CPIs and IRDs – although the number of children involved in IRDs has increased; there is an increasing activity around CPCCs.</p> <p>HR noted anecdotally it has been a busy period for staff; frontline staff feeling there had been an increase week on week with the number of IRDs / CPIs. BA noted the long-term fatigue for staff and there is recognition of that from the SG (which we will see when we come onto the SG letter later in the agenda).</p> <p>RB noted December 2021 was no different to other months – busy but manageable; Police work on a Tayside wide basis and have the benefit of being able to flex resource across the area as required. LM echoed what RB said; noting they do their own reporting on a quarterly basis (financial year) and will be in a better position to see trends for Oct-Dec 2021 in due course. BC noted there has been a higher than average absence rate due to COVID-19 and self-isolation, so those in work will feel it is busier.</p> <p>RD noted there was a lot of activity in December 2021 for Review CPCCs; CPRs are settling to more historic numbers; the number of JIs remain high; forensic information is reported on quarterly; some current data gaps re SCRA figures which RD will pick up with JC outside the meeting. HR noted there has been more consistency in CPCCs chairing and where CSOs were in place, names would be removed from the CPR.</p> <p>ER noted re housing presentations, numbers are roughly where they were pre-pandemic; the number of families with children in temporary accommodation has increased (large families); looking to source suitable properties to get families with children into permanent housing.</p> <p>Members noted the trend information; some of the key indicators which shows the volume and impact on capacity of services. Members noted this was useful and helps put it into context over a longer period of time. Members agreed going forward to continue with the monthly and trend information.</p> <p>HR noted the emphasis remained on those most at risk of significant harm; acknowledging there is an increasing level of complexity / intensity of support that exceeds pre pandemic levels. Members agreed. RD will thank James Chiles for his work on producing these monthly data reports.</p>		

	What	Who	When
4	<b>CPC Working Arrangements</b>		
	Members noted the paper which was produced following a series of meetings with smaller groups of CPC members. Noted BA / RD still to analyse the paper. If anyone missed the meetings or has anything else to add in / comment on there is still time. BA and RD will pull together some analysis and bring back some themes / proposals / alternative options going forward for our next CPC meeting.		
i.	<b>CPC Member Profiles</b> – Members noted this was put together a few years ago and suggested it would be helpful to update given recent membership changes. Members to return their profiles in a month.		
<b>Action 2</b>	<b>All CPC members to return any comments / additions to the CPC Working Arrangements (CPC and Beyond paper) as soon as possible. Bill Atkinson and Ross Drummond to pull together some analysis and bring back some themes / proposals / alternative options going forward for our next meeting on 29 March 2022.</b>	<b>BA / RD / All</b>	<b>By Next Meeting 29/03/2022</b>
<b>Action 3</b>	<b>All CPC members (attending and corresponding) to complete / update their member profile and return to Claire Gray by 25 February 2022.</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>By 25/02/2022</b>
5	<b>CPC Business – Capacity</b>		
i.	<b>Service / Agency Updates</b> – See 5ii		
ii.	<p><b>Protecting People Strategic Risk Register</b> – BA noted the risk register had been developed originally in response to the onset of the pandemic; over time this changed into one of a recovery risk register and had been significantly reviewed again after the most recent COVID-19 variant. The COG / PPCG are aware of the pressures around staff absences and sickness etc; the PPCG will meet again tomorrow, and it would be helpful to have an up-to-date position from a CPC perspective and from key partners around the 3 key questions in the paper – staffing capacity; impact on staffing levels and new / emerging risks. Members considered the paper.</p> <p><b>Police</b> – RB confirmed content with the current position – no changes. Challenges remain but now adapted – pan Tayside organisation and can use that to move resources across the area as they require.</p> <p><b>Services for CYPF</b> – HR confirmed current situation is accurate – no changes.</p> <p><b>Health</b> – LM confirmed CP nursing update is accurate – no changes. Currently delivering on all functions. No issues with staffing causing them to reprioritise what they are doing. WCF update would have come from EC. LM will confirm with other health colleagues.</p> <p><b>SCRA</b> – JC noted P&amp;K have 2.5 qualified children’s reporters and staff are working remotely; there are staffing issues but more about capacity changes as they moved to remote Children’s Hearings. Court business has increased and is taking longer to conclude matters; this has a rolling effect on the rest of business. No additional funding available. Returning to normal business around March 2022. Staff health and wellbeing is a priority for SCRA, but they work to statutory timescales which needs to be met. It is more problematic to train staff / new recruits remotely. JC to provide a short update on this by the end of the day.</p> <p><b>Independent Schools</b> – DB noted staff have been working through an intense period of time and their ability to support young people’s mental health and wellbeing has been challenging; particularly for the boarding community and the children living at school; the children are tested regularly and some who are isolating in a separate area of the school with staff there; over the holidays there were a number of international children who could not get home and this had to be staffed when they would normally not be working. Lack of time for training of staff is also challenging.</p> <p><b>Schools</b> – EL noted the position in schools, where the pandemic has had a very significant impact on learning. Staff have had some challenging situations to deal with from nursery to secondary. Staff are providing help and support with young people’s mental health and wellbeing issues, particularly in secondary schools.</p>		

	What	Who	When
	<p>Support has been put in place for staff, particularly those who are frontline and supporting young people. Additional help when requested has been provided as necessary. Further response from Education to follow this meeting.</p> <p><b>Housing</b> – ER noted they are busy with staffing resources. There are staff vacancies / recruitment issues (senior posts). Homeless service as busy as ever and dealing with increasing number of complex cases. Hostels / sheltered housing is difficult to manage with COVID-19 requirements.</p> <p>Agreed that if members have anything else to add to this, they will submit to CG by the end of the day. Noted this paper would be returned to the PPCG and the COG.</p>		
iii.	<p><b>National Guidance for Child Protection – Gap Analysis</b> – Noted the Guidance was published on 2 September 2021, and we have an 18–24-month period from that date to implement all changes in full. Noted the CPC Support Team prepared a gap analysis of the guidance using a RAG status – red being the most pressing. RD highlighted there are 3 priority areas where we need to make changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CP website and all CPC publications – work is ongoing in the background.</li> <li>• Training – MN and JJ are working on this; there is a new CP Webinar being piloted next week.</li> <li>• CPC Inter-Agency Child protection Guidelines – as agreed at the last CPC.</li> </ul> <p>RD will keep members updated.</p>		
iv.	<p><b>CPC Improvement Plan</b> – Noted this is a comprehensive 2-year improvement plan which has been in place since August 2021; approved and published in December 2021. RD thanked HR and the CPC PIWG as there are a number of actions that fall to that group; RD has meetings scheduled over the next 2-3 weeks with individual members to help with some of the improvement work. RD has prepared a 6-month update; slow but steady progress given other competing business demands. RD will bring back a progress report to the next meeting in March 2022.</p>		
v.	<p><b>CPC Self-Evaluation Calendar</b> – RD advised this is a month-by-month programme of some of the multi-agency self-evaluation work that we coordinate and is aligned with the CPC Improvement Plan. RD to bring back to the next meeting for a more in-depth look.</p>		
Action 4	<p><b>Ross Drummond to bring back the CPC Improvement Plan 1st Progress Report February 2022 to the next meeting of the CPC on 29 March 2022.</b></p>	RD	By Next Meeting 29/03/2022
Action 5	<p><b>Ross Drummond to bring back the CPC Self-Evaluation Calendar 1st Progress Report to the next meeting on 29 March 2022.</b></p>	RD	By Next Meeting 29/03/2022
6	<p><b>Group Updates</b></p>		
i.	<p><b>CPC Practice Improvement Working Group</b> – HR noted they last met on 11 January 2022; reviewed the content of the CPC Improvement Plan and CPC Self-Evaluation Calendar; CPC Quality Assurance Audit of Child Protection 2022 – themes agreed as Child Protection Investigations and Inter-Agency Referral Discussions; finalised SLWG members for the CP Quality Assurance Audit; hope the audit will take place May / June 2022, depending on availability etc; engagement with fathers – work is underway and contact made with the fathers network who have developed a module working with fathers of children – due for release March / April 2022; presentation from Joel Jameson, training officer, around the findings of the Training Needs Analysis (TNA) survey; further Safe and Together training being rolled out – cross cutting agenda around domestic abuse.</p>		
ii.	<p><i>[Jacquie Pepper joined the meeting to provide updates on Items 6ii and 6ii]</i></p> <p><b>Protecting People Coordination Group (PPCG)</b> – JP noted the PPCG continues to meet; it benefits from good representation and provides the opportunity to come together to look at cross cutting issues; they manage the risk register on behalf of the COG; the PPCG last met early January 2022 – sharing information about the</p>		

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	<p>impact of Omicron over Christmas and beginning to respond to that; moved on from there and there are a number of key areas to pick up at the PPCG meeting tomorrow – national CP guidance and issues re changes that we may need to make locally and how it impacts across other aspects of work – AP, ADP, VAWP etc. Another area raised is the issue around Domestic Abuse and what we can be doing in P&amp;K on that cross-cutting agenda; HR is preparing a proposal for how we plan ahead more development sessions and strategic discussion around that etc.</p> <p>BA advised JP that we spent time earlier in the agenda discussing the risk register questions and there are similar patterns in that agencies are not experiencing huge staff sickness and that statutory / critical services were being maintained, but also concerns about pressure on staff and fatigue caused by that. JP noted a sense of increasing complexities; noting the amount of work people are carrying is much more than before and is worth a wider partnership discussion.</p>		
iii.	<p><b>Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative Priority Group 5: Safeguarding and Child Protection (TRIC PG5)</b> – JP advised TRIC PG last met in November 2021 and are due to meet again in February 2022. Noted they key area / focus is around the workforce development priorities for practice; MN is seconded to that work to the end of March 2022 and has continued to support it; there are 6 priorities (2 closely related) and 5 workstream groups with members of PG5 linked in a sponsorship / leadership role for each group; MN has worked hard to generate interest in each of the priorities; it is a Tayside wide approach to look at each of the priority areas and what a development programme would be in relation to that – need to support cultural change etc; the priorities for practice are linked the UNCRC, GIRFEC and delivering on the promise.</p> <p>MN noted there was a great response in P&amp;K and now have 33 reps within these 5 workstream groups which shows the commitment to this work locally. Since January 2022, some of the workstream groups have met, which went well, and others are planned in due course. MN noted the newsletter update and circulated the link; MN will continue to produce these updates.</p> <p>JP noted the publication of Dundee’s joint inspection report by the Care Inspectorate and suggested we bring this to a future CPC meeting as the work of TRIC is mentioned in the report. Noted the P&amp;K CPC Improvement Plan is linked to the priorities for practice and longer-term approach to practice, culture and ethos which we want to support.</p> <p><i>[Jacquie Pepper left the meeting]</i></p>		
Action 6	<b>Care Inspectorate Report of a Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People at risk of harm in Dundee City to be discussed at the next meeting of the CPC on 29 March 2022.</b>		<b>By Next Meeting 29/03/2022</b>
7	<b>AOCB</b>		
i.	<p><b>CPC Briefing: Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland Act) 2019</b> – Members noted this was implemented on 17 December 2021. The CPC agreed to produce practice guidance for staff, particularly for those who would be involved in these situations; it is included in the papers. Noted there has been little impact so far; staff are well briefed on the changes to the legislation; no incidents across the whole of Tayside to date. JC noted those relating to higher tariff offences and trying to establish proof in court could be challenged; noting there is a difference between civil / criminal standards of proof.</p>		
ii.	<p><b>Scottish Government Coronavirus Supplementary Guidance</b> – Members noted the papers which were issued by the SG; the papers have been discussed at COG; BA comfortable there is nothing in the guidance we are not able to comply with; RD noted the press release from COSLA and SG which was issued and is acknowledging the impact on staff during pandemic was ongoing.</p> <p>BA noted the CPCScotland Media Campaign – Under Pressure (Neglect) which launched in December 2021. MW noted this campaign is ongoing and she has been sharing / retweeting those posts with local links to contact details etc in a similar way to other campaigns supported.</p>		

	<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
<b>iii.</b>	<b>P&amp;K Child Poverty Action Group Progress Report</b> – Members noted the progress report paper which has now been approved by Council. BA noted the previous CPC partnership work with colleagues leading on this work as there are connections with child protection work. RD / BA met with colleagues recently and invited Paul Smith / Margaret Lynch to speak at the next CPC in March 2022, to share the work they are undertaking, with a particular reference to children and families.		
<b>8</b>	<b>Meeting Dates 2022</b>		
	All Meetings on Tuesday 09:30 – 12:30 29 March; 7 June; 30 August; 25 October and 6 December 2022		