HIGHLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on the 29th April 2014, CR4, Highland Council HQ, INVERNESS

Present

DCI Pamela Ross, H&I Division, Police Scotland (Acting Chair)

DSup Kenny Anderson, H&I Division, Police Scotland

Mr Tom Boyd, Locality Reporter Manager, Highlands & Islands

Ms Kath Clarke, Principal Child Protection Advisor, NHS Highland

Ms Sally Amor, Child Health Commissioner, NHS Highland

Cllr Linda Munro, Children's Champion

Mr David Goldie, Head of Housing, Highland Council

Ms Stephanie Bruce, Director of Keeping Children Safe

Mr Andrew Laing, Procurator Fiscal

Ms Suzann Barr, Children's Panel

Mr Gordon McPhee, HighLife Highland

Mr Pat Hannan, Welfare Officer, Forces Welfare

Ms Fiona Malcolm, Legal Manager, Highland Council

Ms Linda MacLennan-Shareef, Resource Manager, CP & TCAC

Ms Donna Munro, CP Training Officer, HC

Ms Pene Rowe, CP Development Officer, HC

Ms Lisa McClymont, Business Support, HC (minutes)

Apologies

Mr Bill Alexander, Director of Care and Learning (Chair)
Dr Margaret Somerville, Director of Health, NHS Highland
Dr Annie Griffiths, Lead Doctor in CP, NHS Highland
Mr Jim Steven, Head of Education, HC

	Item	Summary	Action
1.	Welcome and	Pamela Ross welcomed members to the first amalgamated meeting of the Child Protection	
	Introductions	Committee and the Child Protection Delivery Group.	
2.	Revised Membership	The revised membership list of the Child Protection Committee was discussed and Deputes	BA-to advise of Depute for
		identified where possible. Bill Alexander is now Director of Care and Learning. He will need to	Director of Care and
		identify a Depute. Members who need to confirm deputes to email Ms Pene Rowe. The	Learning
		absence of the Youth Convener from the new membership list was discussed - the Youth	
		Convener will be updated after CPC meetings and will be asked to attend when relevant. The	
		Committee agreed the new Membership List. A review of the terms of reference will be	PRowe/PRoss - review of
		undertaken by Ms Pene Rowe and Ms Pamela Ross.	terms of reference

			<u> </u>
3.	Notes of	These were circulated and members advised that the recommendations made at the event	
	Development Event:	have been incorporated into the Development Plan which will be addressed under the	
	21 st February 2014	Improvement Plan agenda item 5.	
4.	Proposed Priorities	Ms Pene Rowe explained that the only clear priorities identified were the same as last year i.e.	
	and Actions for 2014-	Disability and CAPSM. However each group came up with individual new proposals which form	
	17	part of the draft Improvement Plan for 2014-2017.	
5.	Improvement Plan	Two exceptions outstanding from the year end 2013/14 report which has been circulated:	
		 2.1.1a (i) – Review of Communications Strategy. This was delayed due to the ASPC decision to withdraw from joint working and is now awaiting any guidance from Safer Highland following the restructure. 2.2.1d – Audit of Transitions. This was delayed by the Inspection but has been started. A report will come to the next Committee. 	PRowe
		Ms Pene Rowe talked through the draft Improvement Plan for 2014-17 and the 2 clear priorities which came out of the Development Event: 1. Risk to Children with Disabilities 2. Risk to Children with Substance Abusing parents	
		 National Toolkit on Children with disabilities - Donna Munro will advise Pene of the timescale once she has discussed with the Disabilities Forum. ICS QAG will be undertaking a case file audit next week and Kath Clarke and Linda MacLennan-Shareef agreed to check that Children with Disabilities is incorporated into the Childs Plan. Scoping of available sexual health materials for children with disabilities - Ms Pene Rowe to discuss this with both the Sexual Health Lead and the Disabilities Lead, not viable to go forward until these discussions have taken place. Ms Pene Rowe reported that this has already been covered for adults with disabilities. SSF-style approach for older children with disabilities was discussed. Ms Kath Clarke suggested that drama may be a way of getting the message across to older children; Eden Court Outreach Workers may take this on. Ms Linda Munro requested that the Youth Convener and Youth Voice be used as a touchstone to see what is already out there. Ms Pene Rowe agreed to look into both and to then report back to Committee 	DM KC PRowe-to investigate and report back

5. Improvement Plan-	Children of Substance Misusing Parents- Ms Dawn Grant and Ms Donna Munro will	
cont	look at the wording of this action and advise Ms Pene Munro. Ms Dawn Grant advised	DM/DG-to reword action
	that beyond training there is a need to look at guidance for adults working with these	
	families as it is about the parents who are substance misusing, there is some confusion	
	that it is about children who are substance misusing. Ms Donna Munro questioned	
	how adult services will be involved in training as they have already backed out of	
	previous training. The Committee went on to discuss record gathering as it seems that,	
	although this is done, it is unclear what is done with the information gathered?	
	Confidentiality was also discussed as a barrier to sharing information. Ms Sally Amor	
	reported that the new Children & Young People's Act will be a game changer in this	
	respect as how to share and when to share will be covered.	
	 Risks to children affected by domestic violence- Ms Pene Rowe talked through this 	
	action, again the issue is how and when to share information. Ms Donna Munro to	DM—to take forward and
	take this forward and get back to Ms Pene Rowe with timescales.	advise PRowe of timescale
	 Child Sex Abuse and Exploitation – needs to be in the Sexual Abuse training. Ms 	
	Donna Munro agreed wording of this action point and went on to report that at the	
	National Training meeting the neglect of bread and butter local training in favour of	
	this type of training was brought up as an issue. The national idea is that short tutorial	
	videos should be created that practitioners can quickly access as and when the need	
	arises. The Committee went on to discuss training priorities in terms of not wanting to	
	overload training days that already exist. Mr Kenny Anderson raised the issue of	
	identifying the threshold for risk across agencies and suggested that there needs to be	
	a planning day to look at this to enable gaps to be closed.	
	 Children absconding from Care-Ms Pamela Ross advised that this is covered in the 	
	new National Missing Persons Protocol.	
	 Health needs considered- Ms Kath Clarke needs to clarify who will take this forward 	KC-to identify someone to
	and report back to Ms Pene Rowe. Ms Pamela Ross queried whether the mechanism	take this forward and
	was there. Ms Kath Clarke advised that it was for medicals but not for assessments.	advise PRowe
	E-Safety- There is an action point for the E-Safety Group and therefore a need to find	Fiona Malcolm to check
	out if the group still exists. This was discussed further. It was felt that if anything the	current status of e-safety
	group should be enhanced rather than reduced.	group
	 Young People and non-conventional Communication - Children with autism – Anne 	
	Kyle only Social Worker at the moment. Amelia Wilson identified by Ms Linda	LM-S/AW

		 Maclennan – Shareef to take this forward. Reduce the use of CPOs for new-borns-It was agreed that the wording of this action point was not appropriate. Sally Amor advised that this is about improvement not taking down the numbers. It was further agreed that this should come out of the Improvement Plan for now and should be taken forward by QUAG. Cultural differences and Child Protection issues and training- wording discussed. Further discussion ensued with regards to existing guidance. Kenny Anderson advised that Police Scotland have toolkits which would be appropriate here. Ms Linda Maclennan - Shareef advised it should be about awareness raising and links rather than training- need to involve the Equal Ops Lead Rosemary Mackinnon. Ms Pene Rowe agreed to make amendments to this action point and take forward. Evasive Families- outcome to be changed to 'Staff are supported to work with Evasive Families' "use of legal measures" to be taken out. Ms Pene Rowe to update this 	PRowe—to amend action point PRowe—to update section
		 Practitioner Confidence- Ms Donna Munro reminded members that it was agreed at the last meeting that this would not be against CPTO as lead but rather an Agency responsibility. Ms Pene Rowe to look into this. Models of Learning – Ms Donna Munro to take forward. Engagement of Evasive Families – Ms Pene Rowe to take out Team Managers and replace with District Managers. 	PRowe DM-to take forward PRowe-amendment to wording
		Committee members agreed to look at the phrasing of actions they are responsible for and then advise Ms Pene Rowe of any changes to be made, including any changes required in respect of the recent Inspection recommendations. Ms Pene Rowe will then reissue this document for review.	ALL-any further changes to wording to be forwarded to PRowe
6.	Inspection of Children's Services	a) Issues for CPC - The report, which had been circulated prior to meeting, was noted and it was agreed that any recommendations for the CPC would be incorporated into the Improvement Plan.	
7.	Care Inspectorate:	 a) Information return – The content of the information return to the Care Inspectorate was noted. b) Request for CPC observer status – It was noted that the issue of Care Inspectorate membership is to be taken up by the Scottish CPC Chairs Forum and it was agreed to await the outcome before responding to the request for observer status. 	BA

8.	I.C.R-protected minute	I.C.R regarding a recent child death was discussed. There are 13 recommendations and these will be circulated to committee members and incorporated into the Improvement Plan. This committee agreed that this should be progressed to a Serious Case Review.	PRoss/PRowe
9.	Information Sharing Protocol	Ms Dawn Grant suggested that there needs to be an additional section on "How to Share Information" using the Child Concern Form and referencing the Highland Practice Mosel. Any further comments to be sent to Ms Pene Rowe by May 19 th 2014. If there are no comments received it was agreed that this would be endorsed as is.	ALL-comments to PRowe
10.	Information Leaflets	Further comments received: Contacts on leaflet to have sticky label Should be 'read and understood' rather than 'read' To be run past youth Forum and Youth Voice then signed off.	PRowe-amendments
11.	Standing Items	 a) Safer Highland Update- Kenny Anderson advised that the structure has now been streamlined. He will forward a copy of the new structure to Ms Pene Rowe and Ms Pamela Ross. He also reported that Mr Julian Innes has now taken over the Chair of the Drug and Alcohol Forum from Ms Margaret Somerville. b) National Groups- notes and update distributed by Ms Pene Rowe c) NHS CP Coordinating Group - no update 	КА
12.	Information for Noting	There was no information for noting.	
13.	A.O.C.B	None.	
14.	Date of next meeting	The date of the next meeting of the Highland Child Protection Committee is: 1 st July 2014 in the ECS Meeting Room at Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Rd, Inverness.	