

**Minutes of the Inverness, Nairn Badenoch & Strathspey  
Area Children's Services Forum (ACSF) Business (Core) Group Meeting  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007, 3.30 - 5pm in Alder House, Inverness**

**Present:** Mairi Morrison, Acting Area Children's Services Manager, Inverness - SWS, HC  
John Bruce, Senior Education Officer - ECS, HC  
Margaret Kinsella, Integration Manager - ECS, HC

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

1. There is a meeting regarding dealing with organisational conflict resolution next Tuesday in the GIRFEC offices. **ALL**  
There are concerns that resources from the ACSF are tied to particular schools rather than available across the area.  
We may have to look at how things are able to be altered so that needs are met regardless of where they are.
  
2. Budget  
  - It was noted that salary cost must be met from standstill budget. **JV/MK**
  - Contribution from ACSF to NHS posts will continue.
  - Contribution from ACSF to SWD posts will continue. **MK**
  - It was agreed to remove the contribution to schools for Liaison Group Flexibility & Professional Development. **MK**
  - There will be an audit of activity attached to the BeCo money.
  - There was discussion re CSWs doing regular 'out of hours' which warrants the 7.5% payment. There should be a review of this. **IMs/MK**
  - There was discussion re maintaining the allocation to ACSF Flexibility [Caseworking Sub Group] supporting high level need & maintains C &YP in School.  
Agreed to keep this allocation if at all possible.
  
  - There was discussion about funds to support Parenting Courses. Concern expressed about the focus on Webster Stratton /Incredible Years which is expensive and time intensive. NHS & THC both support this programme although others exist. No decision was made about allocating resources to this issue.
  
  - The funding issues facing IWA Childrens Work Team was discussed. Although there is little the ACSF can do, it was agreed that different ways of supporting children subject to Domestic Abuse should be explored.
  
3. Mairi reported that Kate will be returning to her substantive post at the start of May. Thanks to Mairi for her work during her secondment.  
It was agreed to defer discussion about amalgamation of areas, processes and groupings until after May 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Jo asked that future meetings could be held in Alder House - this was agreed.

4. Mairi reported that the CSW post in Hilton PS has been filled.

**Date of Next Meeting May 17<sup>th</sup> 3.30 in Alder House**