

HIGHLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Minute of joint CPC and Safer Highland meeting held on 13TH January 2010, Committee Room 2, Highland Council HQ, INVERNESS

Present:	Apologies:
Mr Alistair Dodds, Chief Executive, HC Mr Roger Gibbins, NHS Highland Mr Ian Latimer, Chief Constable, Northern Constabulary Ms Harriet Dempster, Director of Social Work, Chair CPC Mr Ian Gibson, Independent Chair ASP Cllr Jaci Douglas, Chair ADAP Mr Steve Barron – Director of Housing and Property Detective Superintendent Ralph Noble Mr Magnus Monaghan, Highland Youth Convenor Mr Bill Alexander, Head of Children’s Services, HC&NHS Ms Jan Baird, Director of Community Care, NHS Highland Mr Ken Ross, Vice Chair Children’s Panel Mr Stewart Fraser, Legal Manager, Highland Council Ms Pene Rowe, CP Development Officer, HCPC	Mr Hugh Fraser Director of Education Culture & Sport, HC Ms Rhona Morrison, Chair of the Children’s Panel Mr Andrew Laing, Procurator Fiscal Mr Tom Boyd, Authority Reporter, Highland SCRA Ms Fiona Malcolm, Solicitor, Highland Council Mr Stevie Mackay, Northern Constabulary Ms Moira Paton, Chair VAW

	Item	Summary of Discussion	Action Required
1.	Welcome and Apologies	Apologies were noted. Mr Alistair Dodds welcomed members of Safer Highland and CPC to this joint meeting.	
2.	Minutes of 22nd September 2009	Minutes of the CPC meeting of 22 nd September 2009 were deferred to the next full CPC meeting in March 2010.	
3.	Matters Arising	As above.	
4.	Preparation for Inspection	Mr Bill Alexander took members through the final stage of preparations for inspection, including the timetable. There was some discussion in respect of the 5 professional discussion slots and decisions were made as follows: PD1 – The presentation on the self evaluation would be approximately 30 minutes in length, followed by time for discussion. The inspectors would have the self-evaluation document and evidence the day before so the presentation should focus on key points, setting the context and the tone for the rest of the inspection. Handouts would be provided.	

		<p>PD2 – Should be attended by those operational staff from the delivery Group who had been involved in preparing for the inspection.</p> <p>PD3 – As above.</p> <p>PD4 – The Good Practice Meeting should be attended by the people identified in the examples given.</p> <p>PD5 – Should be attended by CPC members and Chief Officers.</p> <p>It was also agreed that it would be helpful to have a pre-meeting for the people involved in the Runaways focus group.</p>	BA to organise
5.	Follow Up Meeting 22nd February 2010	It was agreed that the final follow-up meeting with inspectors, scheduled for 22 nd February, should be extended to two hours and should include some Operational staff from the Delivery Group. This would necessitate booking a larger venue. (CR2 1400 – 1600)	PR to organise
6.	Self Evaluation	<p>Mr Alexander presented a final draft of the self evaluation document, which incorporated the changes suggested during the CPC Review Day on 15th December 2009. Some further comments in respect of consistency of terminology had also been taken on board.</p> <p>Comments: The majority view was that the document format was much improved and easier to follow but it was suggested that information on diversity issues might need strengthening.</p> <p>It was agreed that the final document should be flagged up to relevant committees, including Social Work and Housing, and also placed on the web to illustrate the starting position for the inspection.</p>	BA and PA
7.	Good Practice Examples	<p>Mr Alexander explained that he had taken a minimalist approach – increasing the detail in the document but not providing boxes full of evidence to support statements since inspectors would be meeting those practitioners involved during PD4. Those practitioners had agreed the wording and quotations in the examples.</p> <p>Members present agreed with this focussed approach and requested further information about who would be attending PD4. This was given.</p> <p>It was recommended that, although not included in the 3 examples, Risk Assessment should be highlighted, in the self evaluation document, as good practice.</p>	PF to be invited onto Sexual Health Group.
8.	7 Specified Issues	MS Rowe briefly gave an overview of the evidence available for the 7 specified information topics. Two topics merited further discussion:	

		<p>Runaways – Mr Alexander explained that this is a complex issue because many young people classified as runaways were in fact children in the Looked After system who were reported missing when they failed to return at curfew. Most turned up later. Mr Alexander went on to explain that Police and SWS in Highland had agreed a traffic light system for assessing risk and agreeing when to deem a young person to be truly missing. In addition there are good links between SWS and Homelessness Services and these are being developed further.</p> <p>Medicals – It was felt that the tone of the front sheet appeared significantly different from that of the other 6 front sheets and amendments were agreed.</p>	PR
9.	Annual Report 2008/09	<p>Ms Rowe presented the final draft of the CPC Annual report for 2008/09. This was agreed and Chief Officers appended their signatures.</p> <p>It was agreed that this should be placed on the website with the self evaluation document.</p>	PR
10.	Conclusion	Chief Officers, Chairs and members present concluded that the CPC was as well positioned as it could be in respect of the inspection. It was recommended that Lead Officers should be given the opportunity to regroup and consider any further issues between the first and third weeks of the inspection.	
11.	DONM	<i>The next CPC meeting will be held from 1500 – 1700 on Tuesday 16th March 2010 in CR 1 at THC HQ, Glenurquhart Rd, Inverness</i>	