



PERTH AND KINROSS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Virtual Meeting held on
Tuesday 29 March 2022 at 9.30am
Via MS Teams

MINUTE

Present:

Bill Atkinson, Independent Chair, Child Protection Committee	(BA)
Jayne Smith, Lead Nurse Child Protection, NHS Tayside (Vice-Chair)	(JS)
Ben Colvin, Consultant Paediatrician, Community Child Health, NHS Tayside	(BC)
Elaine Cruickshank, Lead Nurse, Children & Families, NHS Tayside	(EC)
John Cunningham, Locality Reporter Manager Scottish Children's Reporter Administration	(JC)
Ross Drummond, Child Protection Inter-Agency Coordinator, P&K	(RD)
Sharon Johnston, Head of Education and Learning, ECS, PKC	(FM)
Deborah Lally, Head of Student Experience, Perth College UHI	(DL)
Hazel Robertson, Head of Services for Children, Young People & Families, PKC	(HR)
Tom Leonard, Chief Inspector, Police Scotland	(TL)
Mary Willis, Communications Officer, Corporate and Democratic Services, PKC	(MW)

In Attendance:

Jennifer Reid, Police Scotland (on behalf of R Birnie)	(JR)
Audrey Sime, Strathallan School (on behalf of D Barnes)	(AS)
Winnie Burke, Link Inspector, Care Inspectorate	(WB)
Kellie McNeill, Strategic Inspector, Care Inspectorate (Agenda Item 3)	(KM)
Margaret Lynch, Project Officer Child Poverty, Communities, PKC (Agenda Item 4)	(ML)
Paul Smith, TEC Development Officer, Communities, PKC (Agenda Item 4)	(PS)

Apologies:

Ray Birnie, Detective Chief Inspector, Police Scotland	(RB)
David Barnes, Chair, Independent Schools Child Protection Group/Children's Hearings Representative	(DB)
Andrew Brown, Head of Contracts and Compliance, Live Active Leisure	(AB)
Rhona Corbett, Communities and Learning, Culture Perth & Kinross	(RC)
Alison Fairlie, Service Manager, HSCP – Mental Health, PKC	(AF)
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)
Elaine Ritchie, Head of Housing Services, PKC	(CM)
Margaret Steel, Business & Management Team Leader, Services for Children, Young People & Families	(MS)
Susie Turner, Inclusion Manager / Principal Educational Psychologist, PKC	(ST)

Minute:

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

Tom Leonard, Chief Inspector, Police Scotland	(TL)
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	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies		
	BA welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies were noted as above. BA extended a warm welcome to new members Tom Leonard and Sharon Johnston; Jennifer Reid and Audrey Sime who are attending on behalf of other members; Winnie Burke, our Link Inspector; and Kellie McNeill, Margaret Lynch and Paul Smith, who will be providing inputs at today's meeting.		
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting, Action Points and Matters Arising		
	The Minute of 25 January 2022 was approved as an accurate record. Action Points 2 to 6 – Completed / Agenda Item. <i>1. Bill Atkinson to obtain an update from Jacquie Pepper around the concept and approach of contextual safeguarding within P&K and circulate to all CPC members as soon as possible – BA noted this is still outstanding, however BA / RD / Iain Wilkie are involved in work around Transitions, which also links into contextual safeguarding. BA will provide an update once they have further information. Action to be marked as completed.</i>		
3	Care Inspectorate Update		
i.	<p>The Guide – Joint Inspections https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/joint-inspections/services-for-children/the-guide</p> <p>KM provided members with a short input / powerpoint presentation around the process / methodology for future joint inspection of services for children and young people (CYP) at risk of harm – this includes CYP in the past 2 years who have been on the CPR; involved in CPIs; may be subject to other processes (younger children) etc. Noted the joint inspection team is made up of different bodies – including members from Education Scotland, HIS, young inspection volunteers etc all form part of the core team.</p> <p>Inspection statements and QI – Noted there are 4 statement areas to cover (YP inspectors helped develop these statements and they link to the importance of The Promise) – 1 early response; 2 covers the longer journey in processes; 3 CYP voices – meaningfully involved in decisions and opportunities to influence the service delivery etc; 4 strategic planning and operational management – looking at CPC / COG and operational management side. They will be looking at only 1 QI 2.1 – impact on CYP which is more focused than previously.</p> <p>Key changes – Noted the key changes, which were particularly in light of the pandemic to ease the burden as much as possible – focus on CYP at risk of harm; reading less and asking for specific records to be shared rather than all; shorter / more focused position statements; reduced notification period; enhanced report and video for CYP involved in the inspection etc.</p> <p>Phases of inspection – Planning to do this with a hybrid model; focus groups with staff will be virtual but will try to meet with CYPF face to face; identify in partnership with the CPC those involved in protection process and then select 6 of the records and meet further for a deep dive; that will then lead to the reporting phase which will include a written report available on the website and video through the YouTube channel.</p> <p>Further info – Noted the links – example video report etc.</p> <p>Questions – HR noted the shorter preparation time and asked if it is defined? In terms of the position statement, are there key elements from that would definitely want to see? KM advised the notification period is 4 / 5 weeks and there is sufficient lead in time; Guidance is available and talks specifically about position statements, which come later in the process. KM urged partnerships to think about feedback they have from CYP and evidence of impact of services.</p> <p>SJ noted the focus on CYP at risk of harm and that CYP with ASN may not be looked at as previously. KM noted there may be CYP with ASN that falls into the sample, but is not the area of focus – shift in areas of interest nationally and what the SG asked to look at, particularly those in protective processes.</p>		

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	<p>BA noted Dundee's Inspection Report is attached to the papers. RD / BA have been invited to hear from the Dundee CPC Chair, to share their experience of the recent Dundee Inspection through another meeting.</p> <p>Role of the Link Inspector – WB explained she sits on the CPC / APC as an observer and the basis of the role is to monitor the performance and quality of social work services – partnership arrangements – and provide updates to the Inspectors. WB also has regular contact with BA / RD outside of the CPC meetings to look at how the CPC can ensure they are maintaining the right focus and that this is working well across all areas and highlighting any risks etc. If P&K are Inspected, the Link Inspector will withdraw in order to make sure the inspection remains objective. BA thanked both for their inputs.</p>		
4	<p>Impact of Poverty – A P&K Perspective Perth & Kinross Child Poverty Action Report 2020-21 (improvementservice.org.uk)</p>		
	<p>BA reminded members this is an area of practice / work we have been interested in and involved in some national work. Specifically, we had a joint development session about 2 years ago, pre the pandemic, on child poverty and the action plan and discussed how we could work together on this important agenda.</p> <p>ML provided members with a short input / presentation. Noted in 2017 the SG passed the Child Poverty Act, which sets out ambitious targets for reducing poverty in Scotland and was backed up by the first SG Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-2022. It identified priority families at greater risk of poverty and intended these families to be the target of interventions.</p> <p>P&K set up a Child Poverty Working Group which has 3 workstreams – maximising income from employment; reducing essential cost of living; maximising income from social security and benefits.</p> <p>P&K has taken an evidence-based approach to tackle poverty; spent time gathering and analysing statistics and undertaken qualitative research with families living in poverty; then spent time contextualising this with services; this info was used to develop a Children's Scorecard which will measure how P&K are responding to the challenges set for us.</p> <p>National Guidance for CP in Scotland 2021 is encouraging us to consider Social Needs Screening (SNS) and mainstreaming it across all services. The SNS is based around 5 questions for all frontline workers – if the answer is yes to any of the questions, it would trigger referral / signposting to help around a range of socio-economic needs and is an important diagnostic tool and a means of mitigating poverty for families.</p> <p>ML suggested we should now take this to a live pilot and that a simple template has been developed to think about who to involve, how to identify what is needed and how to connect families to the support they need. Also a need to agree the 5 SNS questions.</p> <p>Questions – HR asked how we can we integrate the SNC? BA asked if there is an appetite for some members from the CPC to meet with ML / PS out with the meeting to pursue SNS? EC noted there may be links with TRIC PG1 re financial maximisation etc. BA / RD can explore with ML / PS. Anyone who wants to be involved should get in touch with RD. BA thanked ML / PS for their inputs.</p> <p><i>[Tom Leonard left the meeting]</i></p>		
Action 1	Children at Risk of Harm Joint Inspections and Child Poverty PowerPoint Presentations to be circulated to members.	CG / RD	Completed
Action 2	CPC members who wish to be part of the proposed joint poverty work should contact Ross Drummond as soon as possible.	All	Ongoing
5	P&K Corporate Parenting Update and Plan		
	<p>BA noted previous Inspections for PK included strong connections between Child Protection and Corporate Parenting and as a CPC, BA / RD meet with Linda Richards twice a year to discuss. BA handed over to HR who talked through the papers on behalf of Linda Richards.</p>		

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	<p>HR noted this is the second Corporate Parenting Plan detailing 2021-2024, which was a Council contribution and will also align with the plan for The Promise. Noted the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 introduced statutory duties and responsibilities for the Council in their role as corporate parents; for CYP who have experienced care from the local authority in various formats. Noted it is entitled 'Our Promise to You' and has been written in consultation with care experienced young people; it has also been approved by Each and Every Child.</p> <p>At the heart of it, is our commitment to The Promise and a focus on listening to CYP voices – how we ensure CYP can stay within families when safe to do so and can be supported in this; where it is not safe to stay with their family, the importance of staying with brothers and sisters, which The Promise is centred around. Also increased advocacy has come across strongly.</p> <p>There are a number of actions linked to the key aims / objectives and they have all been determined by full consultation with the CYP themselves around what is important and what can make difference. Many actions identified will be achieved over the full term of this plan (2021-2024). The Promise commits to a whole culture change over 10 years and this is stage 1 of how to do that.</p> <p>Noted the governance route for the plan is through the Children, Young People and Families Partnership and through the Corporate Parenting Board. There are lots of opportunities to contribute to the plan and it will be actively worked on and looked at on a quarterly basis. If members have any particular questions, Linda would be happy to pick these up. RD / BA will continue to link in with Linda Richards and the Corporate Parenting Board and also any opportunities for joint working.</p> <p><i>[Audrey Sime left the meeting]</i></p>		
6	<p>CPC Multi-Agency Monthly Dataset Report and Scottish Government Fortnightly Report</p>		
	<p>Members noted the Data Report up to January 2022; noting we do not yet have the February 2022 data. Noted there are significant fluctuations month by month; CCRs have increased; the conversion rate for the proportion of CPIs which proceed to CPCC has decreased and will be the focus for this year's CP Audit in May; IRDs are increasing and there will also be an Audit on this this year; School exclusions and children home educated are increasing; there is a lag with the NHS data; JC has started to provide (since 21 March) real time monthly information for SCRA data and will continue to do so.</p> <p><i>[Deborah Lally left the meeting]</i></p> <p>Members discussed the trend information, which are some of the key areas for joint activity for partners; there are still some slight longitudinal changes but nothing significant; we are not out of kilter nationally. It was suggested a graph is included around those on the CPR; RD will arrange for James Chiles to give us a longitudinal graph on the CPR numbers.</p> <p>JS noted Tayside work and the opportunity to review outcomes for UBB referrals 6 months down the line and the connection to those that do not have a Pre-Birth CPCC but are then registered in the first 6 months. BA noted this will be picked up at TRIC PG5.</p>		
7	<p>CPC Working Arrangements</p>		
i.	<p>CPC 2021 and Beyond – Members noted the paper which has captured some of the key points from a series of smaller meetings with CPC members about how we manage the agenda / meetings, keeping people actively involved, role of the Sub Groups etc.</p> <p>Members discussed and highlighted the 2 key issues around the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> possibly establish another working group to alleviate pressures on the CPC PIWG, which already has a large remit and relies on the same cohort of people to take forward the work; suggesting we widen contributors to the CPC and Sub Groups to increase the profile; knowledge and experience; and ownership of the CPC. To be considered further. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> review the chairing of the CPC CRWG as there is the potential for a conflict of interest with the current chair and their other role; noting the remit is currently being refreshed. <p>BA will take away for a wider discussion with key people and bring back an update.</p>		
ii.	CPC Membership – Members noted the CPC Membership .		
iii.	CPC Member Profiles – Members noted there are still a couple outstanding; once complete, this will be circulated to members for their information only.		
8	CPC Business – Capacity		
i.	<p>Service / Agency Updates –</p> <p>a) Proposal for Co-Location (Police Scotland and Social Work Child Protection Team) – Members noted the proposal from Police Scotland to establish a Working Group to look at the pros / cons and whether it would be a viable option to have Police and Social Work Child Protection Teams (and any others relevant agencies) co-located in the same premises.</p> <p>BA noted it is important the CPC has a view on this as multi-agency working / strong partnership working is a key responsibility of the CPC; but ultimately it is an operational decision in terms of joint working and the management of resources between Police and SW, and potentially for COG to agree.</p> <p>Members noted that colleagues key to this will meet as a Working Group out with this meeting to discuss and report back to the CPC; HR / SJ / JS happy to be involved in further discussions.</p>		
ii.	National Guidance for Child Protection 2021 – Gap Analysis – Members noted the gap analysis paper has been to the CPC previously and is available on request via CG. RD noted the OnLine CP Basic Awareness Module and CP Webinar have been updated and are compliant with the National Guidance; the Training Officer has delivered 3 CP webinars this year which have been successful. Noted the main priority now is to update the CPC Inter-Agency Guidelines and then everything else flows from there. BA / RD are connected to the ongoing national work (subgroups) and work via TRIC PG5 and the Central and North Scotland CPC Consortium and will keep members updated. Noted full implementation is expected by September 2023.		
iii.	<p>CPC Improvement Plan – 6 Months Tracker Update – Members noted this update paper. It is showing slow but steady progress and is subject to the impact on various agencies / services in terms of the pandemic and their capacity. Noted the 2 significant areas (red) are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tayside Child’s Plan – Going to TRIC PG5 for further discussion. GIRFEC – Discussions ongoing re local arrangements and waiting on new national GIRFEC guidance. <p>BA noted some of these actions / tasks can only be done in collaboration as they are wider issues. Update approved.</p>		
iv.	CPC Self-Evaluation Calendar – 6 Months Update including Training and Social Media Updates – Members noted the Self-Evaluation Calendar shows the planned activity month by month – either completed / underway – and is a useful mechanism to pull together a range of self-evaluation activity under the CPC. Members also noted the social media and training updates which are self-explanatory. RD thanked MW who does an excellent job on behalf of the CPC promoting specific posts. Update approved.		
9	Group Updates		
i.	CPC Practice Improvement Working Group – HR noted the PIWG last met on 1 March 2022 and are due to meet again on 31 May 2022; they are now considering the CPC monthly dataset reports; much of the discussion centred around this year’s Child Protection Audit which is planned for May 2022 – focus on those subject to a child protection investigation, which did not proceed to an initial child protection case conference. Noted an evaluation report will be prepared for the CPC in July 2022. There will also be an Audit to review inter-agency referrals		

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	discussions (IRDs) – focus on decision making, recording and outcomes – and Sarah Brow (Police) will lead that work on behalf of the PIWG. The CPC Improvement Plan, key actions and tasks for the PIWG is a standing agenda item. There were discussions around the TRIC Priorities for Practice Workstreams and MN will provide a further update at the next meeting. Joel Jameson provided a detailed overview of the Child Protection Basic Awareness Webinars which has been evaluated highly. There was also an evaluation report from RASAC re Trauma Informed Practice and discussions around how this will tie in with the national training and what is planned locally. RASAC will also be involved in supporting schools signing up to Equally Safe at School (ESAS).		
ii.	Independent Schools Child Protection Group – Noted they continue to meet 3 times a year; the biggest issues currently are around the impact of Covid-19 on day pupils and residential pupils (particularly students from overseas – unable to travel etc) and the young people’s mental health issues.		
iii.	Protecting People Coordination Group (PPCG) – Members noted the PPCG, chaired by JP, last met on 21 March 2022 and is due to meet again in May 2022; it brings together all the key P&K partnerships and they report to the COG. Noted they are committed to a Data Workshop; a Leadership Event has been arranged for 10 June 2022; they continue to update the Risk Register and provide exception reporting (those with a higher risk rating) to the COG; HR has been coordinating work around the cross cutting theme of Violence Against Women and Girls and girls and is planning to hold an event during the 16 Days of Activism (annual event in November 2022) identifying the cross cutting themes.		
iv.	Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative Priority Group 5: Safeguarding and Child Protection (TRIC PG5) – Members noted TRIC PG5, chaired by JP, last met on 28 February 2022 and is due to meet again on 20 April 2022. TRIC PG5 agreed to review the Tayside Practice Guidance for IRDs, Chronologies, UBBs and Participation in Key Meetings; to ensure these are compliant with the National Guidance for Child Protection. A significant piece of work is the Priorities for Practice Co-Production Groups that MN is leading on this; there are 5 Co-Production Groups, covering the 6 priorities for practice areas, consisting of frontline managers / practitioners; they are developing a shared Tayside Child Protection Workforce Development Programme to create resources that can be used in practice to help improve culture and practice. Also spent time looking at CPC / SG data reports.		
10	AOCB / Papers for Noting		
i.	NHS Tayside Child Protection Annual Report – Members noted this is the third annual report; it is a public facing document and can be shared widely.		
ii.	National Care Service Scottish Government Supporting documents - National Care Service: consultation analysis - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) – Adult Protection have had some consultation events re strategic arrangements for the APC. BA will keep members updated on any progress.		
iii.	Joint Inspection Services for Children and Young People at Risk of Harm in Dundee City Joint inspection of services for children and young people Dundee Jan 2022.pdf (careinspectorate.com) – Members noted we made reference to this earlier. Noted for information only.		
iv.	Wellbeing and Inclusion Officer – SJ advised that Catriona Scobbie has taken up a secondment post within Education Scotland, and Kelly Gatenby has been recruited as the new Wellbeing and Inclusion Officer; officially in post this week.		
11	Meeting Dates 2022		
	All Meetings on Tuesday 09:30 – 12:30 7 June; 30 August; 25 October and 6 December 2022		