



Renfrewshire  
Area Support Team

## Learning & Development Group Meeting

10 June 2019

### MINUTES

**Present:** Derek Bramma (DB; Chair), Ewan McNaught (EM), Alex MacDonald (AM), David Hadden (DH), Jacqueline Doherty (JD)

**Apologies:** Kirsten Miller (KM), John Leckie (JL), Alison Thompson (AT).

**In Attendance:** Edi Hanley (EH) LPR, Linda Quinn (LQ) (Learning Academy).

#### 1. Minutes of Meeting on 24 April 2019

Error noted that in previous minutes it is noted as Moira Galletly and it should be Moira Hanretty.

#### 2. Matters arising

DB has been trying to arrange a date with Marion and Eileen to meet to discuss ways to progress panel pal training in relation to hearing generation.

Panel pal was used to help generate the most recent rota with several teething problems being noted.

No further concerns raised re accessing online training and therefore assumption that these issues have been resolved. DH confirmed that trainers have given a significant amount of additional support to trainees to address any such issues.

Continuity of hearings – this will be monitored carefully to ensure panel members do not sit repeatedly on same cases.

#### 3. Learning Academy Training

Low uptake to management of hearing course, which has implications going forward in relation to new chairs. EH knows of two members who have requested a deferral of this training. It was felt that some members who do not have good availability perhaps feel they have not had experience of sitting on enough panels to allow them to progress onto chairing hearings. This needs to be pursued to identify who still requires signing up to this training.

There have also been several resignations, and these may potentially be members who should have been signed up to this training – EH provided a list

of names to LQ to check. There are still a few spaces left and members will be encouraged to sign up promptly. This is also important to allow panel members to complete their PDA.

Over 100 panel members nationally require this Management of Hearing training so places are limited.

There are currently 6 PPAs within Renfrewshire with one currently completing sessional work as a reporter therefore may need to advertise for additional PPA. There is a need for these PPAs to complete some of the up and coming training. As there are now new procedures in place it is essential that this training is completed. These new procedures will be in place from the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019.

Clerks need to attend the appropriate training as they have a key role to play in new procedures. Clerk has not yet completed this training and LQ stressed that this was necessary; someone must attend this training. The Clerk must be able to fully support the AST.

There is also a course for the Area Convenor to attend and DB is aware of this. It was also be sensible for anyone being involved in recruitment to attend appropriate training as there will be changes to the recruitment process going forward. This includes changes to group discussion and new questions – short discussion around this and those currently involved would be keen to see new style of questions.

There will also be a new Complaints Policy training which those involved in would be advised to attend.

Having Supported Conversations and Managing Conflict training would be beneficial for PPAs and Lead Panel representatives.

Currently very few essential courses for panel members but there is an increase in number of online training courses which members should be encouraged to complete.

LQ provided list of courses to DB which still have availability and how many spaces there would be on each.

Every course will be in three parts going forward – preparation prior to course, the training and then the evaluation/completion. No need for panel members to print anything out in advance.

Agreement that AST need to keep an eye on training and ensure that all members who need to do so make every effort to attend training.

Discussion around training venues as Erskine Bridge hotel has currently been booked for MOH training but LQ keen to hear of other venues which may meet panel members needs better. Watermill, Glynhill, Lynnhurst, Normandy, UWS

Campus, Abercorn Training Centre were amongst suggestions. Paisley area would be most central for members. It is important that transport is easy, although agreement that suitable dates are most important for attendees. In terms of transport Glasgow city centre is often easier to get to than some of the other Renfrewshire venues, e.g. Braehead.

#### **4. Pre-Service update (EM)**

Visit to Kibble last week with only one member providing feedback; that it was an exceptional visit. Another planned visit for remaining new members tomorrow evening – almost all new panel members will have managed this visit.

Short discussion around number of secure unit hearings that Renfrewshire panel members were completing. Due to location they are frequently asked to sit on these hearings for other regions.

EM has concerns about his ability to continue to provide the necessary supports for pre-service training as his personal circumstances have changed and therefore AM agreed to provide support when required as he currently provides this support to JL for In-service training. This would also provide a link between the two.

LQ suggested that she may ensure that the training calendar for new trainees is populated so that they are fully aware of requirements and timescales. This would ease the pressure on EM.

#### **5. In-Service update (JL)**

JL has been planning and has managed to secure Loki and Harry Burns to deliver training; now need to identify suitable dates. Psychologist Prof. Smith is also on board. LQ asked that a member of the Learning Academy be invited along to these events.

Barnardos are keen to come along and provide information on their advocacy service.

That would provide 4 training sessions and therefore another 2 still required. The proposed training dates are: Mon 9<sup>th</sup> September, Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Oct, Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Nov, Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Mar and Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Apr. With Christmas Night out on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December. This follows similar dates to last year's apart from a training date in January which has now been removed.

There are invites to various training courses on Renfrewshire Child Protection Learning and Development Calendar. JL to coordinate this.

#### **6. Resource Group update**

KM is working through the list of resources available, e.g. residential units, specialist educational provision, mental health support etc.

Renfrew social work department have previously indicated that they are willing to invite panel members in one evening to discuss their processes and see the SW offices. This should help foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding between SW and panel members. Situations were identified where perhaps SW have not demonstrated a full understanding of the legal process in terms of procedures which panel members must follow.

**7. AOCB**

Further opportunities for panel members to observe the Fostering and Adoption Committee to be pursued.

**8. Date of next meeting** - To be arranged to suit AST meeting. All agreed Monday evenings were suitable.