

Minute of Meeting Renfrewshire Area Support Team

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 20 June 2023	14:00	Corporate Meeting Room 3, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

PRESENT

Derek Bramma; Craig Campbell; Jacqueline Doherty; Edi Hanley; Councillor Lisa Marie Hughes; Alex MacDonald; Ciara McLean; and Marion Robinson.

CHAIR

D Bramma, Area Convener, presided.

ALSO PRESENT

L King, Locality Reporter Manager and P Wilson, Area Support and Improvement Partner.

IN ATTENDANCE

P Shiach, Senior Committee Services Officer, (Finance and Resources).

APOLOGIES

E McNaught, J Melrose and A Tucker.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated by members prior to the meeting.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

The Area Convener indicated that there were three additional item of business which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting. The Area Convener, being of the opinion that the items were competent and relevant, authorised their consideration at items 4, 10 and 11 respectively of the agenda.

1 **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

There was submitted the Minute of the previous meeting of Renfrewshire Area Support Team (AST) held on 9 May 2023.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 **MATTERS ARISING**

DECIDED: That it be noted that there were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

3 **MANAGEMENT OF HEARINGS SUB-GROUP**

There was submitted the Minute of the Management of Hearings Sub-group held on 13 June 2023.

The Minute provided information on sabbaticals; resignations; panel member strength; Hearing statistics including deferrals, swaps, cancelled hearings, standby hearings, continuity, cross-area assistance, additional hearings, the Strathclyde Area standby rota and pastoral care.

DECIDED: that the Minute be approved.

4 **LOCALITY REPORTER MANAGER UPDATE**

The Locality Reporter Manager provided a verbal update relative to staffing, the Better Hearings Group and appeals feedback.

The Locality Reporter Manager was then heard in answer to questions on the report.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

5 **HEARINGS SYSTEM WORKING GROUP**

The Area Support & Improvement Partner (ASIP) provide a verbal update relative to the Hearings System Working Group.

The ASIP indicated that discussions had taken place relative to the role of side panel members, remuneration for Panel Chairs, the significant resources involved and accountability.

Full discussion followed relative to the effect the proposed changes would have on the current Panel community, remuneration for Panel chairs, and the changing role of the Panel Chair.

The ASIP indicated that the proposals would be subject to a consultation and that the National Convener would attend AST areas to meet with Panel Members. The Area Convener proposed that a number of questions in relation to the proposals be agreed in advance. This was agreed.

DECIDED:

(a) That a list of questions for the National Convener in relation to the Hearings System Working Group proposals be agreed; and

(b) That the update be otherwise noted.

6 TRIBUNAL SUPPORT MODEL

There was submitted a report by Children's Hearings Scotland (CHS) relative to the proposed Tribunal Support Model.

The report indicated that CHS was implementing a new Tribunal support model through 2023 and 2024 which would involve moving to nine regional Area Support Teams matched with the SCRA localities, providing alignment and clarity with Hearing System partner. Each region would have paid members of staff lead by a Regional Manager. In addition, each region would have a Partnership Lead and a Wellbeing Lead (focussed on enabling Panel Member voice).

The report advised that the new model would:

- enable CHS to better support panel members to deliver better outcomes for children and young people by allowing some of the fragilities in the current model to be addressed;
- relieve the unrealistic and unfair burdens on volunteers who have been undertaking roles with good grace that go beyond what is legitimate to expect of a volunteer; and
- provide an enhanced support structure to PMs that will be consistent across the country;

The report indicated that this investment marked confidence in the work of CHS enables capacity for an ambitious future outlined in The Promise and the possible recommendations of the Hearing Systems Working Group.

The report advised that part of the new model would be the provision of central capacity to support key functions, including rota.

The Area Convener indicated that the positions of resource administrators and managers were currently being filled, and that the first of the revised areas would come into force in October 2023, followed by a further two tranches in February and April 2024.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

7 MEETING ACCOMMODATION (PAISLEY NORTH CHURCH)

The Area Convener advised that the Estates Department of the Church of Scotland was reviewing its estate, including Paisley North Church, with a view to rationalising its properties.

He indicated that Paisley North Church provided an excellent service for the AST and was still taking bookings at present. He indicated that he would send a letter of support for the Church to the Church of Scotland Estates section.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.

8 **ACCESSIBLE TAXI PROVISION**

The Area Convener provided a verbal report in relation to accessible taxi provision in relation to a Panel Member who had been experiencing difficulty in attending Hearings.

Following discussion, the Area Convener suggested that the AST look at a number of services to identify options. This was agreed. Councillor Hughes undertook to raise the issue at the next meeting of the Regulatory Functions Board.

DECIDED:

(a) That a range of services be investigated to identify available options; and

(b) That the report be otherwise noted.

9 **2023/24 DEVOLVED BUDGET SUMMARY**

There was submitted a report by the Clerk relative to a summary of the devolved funding budget.

The report indicated that following the Panel member recognition event, the remaining budget was £540.

Future items relative to the Devolved Funding budget included a future event involving Panel Members and Social Workers, and it was proposed that the Children's Services Manager be approached to nominate a Social Work representative to a sub-group to organise this event. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Children's Services Manager be approached to nominate a Social Work representative to the SW liaison event Sub-group; and

(b) That the report be otherwise noted.

10 **SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT RECEPTION**

The Area Convener provided a verbal report relative to a reception to be hosted by the Scottish Government on 27 June 2023 to mark the 10th anniversary of Children's Hearing Scotland. He will be attending as Area Convener and proposed that Renfrewshire AST be represented by two Panel Members, B Cook and J Brunton as ambassadors. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: That B Cook and J Brunton attend the reception as ambassadors on behalf of Renfrewshire Area Support Team.

11 **COMPLAINTS**

The Area Convener provided a verbal update relative to a complaint by two Panel Members against a Reporter, and a complaint by a Social Worker regarding a Panel Member.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

12 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

DECIDED: That it be noted that the next meeting of the Area Support Team was scheduled for Tuesday 22 August 2023 at 2.00pm in Renfrewshire House.