



## HIGHLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness and virtually via Microsoft TEAMS**

**PRESENT:**

- Ms Karen Ralston – Head of Children’s Services Highland Council (**ACTING CHAIR**)
- Ms. Gillian Pincock – Acting Principal Officer (Health), Highland Council
- Ms. Donna-Marie Munro -CP Lead Officer – Highland Child Protection Committee
- Dr Stephanie Govenden – Lead Doctor Child Protection, NHS Highland
- DI Caroline Mackay – Police Scotland
- Mr. Ian Kyle – Head of Integrated Children’s Services, Highland Council
- Ms. Karen Erskine – Locality Reporter Manager, H&I Locality, SCRA
- Ms. Tracie McDermott – Welfare Support Officer, Army Welfare Service
- Ms. Norma Ruettimann – Training & Development Manager, CALA (Keeping Children Safe)
- Ms. Linda Munro – Councillor/THC Children’s Services
- Ms. Sally Amor – Child Health Commissioner/ Public Health Specialist, NHS Highland
- Mr. John Skouse – Link Inspector, Care Inspectorate
- Mr. James Martin – Head of Development, Highlife Highland
- Ms Fiona Malcolm – Legal Manager, Highland Council
- Ms. Suzann Barr – Lead Panel Rep, Children’s Hearings, Scotland

Ms. Mhairi Grant – Independent Chair (Designate) @ 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Ms. Mary Cameron – CPC Administration, Highland Council (**Minutes**)

**APOLOGIES:**

DCI Richard Baird – PPU, H&I Division, Police Scotland

Ms Nancy Healey – Acting Lead Nurse Child Protection (Health), Highland Council

	ITEM	SUMMARY
1	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>	Karen Ralston (Acting Chair) welcomed everyone to our first virtual meeting using Microsoft TEAMS. She went on to welcome Mhairi Grant, newly appointed Independent Chair, to the meeting and say how grateful she is to have Mhairi on board. It is hoped to have her fully in post within the next two weeks. Mhairi is delighted to be appointed Chair, it is good to see some familiar faces. Apologies received as above.
2	<b>SCR/ICR (in camera)</b>	CPC were provided with an update of ongoing case reviews.
3	<b>Standing Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. <b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> – The only update is at Point 8: the ‘world café style’ groups are on hold due to the COVID-19 situation.</li><li>b. No ‘matters arising’ were raised.</li><li>c. <b>Child Protection Dataset</b> – Development and roll-out has been a significant piece of work, the report circulated details data we can collect and, as of 13/3/2020, we are able to record all data. From September 2020 will only be using the new national dataset but in the meantime both data sets will be populated and circulated. Overview of the Vulnerable data set was presented. Donna asked that individual reports are not shared as some of the numbers listed are very low and it is possible the children in question could be identified. We have shown that 95% of our children on CP Register are being seen fortnightly with those ‘not seen’ having valid explanations. In relation to children with multi-agency plans; 99% in Education are being seen (this compares with a national statistic of 70%). Children registered under the ‘health’ umbrella are now included in this figure with many Health Visitors making extra attempts to contact children and families. To date, during the covid-19 crisis, the focus of the government has been on domestic abuse, but it is important not to take focus off other areas - the past few weeks have highlighted an increase in parental mental health issues, drug and alcohol use and neglect. There is concern for young people in aftercare as</li></ul>

only about 50% have been seen/contacted, currently working with other agencies to see if we can contact them. Many children and young people are frustrated by the covid-19 situation and are feeling very isolated and vulnerable. There is no requirement for young people in this group to take up aftercare services, but every attempt will be made to contact them. **Ian remarked on the challenge for the committee to achieve the dataset timetable and wants it recorded how much hard work, particularly by Donna, has gone into getting it up and running.** Donna replied with her thanks and acknowledging the input from other agencies and Phil Dickson's team for pulling data together. Karen R noted there are currently national discussions around the challenges to be faced as we come out of lockdown. As a committee we must ensure our COVID plan is kept updated to help address any issues arising. National measures will influence what we do, data is just one strand.

**d. Sub-committee Updates – exception reporting only (verbal)**

**i, Quality Assurance** - Gillian reported that QA group was held last Friday.

It was agreed that Morven McAndrew would attend on behalf of Education.

Data was examined and will continue to be an ongoing process. Katrina will be leading an audit looking at contact staff are having with children on CP Register and quality of partnership working (to be led by QARO and CPAs). **There will be a report for the next meeting.**

**ii, L & D** – Face-to-face training is temporarily on hold, but the team are looking at what can be developed on-line, and the CPC have set up a YouTube channel. Nancy Healy and Louise Smith are putting together training on the Vulnerable Pregnancy Pathway, to be tested on small groups of 10-12. There are to be case review discussions, plus putting together a guide to Viewpoint. Partnership teams are working together to consider VAWP, ADP and Adult Protection training alongside Child Protection. The Partnership are currently looking to identify someone to deliver some training in relation to developing effective online learning. A press release will be made on Friday highlighting the online CALA/CPC modules. They have attracted more than 5000 people since the start of lockdown, CPC would normally deliver face-to-face training to 6000 people per year. Thanks to James Martin for producing the press release.

**iii, CAPSM** – The primary aim is to recruit a CAPSM co-ordinator. ADP contract for this post awarded to Action for Children but extended for 6 months due to COVID-19. This post will report to CPC and ADP and focus on developing a whole family approach to addressing issues faced by families in relation to drug and alcohol issues.

		<p>Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders will also be considered as part of CAPSM. <b>Stephanie is looking at this (currently in early stages) and will report back after next CAPSM meeting.</b></p> <p><b>iv, CSE &amp; County Lines</b> – DC Craig Thompson has taken over from DI Diane Smith. Barnardo’s co-ordinator now working with Highland to develop RISE project. The existing plan is considered too wide, <b>Craig wants to pare it back</b> for ease of use, also to change its title to read ‘Exploitation’, not just CSE. County Lines is an issue of some concern for Highland at present <b>Donna is looking at developing a flowchart/protocol and some guidance for staff in relation to County Lines. CPC agreed for Sub-Committee to become Exploitation Sub-Committee chaired by Craig Thomson. All are in agreement for the Exploitation Group.</b></p> <p><b>v, Keeping Child Safe</b> - There is a new video on keeping children safe which has attracted significant interest. Also, developing a new tool for communicating with pre-school children, it is in the final stages and should be ready next week. Social media is being used to promote training and messages for families, and there is a regular KCS roundup bulletin produced. There is a new free module on Supporting Young Children’s Behaviour which has attracted 1100 users so far. To date over 600 phone calls and e-mails have been made to families. Karen asked that Norma pass the committee’s thanks on to CALA for getting the Neglect modules up and running.</p>
4.	<p><b>Lead Officer’s Report</b></p>	<p>National Guideline Update – Highland Guidance will be updated, and Version 5 uploaded to website.</p> <p>The Covid-19 plan is now an action plan.</p> <p>Public Protection booklet is in the final stages and has been a good piece of partnership work between ADP, CPC, VAWP and ASPC.</p> <p>ADP are developing a short ‘People First’ training course which may be of interest to CPC members.</p> <p>Number of website calls has increased significantly in the past six weeks (73 to date) - usually we receive, at most, 1 to 2 a week.</p> <p>All public events are cancelled (Tunes in the Dunes is the only one left to confirm). The committee is now part of the Safety Advisory Group for Highland events and involved in the ‘sign off’ of events to ensure child protection procedures are in place.</p> <p>Reminder: if any member has examples of Best Practice, please make a note and send in any examples of evidence – Collation of Best Practice.</p>
5.	<p><b>COVID-19 Updates</b></p>	<p>Sally is concerned how we are preparing for the release of lockdown when many children/young people have found the situation difficult and returning to normality will be a significant challenge. How will schools go back, and</p>

		<p>prepare for some possibly challenging behaviour? Relationships and nurture are essential, and the 12 weeks of lockdown must be sensitively de-coded.</p> <p>Karen advised the Keeping in Touch hubs opened this week and discussions are ongoing on the return to school. Is there anything John would like to add?</p> <p>John - The Care Inspectorate are looking at methodology, there has been lots of consultation on how child protection is being conducted and responded to during lockdown. There is no clear picture yet, but it is likely to focus on how councils and committees responded. There are no concerns around Highland but with such a fluid situation it is hard to be definite at present.</p> <p><b>Karen advised we'll get a copy of our plan to them.</b></p> <p>Karen E – Although it was suggested at gov't level there would be early face-to-face Children's Hearings, these will not happen in phase 1. <b>Karen will update Donna with the proposal</b>, virtual meetings have been happening and are working well. The Objective Connect platform has been set up giving access to all papers, should anyone struggle to access this they will be sent hard copies. The recovery plan is on-going but there is no information yet.</p> <p>Stephanie asked if there was any progress on the Learning Review with Education?</p> <p>Donna advised; the issues raised need further discussion and we now have Morven McAndrew from education in the group. The Home Education issue raises other questions, probably at a national level, and Donna will take this to the National Lead Officers Group. Bill Couston (Additional Support Needs Manager) has also provided some helpful clarification in relation to Home Education.</p> <p>Fiona raised the issue of ROSHOs and consideration of their impact on young people. It has been agreed to establish a SLWG: SCRA want to contribute alongside Fiona Malcolm, Katrina Beaton, Donna Munro, Nancy Healy, Karen Erskine and a Police Scotland representative.</p> <p>Caroline advised that there are fortnightly phone calls to keep on top of IRDs.</p>
6.	<b>Independent Chair Update</b>	See Karen's welcome at point 1.
7.	<b>Armed Forces Protocol for CP</b>	Donna explained that Annexe D of the National CP guidance is not being followed nationally. It needs to be used in the right context. <b>A flow chart needs to be developed to clarify how to work with armed forces families.</b> She referred to the FAM model: personnel can now live off base in any arrangement and issues can arise that are

		unknown to welfare support but, welfare support could have invaluable information regarding the service family involved. Donna assured Tracey the committee will keep AWS involved in development of the protocol.
<b>8.</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	There is a new child protection campaign (Scottish Govt) about to be released. No details but just to make members aware. Karen closed the meeting highlighting how important both Mhairi and Donna are to the committee. Mhairi responded that she knows Donna well and is looking forward to working with her on such an important job. Karen finished by thanking all for attending.