HIGHLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st July 2014, CR1, Highland Council HQ, INVERNESS

Presei	nt		Apologies	
Mr Bill Alexander, Director of Care and Learning (Chair) DCI Pamela Ross, PPU, H&I Division, Police Scotland (Vice Chair) Mr Tom Boyd, Locality Reporter Manager, Highlands & Islands Ms Kathleen Clarke, Principal Child Protection Advisor, HC Ms Sally Amor, Child Health Commissioner, NHSH Ms Carolyn Thain, Housing Policy Officer, HC Cllr Linda Munro, Children's Champion Ms Suzann Barr, Children's Panel Mr Gordon McPhee, HighLife Highland Mr Pat Hannan, Welfare Officer, Forces Welfare DCI (Acting) Vince McLaughlin, PPU, H&I Division, Police Scotland Ms Pene Rowe, CP Development Officer, HC Ms Lisa McClymont, Business Support, HC (minutes)			Dr Margaret Somerville, Director of Health, NHSH DSup. Kenny Anderson, H&I Div., Police Scotland Dr Annie Griffiths, Lead Doctor in CP, NHSH Mr Jim Steven, Head of Education, HC Mr David Goldie, Head of Housing, HC Ms Stephanie Bruce, Director of KCS Mr Andrew Laing, Procurator Fiscal Ms Linda MacLennan-Shareef, PO CP & TCAC Ms Fiona Malcolm, Legal Manager, HC Ms Donna Munro, CP Training Officer, HC Ms Dawn Grant, Area Children's Services Manager – North, HC Mr David Brown, Head of Operations, HMP Inverness Mr Ian Murray, CEO, Highlife Highland Ms Maggie Brownlie (Barnardos), 3 rd Sector Interface Mr Steve Barron (Sponsor), CEO Highland Council Ms Mary Morris, Care Inspectorate	
	Item	Summary		Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	Pamela Ross introduced Vince McLaughlin as her successor on the CPC. Bill Alexander expressed the committee's gratitude for Pamela's work as Vice Chair, recognising the enormous impact she had had on child protection in Highland over the years, and wishing her a happy retirement. He welcomed Vince and asked members to introduce themselves for his benefit.		
2.	Minutes of the meeting on 29th April 2014	The minutes were agreed to be a correct account	nt.	

3.	Matters	2ii CPC Terms of Reference - Pene Rowe explained that the new structure submitted to Safer Highland contained a	
	arising	link to the 2005 National Guidance on the role of CPCs. Additional guidance had since been given in the updated	
		'National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014)', circulated with the committee papers. It was agreed that	PRov
		a link to this should be added.	
		Pene also drew the committee's attention to the recommendation for policies on CSE, Disability, Trafficking, E-Safety	
		and Missing Children.	
		5.2 Audit of Transitions - Pene Rowe reported that she had been unable to complete the audit to date. She explained	
		that, in previous years, there have been 6-8 records of protection referrals for 16 & 17 year-olds. This year there are 44.	
		Consequently the audit will take longer than anticipated. She reported that the audits so far undertaken showed a	
		marked trend towards the undertaking of capacity assessments for young people with long-standing social, emotional	
		and behavioural problems in order to assess whether they would meet adult protection criteria.	
		6 Care Inspectorate request - Pene Rowe reported that the issue had been raised at the recent Scottish CPC Chairs'	
		Forum. The Care Inspectorate had responded that they are open to 'mature discussion' about how their participation in	
		an advisory capacity may be achieved.	
		8 IRC Recommendations - These had been circulated. Bill Alexander gave an overview of the history of the case	
		and addressed each of the proposed actions. It was noted that all CPC members are responsible for ensuring that their	All
		agencies take forward actions 2 - 5. Bill stressed that action 5 places particular emphasis on the need to share	
		information with ALL named persons for EVERY child in a family.	
		Bill reported that he had incorporated the actions into an updated version of the CPC Improvement Plan (see Item 4a).	
		Pamela Ross reported that action 11 had been actioned by Police Scotland and more robust procedures were in place.	
		It was noted that the incident, itself, was not suspicious but the case raised other significant concerns that merited a	
		significant case review. These were not about process but making connections and moving away from silo'd working.	
		There were good examples of individual working but these were not necessarily joined up.	
		Chief Officers had agreed that an SCR should be commissioned and Mhairi Grant, a retired PPU inspector and former	
		CPC member had been approached about the position of Lead Reviewer. This position would have support from	BA/
		relevant lead practitioners. Bill outlined the terms of reference and <i>members present endorsed the proposal for Bill</i>	PRos
		and Pamela to take this forward.	, ,,,,,,,

3 cont.		10 Medicals Leaflets – Children's views - Pene Rowe reported that views had been sough via HCF, HYV and Who Cares. To date only HCF and Who Cares had responded with the view that the leaflets are suitable for literate teenagers but an easy-read version is required for children and teenagers with poor literacy. In addition the protocol for using these leaflets must ensure that the leaflet is read through with them, and understanding established, prior to conducting the medical examination. Actions:	
		 Pene Rowe to feed this back to Dr. Annie Griffiths. Pene Rowe to liaise with the NHSH Accessibility Officer and SALT re: designing easy-read versions of the leaflets. 	PRowe PRowe
		• Interim measures - Dr. Griffiths to ensure the leaflet content is explained in language accessible to the individual child undergoing medical examination.	AG
4.	Improvement	a) Final draft for endorsement:	
	Plan	 Bill Alexander thanked everyone for their comments, which he had taken into account when finalising the plan. Actions from the recent inspection report and the ICR had been incorporated in the update and the only outstanding elements were some details on timing. Bill talked members through the proposed changes, particularly: 1e) More work is needed to consider the issue in Highland before committing further actions, particularly around CSE. Pamela Ross outlined how this was being addressed elsewhere in Scotland. 1f) These actions stem from the ICR, in particular, and (xi & xii) from the Children's Services Inspection recommendations. ix had been tweaked. 2a ii amalgamated 2 former actions. 2c – It was agreed that this section required rewording. Action: Tom Boyd to review and submit amended wording, taking into consideration the recent Opinion issued by Lord Brailsford (cf 6b (vii) below). Section 4 of the previous version had been removed as further consideration is needed. 	ТВ
		b) Standing Group for SCRs Pene Rowe reported that this had been set up and she detailed its membership. Pat Hannan asked that Army Welfare also be included where cases involved army families or a perpetrator from the forces. <i>This was agreed</i> .	
		Action: Pene Rowe to convene a meeting as soon as practicable, after the main holiday period.	PRowe

4 cont.		c) E-safety	
		Pene Rowe reported that current arrangements for considering issues around e-safety no longer meet the needs of the	
		CPC.	
		Action: Pene Rowe to organise a meeting between Robert Quigley, Chair of the e-safety group, and Bill Alexander,	PRowe
		Sally Amor, Tom Boyd, Fiona Malcolm, the new Youth Convener and a representative of Police Scotland.	
5.	Information	Pene Rowe reported that feedback fell into two camps; those who felt that the 'Highlandised' version of the Perth &	
	Sharing	Kinross Information Sharing Protocol was exactly what partner agencies needed and those who felt that it duplicated,	
	Protocol:	albeit in greater detail, the information sharing guidance contained in the Highland Practice Model.	
		After some discussion, it was decided to enhance the Highland Practice Model rather than create a separate	
		document. Bill Alexander also requested an updated data-sharing agreement, using the new, standardised template,	
		to include reference to the Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, the guidance issued by the Information	
		Commissioner's Office and the Caldicott Guardian's interpretation of this.	
		Actions:	
		Bill Alexander to send Pene Rowe the template.	BA
		Sally Amor to send Pene Rowe the Caldicott Guardian's wording.	SA
		Pene Rowe to produce an updated data sharing agreement.	PRowe
		Bill Alexander to ensure that recommendations are included in the next update of the Highland Practice Model	BA/PR
		and Pene Rowe to ensure this is mirrored in the next update of the CPC Inter-agency Guidance.	
6.	Standing	a) Update from Safer Highland:	
	items:	Pamela Ross reported that the Safer Highland structure (circulated with the papers) had been confirmed and verbal	
		updates on progress against current Improvement Plans had been given by partnership Chairs. Of particular interest to	
		the CPC was funding for VAW Partnership to take forward work for victims of crime. MAPPA progress was also	
		relevant.	
		b) Update from National Groups:	
		Pene Rowe spoke to the Scottish Government quarterly briefing paper that had been circulated. Of particular note were:	
		i) Review of SCR Guidance - the consultation paper had been circulated previously for comment.	
		ii) Child Death Reviews - the CPC should be alert to the possibility that it may, in future, be a requirement to follow	
		the English model of reviewing all unexpected child deaths.	

		ı
6 cont.	iii) Disabilities Toolkit - This was launched on July 1st. All who attended from Highland would be meeting later in the	
	week to discuss how to take this forward.	
	Action: Donna Munro to bring a report to the October CPC.	DM
	iv) C&YP Act Guidance Framework - The guidance should be available for initial consultation early in 2015 and the	
	Act is expected to be implemented in the summer of 2016. There was considerable concern expressed at SCPCCF at	
	the suggestion that interpretation of the Act meant that, legally, information could only be shared with the 'named	
	person' and it would be their decision whether the concern was sufficiently significant to share. It had been agreed that	
	Scottish Government would convene a meeting to explore this interpretation further and seek advice from the	
	Information Commissioners Office.	
	v) E-safety Review Tool - A tool had been launched that would allow schools to review their e-safety measures. Pene	
	reported that she had forwarded this information to Robert Quigley.	
	vi) Managing Allegations - CPCs are asked to review the guidance on managing allegations against foster carers and	
	approved kinship carers and feed back to Scottish Government.	
	Action: All to read: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/05/7759 and give feedback to Pene Rowe.	All
	vii) CPO ruling – Attention was drawn to the following information: "In February 2013, Lord Brailsford issued an	
	Opinion on two conjoined cases (Jackson and Hackett) that related to the use of child protection orders (CPOs) and	
	requirements to notify parents. They arose from petitions against Sheriff Court rulings on the granting of CPO's in	
	Renfrewshire and Glasgow City Councils, and it was argued that the parents did not have an ability to make	
	representations before the Sheriff which contravened their right to a fair trial under Article 6 of the European	
	Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) and also Article 8 ECHR, and their right to a family and private life. The court	
	rejected the Article 6 claim, but held that Article 8 had been infringed as in these two specific instances there was no	
	risk to the child or evidence that delay would endanger the child and they were not therefore emergency situations and	
	there was an alternative to a CPO. These cases were very fact specific, and the court does not suggest that parents	
	must be given a chance to be heard before the Sheriff in all CPO's."	
	must be given a chance to be near a before the sheriff in an O1 0 s.	
	c) Update from Health CP Coordinating Group - The minute of this group was noted.	
	c) optime from freath of coordinating Group The influte of this group was noted.	
		•

7.	FGM:	a) Resource for Schools:	
		Pene Rowe reported that a new resource on identifying the signs that a girl might be at risk of FGM had been launched	
		by Scottish Government. This information had been passed to Cath King and Eliz Macintosh. The resource can be	
		found at:	
		http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/f/fgm.asp?strReferringChannel=educationscotland&strReferringPag	
		eID=tcm:4-713590-64	
		b) FGM Protocol:	
		Pamela Ross reported that VAWP has produced a protocol for women and girls, with input from some CPC members.	
		However, Pamela felt that all cases where there might be a risk to the child should be referred for further exploration	
		and determination of the level of risk. The protocol would need to fit with the Police Scotland SOP. Others felt that	
		there was a need to deal with cases proportionately or run the risk of being labelled as racist, as has happened	
		elsewhere.	
		Action: Pamela Ross and Kath Clarke to work with Gillian Gunn to arrive at an amicable compromise position and	PRoss/
		bring the revised protocol to the October meeting of the CPC.	KC
8.	Sexual	Pene Rowe reported that Cath King had produced the circulated protocol as part of the VAWP Improvement Plan and	
	Violence in	the CPC was asked to endorse it as a cross-cutting issue. A question was raised in respect of which schools had been	
	School	worked with and what research accessed. Pamela Ross stated that she had some comments to make in relation to rape	
	Settings:	and MAPPA issues.	
		Action: Bill Alexander to speak with Cath King and request her to consult Pamela Ross about her concerns.	BA
9.	Information	a) Equally Safe – Pene Rowe drew attention to the publication, on June 25 th , of Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy for	
	for Noting	preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls.	
		b) SCRA Newsletter – Pene Rowe also drew attention to <u>Issue 17 of the SCRA e-news</u> published on 30 th June.	
10.	A.O.C.B	a) Honour for Suzann Barr - Tom Boyd announced that Suzann Barr had been awarded the MBE, for 'services to	
		vulnerable children in the Highlands', in the Queen's birthday honours. All present expressed their congratulations.	
		b) Organisational Chart - members asked whether an organisational chart was available for the new Care and	
		Learning Directorate. Action: Bill Alexander to share when finalised.	BA
11.	Date of next	The date of the next meeting of the Highland Child Protection Committee is: 21 st October 2014 in CR1 at Highland	
	meeting	Council HQ, Glenurquhart Rd, Inverness.	