

# HEARINGS MANAGEMENT SUB-GROUP

## AGENDA

Minutes of Meeting 12th October 2021

Virtual @ 10:00AM

### **1. Apologies**

None

### **2. Sabbatical**

There are currently nine panel members off rota as a result of being on sabbatical or not responding to communications.

### **3. Resignations**

2 Female

### **4. Hearing Stats - period 11th August - 11th October 2021**

- Deferred Cases - Eleven virtual cases deferred; one August where grounds still at court; five in September of which two were late in starting and unable to be concluded due to technical difficulties; one relevant person and their legal representative failed to attend; one where no new placement had been identified for the child and one where the child's legal representative failed to attend; five in October which were due to one where grounds still at court; one adoption case with no social work reports; one to appoint a safeguarder and two where social work reports were received late.

Six face to face deferred - Two cases in August no social work reports received, one of the social workers was off sick; four cases in September made up of two where relevant persons failed to attend; one where relevant person failed to attend and failed to instruct their legal representative who was present; one where relevant persons legal representative did not attend

- Cancelled Sessions - Three virtual sessions and one case cancelled in August; September six cancelled virtual sessions and one so far for October. For face to face hearings there was one session for August, three for September and One for October cancelled.

- Secure Hearings - None
- Extra Hearings/Sessions - None
- Swaps - Virtual hearings there were a total of thirteen swaps; six in August and September and one for October to date. For face to face hearings there were fifteen swaps; five in August, eight in September and two in October.
- Continuity - two requests

## **5. Pastoral Care**

One panel member is receiving support.

## **6. Panel Member Strength**

Eighty six panel members, of which sixty two are female and twenty four are male. Currently there seventy five panel members who are available for rota scheduling, this is made up of fifty four females and twenty one males.

## **7.AOCB**

One panel member had raised a concern with Edi regarding being delayed at a face to face hearing, the information passed to Edi was not complete and further investigation showed that the session was not only two cases as had been advised to Edi, but rather that an 8th working day hearing had been added as the third case and to compound matters technical issues with recording the ROP meant that the panel were not completed with their afternoon session until 18.30. Information to be noted only.

Two virtual cases went ahead in August using emergency legislation with only two panel members.

Two standby sessions in September not required.

Update from Lesley King that the hostess trolley/refreshment station has been ordered and should be delivered by the end of the week.

The concerns raised by panel members regarding the removal of previously provided CHS tables, was followed up by a meeting between SCRA , Derek Brama and Pamela Wilson, with the view of SCRA being that the current tables are sufficient. Derek and Pamela to have further discussion and get back to Lesley King.

Discussion took place around the upcoming COP26 and that there may be a requirement for panel members to be available for face to face custody hearings on 6th and 13th November. Further discussion to be had with Derek Brama, Pamela and AST to implement plan.

SCRA have staff training taking place week commencing 25th October which is scheduled for the week; a number of hearing sessions have been cancelled as a result and will be included in the next figures.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 30th November Virtual at 10:00am