

**West Dunbartonshire Child Protection Committee**

**20<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**1st Floor, Meeting Room 3, Garshake**

**MINUTE**

**Present:**

Jackie Irvine - Head of Service / Chief Social Work Officer CHCP (Chair)  
 Sheila Downie - SCS Service Manager/SLT Manager  
 Karen Marshall - Improvement Officer  
 Annie Ritchie - Manager Fieldwork Services (Social Work)  
 Carron O'Byrne - Manager Looked After Services  
 Adrian McBride - Operations Manager LD Service  
 Heather Irvine - Improvement Lead  
 Ruth Walsh - Team Lead Children & Families  
 Joanne Sutherland - Homelessness and Homelessness Prevention Coordinator  
 Maureen Scott - Assistant Chief Nurse CPU  
 Douglas Hill - Locality Reporter Manager S.C.R.A  
 Graham Cordner - Detective Chief Inspector PPU, Police Scotland

**Apologies:**

Patricia Montgomery - Inclusion Officer Education  
 John Kerr - Housing Strategy Manager  
 Mags Simpson - Team Lead/Practice Development Nurse  
 Stephen Rankin – Strategic Inspector, Care Inspectorate  
 Stuart McLean - Group Manager, Prevention & Protection, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
 Grant McLeod - Detective Inspector, Police Scotland

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>Apologies noted. Joanne Sutherland was in attendance for John Kerr and Ruth Walsh for Mags Simpson. Maureen was introduced as the permanent representative on behalf of the CPU.</p> <p>Jackie congratulated Heather on her appointment to the post of Public Protection Co-ordinator. Jackie explained that as part of Heather's new remit, she will provide professional support to the Adult and Children's Child protection Committees and attend the Public Protection Chief Officers Group. Heather will also provide and arrange appropriate training on all aspects of public protection. Jackie is conscious of the multiple demands of the post and a meeting will be held to discuss the priorities.</p> <p>It was suggested by Adrian that there would only be one representative at the CPC from Addictions, Mental Health and Learning Disability. Jackie reiterated the need for attendance at CPC across each service and will address this through Julie Lusk.</p>	<b>Jackie Irvine</b>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Previous Minutes and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Minutes checked and agreed for accuracy. Agency updates were a newly reintroduced item and formed a considerable part of the minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Child Protection Leaflets and Posters /Refresh Local Public Information-(Training Sub Group)</u> – Check if Robert Auld has sent out current data to committee members.</li> </ul>	<b>Dawn Hansen</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP) – Initial Case Reviews (ICRs) and Significant Case Reviews (SCRs)</u> Jackie to check if West Dunbartonshire’s revised ICR &amp; SCR protocol has been uploaded to the website.</li> <li>• <u>Update SCR-LF</u>- J Irvine will include the recommendation about the role of the Paediatrician in IRDs in the next CPC Improvement Action Plan but assign this to the NHS CPU.</li> <li>• <u>CPC Improvement Plan</u>- The plan has been updated to reflect a division between current and completed actions. The revised document will be shared with members. Jackie will prepare a narrative progress report for the last year and then develop a draft CPC Improvement Plan for January 2018 onwards which will come to the CPC in due course.</li> </ul>	<p>Jackie Irvine</p> <p>Jackie Irvine</p> <p>Jackie Irvine</p>
3.	<p><b>SCR Feedback from Care Inspectorate- West Dunbartonshire Child L</b></p> <p>The Care Inspectorate in their informal feedback raised 2 questions for the CPC to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could the review of the duty system be strengthened by the production of guidance which clarifies the threshold for a service from social work and helps to identify the most appropriate level of intervention and support? As concerns become more complex, or where early identification and intervention do not appear to assist in reducing risk, it becomes increasingly important that professionals are able to utilise guidance on what might be the most appropriate “next step” and where on the spectrum of need or risk these concerns appear to feature. This could also help with clarifying “step up, step down” process.</li> <li>2. The reviewers outlined three research questions which are addressed further in the review. One of these- What can we learn about our understanding of the impact and dynamics of Domestic abuse? – echoes one of the concerns raised in the ICR. In paragraph 2.8.3 of the SCR the reviewers state: <i>“As illustrated by findings 1 and 5, had practitioners been more precise in their narrative and descriptions of the family and their circumstances, and questioned some of the information and explanations provided by Mother, Father and Mother’s partner then the potential risk indicators for Domestic abuse and neglect might have been given greater consideration.”</i> This response addresses some of the <i>dynamics</i> of domestic abuse and makes links to finding five about the use of language. It doesn’t however address the <i>impact</i> of domestic abuse on the child or the parent who is being harmed. Is the CPC confident that this second aspect has been fully addressed.</li> </ol> <p>There was lengthy discussion about the duty system and about the importance of dialogue and consistent decision making. Dialogue about who is best placed to work with the family is crucial. Suggesting the referrer reviews their assessment is standard. In a complicated landscape the distinction between RfA (Request for Assistance) and NOC (Notification of Concern) needs to be clarified. It was suggested that a flow chart would be</p>	

helpful when the guidance is in place. In revising the local duty model the child care fieldwork teams have visited other areas to scope out the lessons to be learned from alternative approaches. This is a significant part of the need to review and redesign our local duty system. Staff need to be confident to make contact immediately when they have issues of concern. The Draft Early Years guidance will be brought to the next CPC. Jackie advised that given the duty system issue was raised in our ICR shortly after the incident, there have been some shifts made in how we operate this and interface/support referrers calling in. Ruth Walsh said that the health visiting teams have noticed this positive shift in practice through contact with the duty workers.

In discussing the second question from the Care Inspectorate (CI) the CPC members felt, especially those who were directly involved in the SCR review, that the impact of domestic abuse on the child and the adult victim was central to the whole purpose of the SCIE SCR review. They were puzzled therefore by this suggestion from the CI.

It was agreed that Jackie would draft a response to the CI informal feedback and take this for approval of the PPCOG on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Jackie reminded people that the Joint Children's Services Inspection highlighted Domestic abuse (DA) as an issue and West Dunbartonshire has recently been identified through Police Scotland data as having the highest prevalence of Domestic abuse in Scotland, even though the figure has fallen since 2011. Jackie is currently preparing a statement in response to a press enquiry. The confidence to report incidents of DA and West Dunbartonshire's collective work with partners and the thrust to move from reactive to early intervention are all viewed as positives. Initiatives in other Inverclyde and East Ayrshire will be explored to benchmark which ones have been successful in reducing the figures in those areas. It was noted that it will take more than 3 years to effect generational change.

From the point of view of the developing duty system, it will be important to carry a message through training to stress the importance of a dialogue approach and that the completion of paperwork can be subsequent to a referral. Poverty and immunity to poverty are an increasing issue due to the prevalence of money issues and related factors amongst the population that staff are working with.

"No Home for Domestic Abuse" email information tabled. (*see attached*)

The SCR Action Plan has been updated slightly and Jackie will further develop Finding 4 regarding social work service. Finding 1 to identify a social work link remains aspirational however a lot of work has been progressed in response to the findings. There were questions about who should be the lead professional and reviewing the role of social work on the admissions panel. Annie will revisit this in terms of who the SW representatives on the Admissions Panels are. Duty work will reflect actions taken since the SCR. The timescale for putting the fully revised duty system



No Home for  
Domestic Abuse Upda


**Annie Ritchie**

	in place is April 2018. Jackie will incorporate differences between RfA and IRD into the Improvement Action Plan. Jackie will send the plan out for a quick turnaround in respect of any further comments or suggestions for a paper to go to Chief Officers' Group for 18 <sup>th</sup> December for approval.	<b>Jackie Irvine</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Training Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large scale training event dates for across all services, at an awareness raising level, have been designed and the first session was well attended (100+) and was received well. These will be on a multi agency basis for general awareness raising. Sessions twice a year.</li> <li>The 2 day refresher training (50/50 adult and children) evaluated well. It is hoped that this will be repeated every 3 years. More dates to be scheduled as there is a waiting list.</li> <li>Suite of training to include awareness of the IRD process and developing staff confidence in raising issues. A multi agency development session is also required.</li> <li>A twice yearly networking training session has to be established. This approach has worked well in social work. Training is now in place and has to be rolled out to staff.</li> <li>Carron has delivered CSE training. A full year of multi-agency and bespoke training has been planned. Feedback will now be collated and evaluated and training will be adapted accordingly. A training needs analysis will be devised and Carron will report back.</li> </ul>	<b>Jackie Irvine</b> <b>Annie Ritchie</b>  <b>Carron O'Byrne</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>CPC Development Session - Learning and Practice Change from Significant and Reflective Reviews</b> SLWG will look at the format for this event which will be held as two half day sessions on 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2018. The sessions will comprise of different groups of staff including Practitioners, Housing and Homelessness staff. The focus will be on learning from SCR findings, some local reflective case reviews and on the identification of neglect. It will not identify specifics of a particular case. It is anticipated that the event will be held in a local school to minimize cost implications. Jackie will arrange dates with SLWG to take forward the planning of this session.	<b>Jackie Irvine/</b> <b>Annie Ritchie/</b> <b>Pat Montgomery/</b> <b>Mags Simpson/</b> <b>Graham Corder</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>IRISS Insights- Child Protection: Listening To And Learning From Parents</b> Jackie brought the group's attention to the documents from The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (IRISS) and discussed the lack of success locally in engaging parents to provide feedback on their experiences. Pursuing opportunities to secure parent and carer participation remains an action within the CPC Improvement plan and obtaining feedback to further improve practice will continue to be explored especially during the next file audit.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Agency/Service Updates</b> <u>Children &amp; Families</u> Recruited to Red Wing Health Visiting post. Positive impact from 3.8 new	

	<p>qualified HVs in post with a further 1.6 expected in January. Development session 25<sup>th</sup> October for band 6. SMART plans developed. Poverty conference being held on 24<sup>th</sup> January to which 4 social work, education leads and CPU are invited.</p> <p><u>CPU</u></p> <p>Two new advisors start on 4<sup>th</sup> December. The safe guarding nurse may join the membership of CPC. Looking at IRD and quality assurance around health contribution. Benchmarking against LF report with a focus on health and medicals (with reference to type of medical and timeliness thereof). IRD should document if a medical is required. Quality assurance to be built in to supervision. Quality measures/impact after 8 weeks. Ruth to share HV template with Maureen Scott. Looking at policies and guidance following LF report. Did not attend (DNA) could be replaced by "Did not bring". A user group is looking at how to make policies less cumbersome and making them more user friendly.</p> <p>Jackie's pointed out that it is outwith her gift to ensure a Paediatrician's attendance at IRD. This will be added to the action plan and CPU will be cited. Quality assurance is required to ensure that those who engage are clear about the process.</p> <p>Jackie is happy to be involved in the pilot for SCI guidance development which she understands the CPU is taking forward. Annie mentioned a case which could be used for process mapping and for lessons learned.</p> <p>Jackie to remind Mags to explore issues around the recording of significant incidents and how this appears in EMIS headers. Discussion between HV and GP to be further developed.</p> <p><u>Police</u></p> <p>27/11/17 Gordon Pettigrew will replace Stuart Gillies. 4/12/17 Kevin Mulvenna will be replaced by Steve Martin. Changes to DS and DI posts. Gail McClymont is being replaced by Brian Gibson.</p> <p><u>Looked After Children's Services</u></p> <p>A visit by the First Minister to Burnside House is scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> December. Police Scotland is aware of this in respect of the security aspect but the visit is on an "informal" basis. A briefing for elected members will be issued by the communications team.</p> <p>There is a high demand due to the number of children coming through care. High demands in justice services are also reported and this will be raised at the Sheriff Principals' meeting. New arrangements have created issues in Criminal Justice but a recent meeting with the Sheriff Principle was very helpful as he has agreed to write a letter to the Scottish Government about demand and funding. Carron will provide an update at future meetings.</p>	<p>Ruth Walsh</p> <p>Jackie Irvine</p> <p>Jackie Irvine</p> <p>Carron O'Byrne</p>
8.	<p><b>Standing Item</b></p> <p><b>CPC Improvement Plan</b></p> <p>Revised plan to be sent out.</p>	Jackie Irvine
9.	<p><b>Papers for Note/ Information Only:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Public Protection Performance and Assurance Reporting Framework-</u> No current quarterly report. Item will remain a standing topic for future meetings.</li> </ul>	





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>CPC Scotland – Structures and Functions of Child Protection Committees and Data Presentation-</u> Jackie Irvine raised the presentation items with members.</li> <li>• <u>Children and Young People Missing from Local Authority Care-</u> This document is protected and cannot be printed. A revised version will be sent out as soon as it becomes available. This copy is not current and is not for further circulation.</li> </ul> <p><b>New Model for joint inspections of services for children and young people-</b> briefing paper tabled (<i>see attached</i>)</p> <p>All other items for note and circulation as appropriate.</p>	 Communications Update.docx
10.	<p><b>AOCB</b> <u>Better Hearings</u> Few Reporters currently off. Changes in legislation. A benchmarking exercise is being carried out to establish the current position and the effect of the changes being introduced. The hearing room's surroundings are more relaxed. Douglas will share papers with Jackie and look for dates for a focus group to meet. There was a proposal to attach this to the liaison meetings. Report re focus will be brought back to CPC.</p>	Douglas Hill Jackie Irvine Annie Ritchie Mags Simpson Pat Montgomery
11.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, 2pm 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Committee Room 3, Garshake</p>	