



West Dunbartonshire  
**Child Protection  
 Committee**

**West Dunbartonshire Child Protection Committee**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017**  
**1st Floor, Meeting Room 3, Garshake**  
**MINUTE**

**Present:**

Jackie Irvine - Head of Service / Chief Social Work Officer CHCP (Chair)  
 Yvonne Scott - Detective Superintendent Police (Vice Chair)  
 Soumen Sengupta – Head of Strategy  
 Rosie Lawrence – Link Officer Care Inspectorate  
 Sheila Downie - SCS Service Manager/SLT Manager  
 Patricia Montgomery- Inclusion Officer Education  
 Karen Marshall - Improvement Officer  
 Norman Firth - Manager Justice Services  
 Carol Bews - Child Protection Advisor NHSGGC  
 Shona Wyllie - Child Protection Advisor NHSGGC  
 Joanne Martin - Homeless and Homelessness Prevention Coordinator  
 Annie Ritchie- Manager Fieldwork Services (Social Work)  
 Carron O’Byrne - Manager Looked After Services  
 Marie Hickman – Team Lead Parenting Support  
 Neil Willerton – SFRS Station Manager

**Apologies:**

Graham Cordner- Detective Chief Inspector PPU  
 John Kerr - Housing Strategy Manager  
 Jackie Hamill - Senior Nurse, Children’s Services  
 Julie Lusk - Manager Addictions Services

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Introductions were made. Jackie welcomed Marie Hickman who was attending on behalf of Jackie Hamill. Carol Bews introduced Shona Wyllie, CP Advisor with a remit for East and West Dunbartonshire. Shona will be providing 1 day in West Dunbartonshire.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Previous Minutes</b> Minutes checked and agreed. Change of wording at item 6 noted and amended following meeting.	<b>Dawn Hansen</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> <u>Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy for Scotland</u> An awareness session will be held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February, (9.30 to 1pm) within Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority building, Balloch. Invites have been sent out and members should contact Marie Clare Connolly at Garshake to register interest.  <u>Demands and Workload</u> Jackie Irvine will follow this up with Jackie Hamill or Mags Simpson. Yvonne advised that where police attendance at review meetings isn’t possible, a report is sent. There is a dedicated telephone line and moving forward Scott and Elaine are working to improve coordination. A rise in referrals was noted and Jackie has already reported on this to the Public Protection Chief Officers Group. The statistics will be interrogated further to identify whether activity lies with re referrals and with families already known to services or if these relate to new referrals and the registration of young people.	<b>Jackie Irvine</b>



	<p><u>Awareness Raising for Night Time Economy</u>          Pat advised that this work is in its final stages. Robert Auld is finishing the proof documents which will go to the CSE group for sign off.</p> <p><u>Police Scotland Child Protection Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRD)</u>          Comments have been submitted. At the National Chairs meeting DCI Elaine Galbraith gave reassurances that the standard operating procedure was intended to address lack of understanding around Inter-Agency Referral discussions within the Police Scotland rather than being dictatorial to other partners and agencies. Annie advised that in terms of our local processes for IRD, there was wide reporting and input from other agencies into Carefirst and through the IRD Steering Group. There will be training and development on the back of feedback from the inspection across all services including CPU and Police. IRD should not be seen solely in terms of child protection or as a decision having been already made in respect of same. It should be viewed as an opportunity for reflection and collaborative decision making and for timely implementation of changes to processes and practice. Challenges remain in all services feeling confident in contributing to case conferences and in expressing their opinions and concerns. It is important to evidence an improvement in clarity amongst staff in this regard.</p> <p><u>Working with Resistance-Practitioner Portfolio</u>          Jackie Irvine will issue information to CP members by email for circulation in their services. Jackie will also launch this at the awareness session on 3<sup>rd</sup> February to raise the profile of working with resistance.</p> <p><u>Large Scale Training Events-Child Protection, Adult Protection</u>          Work is ongoing and two training groups have been combined with the aim of streamlining the delivery mechanism. Annie is conscious of the numbers awaiting training. There will be five day CP training at the end of February which will mirror adult protection training. It is anticipated that there will be face to face catch up training then 2 further days a year.          The online issue for non council staff remains an issue and lost momentum due the focus on GIRFEC training.          The HSCP now has an admin member of staff with a remit for training. Jackie will review the child protection budget. If funding for external training is available Annie can go ahead and ask Lisa Burton, Inverclyde Social Work Training Section to draw up a refresher programme</p>	<p><b>Jackie Irvine</b></p> <p><b>Jackie Irvine          Annie Ritchie</b></p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Feedback from Joint Inspection of Children’s Services</b>          Final discussions regarding the revision of wording have taken place and a response to the draft joint inspection report has been submitted. Overall there is nothing of surprise in the inspection report and it is positive in substance and tone, with positive reflection on our collaborative working and joint approach. An email has been circulated to thank staff for their commitment to what has been a substantial process. The final report is expected to be published mid February following which there will be a public statement with regard to the inspection, accompanied by the associated action plan. Work on chronologies and assessment and care planning are already underway.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Perth &amp; Kinross Quality Assurance Process and Outcomes</b>          On discussing the proposed quality assurance process that had been circulated by Perth and Kinross one focus of the findings was decision making. In West Dunbartonshire a reflective review of practice identified work to be carried out to</p>	



	<p>improve involvement and increase confidence in staff chairing case conferences. There is reassurance that the ground work has been completed but the question of confidence remains. Staff need to be clear how they see their role. The escalation process should be part of the induction process and be reiterated at supervision.</p> <p>An area for multi-agency examination was children who were retained on the child protection register for more than 12 months. In West Dunbartonshire there are no children on the register over this time frame and over 75% remain at home when they are removed from the register. There is a pattern of children coming off and on the register within 3 months. Assurance is needed that cooperation from families (“rule of optimism”) is not influencing decisions and that evidence shows robust and sustainable child’s plans are in place. Child’s plans need to be SMARTer with clear timescales. Before a child is de-registered, the impact of intervention should be clearly recorded and improvement in circumstances evidenced. Jackie will pick up on the stand down procedure.</p> <p>The national child protection systems review paper will come to the Child Protection Committee in March.</p>	<b>Jackie Irvine</b>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Prevent- Keeping Children and Young People Safe Against Radicalisation and Extremism</b></p> <p>In line with the proposed addition to the West of Scotland Child Protection Interagency Procedures, services involved with children and young people should be aware of the Prevent Strategy and the risk of radicalisation of young people. Members were asked to note the documents for information.</p>	<b>All</b>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Domestic Abuse Proposed Changes to Criminal Procedure</b></p> <p>The consultation period for this Bill has concluded and the reforms are welcomed as a positive step in balancing the rights of the accused and those of the complainer and in addressing the potential for further abuse within the court process.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>CSE Mapping Document</b></p> <p>Carron gave a brief update on the current status. A number of objectives around CSE have been achieved and a draft CSE Strategy and Action Plan are out for wider consultation. A full day training and 2 hour briefing session will be delivered and trainers meet next week. The Barnado’s multi agency model and Scottish Government tools are being used. The final document will be brought back to Child Protection Committee for sign off.</p>	<b>Carron O’Byrne</b>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Transitions Planning (Local Version)</b></p> <p>The protocol outlining West Dunbartonshire’s approach to managing vulnerability from the age of 16 – 21 is in the final stages and practitioners will be identified to assess its credibility as a working document. Regular Multi Agency Forum (MAF) meetings were introduced following the SCR (Blue Triangle report).</p> <p>Cross service arrangements for the care and protection of vulnerable young adults who are not currently nor were previously known to children’s service are now well established. The document will provide multi agency guidance for all staff working with young people where child care and protection and adult care and protection systems meet, however it is acknowledged that it cannot stand as a definitive guide and most cases will require individual planning. The intention is to provide protection or a support plan that affords protection. Following sense checking the document will be brought back to the Child Protection Committee to ratify.</p>	<b>Noreen McCarthy &amp; Annie Ritchie</b>



10.	<p><b>Consultation - Draft Framework for Adult Protection Committees for Conducting a Significant Case Review (SCR)</b>          Jackie tabled the response which proposes that the approach in adult services should mirror that expected within the Child Protection Guidance in respect of SCR for children and young people. Initially the case should be considered by the APC and they should make a recommendation to the Public Protection Chief Officers Group about whether to proceed to an Initial Case Review (ICR) and if necessary an SCR. It would be for the PPCOG to make the final decision. Thereafter it would be passed back to the Adult Protection Committee to proceed with the ICR and report back to the PPCOG with further recommendations. Members were asked to submit any additional comments to Jackie Irvine by Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>. Judith Tait is up to date with the progress of our local child protection SCR. Rosie clarified that the inspectorate look for consistency of practice with the decision making process. All items from 4 SCRs in Fife were compiled as themes and followed up as points for action.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Performance and Assurance Reporting Framework (PARF)</b>          Jackie discussed the figures and the increased number of children on the register. It was agreed that to provide more meaningful data the report should be expanded to indicate children who were on the register “under 6 months” and “over 6 months”. Annie Ritchie is setting up Performance Review Group.</p>	Annie Ritchie
12.	<p><b><i>Standing Item</i></b>  <b>CPC Improvement Plan</b>          No items were identified during the meeting for inclusion to the plan and this will be deferred until the inspection report is issued and informs the plan accordingly.</p>	
13	<p><b>Papers for Note:</b>          Members were asked to note the items for information and circulate as appropriate.</p>	
	<p><b>AOCB</b>          Yvonne advised that Argyll and Bute are hosting a MARAC Development day and although places are limited the invite has been extended to West Dunbartonshire. The event is being held on Tuesday 14 February at the Inveraray Inn from 10am to 3.30pm. Details will be sent to the group by email. Jackie suggested that the Children &amp; Families DIG could be changed to facilitate attendance or that a similar day could be delivered in West Dunbartonshire if it was considered helpful to the wider group.</p> <p>Jackie advised that Yvonne Scott would be retiring on 17<sup>th</sup> March and that today would be her final attendance at the Child Protection Committee. Jackie expressed her thanks to Yvonne for her invaluable contribution to the group and for her ethos of consistently addressing and completing tasks in a timely and efficient manner.</p> <p>Scott Hamilton and Marie Connell from Police Scotland to be invited to next Child Protection Committee.</p>	<p>Yvonne Scott/          Dawn Hansen</p> <p>Dawn Hansen</p>
	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 2pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Committee Room 3, Garshake.</p>	