

**NAIRN, BADENOCH & STRATHSPEY AREA CHILDREN'S SERVICES FORUM MEETING
HELD IN UHI MILLENIUM INSTITUE, NESS WALK, INVERNESS
ON TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 10.45am – 2.30pm**

Present:

Pol McClelland	Area Children's Manager, HC (Chair)
John Bruce	Senior Education Officer, ECS HC
Mags Duncan-Stirling	Area CLLS Manager, ECS HC
Gordon MacLeod	Area Inspector – Nairn, Northern Constabulary
Jo Veasey,	AGM, SE Highland CHP, Inverness & Nairn, NHS
Susan Dudgeon	Acting Area Principal Educational Psychologist, ECS HC
Margaret Bentley	HV/SN – B&S, NHS
Siobhan Ross	Public Health Nurse – Nairn, NHS
Hayley Brown	Childcare & Family Resource Officer, ECS HC
Marion Mackay	Head Teacher - Millbank Primary School, ECS HC
Fiona Bing	HPS Officer, NHS
Lee Walker	Social Worker – Youth Justice, SWS HC
Margaret Kinsella	Integration Manager, ECS HC
Lyn Grant	Admin Asst. ICS, ECS HC (Minutes)

Apologies:

Rona Smith	Head Teacher – Aviemore Primary School, ECS HC
Tricia Morrison	Public Health Practioner, NHS
William Gilfillan	Area Manager – N, B&S, CEO HC
Jean Godden	Head Teacher – Nairn Academy, ECS HC
Les Donaldson	Inspector – B&S, Northern Constabulary
Laurie Fraser	Member – Nairn, CEO HC
Rodger Redpath	Snr. FLO – N,B&S, SWS HC
Sheena Slimon	Children's Champion - B&S, HC

In attendance:

Pablo Mascarenhas	Principal Youth Development Officer, ECS HC
Donna Munro	Child Protection Training Officer, SWS HC
Sheena Stubbs	Osprey House,
Lorna Foulger	Children's Worker, Women's Aid
Laura Goddard	Children's Worker, Women's Aid

	<p>There was a short refreshment break then the meeting re-started as a combined Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey ACSF.</p>	<p>ACTIONS</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Hidden Harm: Substance Misuse, Children & Young People in the area</u> - Donna Munro, CPC Training Officer, HC</p> <p>Donna circulated paper copy of the Power Point presentation. ‘Hidden Harm’ (2006) came on the back of ‘Getting our Priorities Right’ (2003) (Donna asked that old copies be discarded). These booklet need to be used in conjunction with each other. Letter of assurance receive from Scottish Executive – we have assured ministers that next year all children of drug using parents will be identified. 2 day training course on “What are the Risks” – please contact Donna for more information. Guidelines on Women, Pregnancy & Substance Misuse – passed 2 weeks ago and can be accessed Sandra Harrington Training also available, please contact Donna for more information.</p> <p><u>Update and Discussion on issues in SE CHP Area – Sheena Stubbs, Osprey House</u></p> <p>Osprey House is a substance misuse service for adults which offers alcohol & drug service and has accommodation for clients travelling any distance. Papers distributed by Sheena who explained the referral & numbers of clients. Although an “adult service” Osprey can offer service to people 16 years and over if not at school & will accept referrals from any service. Prioritising services – not done it up to this point, first come first served. A key priority at the moment is for pregnancy would try to see client next day, everyone else try to see within 7 days. Childcare is an issue raised by some clients but numbers not huge. Linsey stated that childcare places are there but financing may be a problem. Linsey/Sheena/Hayley perhaps to meet and discuss.</p> <p>Margaret to ask Naomi Knott her thought at the meeting on Thursday and go back to Sheena.</p> <p>Margaret handed out presentation from Scottish Drugs Forum and talked about the service accessibility. There is probably links with CLLS and Adult Education surrounding substance misuse. Some work going on in Nairn and they are hoping to appoint an Adult Education worker very soon.</p>	<p>L. Webster/ H. Brown / S. Stubbs</p> <p>Margaret</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Women’s Aid work with Children & Young People in I,N, B&S – Lorna Foulger & Laura Goddard</u></p>	

Lorna spoke about Inverness Women's Aid, how it ran and gave the history from 1985 to date. She explained what services are on offer to the young people – children can access service in their own right, mum doesn't have to use it. Developing outreach work at the moment. Hope to offer drop in sessions in schools. Working at advertising their service.

Outreach services in N, B&S – new resource for adults in Aviemore - hope to visit all schools & distribute information & develop drop-in sessions.

Margaret Bentley spoke about the drop-in sessions in Kingussie High School. Grantown Grammar hopes to set one up soon. She asked what age group they are looking to catch in schools – Lorna said previously 4th & 5th years but would like to work with younger teenagers.

Gillian asked what happened in family in crisis situation if beds not available – Women's Aid would look to see if anything available in other areas if they were willing to move.

7. Report back on Network Day – Margaret Kinsella

Margaret handed out paper & spoke about the I, N, B&S Network event held on 4th September 2006 – discussion took place. Jo felt due to budget constraints that we could have them less frequently. Also need to distribute better information to managers/staff so a decision is made on its relevance. Highlight those in adult services for whom it may be relevant. December Network even will look at Mental Health – propose that it now be a half day rather than full day.

Margaret questioned how to better involve young people in LG arrangements? Young people want to be able to inform others how they can be involved more and have more information. Margaret will speak to Snr. FLO's re this and will also speak to GIRFEC team.

Lunch Break – N, B&S ACSF will resume after lunch.

1a. Welcome & Apologies

Pol welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were given and introductions made.

Margaret

<p>1b.</p> <p>2.</p>	<p><u>Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Unfortunately no copies of the minutes were available so approval not given.</p> <p><u>Update on N, B&S Childcare & Family Resource Partnership [CFRP] – Hayley Brown</u></p> <p>Hayley spoke to paper distributed. Need to consider how to attract more childminders - Hayley in discussions with LEC to ascertain whether they will support ‘Start up’ pack. There is a possibility of considering minimum wage from HC for childminders as some don’t continue due to lack of funding. Hayley to talk to Rona MacLean, SCMA and hopefully organise some public meetings.</p> <p>Areas for Development - ACCG taking children from 2 years old. GOOSE managed by OOSFed & running with 16 places – will now be known as GROOVE. There is a need to review whether it should run at holidays as may not be viable. This summer children were transported to ACCG & worked well.</p> <p>Newtonmore OOSC is not financially viable, CFRP offered transport but not taken up by families, publicity will be sent to parents again. Discussion over why it doesn’t attract families. If it closes then CFRP may need to consider childminders.</p> <p>Auldearn – due to meet with parents again, no club at present. OOS staff – training to be organised as they’ve missed out. CP training organised plus various others.</p> <p>In Nairn funding for after schools sports activities can be too expensive if family has more than 2 children, parents have pulled out due to costs. Mags explained that CLL provide a range of activities i.e. some free, low cost & one off payment. There needs to be consideration of support for children not involved in mainstream school i.e. one to one.</p> <p>An objective for CFRP is to provide appropriate OOS activity for over 12s. There is the possibility for close work with CLL. Currently Active school co-ordinators work with primary schools organising out of school activities. There are differences in approach and levels of responsibility between OOS & CLL after school activity, but it would be good to develop better understanding and areas of joint approach, particularly with regard to sustainability of services.</p> <p>Pre-school Education Early years review remains on our agenda, with decisions necessary. Paper distributed & Hayley talked through paper.</p>	<p>Hayley</p> <p>Hayley</p>
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Badenoch & Strathspey

- Aviemore getting new Primary school.
- Grantown still being watched, Education could save u to £16k per year. No wrap around childcare in Grantown, need to look at this and see if we need one school provider.
- Kingussie – Strathy Bairns still is being financially supported by CFRP although they’re getting stronger financially. Primary School at capacity after Christmas.
- Newtonmore – Croileagan now closed with the Gaelic medium provision based in school.

Nairn

- Croileagan – will move to new Community Centre. Room likely to be registered for 15 children but currently has 18 so there may need to be 2 sessions which will have a financial consequence for CFRP.
- Cawdor has 3 children. New school being built and some people hoped for pre-school rooms. The CFRO suggested that 3 & 4 yr olds can be in the same room. A questionnaire to parents was sent asking about ‘wrap around care’ and a decision will be made on the level of need when it’s received back.
- Nairn – deferral rates for children starting school is higher in Nairn than elsewhere in Highland (15% and Scottish Executive suggest 6%).

Hayley has spoken to Health Visitors who were aware of it & felt it was justified. If a child has more than 2 full years of pre school education there are financial consequences for the LA & we need to ensure the deferral is appropriate. A parent may start their child at the beginning of the new school year rather than immediately after their birthday – this would mean they have 2 years pre school education but does not have the same financial results for the LA.

There was discussion about why deferral may have happened. Suggestion to consider the postcode distribution more for analysis – Hayley & Margaret to take this action forward and bring to December meeting. Siobhan may have the information as they know which children have deferred.

Hayley

**Hayley/
Margaret**

3a.

Update from Sure Start & Early Intervention Resources – Hayley Brown

Rodger Redpath SFLO was unable to attend the meeting.

Current Provision:

1 CEYW & 2 support workers in Nairn are working with a total of 20 families and more than 25 children.

1 CEYW & 1 support worker in B&S working with 15 families and approx 20 children.

Health visitors in Nairn are choosing to request the service of the CEYW rather than the support workers in many cases. There is a need to re consider which areas of work can be passed to a support worker rather than the CEYW as there needs to be a more equitable spread of the workload. There has been concern that referrals are not being made to the support workers & therefore these 2 workers are not being used as was hoped or anticipated to provide early intervention

for vulnerable families who have children under 4 yrs old.
Health Visitors, SR & RR meeting tomorrow to discuss issues of workloads, requests for service, allocation or cases etc

- A CEYW is a qualified nursery worker and has a childcare qualification to a level 3 vq standard
- Support workers (early years) may hold a relevant qualification but are not required to do so.
- All have experience of working with young children & their families.

A request was made by HQ for ACSM's to make savings on their budgets. A 20 % saving was suggested from the SS budget, therefore 20k has been returned to core as part of the council savings. This was the additional sure start monies this year & therefore will not directly affect services 'on the ground'. It will mean that we are less able to be proactive in booking crèches for planned parenting groups, & will reduce the amount that SS has set aside for grants to parents & for emergency or contingency plans. etc

3b. Family Support Working Group (FSWG) – Margaret Kinsella

This issue discussed with CFRO & HV. Explanation on how FSWG works in another area – sub-group of ACSF, will have a robust work plan in coming year. Discussion on whether area should have a FWSG in N,B&S or does the CFRP take on some of these roles? Various discussions took place as to what the role of the FWSG would be and the membership so that people could have more of an idea before making a decision. M. Bentley felt it would be beneficial to have a group to get together to discuss parenting workshops etc. M.K. to meet with the 2 different HV teams and look to take forward.

M.Kinsella

4a. Update on Aviemore Schools Developments – Mags Duncan-Stirling

Mags spoke about the history of the project. Timescales are very tight and hope that decisions etc. would be finalised by October/November. Steering group of community representatives are leading on community consultation as they own the land for the site that has been identified. Another meeting is scheduled for next week. Mags explained what the venue would contain and what facilities would be available. Youth facilities not incorporated – older youths want to stay where they're at.

5. Update on Youth Work Issues – Mags Duncan-Stirling

See item 4a.

6.

AOCB

The CFRP & ACSF responded to the Cairngorm National Park Authority 'Draft Plan' consultation highlighting the need to ensure that children's needs must be considered as well as the need for appropriate family housing & local recreation which are not directly mentioned in the Draft plan (see attached letter).

Pol informed the meeting that Social Work Service is moving from offices in King Street, Nairn to Corsee Resource Centre, Victoria Street, Nairn.

7.

Dates of next meetings

ACSF -Tuesday 5th December, 9.30am – 12.30pm, HQ.

Network Event – Monday 11th December. 9.30am – 1pm, HQ.