

**Minutes of the Inverness, Nairn Badenoch & Strathspey
Area Children's Services Forum (ACSF) Business (Core) Group Meeting
Tuesday 5th December 2006, 3.30 - 5pm in Ardross Street, Inverness**

Present: Mairi Morrison, Acting Area Children's Services Manager for Inverness - SWS, HC
John Bruce, Senior Education Officer - ECS, HC
Jo Veasey, Assistant General Manager, SE CHP - NHS
Pol McClelland, Area Children's Services Manager for N,B&S - SWS, HC
Margaret Kinsella, Integration Manager - ECS, HC

Apologies: None

1. Minutes of 26th September 2006 ACSF were agreed as correct.

2. Budget.

There was discussion regarding vacant CSW posts in Inverness. It was agreed that they are vital part of SWD provision. While it was acknowledged that there are severe financial pressures MK was asked to convey to the Head of Service the strong desire for current vacancies to be filled as well as the temporary posts to be made permanent as soon as possible.

3. Update on the provision at 'The Bridge' - John Bruce.

There are now strong relations between the Bridge & secondary schools in the area. At any one time there are about 35 young people pursuing a part time timetable with the Unit as well as maintaining their links with the schools, the vocational unit is also playing a valuable part in the provision. The acting manager negotiates admissions rather than use a 6 weekly admissions panel. There are regular updates & meetings between the out of school provision, YAT & Unit thus ensuring effective case management.

Jo reported that in the plan for geographically base Primary Care teams it is recognised that the Bridge should have a dedicated School nurse allocated.

4. Youth Issues.

Margaret reported there had been concerns of youth disorder over the summer period. There was a coordinated response from YAT, CLL & Northern Constabulary to ensure that resources are appropriately used. It was agreed that the new Youth Work staff will be useful in being able to respond at a local level. The LAF fund will be helpful in ensuring diversionary activity is provided.

5. There was discussion re preparing for administrative changes in the Council.

It was agreed that large quarterly ACSFs are no longer appropriate.

Instead it was agreed that there should be bi monthly 'core' business meetings.

After discussion it was agreed that there are plans for 2 seminar events a year, the importance for front line staff to network should not be undervalued.

There should not be an amalgamation of CWSG at the moment.

MK to write thanks to members.

6. DONM will be sent to members.