



PERTH AND KINROSS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Virtual Meeting held on
Tuesday 7 June 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)
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)
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)
Margaret Steel, Business & Management Team Leader, Services for Children, Young People & Families	(MS)
Susie Turner, Inclusion Manager / Principal Educational Psychologist, PKC	(ST)
Mary Willis, Communications Officer, Corporate and Democratic Services, PKC	(MW)

In Attendance:

Jennifer Reid, Police Scotland (on behalf of R Birnie)	(JR)
Winnie Burke, Link Inspector, Care Inspectorate	(WB)

Apologies:

Ray Birnie, Detective Chief Inspector, Police Scotland	(RB)
Andrew Brown, Head of Contracts and Compliance, Live Active Leisure	(AB)
Rhona Corbett, Communities and Learning, Culture Perth & Kinross	(RC)
Elaine Cruickshank, Lead Nurse, Children & Families, NHS Tayside	(EC)
Alison Fairlie, Service Manager, HSCP – Mental Health, PKC	(AF)
Sarah McLauchlan, Lead Nurse Children and Young People, NHS Tayside	(SM)
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)

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.		
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting, Action Points and Matters Arising		
	<p>The Minute of 29 March 2022 was approved as an accurate record. Action Points 1 and 2 – Completed.</p> <p><i>Action 2: CPC members who wish to be part of the proposed joint poverty work should contact Ross Drummond</i> – Members noted names were sent to Margaret Lynch and this is progressing via Margaret and her colleagues at the Child Poverty Action Group. Action Completed.</p> <p><i>National Care Service</i> – BA advised the Scottish Government are still considering the responses to the consultation and there have been no further developments at this point in time.</p>		
3	CPC Multi-Agency Monthly Dataset Report		
	<p>Members noted the Report, which includes figures up to the end of March 2022. Noted there is still a time lag; April 2022 Report arrived this morning but is awaiting some agency data. Noted the monthly fluctuations / trends.</p> <p>HR commented on some of the referral rates and the volume and complexity of these cases; from a SW perspective, the impact of COVID-19 has been felt acutely over the last 6 months; suggested staffing needs to be factored into the data too as it is not unique to their service; JR echoed from a Police perspective re volume. HR suggested it is possibly too early to quantify some of the consequences / impact on staff / client groups etc in its entirety; constantly evolving; levels of staff sickness increasing; level of complexity in referrals; all these things compound demand on service. Agreed as a CPC, we need to monitor this carefully. BA / HR to discuss / explore out with the meeting and come back to the CPC with a proposal. Agreed that Education, Health and Police should be part of this discussion.</p> <p>JR noted that various CPC's etc are starting to talk about Poverty etc more and more and asked if there is a way to pull data, in terms of the CCR's and how many are around parental neglect and / or financial hardship. RD noted we previously struggled identifying the nature of concern (sometimes multiple) at that early stage – more likely at the CPCC stage.</p> <p>SJ noted exclusions in secondary schools continue to rise; the latest results for April / May 2022 remain high, particularly for secondary schools; static for primary; the impact of COVID-19 has been felt very strongly within schools – impacting on CYP's mental health, behaviours, attainment, bullying risen etc; seeing the longer term impact in schools; major impact on CYP; also impact on staff which reflects the picture HR described; there is a lot of work ongoing to support staff and CYP in schools and ST is discussing with HTs different supports to schools due to demand etc. BA / SJ will feedback to the Children, Young People and Families Partnership (CYPFP) in terms of the discussions today around the longer-term impact of COVID-19 on staff etc.</p> <p>SJ noted they are issuing a survey to all schools about the number of CYP across schools who school staff have had concerns around due to issues of mental ill-health, self-harm, suicide ideation etc. Once complete, the survey will be analysed, and SJ will bring this back to a future meeting of the CPC for discussion.</p> <p>DB noted at the last Independent Schools CP Group they spoke with Steve Sweeney around getting data / info for LA Schools and asking if Steve Sweeney could get the same data from the Independent Schools; same issues re mental ill-health, self-harm, suicide ideation etc.</p> <p>RD to discuss SCRA data with JC out with the meeting to see if they can identify via James Chiles who is best to provide the data in real time.</p>		

	What	Who	When
Action 1	Bill Atkinson / Hazel Robertson along with Education, Health and Police representatives to discuss / explore the increase in demand on services and report back to the CPC as soon as possible.	BA / HR	By Next Meeting
Action 2	Sharon Johnston to report back to the CPC on two separate issues: a. Survey in Schools re C&YPs mental health and wellbeing; b. Exclusion rates in Schools.		By Next Meeting
Action 3	Ross Drummond to discuss the SCRA data with John Cunningham and to see if they can identify via James Chiles who is best to provide the data in real time.	RD/ JC	By Next Meeting
4	Police Scotland Tayside Division		
i.	<p>Partnership Briefing – Partnership Intelligence Portal – Members noted the paper which sets out the detail; noting it is a Police tool to capture intelligence from partner services and agencies that is relevant to the public protection unit and is more formalised than previously; it is aimed more at professionals working out in the community; looking at developing the bigger intelligence picture in communities.</p> <p>Noted they are hoping to roll it out across partner services and agencies. Training will be provided by Police Scotland, but the proposal is to have CPC's etc identify the relevant staff within their service and agency to undertake this training.</p> <p>HR sought clarity around confidentiality / DPA / GDPR, before advocating to share this; what information would be legitimate to share when not an immediate concern; what protection is there for professionals etc. JR noted the people providing intelligence would be a confidential source, so would not be a witness in a case. JR can seek further information around confidentiality / DPA / GDPR to provide assurances.</p> <p>JS noted discussions are ongoing from a health perspective; where had this been signed-off at a national level etc. In principle, do not have an issue but there are practical issues around training, information sharing, thresholds etc.</p> <p>Members agreed to pick this up at the next CPC meeting under matters rising.</p>		
ii.	<p>Hidden Harm Risks – Home-Schooled Children – JR noted around March / April 2022, three cases across Tayside came to the attention of Police from a third party / external agency, which identified significant concerns for children living in environments which were not suitable; whilst noting they were being home educated. This prompted the question around how many more children and young people are living in difficult environments and has something been overlooked. Police colleagues met with education colleagues from the three local authority areas to discuss. RB also raised the issue with the three CPCs across Tayside and at TRIC PG5. It was noted that these concerns came in around the same time a national consultation was underway in relation to national guidance for home schooled children.</p> <p>SJ provided some background / context from an education perspective. Noted current legislation specifies that parents are entitled to home educate their children if this is determined to be best for them, because it suits their values and / or lifestyle; there is a process to apply for home education (for those already in education) and it can be refused, if there are concerns from any partner services and agencies; however, it cannot be approved retrospectively; the LA have a duty to offer annual assessments, but there is no obligation on the family to accept – legislation; working hard to encourage partnership working around concerns being raised for YP.</p> <p>Noted there is also legislation around flexi-schooling, which is challenging to undertake a proper education provision; changed practice to allow some flexi schooling to re-engage YP; acknowledged the huge amount of work teams have been doing around this. BA noted similar points were raised in the national consultations around children who are not registered then it is difficult to know about / track them etc.</p>		

	What	Who	When
	Members noted agreement at TRIC PG5 was to call for a meeting across the three local authority areas to discuss the cases and if there any immediate actions that need to be taken and if there is any learning. Noted this work will be taken forward at a Tayside level and reported back to the CPC. Agreed.		
5	Group Updates		
i.	Service / Agency Updates – None noted.		
ii.	CPC Practice Improvement Working Group – Noted the Group met 31 May 2022; RD chaired on behalf of HR; started to look at CPC Monthly Datasets – discussion around the monthly variations / trends – agreed this would remain a standing agenda item; there was an update on the annual child protection quality assurance audit which should be complete by the end of June 2022; also looking at an IRD audit; had an update on the work of TRIC PG5; P&K Learning and Development Framework was approved; Online CP module updated and compliant with the National Guidance for CP; CP webinar is still available for use; reviewed the CPC Improvement Plan (CPC PIWG extract) which is making slow and steady progress – heard from services and agencies around pressures on staff / capacity which is effecting progress of the CPC Improvement Plan; annual self-evaluation programme is on target.		
iii.	Independent Schools Child Protection Group – Noted the Group met on 10 May 2022; the meeting was well attended; there was a particular focus on introducing Kelly Gatenby and Steve Sweeney from education services to discuss the work they have been doing etc; also the challenges mentioned earlier around health and wellbeing issues – similar to local authority schools – with the added complexity of YP not being able to travel home during the pandemic etc.		
iv.	Protecting People Coordination Group (PPCG) – Noted the PPCG has not met since the last time we met as a CPC. Any relevant updates will be sent on.		
v.	Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative Priority Group 5: Safeguarding and Child Protection (TRIC PG5) – Noted the last meeting was chaired by Dundee’s CPC Independent Chair; Barnahus Model for child victims of violence is an outstanding action, JP is following up; previous commitment to bring together self-evaluation, audit work etc to see if there is some shared learning and appetite for doing audits across Tayside; discussion from MN who is the main driver in ensuring the Priorities for Practice Workforce Development Programme continues – 5 Workstreams running from that. Noted that Carol McAuley will take on the coordination of the workstreams in the interim; looking at the data framework and how TRIC PG5 can better report to the TRIC Leadership Group etc; contextual safeguarding issue to explore further (which links in with an action JP had to follow up for the CPC) and will be a substantive item at the next TRIC PG5 meeting; discussed the issue of national guidance and local cases concerning home schooled children. BA / RD will keep members updated on any TRIC PG5 developments.		
6	AOCB / Papers for Noting		
i.	CPC Membership List and Member Profiles – Papers for noting. Members to keep their contact details and member profile updated via CG.		
ii.	ICON Pilot – JS noted for an awareness perspective that NHS Tayside are going to pilot the icon project – developed around preventing abusive head trauma (shaken baby). JS will keep members updated as it progresses.		
iii.	Next Meeting – BA suggested we try to pursue at least one face-to-face CPC meeting this year but need to be guided by services and agencies and will keep that under consideration.		
7	Meeting Dates 2022		
	All Meetings on Tuesday 09:30 – 12:30 30 August; 25 October and 6 December 2022		