

**Minutes of the Inverness, Nairn Badenoch & Strathspey
Area Children's Services Forum (ACSF) Business (Core) Group Meeting
Thursday 15th March 2007, 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
Margaret Kinsella, Integration Manager - ECS, HC

Apologies: Jo Veasey, Assistant General Manager, SE CHP - NHS

Absent: Pol McClelland, Area Children's Services Manager for N,B&S - SWS, HC

1. Margaret was asked to review Core Group meeting dates & send to members. There was discussion about the appropriate attendance list for the 'Conflict Resolution' meeting of managers [24th April 11 -1pm in GIRFEC Meeting Room] MK asked to speak with NHS and get attendance from specialist services.
2. Sure Start requests for service in Inverness area
Until now there has been confusion. Requests will be via the Merkinch Family Centre Manager who will link with NCH manager to ensure appropriate services are made available. Not many Liaison Meetings taking place and it appears that Health Visitors are asking SFLOs to run them.
3. Merkinch Family Support Group
Has met on two occasions, this multi agency forum has ensured closer working and planning of programmes. It will meet once a term to review its activities.
4. Update on Dalneigh & Applegrove Units.
The CSW posts attached to the Units should be brought into SW teams alongside existing CSWs.
There should now be discussion between the C&F Area Manager & SFLOs about appropriate distribution of CSW supervision.
5. The SW post at Central PS has been considered, along with other SW vacancies. There is concern that in terms of GIRFEC development not all ASGs are at an equitable level of staffing. It was recognised that there may need to be more CSWs so all areas have access to this service if appropriate.
6. Parenting Support in Inverness.
There is a difficulty in providing enough courses.
Currently 2 Public Health Nurse Teams are running a course each, they have difficulty accessing funds for Crèche [can be in excess of 2.5K].
There needs to be increased capacity to run courses - the Family Centre will offer a training course in July, and plans to run WS courses frequently.

There should be stronger links with the CJT who run a different type of Parenting Group which appears to be well received.

Funding for Groups is a challenge - MK to bring this issue to Core Group when reviewing budget for 07 - 08.

7. Inverness Womens Aid Childrens work.

This has been brought to the Domestic Abuse Forum by elected members. There is little that the ACSF can add to highlight the funding deficit WA is facing when the charitable funding ends.

8. The roles of the CWSG / YOF / ACSF were not discussed. The item to do with School Nursing support for the BIEC / Dalneigh / Applegrove was not discussed.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 19th April 3.30pm at ECS offices, 13 Ardross Street, Inverness

Getting it Right 'Conflict Resolution' meeting for Managers

24th April 11 -1pm in GIRFEC Meeting Room, Council HQ