



**PERTH AND KINROSS
CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

**Hybrid Meeting held on
Tuesday 25 October 2022 at 9.30am
Ness Room, Almondbank House and 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)
Dr Ben Colvin, Consultant Paediatrician, Community Child Health, NHS Tayside	(BC)
John Cunningham, Locality Reporter Manager SCRA	(JC)
Rhona Corbett, Communities and Learning, Culture Perth & Kinross	(RC)
Ross Drummond, Child Protection Inter-Agency Coordinator, P&K	(RD)
Ray Birnie, Detective Chief Inspector, Police Scotland	(RB)
Katie Mitchell, Outreach Producer, Horsecross Arts, Perth Theatre & Perth Concert Hall	(KM)
Deborah Lally, Head of Student Experience, Perth College UHI	(DL)
Hazel Robertson, Head of Services for Children, Young People & Families, PKC	(HR)
Mary Willis, Communications Officer, Corporate and Democratic Services, PKC	(MW)
Lesley Sharkey, Associate Director of Midwifery, NHS Tayside	(LS)
Fiona Mackay, Service Manager, Inclusion and Additional Support, ECS, PKC (on behalf of Education)	(FM)

Apologies:

Elaine Ritchie, Head of Housing Services, PKC	(CM)
Alison Fairlie, Service Manager, HSCP – Mental Health, PKC	(AF)

Minute:

Cath Grieve, Management Assistant, Services for Children, Young People & Families, PKC	(CG)
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	What	Who	When
1	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies		
	BA welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies were noted above. A particular welcome was extended to Lesley Sharkey (LS), Associate Director of Midwifery, NHS Tayside, representing the Women & Families Division who will be replacing Elaine Cruickshank on the CPC. Noted that BC / JS will also continue to attend the CPC, representing NHS Tayside.		
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting, Action Points and Matters Arising		
	The Minute of 30 August 2022 was approved as an accurate record. Action Points 4, 5 and 6 – Agenda Items;		
	Action 1 – Bill Atkinson / Hazel Robertson / Sharon Johnston / Elaine Cruickshank / Ray Birnie / John Cunningham / Ross Drummond to discuss / explore the increase in demand on services and report back to the CPC as soon as possible – BA advised that several meetings have taken place and a further meeting is to be held in advance of the next CPC. Action Ongoing.		
	Action 2 – Sharon Johnston to share the Report on the Survey in Schools re C&YPs mental health and wellbeing once this has been finalised – FM advised that Steve Sweeney has progressed the Suicide Ideation Survey and this is in the final stages. FM asked if Steve could be invited to the December 2022 meeting of the CPC to share the findings. HR explained that Steve had attended the CPC Practice Improvement Working Group so some members are already aware of the content. It was agreed to invite Steve Sweeney to the December meeting of the CPC. Action Ongoing.		

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	Action 3 – Sharon Johnston to share the Exclusion Guidance for partner agencies once this is available – FM advised that the Exclusion Guidance has been finalised and presented to ECS SMT. The guidance has not been shared with schools, but the plan is to share this at In-Service Days on 10/11 November 2022. FM asked if this could be added to the CPC agenda in December 2022. Action Ongoing.		
	Action 7 – Bill Atkinson / Ross Drummond / Hazel Robertson to firm up the proposal for a CPC Quality Assurance Working Group and to report back to the next meeting of the CPC on 15 October 2022 – BA advised discussions were ongoing in terms of establishing a CPC Quality Assurance Working Group. This will be separate from the CPC Practice Improvement Working Group given the amount of business dealt with at Committee and Sub-committees. Noted that further meetings were planned with a view to establishing this new Group in early 2023. Action Ongoing.		
Action 1	Bill Atkinson / Hazel Robertson / Sharon Johnston / Elaine Cruickshank / Ray Birnie / John Cunningham / Ross Drummond to complete their discussions in relation to the increase in demand on services / agencies and report back to the next meeting of the CPC on 6 December 2022.	BA/HR/ SJ/EC/ RB/JC/ RD	By 6/12/2022
Action 2	Sharon Johnston and Steve Sweeney to share the Suicide Ideation Survey Report in Schools re C&YPs mental health and wellbeing at the next meeting of the CPC on 6 December 2022.	SJ/SS	By 6/12/2022
Action 3	Sharon Johnston to share the Exclusion Guidance for partner agencies at the next meeting of the CPC on 6 December 2022.	SJ	By 6/12/2022
Action 4	Bill Atkinson / Ross Drummond / Hazel Robertson to firm up the proposal to establish a CPC Quality Assurance Working Group and to report back to the next meeting of the CPC on 6 December 2022.	BA/RD/ HR	By 6/12/2022
2 i)	Update – Police Scotland Partnership Intelligence Portal		
	<p>RB updated members on the many changes since the first paper in March 2022; noting the portal is only for Third Sector and Advocacy Partners. RB advised the police can provide training on the use of the portal, if required. HR asked for some further clarification on the type of information to be shared and if the portal was to be used for reporting crime. RB did so and confirmed the portal was not to be used for reporting crime.</p> <p>Members discussed the type of information that could be shared via the portal; noting some of the practice dilemmas. RB advised that guidance on the use of the portal was available. HR suggested there could be merit in reviewing the use of the portal over time; by whom and the nature of the submissions. BA agreed. RB anticipated there would be a review on a national basis by Police Scotland, at some point.</p>		
2 ii)	NHS Tayside ICON Pilot		
	<p>JS updated members on the ICON pilot which is about reducing abusive head trauma in babies. NHS Tayside is the first area to bring the ICON message to Scotland. ICON stands for - Infant crying is normal; Comforting methods can help; It's OK to walk away and Never shake a baby.</p> <p>ICON is a programme which has been shown to be good for engagement with fathers. NHS Tayside has taken forward implementation of ICON with a launch date of 30 November 2022. Training the trainers has already commenced; Midwifery are the key point at the beginning of the 5 core points of evaluation then Health Visiting; Family Nursing and GP services. There has been good engagement from these 4 disciplines as these form the core services involved in ICON delivery. Adjustments were needed to make ICON fit within the Scottish landscape. Publicity has been arranged around the launch. The ICON Week information was shared with members earlier. JS advised the plan is to roll out ICON widely, early in 2023; looking at including A&E, Out of Hours and NHS 24.</p>		

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	<p>In Tayside there is ample opportunity to consider how we can share the message to help people realize that crying is normal and people can cope. Weeks 3-4, after birth, are probably the hardest and the interesting part for premature babies is that even though they are born prematurely, it is 2-3 weeks after their discharge from hospital when the crying starts to escalate. This is a very simple message to help inform the public and parents and promote the fact that they can seek help / assurance if they have a crying baby and are struggling to cope.</p> <p>JS intends to engage with CPCs in the future to help raise awareness around how the programme can be used in the multi-agency arena.</p>		
3	CPC Monthly Data set		
	<p>Members present noted the latest data report (up to end of August 2022) and RD shared the data report on screen; highlighted some key ongoing trends.</p> <p>Members noted the apparent significant rise in Child Concern Reports (CCRs) in August 2022; RB advised all were triaged and screened via the Risk and Concern Hub; noting Child Protection Concerns are always escalated quickly without delay and that the Hub works to strict Police Scotland protocols.</p> <p>HR noted the rates had almost doubled; acknowledging the majority of these relate to lower levels of concern; all of which need to be screened by partners. HR advised all CCRs go to the Child Protection Duty Team; where there are considerable pressures and demands on the staff group. HR suggested there may be a need to look at the nature of these CCRs more closely, given the apparent significant increase. RB advised that the Police will always share these CCRs, where they believe there is a need to. RB offered to discuss this further with HR if necessary. HR indicated her concern about capacity.</p> <p>BC cautioned on the need to be wary of focusing too closely on monthly figures and instead focus on longer term trends and patterns; noting it is more helpful to focus on the yearly trends and charts. RB advised the number of CCRs across Tayside can vary tremendously from day to day.</p> <p>JS suggested this was also about supporting those fulfilling the role of the Named Person (in Health and Education), to ensure they could see the emerging picture. Perhaps it is around reviewing the GIRFEC approach again and the role of the Named Person and thus look to lessen the impact on social work. BA agreed; noting this also related to the implementation of the refreshed national GIRFEC guidance.</p> <p>Members looks at key conversion rates; noting that not all child protection investigations lead to a child protection case conference; registration rates are fairly static. LS provided some context around pre-birth numbers in relation to a declining birth rate within Tayside over the last few years. Members noted some data gaps in the report which RD will follow up on. BC drew members attention to the longitudinal trends and charts at the end of the data report.</p> <p>JC reported on the SCRA data; comparison between quarterly figure and monthly figures; there has been a drop in referrals coming from Social Work but an increase in referrals coming from the Police and Education colleagues. Slight concern is that the conversion rate has stayed the same and raised the question are the children and young people most in need still being referred to the Reporter. JC agreed to follow this up with HR.</p>		
Action 5	John Cunningham / Hazel Robertson to review the agency referral rates to SCRA and report back on their findings at the next meeting of the CPC on 6 December 2022.	JC/HR	By 6/12/2022
4	CPC Standards & Quality Report 2021 – 2022		
	RD presented the Final Draft of the CPC S&Q Report. RD highlighted key part of the Report; advising that the key contributors had validated their information as being correct. RD advised that Police Scotland had already approved the Report; and approval has been sought from NHS Tayside.		

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	<p>RD advised that ultimately, once approved by the CPC and the Children and Young People and Families Partnership, it would be going to the Council's Scrutiny and Performance Committee and Full Council towards the end of December 2022.</p> <p>Members approved the Report; subject to some minor additions and amendments.</p>		
Action 6	Ross Drummond to make final amendments to the CPC Standards and Quality Report 2021 and 2022 following today's meeting of the CPC.	RD	By 25/10/22
5	CPC Improvement Plan 2021-2023 – Year 1 Tracker Report		
	<p>RD presented the Final Report of the Year 1 Tracker Report; noting some key Action / Tasks and their RAG status. Members acknowledged that this is a two-year Plan as we continued to emerge from COVID, recognised the pace of improvement whilst slower, had been steady.</p> <p>Members noted the Action / Task in relation to addressing the impact of Poverty and the CPC's potential role here. Noted that the Poverty Action Group had recently provided an update to the was going to Housing & Social Wellbeing Committee. It was agreed to obtain a copy of that Update. Members approved the Update.</p>		
Action 7	Ross Drummond / Bill Atkinson to obtain a copy of the Child Poverty Action Group Report recently presented to the Housing & Social Wellbeing Committee.	RD/BA	By 6/12/2022
6	Ukrainian and Other Displaced Families		
	<p>BA advised that this is regularly discussed at the Adult Protection Committee; to provide an assurance that these groups of vulnerable people are protected and supported in Perth and Kinross. BA suggested it would be helpful to have an update from key services and agencies around any challenges arising from their ongoing work or any child protection concerns CPC members would want to highlight. HR advised that Elaine Ritchie would have been able to provide a basic briefing and overview.</p> <p>DL advised that from a Perth College perspective, they are supporting Ukrainian students and also some other younger students. DL highlighted an issue around signed parental consent which they had been unaware of. The College advised the Government this had not been included in the information they had been provided with. At present, there is one student in residence, but a few families have been looking to place young people in student residences and the expectation is that this will be free of charge. DB indicated on behalf of Independent Schools, if a young person from Ukraine needs a space for a boarding situation, they would be happy to help where possible.</p> <p>HR explained there had been a communication around parental consent for those aged 16-18 who are here alone seeking support. If they are already with a family member or someone, they have historical knowledge of, then this would not be necessary. However, if they are arriving independently seeking support then we would need to have verification from their parents. To HRs knowledge there are currently 2 young people in this position.</p> <p>BA asked if members were aware of any child protection / safeguarding issues through school or health services, social work or police. Adult Protection feedback suggested 1 or 2 incidences in parts of Tayside. No challenges noted. FM advised of 88 children / young people in schools and nurseries. HR advised there are approx 300 families, but that Elaine Ritchie would have a more accurate figure.</p>		
Action 8	Ross Drummond to ask if Elaine Ritchie could provide an update on Ukrainian and other Displaced Person for circulation to the CPC as soon as possible.	RD	ASAP

	What	Who	When
7	Group Updates		
i)	CPC Practice Improvement Working Group Update		
	<p>HR noted the PIWG met on 4 October 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carol McAuley provided an update on the Priorities for Practice and agreed to circulate a 1-page progress update on all Priority Groups. ▪ Steve Sweeney provided an input on Suicide Prevention and the survey in schools during May and the establishment of the Mental Health Delivery Group. ▪ Kelly Gatenby agreed to share the Schools Exclusions Policy, but as noted above, this is yet to come. ▪ Briefly discussed the CPC Data Report. ▪ Considered the findings from the Quality Assurance of Child Protection Investigations that did not proceed to a Child Protection Case Conference. ▪ Discussion re mental health triaging now in place looking at all CCRs. 		
ii)	Independent Schools Child Protection Group Update		
	Meeting focused on Learning from the Learning Review: Young Person A; was well attended and useful in terms of linking and sharing best practice. Minutes are available.		
iii)	TRIC Priority Group 5: Safeguarding and Child Protection Update		
	No particular update to note as the meeting scheduled was postponed to a later date. TRIC Learning & Development post – no appointment to date.		
8	AOCB / Papers for Noting		
i)	Scottish Government Refreshed GIRFEC Guidance – Next Steps		
	<p>BA thought it might be useful to hear from services and agencies about their response before we consider the guidance as a CPC. BA advised that aspects of GIRFEC is a consistent theme from learning reviews over the last few years. The Scottish Government has now published their refreshed national GIRFEC guidance; albeit GIRFEC is much wider than child protection.</p> <p>FM advised Education are currently reviewing each section and bringing together the potential impact for them. HR confirmed SCYP&F is in a similar position, the guidance has been circulated and will be addressed within management teams. One significant change to note is that the Lead Professional will not necessarily be a social worker.</p> <p>BA advised we also need to know who the P&K GIRFEC Lead Officer will be for Children's Services planning processes; noting it was previously agreed by the Children, Young People and Families Partnership that GIRFEC will be a Sub-Group.</p>		
Action 9	Lesley Sharkey to have a discussion with the NHS Tayside Child Health Commissioner and confirm how the refreshed GIRFEC guidance is to be taken forward across Tayside.	LS	By 06/12/22
Action 10	Bill Atkinson to confirm via the Children, Young People & Families Partnership who is to be P&K GIRFEC Lead and how the refreshed GIRFEC guidance is to be taken forward across Perth and Kinross.	BA	By 06/12/22
ii)	TRIC PG5 Refreshed Tayside Guidance		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UBB Guidance / Chronology Guidance – Refreshed ▪ IRD Guidance – Being sense checked against National Guidance 		
iii)	P&K CPC QA and Review of Child Protection 2022		
	These papers were circulated to the CPC; highlights are included in the CPC S&Q Report.		

	What	Who	When
iv)	Hybrid Meeting Views		
	BA asked for views on the Hybrid Meeting approach – feedback included the ability to join virtually is very useful, particularly if working in a different area and helps increase attendance; it was helpful to have the choice; sound had been good throughout, with no particular problems; there was some preference for face-to-face meetings but aware that advance planning is required to allow for travel, but good to have options. To be kept under review.		
9	Next Meeting Date		
	A proposed schedule has been circulated. Only the April 2023 Development Session will be “in person”. It was agreed to carry on with a hybrid meeting approach. BA thanked members for their contributions and input to the discussions and the meeting was concluded.		