

INVERNESS AREA CHILDREN'S SERVICES FORUM

MONDAY 6TH February - 9.30 am
HCHQ, Committee Room 3

PRESENT:	Gillian McCreath	Councillor, Children's Champion, HC
	Kate Birch (Chair)	Area Children's Services Manager, HC SW
	Neil Campbell	Resource Manager, HC SW
	Colin Macaulay	Integration Manager, HC ICS
	Alison Clark	Researcher, Integrated Children's Services, HC ICS
	Jean-Pierre Sieczkarek	LSM SE Highland CHP - Inverness & Nairn NHS
	Linsey Webster	Childcare & Family Resource Officer, HC SW
	Mairi Morrison	Team Manager, HC SW
	John Bruce	Senior Education Officer, HC ECS
	Douglas Wilby	Area Community Learning & Leisure Manager, HC ECS
	Jo Smith	HPS Development Officer, HC ECS
	Liz Taylor	Manager, NCH
	Elizabeth Watson	Prof Lead Nurse for Health Visiting/School Nursing, Inverness
	Kay Ballantyne	Administrative Assistant, HC ICS (Minutes)
In attendance:	Marlyn Campbell	Co-ordinator, Disability Services, HC ECS
	Simon Webster	Autism Development Officer, HC SWS
	Joyce Gartshore	Resource Manager, Youth Action Service HC SWS
	Linda MacLennan	Principal Officer, Looked After Children & Child Protection, HC SWS
	Pene Rowe	Child Protection Development Officer, HC SWS
	Alan Richards	Highland Parenting Programme Co-ordinator & Development Officer, HC SWS
Apologies:	Ian Kyle	Head Teacher, Beauly Primary School, HC ECS
	Calum MacSween	Rector, Charleston Academy HC ECS
	Susan Dudgeon	Acting Area Educational Psychologist, HC ECS

Agenda
Action
Item

1. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES -**
 Kate welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were given and introductions made.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH DECEMBER 2005 -**
Agreed

3. **MATTERS ARISING:**

i. **Behaviour & Truancy** - John reported that the position regarding funding is uncertain. Update when information available.

ii. **Integrated Assessment Framework** - New project team being recruited. It was agreed that the Network event scheduled for 20th February was too early for the IAF Seminar and that 22nd May would be more appropriate.

iii. **Migrant Worker Families** - It was understood that Ian Cox is liaising with Carron MacDiarmid and that a working group has been constituted. Douglas reported that Community Learning & Leisure are offering English classes to parents in the Spectrum Centre. These classes are proving very popular with an increase in demand over last year. Colin agreed to get an update from Carron. Jean-Pierre reported that the NHS is in process of issuing locality guidance. The Inverness version will be made available at an early date.

Colin

Marlyn informed meeting that there was to be a support for learning conference in May.

iv. **Non attendance at school** - It was reported that the working group hasn't met since last IACSF meeting. Tom Boyd, the Authority Reporter had suggested that non attendance should be twin tracked with "Getting It Right For Every Child" (GIRFEC) and it was suggested that non-attendance might used as a strand to see how the Integrated Assessment Framework (IAF) will work with GIRFEC. In the interim, documentation from other authorities will be turned into a 'best practice' guidance for Inverness schools and partner services.

v. **Under-age drinking** - Colin reported that the Inverness Alcohol and Drug Forum have applied for match funding the IACSF commitment of £1750.

vi. **Play Strategy** - Malina MacDonald was to feed back re the NOF funding strand. Gillian informed that the Council additional funds will come before the Inverness Area Committee for decision.

vii. **Mental Health Seminar** - This had been very well received. Colin had met with Sally and Mairi and they are keen to aim for a December network event to be twin-tracked with promoting resilience in children and the staff working with them. Agreed to contacting Dundee University - Sally Wassell and Brigid Daniels. John agreed to check regarding the 'politics' of involving 'Teachers Support Scotland'. Some confusion remains re availability of MH support - although PMHW is a bridge between services there is only one individual for Inverness - and some MH services don't deal with young people with disabilities. It was agreed that Gillian Forrest, SSW should be invited to future meetings.

Colin
John

Kay

4. CHILDREN AFFECTED BY DISABILITY:

- Marlyn reported that her role has now changed to encompass a much broader spectrum of children with disabilities. The first Strategy Group was held last week and there was a real sense of commitment to drive services forward.
 - Need to look at future educational provision and training regarding significant numbers of young people. Inverness Royal Academy and Culloden Academy are likely to have the highest numbers of children with ASD over the coming years.
 - Primary figures show there will be a child with autism in every class. Every Teacher will need to be able to manage this. Hilton, Holm and Cauldeen have significantly higher numbers.
 - Transition issues from Primary to Secondary School are key.
 - Identifying a key person to work with the child/family results in a proven improvement in service.
 - Neil will discuss the Learning Disability Change Fund with Andrew Stevenson and Jonathan Turner. Transitions planning to adulthood is also a key issue and main topic of a seminar on 24th March. A great deal of work is being undertaken on the Transitions Planning Protocol. Andrew Ward in Health is trying to achieve the same objective. A group is being set up in order that there is a multi-agency strategy.
 - John reported that consideration is being given to specialist primary provision. A special unit would undoubtedly be beneficial, if funding were available.

- Simon spoke to the recommendations of a report regarding transition issues for children with ASD in Inverness. There had been a large increase in numbers in the area - reportedly mainly children with high needs rather than very high needs (in the 15 to 19 years age range). The question posed was 'what will make the most difference?'
- Meetings were being held re transition issues for all young people with disabilities, with a particular focus on young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. Issues will be raised at Stakeholder day on 24th March. Jean-Pierre reported that, following a presentation to the DHS group, NHS had put forward a bid for funding for a team (not this year, but a marker for the year). It was hoped that this bid would be successful. Jean-Pierre will liaise with Marlyn.
- Proposal for an Advisory Group - "find a different way of operating for earlier intervention". A meeting is being held later this month to draft guidance on how to gather information for liaison group staff. Marlyn/Neil/Kate to discuss the most appropriate use of specialist staff. Regarding the group, everyone has been canvassed with the

Neil/
Andrew/
Jonathan

Jean/
Marlyn

Marlyn/
Neil/
Kate

exception of DCFP. Within Inverness Area, Community Learning Disability Nurses are being attached to Social Work Teams. Colin thought it would be more appropriate if the CHP area is covered. Marlyn agreed to take this back to the group. However, it was agreed to focus on Inverness for the next few months.

Marlyn

- It was also suggested that there might be a Disability Subgroup focussing on broader or transitional issues although a re-jig in membership of the Implementation Group might be preferable. It was suggested that Neil could play lead IACSF role.

Neil

5. CHILD PROTECTION

- Local Action Plan – Linda reported that, following the Child Protection Inspection, a team of Inspectors had returned to Highland and worked with an inter-agency group. This had been very helpful. Targets have now been identified.
- The Child Protection Team intends to provide DVDs covering case conferences for child protection training. This would enable Social Workers to avoid having to take so much time out.
- A consultation on children's rights is to be undertaken with older teenagers being targeted. The Reviewing System is looking to split case conferences so that children can be brought into meetings at different times. It is anticipated that meetings will be linked together re GIRFEC.
- Douglas endorsed the involvement of young people and suggested that the Youth Worker role/advocacy is worthy of exploration.
- The Inspection had emphasised that the child's full health profile should always be taken into consideration. Flow charts have been set out to show how to contact Consultants. An IT-based "e-cart" may improve communication issues if it is implemented. Additionally, the NHS is working in partnership with the Child Protection team to see how this can be resolved.
- Quality Indicators produced by the Inspection have been used. The documentation is available and methods of collating and recording have been identified. A regular QA system will be implemented for Social Work Services and Pene is looking at the implementation on an interagency basis.
- SW Action Plan – Pene reported that everything is being pulled together in a single template. It was established that action plans from Health and Education are also completed and will be collated into the master interagency plan. IAF, ACSFs and GIRFEC will also carry this forward.
- Updates – the Child Protection Team have to communicate what they are doing and how they are involved. Linda stated that she is happy for anyone to contact her about ways to move the plan forward.

- Sexual Health – following the Child Protection enquiry it emerged that there was no evidence that we were proactively offering support to sexually active young people. With regard to Looked After Children, it was reported that Jane Park does a lot of work relating to sexual health information/contraception with young people.

6. YOUTH JUSTICE

Joyce reported -

- The Youth Action Team in Inverness has been offering parenting programmes and has received funding from the Scottish Executive until 2008. This targets parents of teenagers who are offending or who have some sort of substance misuse.
- A young men's alcohol group is also being run. Agreement has been sought from schools to release the young men to the Bridge. The possibility of starting a young girl's group is also being investigated.
- Work is being undertaken on a protocol between the Youth Action Team and the Children & Families teams.
- It was stressed that timing is tight to get the National Standards for Youth Justice finalised by next month.
- A flyer will be issued this week regarding a training session to be held in the Drumossie Hotel on 24th February. There will be a large contingent of Children's Panel members in attendance.
- The Youth Action Team had liaised with Tom Boyd regarding the Youth Offending Forum and research put together which will be discussed at the next Strategy Group.
- ISMS and ISS – Joyce reported that one young person had been tagged in Highland. He had responded well to intensive support and a structured day and the tag had been removed after 3.5 months. There had been many referrals for the Intensive Support package which seems to be having a considerable measure of success.
- There has been a significant reduction in persistent offenders over the last year - a similar trend for persistent offenders who re-offend. The Youth Action Team is fully staffed and having a positive impact.

7. WOMEN'S AID – SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

It was agreed to invite a representative from Women's Aid to a future IACSF meeting. Mairi agreed to invite them to the meeting on 8th May.

Mairi

8. HOUSING UPDATE:

- Care Leavers – no further information
- Young Tenants – no further information
- Homelessness – Jean-Pierre reported that the NHS is providing a service through the Day Centre. Currently there is difficulty in

providing a service to children who are part of a family that is homeless. He agreed to give an update at the next meeting and asked anyone with further information to let him know.

Jean/
ALL

9. INVERNESS CHILDCARE & FAMILY RESOURCE UPDATE:

- Early Years Review - Linsey reported that there is an ongoing negotiation with Playbox (IHS) and Lochardil Playgroup.
- Parenting Development - Alan Richards tabled a paper which had been produced in response to the Scottish Executive and was based on a questionnaire. This is intended for publication. He emphasised that it was a work-in-progress and developments were not taking place as fast as he had hoped. Practitioners are meeting across Highland and are due to meet again later this year. There are a number of different providers and it was acknowledged that there needs to be consistency. Additionally the following points were emphasised:
 - Very few provide transport to get parents to the programmes.
 - Very few fathers attend the programmes and there are no specific programmes for perpetrators of domestic abuse. Consideration will have to be given on what needs to be done to improve on this.
 - It is hoped that the report will eventually be converted into a web site. This would make it more of a useful tool.
 - Multi-agency training of practitioners regarding parenting orders is now required.
 - Further funding has been made available through 'NOPF' for a dedicated secondment.
 - That too often those parents that especially need parenting advice are those that are 'hardest to reach.'

Liz was concerned that this is little or no joined up working regarding parenting and no identification of individual practitioners to contact regarding funds/venues/contacting parents etc. Colin mentioned the Norwegian model, where there is only one parenting agency. It was apparent that the NHS model currently attracts the highest percentage of parents - this is something that is core to the Health Visitor/Midwife working week. NCH work alongside Ross County and Webster Stratton programme and in Moray they go into schools with the virtual baby. MP33 has dabbled in this with the Social Inclusion programme. Caley Thistle have also put in a bid for funding for parenting. Colin suggested that there were too many diverse programmes from too many sources and suggested looking at the Norwegian model, where there is only one parenting agency. Alan to come up with an ideal model for Highland.

Alan

Colin agreed to add 'parenting' and the possibility of commissioning a service on the agenda for the Family Support Working Group - Alan

Colin

also feeds into this group.

Jean-Pierre was concerned about those parents who don't go to the parenting classes. A realistic service has to be available before a parenting order can be issued. Kate hoped that better liaison arrangements would prevent it getting this far.

Alan reported that there had been no response from GPs to date. Jean-Pierre agreed to take this up with Freda.

Alan also agreed to speak to Morag MacNeill regarding possible evaluation.

Alan

- Merkinch Family Centre - due to open later this year. Post in the pipeline and awaiting VMG. Provision for 3 years olds will be catered for in the Community Centre until the new Family Centre is open.

It was agreed that the IACSF minutes should additionally be circulated to the Family Resource Partnership.

Kay

10. INVERNESS AREA PRIORITIES 2005-2008: Implementation Plan Updated for 2006-07.

Agreed that the rolling forward of last year's plan with updates was appropriate.

11. AOCB

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12:40 pm

12. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

<p>Forum Meetings (9:30am - Lunchtime) CR2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8th May • 11th September • 4th December 	<p>- Network Seminars (Full Day) Chamber</p> <p>20th February cancelled</p> <p>22nd May IAF/GIRFEC</p> <p>4th September Youth Strategy/Work</p> <p>11th December Mental Health</p>
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