

**AREA CHILDREN'S SERVICES FORUM MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, NAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY 1ST JUNE 2005 AT 10am - 12.30pm**

Present: Pol McClelland, Area Children's Manager, HC (Chair)
John Bruce, Assistant Area Education Manager, HC
Marlene Stewart, Support Services Officer - ECS, HC
Malcolm MacLennan, Rector, Grantown Grammar School, HC
Marion Mackay, Head Teacher - Millbank Primary School, HC
Mags Duncan-Stirling, Area Community Learning and Leisure Manager, HC
Inspector G MacLeod - Nairn, Northern Constabulary
Inspector L Donaldson - Aviemore, Northern Constabulary
Susan Dudgeon, Designated Education Psychologist, HC
Hayley Brown, Childcare & Family Resource Officer, HC
Siobhan Ross, Public Health Nurse, NHS
Dola Brady, Substance Misuse Worker) YAT, HC
Councillor Sheena Slimon, Member, HC
Councillor Laurie Fraser, Member, HC
Margaret Kinsella, Children's Services Integration Manager, HC
Sarah Finlayson, Admin. Asst, Social Work, HC (Minutes)

In attendance

Bill Alexander, Head of Children's Services, HC
Sam Brogan, Senior Childcare and Family Resource Officer, HC
Ann Brady, Chief Executive, Highland Pre-school Services
Gaynoll Craig, Community Education Worker - ECS, HC
Simon Brooks, Youth Development Worker - ECS, HC
Margaret Walker, NHS

Apologies: Gerry O'Donnell, Senior Social Worker - Nairn, HC
Anne Hood, Senior Social Worker - B&S, HC
Jane Austin, Consultant Community Paediatrician, NHS
Jo Veasey, CHP Locality Manager NHS

		ACTIONS
1.	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Introduction by Pol McClelland</p>	
2.	<p><u>Approval of Minutes & Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Minutes approved and agreed as accurate.</p>	

3. **Early Years Review - Marlene Stewart/Hayley Brown**
(see attached)

Bill Alexander asked about the 3-4 year olds being together. Cawdor - only three sessions a week, parents are travelling to Inverness and Nairn for other sessions. Abernethy has been refurbished and will be ready in August (see notes). Gergask had 2 children but only one member of staff.

Pol mentioned discussions taking place with Hilton Coylumbridge, its high profile and the meetings that have eventuated as a result which have including Cllr Slimon & Cllr Rimell.

Early Year's provision currently exists at Aviemore primary school. Bill queried the implications of any pre-school provision at Coylumbridge on the Aviemore pre-school. Hayley argued that it would not affect the PS due to the distances.

Some parents are suggesting that there is a need for early-years provision at Coylumbridge Hotel which now needs to establish whether it wishes to take this provision forward or not. It was suggested that the Hotel don't appear to want this, which they need to make clear to parents.

Cllr Slimon queried whether Hayley would be involved in the school project, Hayley said that she was.

4. **Street Link & Street Work Issues in B&S - presentation by Simon Brooks & Gaynoll Craig**

If you require a copy of the presentation then please contact Simon Brooks on 01479 810164 or e-mail simon.brooks@highland.gov.uk

The 'Street Link project' were asked to the ACSF so that we consider whether it has a value and we support this endeavour. Do we value and wish it to continue or let it go? Mags Duncan-Stirling suggested N, B&S may receive additional funding from next financial year. However, there is no funding for the Project from November to the end of the financial year.

Pol queried how effective the project has been. The statistics are hard to identify and staff will be able to give a more direct answer in a few months. The Project has been successful, with some positive changes in a number of young people. Staff have dealt with 152 young people in the last year, and had 1700 contacts with

young people, quite a substantial time and effort has gone into the young people. With regard to anti-social behaviour, good work has been done with the young women. Information from the police so far shows a reduction of vandalism in the last 18 months, which the project has contributed to in some degree.

The Police reported they encourage the youngsters on a Friday night to go to the Centre.

Cllr Slimon is impressed with the project and its workers and believes that it should keep going. Sheena is also pleased to see the police being involved in a positive way. Simon agreed that the youngsters did have a negative attitude towards the police.

The funding issue was queried. Funding came from MBSE, HC, National Park and the Drug & Alcohol Forum. National Park will stop funding in December. Rural Challenge will fund projects but no sustainability. External funding is not a viable option for these groups.

Mags and Simon suggested that the cost for staffing will not increase; on average they need approx 4 staff per night as well as the running costs of the building. The estimate for total wages is £10,000. The total costs for last year were £46,000.

Mags suggested that if the ACSF could come up with half the funding that they will need to go find the shortfall elsewhere.

Sheena asked Simon to approach McDonalds Hotels and encourage them to support the youngsters within the community.

Malcolm MacLennan suggested that the Street work Project had been very useful in Grantown. The YMCA is also useful for young people. Mags suggested that the problem with the YMCA is that all the money has been going into the building.

There is a short-term funding bid for the 'Street Work' project in Grantown, ECS have received some funding, however they are short and they are attempting to cover the shortfall of approx £3,000. Pol suggested that it would be useful if Mags could put together a funding proposal to bring to the next ACSF meeting for the gap funding.

SB

MDS

<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Sexual Health Forum Services to young people in N, B&S - presentation by Margaret Walker (see attachment)</u></p> <p>There was discussion about issues raised in the presentation:</p> <p>Cllr Slimon queried the lack of transport issues, also health centre for the school children (Kingussie) and drop in centre.</p> <p>Margaret Walker brought up the issue of having to request condoms from the reception desk in the health centres, and how difficult this would be. She suggests that by putting them in the toilets, anonymity is preserved.</p> <p>Mags would like to have condoms available for young people in Aviemore. There was a query regarding the formal position on this, what and who would object.</p> <p>Malcolm queried the over use of the morning after pill, Margaret Walker suggested that there is an increase in this as a form of contraception, which is not the most appropriate use for it. Schools can no longer provide medical prescriptions unless there is a facility within the school. The secondary school needs a community facility.</p> <p>Margaret Walker confirmed that there was secondary school representation at the Forum, and was heartened by the contribution of teachers.</p> <p>Pol highlighted issues of Child Protection, under age sexual activity etc. There is a fine line between helping with sexual health and condoning under-age sex. it is important that the SHF ensures the involvement of Children & Families SWD Teams.</p>	<p>MDS/SB</p> <p>MW</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Update on Early Intervention & Sure Start - Hayley Brown</u></p> <p>Hayley reported that adverts have gone out for the Early Years Workers (EYW) & Support Workers (SW). Nairn will have 1 EYW and 2 SW. Badenoch & Strathspey will have 1 EYW & 1 SW.</p> <p>Margaret queried the situation with Family First in B&S. Hayley had a meeting with them and considered an exit strategy from the families affected by the removal of the service and it was confirmed that all of these families have been catered for. There is now a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for Family First in Nairn. Pol McClelland pointed out that we recognised that while the service was still necessary the funding has been reduced.</p>	

7.	<p><u>Liaison Group Development - Margaret Kinsella</u></p> <p>Margaret contacted schools regarding school liaison groups, it appears that primary schools are happy with them. Susan Dudgeon believes that SLGs are developing well. Pol believes that the development of the concept is a priority. The ACSF now needs to establish Liaison Groups which include the 0-5s and consider the role of Senior Family Liaison Officer (SFLO). It was agreed that there should be a short information session for new members of staff in SWD and ECS about Liaison group. Margaret will involve Police in discussions so that they can be aware & involved in SLGs.</p>	<p>MK /SD</p> <p>MK</p>
8.	<p><u>G5 Summit - working together in Nairn</u></p> <p>The need for joint planning & communication in Nairn was discussed at a recent ACSF core group and it was agreed to call a 'Summit' on Monday 27th June (morning), the formal invitation has not yet gone out, however, a meeting will be taking place at the Nairn Community Centre. The focus of day will be to fix on a few key outcomes for the year. Pol suggested that there are children and families that everyone is dealing with. Having an overall plan to improve areas of communication and ability to use school liaison groups at a more senior management level and improve local targets.</p>	
9.	<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>None</p>	
10.	<p><u>Date, time and venue of next meeting</u></p> <p>Wednesday 24th August, 10am - 12.30pm at Grantown Service Point</p>	