



MINUTE OF THE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

held on Thursday 25th November 2021 via MS Teams

Approved 17.02.22

Present

Alan Small, CPC Independent Chair
 Chris Moir, Senior Manager
 Elizabeth Butters, ADP
 Gary Ogilvie, Detective Superintendent, Police Scotland
 Heather Bett, Interim Children's Services Manager, NHS Fife late
 John Mills, Head of Housing Service and Safer Communities Service
 Kathy Henwood, Chief Social Work Officer
 Lynn Gillies, Service Manager, Education & Children's Services
 Maria Lloyd, Head of Service, Education & Children's Services
 Trish Pattison, CPC Lead Officer
 Sam Pairman, Policy Coordinator (Observer)
 Nicola Buchanan, CPC Support Officer (Minutes)

Attended to present during Item 5

Lorraine Nicol, Protecting Children Policy and Practice Lead, Social Work Scotland

Apologies

Annette Keogh, Area Personal Support Officer (North) representing AWS & MOD
 Bryan Davies, Head of Primary & Preventative Care Services
 Caroline Morgan, Service Manager, Education & Children's Services
 Cicilie Rainey, Lead Nurse, Child Protection, NHS Fife
 Janette Owens, Director of Nursing, NHS Fife
 Janice Brown, The Care Inspectorate
 Katie Pacholek, Locality Reporter Manager, SCRA
 Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods
 Peter Nield, Assistant Director, Barnardo's representing the voluntary sector
 Scott Davidson, Detective Chief Inspector, Police Scotland
 Sheila Noble, Co-ordinator, Fife Violence Against Women Partnership

Actions	1. Welcome and Apologies
	<p>A Small welcomed members, particularly new member John Mills, Head of Housing and Safer Communities and Sam Pairman, Policy Coordinator who is observing. Apologies were noted.</p> <p>A Small advised Lorraine Nicol, Social Work Scotland will be presenting under Item 5 talking about the implementation of the national guidance for child protection.</p> <p>G Ogilvie reported Scott Davidson will be moving on from his post as DCI in the Public Protection Unit and will be replaced by DCI Kelly McEwan, Kelly's start date is still to be decided. A Small acknowledged thanks to S Davidson for his involvement and contribution as a member of the Committee and CPC Working Groups.</p>
	2. CPC 2021-23 Improvement Plan

N Buchanan	<p>The Draft CPC 2021-23 Improvement Plan was submitted to the CPC for approval and sign-off. T Pattison focused members attention to the schematic of the revised structure and areas of priority.</p> <p>Members discussed and agreed there are various aspects of the plan that still require clarification and amendment and therefore cannot be signed off today.</p> <p>Improvement plan to be circulated to CPC members for comments with a 2-week deadline attached with a view to the plan being finalised and approved by correspondence for its release early January 2022.</p>
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3. New CPC Working Groups: Structure Going Forward

	<p>A Small reported discussions had taken place with Deborah Davidson, Chair of the Children’s Services Partnership Group (CSPG) regarding the strategic governance of the CSE Working Group and it was agreed that as the action plan is universally centred the CSPG will take over the strategic management of this group. It has been agreed that G Ogilvie will step down as Chair and a request will go out to members of the CSE working group and CSPG to ask if anyone would like to take on this role. G Ogilvie will step back once a new Chair has been appointed.</p> <p>A Small explained the reasoning around the revised new working group structure for CPC is to enable a more focused approach to guidance implementation and to help reduce the number of meetings that staff need to support. The Self-evaluation and Improvement Working Group will move forward as the Self-evaluation and Data Group because of the move towards the importance of minimum dataset and this group will work in tandem with the new Guidance Implementation and Workforce Development Group. The Case Review Working Group will remain and A Small acknowledged he is conscious of this group’s workload and what they deal with and that the CPC needs to consider how to take additional work forward.</p> <p>K Henwood commented as they move forward and build resource around the CPC it is her view that T Pattison, in her lead strategic role, would draw in that work out with Fife and keep the CPC updated.</p> <p>It has been agreed by the ECMG that the Guidance Implementation and Workforce Development Group will be chaired by H Bett and services have put forward their nominations for representation. The IRD SOG will cease to exist however the work of that group and future IRD development will continue as a workstream within the Implementation Group. The Guidance Implementation and Workforce Development Group ToR which has been approved by the ECMG, was circulated with the papers explaining the remit and purpose of the group. This group, through H Bett, will report directly to the CPC and once operational, the ECMG will morph back into the CPC so as not have that duplication.</p> <p>A Small reported other conversations took place with D Davidson around the dual reporting model for the Self-evaluation and Workforce Development Groups and as the CPC need to focus on the implementation of the Child Protection guidance and move forward swiftly they have agreed for the time being that there will be no dual reporting of these groups. It was acknowledged the refreshed GIRFEC guidance being published early next year will also require a similar need for focus from the CSPG and they are keen to retain a Workforce Development Group and it is likely that the current group will continue with a GIRFEC focus under the governance of the CSPG. The existing SE&I/A group will review membership and report to CPC.</p>
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K Henwood queried that she thought it was agreed the a CPC WFDG would be a separate group but still come under the Implementation Group.

H Bett explained consideration is ongoing to decide whether it will be a group or whether activity will be led through the Implementation Group with separate workstreams being created, this detail needs to be worked out, however will be led by the new Training Officer post around that. H Bett explained there are anxieties sitting with the current WFDG Chair and Co-Chair around the handover of work that relates to ICRs and some other work that hasn't yet been closed off and where that responsibility will sit and there is a bit of teasing out that needs to be done around that to make sure nothing slips through gaps. It is thought this will be looked at in more detail when the Training Officer is in post. H Bett advised there have been helpful discussions between M McGovern, C Rainey, C Moir and D Davidson on how they move that forward. K Henwood emphasised the CPC also wants to support H Bett with how they move this forward.

M Lloyd reported D Davidson is clear that CSPG will look at the Child Wellbeing Pathway and advised Gavin Waterston will be the education link across CPC and CSPG for that continuum of support.

On behalf of the CPC, A Small acknowledged the roles of all the previous members and Chairs of the WFDG, IRD SOG and CSE Group and appreciation for their dedication and contribution

4. Inspection Improvement Plan

C Moir reported the Inspection Improvement Plan is to be submitted to the Committee in February and will be at the next meeting of Children in Fife for sign off. If any input is required by the CPC members, this will be done by correspondence.

5. National Guidance

A Small welcomed Lorette Nicol from Social Work Scotland who presented her CPC Overview PowerPoint covering aims, structure and implementation of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (see attached).

K Henwood referred to the challenges around resources and asked if they had picked up any potential for community change funds and asked about support to get a bigger voice at the table to look at more substantive funding across the piece.

L Nicol explained they don't have monies available, but it is important to feed back in on the costs of the changes and highlighted the challenge will be about how to quantify that, and emphasised those conversations need to be kept open.

A Small advised he had asked about funding at the Implementation Group national meeting last week and was advised that applications could be made to The Promise Fund and the Community Empowerment Fund. A Small emphasised the challenge ahead is not just the implementation it's the lifetime management that will have a significant resource implication for Fife and this needs to be communicated to Scottish Government.

H Bett asked how they can get feedback from the Implementation Group and get an opportunity to hear what's happening nationally. A Small advised he attends as Chair of CPCScotland but there is no specific CPC representative that sits on that group but he would be happy to share papers from the last meeting that sets out some of the activities that are ongoing and he would be happy to take any requests

<p>A Small (circ 25.11.21)</p>	<p>from the CPC to the Implementation Group and represent Fife on them. A Small to circulate papers.</p> <p>L Nicol advised she will forward her presentation on to T Pattison for circulation around members and would like to meet again in the new year to check in with Fife CPC. They want to support as much as they can throughout the journey and will try to share learning and information as they go along and asked if the CPC could also share any best practice examples that they think others could learn from.</p>
<p>A Small/ T Pattison/ K Henwood</p>	<p>K Henwood suggested as a CPC they should make a collective statement to COPS and Scottish Government around the resource supports needed for the substantive system changes. A Small, T Pattison and K Henwood to prepare a paper for COPS.</p> <p>M Lloyd agreed there has to be strong and focussed letter back to the Scottish Government and suggested there must be elements of the guidance that they could do nationally, and some thought needs to be given to what they can produce for Fife that could also be used by the other 32 authorities and an specific ask made back to Scottish Government around that.</p> <p>H Bett noted she is concerned there are a number of national working groups that have been established and there is lack of detail in what they are planning to do and around what that structure looks like and they wouldn't want to develop something that has already been developed nationally. T Pattison raised that there is a challenge given CPCs and partnerships are at different points in different areas and it is difficult for them to identify what would be helpful, Trish reported that what came from discussions at the Lead Officer's meeting was that a national IT system with information governance and information sharing protocols worked out on a national basis would be helpful and they are looking at how they move that forward. Another part of the discussion was about IRD and the guidance being very descriptive and prescriptive, process led and it is thought some kind of national training in that area would also be helpful.</p>

6. Q4 Minimum Dataset Report

	<p>L Gillies reported the Minimum Dataset Analysis Group met with Dr Alex McTier who had access to the last three reports and gave positive feedback. He emphasised that it is important to be proportionate and working in real time will give a bigger impact.</p> <p>L Gillies asked him what the picture is nationally around how CPC data working groups are considered and he acknowledged it is important to keep the dataset separate from any evaluation groups as the CPC itself is the body who should be having the detail and discussion around the 'so what' questions informed by the data. He described this as best practice. L Gillies wanted to flag this to the Committee as it was her understanding, having been advised by T Pattison that going forward the new structure would bring them together into one group. L Gillies explained if this is the case then it would be her expectation that members of the CPC would need to identify who they think the key people are that should sit on that group who are proficient around data and the task of self-evaluation. L Gillies emphasised her ask that this would have to be transparent, it's about the membership and if bringing them together they would need to configure how they go about that meeting as well as the work plan.</p> <p>A Small noted he didn't get the impression that the data group would cease to exist and apologised if they hadn't made that clear.</p>
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L Gillies provided a brief synopsis of headline messages of the Q4 report. There has been a decrease in registrations overall and a high rise in referrals to the Children's Reporter on Non-Offence Grounds having risen from 90 to 141 in Q4. Key messages from the service is there is no significant variation over the main indicators for Case Conferences and registration. There is a more consistent position regarding unborn children registration. The registration category domestic abuse is a key feature in all quarters and has decreased as a category, and mental health followed by neglect were the highest-ranking concerns identified in Q4. With reference to SCRA data they still see the majority of referrals via Social Work and that increased from 15% to 35%. Lack of parental care remains the main grounds of referral. Review work around CPO is referenced and K Pacholek will bring a report to the CPC once discussed at the Self-evaluation Group. Timescales around case conferences have seen a slight decrease, and this has been picked up with the Reviewing Service.

There is an inconsistency in data around recording parental/carer attendance. L Gillies has asked the Reviewing Service to manually record this and she will pull that together and link in with Astrid. It is thought it might be a SWIFT or business support issue where a box may not have been ticked. They are continuing with the plan to undertake improvement work associated with children subject to de-registration and re registration and will carry out a CPC multiagency audit. This work hasn't moved forward with pace but the reason for this is they are upskilling the Self-evaluation Group and building confidence with a session planned in January with Janice Brown, Care Inspectorate who will talk through some of the indicators they are using with the Care Inspectorate Quality Assurance framework. They are trying to get Fife's framework tailored to this audit framework; quality of planning, quality of risk assessment and consider key factors around key partnership and multiagency planning. L Gillies thinks it will be helpful to open this out to services where other audit work is happening, and it will be good to hook into a developing knowledge base and a short session on case file reading is a valuable approach to start the work and do the audit from January. T Pattison is coordinating this. A challenge is getting perceptual feedback, there is a sensitivity around that, and they need to think more about their approach. T Pattison is connecting with the national work of addition to indicators.

C Moir commented the increase in referrals to SCRA is being discussed by the Children's Hearing Improvement Group and has been noted that the increase is largely around one particular service and there needs to be another conversation around that. C Moir asked for it to be noted that she and L Gillies are involved in another piece of work to consider how many children are deregistered at their 3-month review given the changes suggested in the new guidance. A Small asked if the work would include looking at those of that cohort who had been subject to re-registration and C Moir confirmed that it would. C Moir advised H Bett needs to be involved in looking at that as part of the work of the Guidance Implementation Group.

H Bett referred to the annual national to Fife benchmarks and highlighted Fife's numbers as being much higher across the board against the national position and asked if this was something they should be concerned about. L Gillies advised they have started to draw their attention to that as it raises questions and they need to concentrate on some of that and unpick it, however they are trying at this stage to look at their own data and haven't looked at the comparisons in any detail. T Pattison highlighted there are differences in local and national ways of recording data.

A Small	<p>A Small asked when looking at parent's attendance at case conference will they be looking at physical or virtual attendance. L Gillies advised the question has been asked on a national basis whether they have a hybrid model and what they know from the Reviewing Service is that currently the attendance is virtual. The RS carried out some quality assurance activity around that to get feedback from young people in terms of their LAC reviews as well as case conference in terms of parents and they found professionals are attending more than what they had done previously but this needs further review. The Reviewing Service Team Manager has been asked to provide a snapshot over September and this is being collated.</p> <p>K Henwood highlighted the Review Service provides an opportunity for quality assurance around case conference and planning and that whole system is under resourced in terms of business support. It was agreed this needs to be captured in the resourcing paper that goes to COPS.</p>
7. COVID-19 Response – Public Protection Data	
	Nothing by exception was highlighted.
8. ADP Drug Deaths Report	
E Butters N Buchanan	E Butters advised a more drilled down report has been produced but it still needs to go to ADP Committee for signoff. It was agreed for this item to be moved to the next CPC meeting in February where E Butters will talk to the updated report.
9. CAMHs/OMM	
	L Cowie to be approached and asked if he would like to provide CPC with an update at the next meeting.
10. Minute of Last Meeting	
	The minute of 19.08.21 was noted and agreed as an accurate record.
11. Action Register Update	
	No further updates noted.
12. CPC Risk Register	
ALL	Members were asked to provide their views on which risks they think should be elevated onto the COPS Group Register. Comments to be emailed to A Small by Tuesday 30 th November.
13. Confidential Agenda	
	See confidential agenda.
14. CPC Working Group and Partner Group Updates	
	<p><u>14.1 JII IRD SOG Update</u> – Noted.</p> <p><u>14.2 Self- Evaluation and Improvement Working Group Update</u> – Noted.</p>

	<p><u>14.3 FVAWP Annual Report</u> – Noted.</p> <p><u>14.4 Fife Suicide Prevention Update</u>– Noted.</p>
	<p>15 AOCB</p>
N Buchanan	<p><u>Learning from across Scotland: Inspections and Learning Reviews</u> – K Henwood noted it needs to be considered where this learning sits in connection to inspections and Learning Reviews from other areas and suggested that from January Fife CPC needs to begin to be cognisant of inspection reports and reviews undertaken out with Fife and benchmark themselves to that and consider if there is learning. It is her opinion that once T Pattison is fully supported that would be a key area for her to be bringing in that independent lens and broaden out Fife’s learning to include a national picture. A Small highlighted that Dundee went through inspection recently under the new regimen akin to the Adult Protection inspection which was a slimmed down version where there were only three focus groups and there will be learning coming from there that would be useful to Fife.</p> <p><u>CPC Induction Pack</u> – T Pattison has updated the Induction Pack and it will be circulated to CPC members early next week with a deadline for comments attached.</p>
A Small	<p><u>Child Death Hub</u> – C. Moir asked if there was a need for an update on the work on the CDH to be presented at CPC. A Small highlighted there has been a lot of angst nationally around the connection of this to the learning review process. Meeting to be arranged for update.</p>
	<p>16 Date of Next Meeting</p>
	<p>Thursday 17 February - 2-5pm</p> <p>Thursday 21 April Thursday 16 June Thursday 25 August Thursday 6 October Thursday 24 November</p>

Members:

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Bryan Davies
Caroline Morgan
Christine Moir
Cicilie Rainey
Elizabeth Butters
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