

MINUTE OF THE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

held on Thursday 19th August 2021 via MS Teams

Present

Alan Small, CPC Independent Chair Caroline Morgan, Service Manager, Education & Children's Services Chris Moir, Senior Manager Cicilie Rainey, Lead Nurse, Child Protection, NHS Fife Dawn Ward, Manager, Barnardo's representing the voluntary sector Gary Ogilvie, Detective Superintendent, Police Scotland Heather Bett, Interim Children's Services Manager, NHS Fife Janette Owens, Director of Nursing, NHS Fife Janice Brown, The Care Inspectorate Kathy Henwood, Chief Social Work Officer Katie Pacholek, Locality Reporter Manager, SCRA Lynn Gillies, Service Manager, Education & Children's Services Maria Lloyd, Head of Service, Education & Children's Services Rona Weir, Education Manager, Education & Children's Services Ross Martin, Team Manager, Communities & Neighbourhoods Trish Pattison, CPC Lead Officer Nicola Buchanan, CPC Support Officer (Minutes)

Apologies

Annette Keogh, Area Personal Support Officer (North) representing AWS & MOD Bryan Davies, Head of Primary & Preventative Care Services
Deborah Davidson, Education & Children's Services
Malcolm McGovern, Depute Principal Psychologist, Education & Children's Services
Paul Short, Service Manager, Housing Services
Scott Davidson, Detective Chief Inspector, Police Scotland
Sheila Noble, Co-ordinator, Fife Violence Against Women Partnership

| Actions | 1. Welcome and Apologies |
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| | A Small welcomed members, particularly new member Maria Lloyd, Head of Service, Education and Children's Services, who replaces Shelagh McLean. Apologies were noted. A Small acknowledged this will be Dawn Ward's last meeting and joined members in congratulating her on her new post and thanked her for her contribution to the Committee. Dawn will be replaced by Peter Nield, Assistant Director, Barnardo's. |
| | 2. CPC 2021-23 Improvement Plan |
| | 2.1 Self-evaluation and Improvement WG Workplan — Approval of workplan deferred until review of working groups and their priorities. 2.2 Workforce Development Group Workplan — Approval of workplan deferred until review of working groups and their priorities. |

3. Q3 Minimum Dataset Report

L Gillies acknowledged this is the third dataset report to be shared with the Committee and it is a collaborative piece of work with colleagues in the Minimum Dataset Group and Self-evaluation and Improvement Working Group (SE&I WG) where all have contributed to the ongoing review and analysis of the data.

There is a proposal working with T Pattison to present back to the SE&I WG a deep dive into Q1, Q2 and Q3 data around children subject to de-registration and re-registration that has occurred over a short period of time. This deep dive will provide good analysis and is about learning and improvement around the child plans, assessment of risk, sustaining periods of registrations and factors contributing to re-registrations and looking at the multiagency child protection approach around that. There will be scrutiny around the Reviewing Service in relation to pre-births to get a sense of what those pre-birth conferences and registrations were about and scrutiny of practice around domestic abuse. The top three areas of vulnerability as part of registrations are domestic abuse, mental health, and substance abuse and these will be areas of focus. Registrations have returned to similar levels as to where they were last year and there are a few issues around parental attendance that they will be keeping an eye on in terms of participation.

C Moir asked if it was possible to look at that reduction in attendance appearance and see how many apologies there were to virtual meetings. L Gillies reported this is something that has been picked up by colleagues and she has been advised they could pull some information, but this may not give a complete picture which raises the question does the Reviewing Service do something over a period time to look at what the attendance issues are. Most continue to be virtual and the assessment from the Reviewing Service is that families are saying this is working for them and they have seen increased participation of other agencies who may not have been able to commit to that part of the reviewing process had it not been virtual.

K Henwood referred to the deep dive and understanding practice around support for unborn babies and their families around registrations and compared it to work done through a PRISM event and referred to the question of how many of those registered lead to families being separated and noted some of that analysis would need to feed into strategic thinking. She stated they know statistics around babies registered and removed where there is a higher percentage of mums that are care experienced and there were discussions at the PRISM event where it was thought it would be helpful practice if children that are registered before birth remain on the register for 3 months post birth to give opportunity to do a real assessment to see how the parents and baby are managing and the report allows scrutiny of this to take it forward if the data supports it.

H Bett asked about the sharing across of this information and stated she would be curious about a deep dive into those cases that have domestic abuse as a factor and would wonder where MARAC fits in there because of her concerns around their interventions not being targeted enough and she would like to understand if there are links and if there are factors that they should be more focussed on.

L Gillies advised this had been considered and reflected on in past multiagency audits where children were subject to registration where a key factor was domestic abuse, and this has been noted in the last three reports and the question for the CPC is are they confident that across the system there is sufficient and robust assessment and support services in place to address this vulnerability. The

Reviewing Team Manager has been tasked to look at a sample of 30 minutes and reports and consider them and the quality using a Safe and Together checklist of assessment and that information will be fed back to the SE&I WG and will answer where they go next. L Gillies reassured the Committee they are shining a light through the Reviewing Services deep dive sampling of cases and reported there are indications that although there has been training and development around Safe and Together, that joint work isn't as evident in practice as it should be following the training and this deep dive will allow them to look at what services are in place and are they working collaboratively and working to the child protection plan.

H Bett asked if Sheila Noble and the team could provide any support with this focussed work and commented that staff from the Domestic Abuse Team and the NHS team can look at that as she is thinking how they get upstream from what is being concentrated on here and what is not being addressed before getting to this point. L Gillies highlighted they now have the CEDAR Service as part of Family Support and what that offers and what is the impact of that on the outcomes for young people and the SE&I WG could be doing a lot of work, but it is resource and the time required that brings challenges so would welcome the offer of support but would want further discussion and clarity and it could be threaded through the workplan for the SE&I WG.

R Weir asked how this data can be looked at from the point of view of other strategic areas within the Health and Social Care Partnership particularly around mental health and the detail captured and stated it would be good to reflect on some of the strategic elements they do and think about how this can be shared. She commented that some elements of the young people's mental health dataset could be pulled together and other groups with strategic leads could be encouraged to reflect on the data from child protection.

T Pattison raised the point that children that are visible in child protection processes are well protected but there are the challenges in ICR and SCR and those wouldn't be visible in those datasets and suggested there is a need to think about how they gather that data to improve the outcomes of those children and young people. She referred to the dual entry into child protection in Fife and wondered what could be done as alternative processes to start to get some indicators and to help to understand the numbers in relation to staff and resources of where they need to be in complying to the national guidance.

L Gillies reported they have put some information back to CELCIS around increasing the dataset so they can gather data around those earlier indicators, but this is now being considered at a national level, so no progress has been made. A Small reported it is expected that Dr Alex McTier's draft Report on this will be available in October and CELSIS may add other indicators.

C Rainey commented Dr McTier was suggesting there was a need and recommendation to take a deep dive or more focus on the middle section of the triangle, GIRFEC, and children and young people with complex needs and emerging risks and this is something everyone wants to aspire to and contribute to in a meaningful way.

A Small asked members if they felt there would be value in sharing this data wider with other groups, targeting some specific data. C Moir reflected on the data work being undertaken by Stuart Booker and acknowledged there are a few different data groups.

K Henwood referred to the CPC defaulting into looking at data and audits and highlighted this hasn't been moving along practice and this was a reason for moving to the minimum dataset and although strategic links are important would ask that they don't get captivated by trying to make it better rather than looking at the key issues around practice and she thinks it will develop going forward.

H Bett clarified she is not suggesting doing more in terms of data and stated it is about the learning from it and early preventions and interventions are of value in capturing families before they get to registrations. K Henwood agreed early preventions are key and explained this is something that will be taken through the Children Services Partnership Group.

L Gillies commented it's important to acknowledge the scrutiny questions take them to those practice points and that it is a work in progress.

A Small thanked L Gillies and everyone involved in pulling together the report.

4. National Guidance for Child Protection

4.1 Single Agency Response

A Small updated members on the Scottish Government's (SG) child protection workshop he attended with T Pattison. The publication of the National Guidance has been further delayed and the expectation is that it will now be published late August/early September. This is simply down to the publication firm and challenges they have faced with regards to publishing the document online. There was much discussion around how the SG will be helping with the implementation and they have set up an Implementation Group headed by Joanna McDonald. This group hasn't met yet, but their responsibility will be to support local areas and to help establish what each area needs to implement the guidance.

A Small reported the SG have suggested there may be a grant scheme or application basis for resource, but it is not looking likely that there will be any form of national resources available for training or implementation and if there is going to be any funding it will be a year down the line. CPCScotland, Social Work Scotland and COSLA are all lobbying for funding.

H Bett asked if Health would be able to bid on that or is funding for Social Work only. A Small advised COSLA will also have a say in this and they have said there needs to be the consideration of the fact that Health is identified in the guidance and conversations are also ongoing with senior Health colleagues. K Henwood offered H Bett reassurance that if any funding came through the CPC framework or national CPC it will be viewed upon though a multiagency lens and emphasised the training and development post holder will be looking at the collective training needs across multiagency and it's about how they move forward together. K Henwood added there is nothing from Social Work Scotland to suggest money is coming to Social Work.

4.2 Multiagency Response

H Bett reported her progress in contacting colleagues in the Lothians has been delayed due to the holiday period however now this is ending she will be having conversations with colleagues in Lothians, Forth Valley and the Borders. She reported there has been internal discussions with Paediatric Consultant colleagues around gap analysis and possible resource implications and C Rainey is drafting a paper looking at steps and what the implications are that will be submitted to the ECMG. H Bett reported the ECMG have had discussions around a project

management resource to ensure all agencies are progressing at the same pace and this needs to be teased out and she will be taking back a proposal around that Project Management resource, IT etc.

C Morgan reported Social Work have a single agency project plan in place for the implementation of the guidance across Social Work and they know it's not just about JII and IRD and that it is important that there is detailed consideration on how they are going to approach the guidance as a whole. C Morgan reported in relation to JII they have made good progress and they have staff engaged in the training process. They have the benefits of a refreshed JII/IRD Group and although the holiday period has interrupted the rhythm to the work it hasn't stopped the ongoing conversations. They know they have challenges as single agencies and have come together as partnership and made a good start.

G Ogilvie reported he has consulted widely across the country and with those Divisions involved in the pilot particularly around IRD and it's about finding resource to deal with the demands. Some Divisions have found it harder than others and some have been overtaken by the demand and had to look again at that operating model.

A Small referred to the expectation that IRD numbers will increase and made an ask to Education to reach out to partners in other areas in relation to possible resource implications. He advised some of Lothians are operating not far from the guidance, but he has been told Education in this area are not automatically invited to IRD, but this does happen in East and Mid.

R Weir replied that they will be reflecting on that and that they are gathering extra resources to lead on this such as the recent recruitment of a Development Officer and they have established an Education Oversight Group and brought in expertise from the Senior Leadership Group. M Lloyd confirmed Edinburgh don't invite Education to IRD, but their system works well and smoothly, and they need to look at good practice and what fits for them. She stated if numbers increase substantially it will bring resource issues but having discussed this with K Henwood they are not expecting these figures to be as high as is predicted but acknowledged this is unknown and will need to see how things progress. R Weir reported she will take this back to the Education Oversight Group to get a feeling from the people who are on the ground and will reach out to colleagues and make links elsewhere.

A Small reported the adverts for the two new posts went live on the 17th October. T Pattison asked if there is a clear understanding of how or who will be the central coordination point and who will lead on the change development programme.

A Small reported a decision had been reached by the ECMG that they will be the oversight board for the implementation of the National Guidance, and they are looking for a project management approach and support to take forward an implementation plan. Senior users are those members of the ECMG, and it would be helpful to have one of those senior users to take the lead on that with support from the new post holders and someone with project management expertise possibly from Fife Council and these are conversations they need to have as a group, understanding the wider project programme environment and management of that programme.

H Bett advised she would be happy to give thought to some programmed management approach and advised as agreed at ECMG she is going to meet with C Moir to discuss this off table. She noted she is happy to start looking at that and

R Weir

provide the ECMG with a proposal. H Bett made the point if the ECMG are the project sponsor where does the IRD SOG sit as that group was to be taking on that strategic oversight role and there was also the establishment of the Implementation Group also for IRD. H Bett asked if the IRD SOG remain remains does it still have its function if there is the ECMG programme oversight group sitting at that level. She acknowledged there is the work to do around JII and there needs to be a place for that but highlighted they don't want confusion around groups duplicating work and there needs to be clear priorities for these groups.

A Small reported there is a workshop arranged for the ECMG members on 3rd September as one thing they need to do is align the working groups with the delivery of the guidance and rethink working group priorities.

C Morgan agreed with the questions being asked and noted as chair of the IRD SOG that would help her understand what the ask is and explained the Implementation Group was set up solely to think about JII and links in well.

A Small reported T Pattison and C Moir's enquiries re eIRD are ongoing.

J Brown acknowledged she thinks it will be helpful to scope out governance and reporting arrangements and map out working groups as it is important not to have duplication or to be coming up with contradictory ways for implementation.

5. COVID-19 Response - Public Protection Data

Members had nothing to highlight by exception. A Small reported the PPG continues to meet fortnightly however he will be asking COPS if this is still a necessity as they are getting to a stage where they could manage this data by exception as nothing has been appearing from the data or from any of the on the ground reporting from the service leads that gives any concern to raise with COPS.

6. Minute of Last Meeting

The minute of 24.06.21 was noted and agreed as an accurate record.

7. Action Register Update

<u>Actions 49/50</u> – A Small noted the detailed update provided by C Rainey and explained this area will arise in discussion under the confidential agenda and it is hoped an actions can be agreed to address areas of concern when cumulative concerns are present. C Rainey added all are recognising the significant gap between universal and higher and targeted. Children in Fife and the Promise are looking at family support and recommissioning will take to place on how to put resources in place.

J Brown highlighted neglect was one of the improvement actions identified in the inspections and it is about recognition and response to neglect and it features in SCRs and ICRs and it is a much broader subject about a whole systems approach that needs to go around neglect and the commissioning of services in early intervention and supports.

K Henwood

<u>Action 74</u> – K Henwood advised the P Madell report has been signed off and can be circulated to CPC.

H Bett reported the drug deaths of young people will be picked up through the Child Death Hub and there will be a cross over to Adult Support and Protection.

A Small referred to ADP and asked if members thought it would it be helpful to have Elizabeth Butters as a member of CPC. K Henwood replied there is a link between the FVAWP strategy, drug issues ADP, mental health strategy, CPC and ASPC and they are not making strategic links at moment and not using strategic leads that best provides impact. K Henwood noted there needs to be conversations with herself, H Bett, A Small, and respective leads around what will give the best impact with the resources they have and how they make sure the common themes are identified and taken forward and that whilst she supported more links Elizabeth joining the CPC was the best way to do that.

A Small highlighted Lead Officers are meeting more regularly and noted it would be good to get mapping around where the cross-cutting themes are and where the various committees are sitting with them.

<u>Action 125</u> – A Small advised there should be a Risk Register for the National Guidance as the project moves on and this needs to remain on the oversight of CPC.

N Buchanan

<u>Action 127</u> – K Pacholek raised this is an ongoing piece of work which is not due to be reported until October. Red status to be removed.

<u>Action 133</u> – C Moir reported CARF are no longer able to progress this work due to a structure change across CARF in Fife. There will be a community Social Work approach in Kirkcaldy doing work at the universal end promoting income maximisation. C Moir is meeting with CARF to further discuss this. C Moir referred to an exciting development with Barnardo's Stronger Families where they have a member of CARF working with them for all families who are receiving a service from Barnardo's. D Ward advised there is intense scrutiny around that in terms of impact and it is an interesting piece of work on the challenges families are facing and they will be carrying out analysis on that.

N Buchanan

A Small offered apologies to L Gillies and C Moir as their updates had not been added to the register. This was due to an IT error and these updates will be incorporated into the plan and circulated in advance of the next meeting.

8. CPC Risk Register

ALL

A Small reported the CPC Risk Register is being reviewed by the ECMG who have been asked to provide any response within 2 weeks. CPC members were also asked to review and return any feedback or comment to N Buchanan by 2.9.21.

M Lloyd referred to Risk 11 and the statement that the child wellbeing pathway has been amended and noted this as an error as the new guidance hasn't been issued yet. She confirmed they know in Education they have work to do around chronologies and assessment and messaging has been issued through the CSPG for schools to use it. She referred to some of the wording used around referral being stronger than it possibly needed.to be. A Small noted the error had already been raised at ECMG and this will be amended.

K Henwood advised what went out was confirmation that existing guidance around referral to Social Work would need to be complied to in terms of the provision of chronology and a single agency plan where there is one but it will be about how they

can best offer support to get that paperwork and the information they need to make appropriate assessment and informed decisions and that is why they are asking for current guidance to be implemented and will support each other to do that.

M Lloyd reported they are gathering examples of good practice of chronologies and assessment they already have to circulate to schools and in addition to that they will be holding a Head Teacher engagement session at the end of September that will focus on child protection safeguarding and wellbeing where they will highlight some of the key messages from the draft guidance and give a clear message in terms of safeguarding and wellbeing and bring in the child wellbeing pathway.

H Bett acknowledged she was pleased to hear K Henwood say there wasn't a firm line around the use of chronologies etc as what she was hearing from teams in Health was concerns that this would delay referral for children and put children more at risk and listening to what has been said they need to go back and do work around understanding what the barriers are for people around not using the correct process and try to meet all partners needs and the needs of the child and family.

K Henwood reflected on issues around chronologies and critical ethical challenges. She suggested a possible resolve could be to cover 6 months/1 year whilst trying to embed chronology with partners coming together to see how best they can work this in a meaningful way within a timeline and feed that into the respective groups.

C Rainey reported discussions in Health are very focus driven with a lot of work on chronologies and wanted to remind members that Health is very broad and the strapline 'referral to Social Work' will be interpreted differently and have different consequences i.e. it makes sense for a team around the child but less sense for acute.

K Henwood noted it is encouraging what she is hearing today and she is hopeful that in the next 6 months they will be seeing chronology and assessment coming in and reiterated they are not going to refuse a referral and there is no risk around that but they need to secure this area of improvement and will be doing single agency reviews as to whether there is any difference to the information that is coming in at that point and suggested there might be opportunity to do local area multiagency screening hubs as they go forward.

9. Inspection Improvement Plan

N Buchanan

The initial understanding was that this was going to be reported to Committee in the coming months however this is not due until March 2022. It will be an agenda item for the next CPC in November to agree RAG status and further updates will be requested in December for signoff at Children in Fife.

10. Confidential Agenda

See confidential agenda.

11. CPC Working Group and Partner Group Updates

<u>11.1 Communications / Campaigns</u> – The draft CPC Communication Strategy was noted. T Pattison advised this has been submitted to CPC for agreement and sign off. It is in keeping with the CPC Improvement Plan and they are moving forward in

T Pattison

partnership with Children in Fife and their Communication Group and with the Children's Services Partnership Group. Members approved the strategy for sign off.

K Henwood

<u>11.2 JII IRD SOG Update</u> – Noted. C Morgan referred to the question around business support resource for JII. K Henwood confirmed agreement had been reached at the ECMG that Children & Families will provide the necessary budget for this resource alongside backfilling the 2 days/week CPC Support Officer post.

11.3 Self- Evaluation and Improvement Working Group Update – Noted.

<u>11.4 Workforce Development Working Group Update</u> – Noted. The approval of the groups ToR is to be deferred until the review of the working groups and their priorities.

G Ogilvie/ R Weir/ H Bett/ T Pattison 11.5 CSE Working Group Update – Noted. G Ogilvie referred to the Levenmouth pilot and reported it had gathered momentum with Sara Williamson leading and moving it forward and potentially there is a lot of this work that could be rolled out across the local authority area. He advised he needs to understand what the position is with the Chair of this group and noted Sara has moved on. With regards to training from Health to Education it is his understanding they have identified support to assist with that and would welcome opportunity to discuss these matters off table with R Weir and H Bett. G Ogilvie, R Weir, H Bett and T Pattison to discuss further off table.

R Weir

A Small acknowledged he had learned recently that Fife are the first area to move forward with Education Scotland's online abuse training and highlighted this needs to be fed into the CSE Working Group in relation to the activity and likely output from that activity. R Weir reported she also hadn't been sighted on this and will now pick this up and progress.

11.6 FVAWP Update - Noted.

National Child Death Hub Update – Noted. – H Bett reported the pace of this is swift as it needs to be up and running for 1st October 2021 and asked if the CPC would like to see learning reports going forward. K Henwood raised questions around information sharing. H Bett explained she recognises they don't want to share information unnecessarily and having C Moir in the Commissioning Group will help manage that and she will provide guidance on the information to be shared and they will be looking for learning to be shared across the way if that is relevant. J Brown added this has been a query raised in terms of the extent of information being shared and they are going to take this back to the short life working group that involves the three pilot areas to ask if they have identified any similar challenges and if so how have they overcome those challenges around information sharing that they will have encountered and will share this feedback when it is received.

J Brown

J Brown noted there is a key role for the CPC in terms of how they contribute to discussions re the types of reviews that are undertaken following the death of a child or young person.

K Henwood asked if there is anything they need to do around messaging in terms of consents, permissions and rights in terms of information being shared. J Brown advised feedback has been received from a national event that they are developing information for parents and carers but what's important is that they are interested in the circumstances of death and will not be going into detail around family. They will

| | be interested in ACES and factors that may have been in the child's background that may or may not have impacted on their death and not the detail of the extent of family involvement or families involved with Social Work in the past. |
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| | 12 AOCB |
| A Small | 12.1 Membership – ADP – Discussed under agenda item 7. 12.2 Consultation on National Care Service – A Small reported the SG are proposing that Children's Services are taken up by the National Care Service. This is out on consultation for 90 days and A Small asked the Committee if they would want to pull together a group to provide a response. Members discussed and agreed to providing a response. A 2-hour extraordinary meeting is to be arranged allowing time for circulation of the response around CPC group members before submission. Group membership to be agreed by email correspondence. |
| | 11 Date of Next Meeting |
| | Thursday18 th November 2pm-4.30pm MS Teams |

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