



Renfrewshire
Area Support Team

Notice of Meeting and Agenda Renfrewshire Area Support Team

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 12 December 2023	14:00	Corporate Meeting Room 1, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

MARK CONAGHAN
Head of Corporate Governance

Membership

Derek Brama; Craig Campbell; Jacqueline Doherty; Edi Hanley; Jennifer Hay; Alex MacDonald; Ciara McLean; Ruth MacLeod; Ewan McNaught; Jim Melrose; Cairistiona Manson; Marion Robinson; Anne Tucker.
Representing Renfrewshire Council: Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes.

Chair

D Brama, Area Convener.

Items of business

Apologies

Apologies from members.

Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

Members are asked to declare an interest or make a transparency statement in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest or the transparency statement.

- 1 Minute of Previous Meeting**
- 2 Matters Arising**
- 3 Learning & Development Sub-Group** **3 - 6**
Minute of meeting held on 23 November 2023.
- 4 Management of Hearings Sub-group** **7 - 10**
Minute of meeting held on 28 November 2023.
- 5 Regional Tribunal Delivery Manager's Report**
Verbal report by Regional Tribunal Manager.
- 6 Keeping The Promise in Renfrewshire** **11 - 22**
Minute and attachments of Keeping the Promise in Renfrewshire meeting held on 29 November 2023.
- 7 Panel Member Retention**
- 8 New Trainees - update**
Update on those appointed during 2023 recruitment campaign.
- 9 Panel Member Recognition Event 2024**
- 10 Renfrewshire AST Clerking**
- 11 Date of Next Meeting**



Learning & Development Group Meeting

23 November 2023

MINUTES

In attendance: Derek Bramma, Ciara McLean, Alex MacDonald, Gillian Wallace, Jacqueline Doherty, Jacqueline Torrens

Apologies: Ewan McNaught, Brian Gallagher

1. Pre-Service update

- Recruitment update

15 new PMs – 9 Renfrewshire and 6 East Renfrewshire

The East Renfrewshire PMs have now been migrated across to Renfrewshire on CSAS. Derek called to inform them that they would be serving in Renfrewshire and was surprised that no-one had contacted them prior to this to inform them they had been successful at interview.

Edi, Alex and Jacqueline will each buddy 5 of these new PMs through initial pre-service.

- Welcome Evening - Tuesday 5th December

Ann Anderson in attendance from Learning Academy (LA), 2 East Ren PMs will participate in this evening – additional slides to be provided to make the evening relevant to them as well.

- Learning Academy Training Calendar

Derek will compile a list of what dates each of the new PMs have selected for pre-service training – to be provided by LA.

- Local Training & Support

5 sessions to be tied into the national training where possible.

Reporter session 1, SW session 2, Education session 4, Advocacy session 5.

At the midway point we would have a more informal evening with potentially a PPA and/or in attendance, this would also be a good time to introduce potential buddies.

- Observations

First training date is 9th January. All in agreement that it would be good to try and start observations before this date. If Ewan still on holiday Ciara and Derek will co-ordinate.

2. In-Service Update

- Mandatory training update

Advocacy - 7 PMs still to complete

Siblings – 21 still to complete

Of these 4 have still to complete both

Trauma Informed Practice phase 1 - 23 outstanding

Alex continues to monitor this and encourage those who have still to complete training.

- MOH/Enhanced practice update

Nationally there has been a dramatic uptake on this. Ciara shared her experience where 23 PMs due to attend training, however only 4 attended on the day.

Discussion around this that CHS perhaps hadn't been flexible enough around dates, did all of these people confirm attendance or did they simply not attend their allocated date/ignored the invite. So far in Renfrewshire 2 out of 18 people have attended the MoH training.

This training is now becoming service critical.

Some PMs are feeling pressured into this and it was acknowledged that we don't want to push people too far as they may decide to resign, however we do need to encourage PMs to complete their PDA.

It was suggested that we return to a system whereby chairing of sessions is shared – if more than 1 chair allocated. It may also be helpful to build confidence if those due to complete MoH training were encouraged to do some of the RoP write up at hearing sessions. Jacqueline to send email to those due to do MoH in regards to this and also to additional email to general Renfrewshire contact list.

- Panel member/social worker twilight event

Mark Coyle, Interagency Training Officer for SW, has been very helpful in setting this up – setting up survey, compiling results and suggesting ways evening may run smoothly. Derek and Jacqueline will meet with Mark on Monday at 13.30 via Teams to finalise plans.

Hoped to maximise our numbers attending to make event worthwhile – email reminder to be sent and then possibility of follow-up phone calls to encourage attendance.

Suggestion that members of LDG could also act as facilitators as well as SW managers.

- Training calendar update

8th February SW presentation on The Voice of the Infant; this is to help provide a greater understanding of how substance abuse and difficult home environment can impact on babies pre-birth, and the concerns around setting high levels of contact. SW hoping to make this an interactive session.

March and April - Who Cares and LGBTQIA+

There was a discussion around contact and need to provide good decisions – agreement that appeal decision should be shared as this is an example of good practice.

EP still 4 outstanding, Alex to chase this up.

3. Means of ensuring attendance at local learning events

Numbers at local training have been declining – it was noted at last LDC forum that this is the national picture as well.

We currently record the session which is perhaps giving people comfort to not attend.

Discussion around potential causes but no real solution obvious. Gillian will compile a survey for @Renfrewshire.

4. AST Audio-visual equipment – transfer to North Strathclyde TSM

Currently this is held by the AC and DAC, which won't be possible in the new system. Still awaiting guidance as to where this equipment will be kept – however it is important that locally we can still have access to this.

Learning Champion – no clarity of role, so unsure exactly who this will be and what their role will be.

5. AOCB

Update from last LDC forum on 26th October

This meeting focused on future plans of CHS rather than day to day business. From the discussion it was obvious that everyone in attendance is looking for answers and guidance to be able to fully understand the direction of travel. A brief outline was provided but there are still clearly gaps in any future plans – many of which won't be filled in until after the implementation of the TSM.

Prior to the meeting the following issues were identified as being something we would value clarification on:

Qu. Why only a two month window was given for completion of the IG training and why November and December (this is something which had been raised at previous meetings). In addition to this would PMs be off rota if this isn't completed?

A. As completion of IG is within the legislation the timeline for completion can't be extended and therefore PMs would need to come off rota.

Acknowledgement that timings weren't ideal. Unfortunately during adoption leave for CHS Learning Programme Manager post had not been covered fully and therefore CHS were playing catch up – it is unfortunate that the impact of this is to put additional pressure on PMs and ASTs.

Qu. If a PM does not do the MoH training and complete their PDA within 3 years are they off rota?

A. Short answer is yes, however there has to be a balance and consideration given to exceptional circumstances. Awareness that PMs also need to be retained if possible. There was an acknowledgement that cancelled hearings do have an impact on PMs feeling ready for a chairing role.

Qu. Can clarification be provided around the new volunteer position of Learning Champion? This question was asked by a number of attendees, however it was difficult to get a clear answer.

A. It would appear there will only be one Learning Champion per TSM – it wasn't clear whether they are to be appointed by Regional Delivery Managers (RDM); however we were told that all of the LDCs from each TSM would be encouraged to get together and discuss this.

Each area will still be able to arrange their own training – Renfrewshire for us. There was no real agreement as to exactly what the Learning Champions (LC) role would be, but everyone agreed that it wouldn't be appropriate for the LC to help organise and attend training in all areas, so a small group of volunteers in each area would still be relied upon to identify local training needs and arrange training. As there is no firm guidelines how this happens will depend on the RDM and LC – we should however expect to be fully included in discussion around this.

Qu. Is there any refresher training available?

A. No, depending on length of inactivity options would be to perhaps complete EP training again or alternatively retraining.

Qu. Do the Learning Academy/CHS have any modules on LGBTQIA++

A. No, but could try Youth Services.

6. Date of next meeting - To Be Advised

ROTA and MANAGEMENT OF HEARINGS SUB-GROUP**MINUTES****TUESDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2023, 10.00am****In attendance:** Lesley King, Marion Robinson, Edi Hanley, Jacqueline Doherty**Apologies:** Derek Bramma**Rota**

New rota for Jan to Feb now published.

Any further resignations will put a strain on completing the current number of sessions. The 15 new trainee PMs will hopefully ease pressure once they have completed their training.

There is now an issue with numbers of chairs.

Some PMs are qualified, however don't currently chair. 1 wishes some additional training prior to chairing.

PMs lacking confidence continue to be provided with support and encouragement.

In addition to this several have completed training but don't yet appear on CSAS as chairs.

Management of Hearings**Sabbaticals/other**

6 - 2M and 4F

Resignations

1 resignation – F 1 transfer – M

Panel Strength

Panel Member strength is as follows:

72 PMs in total – 54 F and 18 M

66 active – 50 F and 16 M

Chair qualified 28 PMs – 18F and 10M. Noted that not all of these actually chair.

22 active chairs – 15 F and 7M

- Swaps

October 12 f2f November – 14 f2f

Hearing Statistics – 16th August to 1st December

- Deferrals – 18

7 RP/child not in attendance, 6 reports late/missing, 3 safeguarder appointed, 1 safeguarder not in attendance, 6 grounds at court, 2 RP unable to instruct LR, 2 LR not in attendance

5 hearings - 2 reasons given.

Of these hearings: 6 due to alleged grounds still awaiting proof hearing– of these 6, in 2 cases a safeguarder was also requested (not included in table below).

RP failed to attend	LR failed to attend
RP failed to attend	
Safeguarder appointed	

RP incarcerated – LR had yet to visit to assist with reading papers	
RP unable to instruct LR prior to hearing	
RP failed to attend	LR failed to attend
No safeguarder in attendance	No SW report
Family failed to attend	
Person in secure failed to attend	
No SW report – grounds established in insufficient time for SW to write report	
RP failed to attend	
No SW report	
No SW report	
No SW report	
Late report	RP failed to attend

- Additional Hearings

One emergency transfer added to start of hearing session; all PMs contacted in advance and agreed to attend early to cover this.

*One PHP added to end of 3 case session; PMs not asked until the start of the session, one PM was unhappy with request but stayed to participate.

One extra case added; PMs contacted in advance and able to accommodate extra case.

* Unfortunately, no date was available for this case, therefore the action point for future is that date to be noted as this will allow SCRA to follow up specific sessions.

- Cancelled hearings

7 in total; 2 reporter annual leave 3 no cases allocated 2 no reasons given

- Standby

No standby required during this period.

- Continuity

3 requests

- Cross-area assistance

2 - South Lanarkshire and Aberdeenshire

Pastoral Care

4 PMs have received pastoral care.

Follow-up to last meeting

Since the last meeting it has been confirmed that SCRA can set up concurrent hearings which means there is no longer pressure to ask PMs to cover entire sessions when continuity is requested for one case.

AOB

Session on 13th October started at 10am and panel only finished writing up at 4.30pm/5pm.

The panel were unable to complete the RoP for the second case as the hearing itself took 1 hour – this was due to the large number of participants – and therefore this had to be completed after the third case. The third case proved to be extremely difficult due to behaviours of young person and RP which led to significant interruptions and delays. The panel made suggestion that this difficult case should be scheduled as a stand-alone session going forwards.

It was noted that the reporter has already identified that appropriate arrangements need to be made for next time, however at the meeting it was again stressed that this should be a stand-alone case as the behaviours of YP and RP were unpredictable and whereby the next session may run smoothly there is a strong possibility that it will over run.

9 children case – grounds hearing went ok, however chair noted only one decision to write up and as no interim measures requested, then no lengthy discussion was required. Therefore, once grounds established our recommendation this case comes back as a stand-alone session.

Still concerns over multiple RoPs being completed within the time given. PMs regularly state that 15 minutes is not sufficient time to complete more than 1 RoP.

Qu. Do all areas have three cases per session? Anecdotal information is that other areas have a maximum of two cases per session. SCRA report that there is a mix nationally.

This is something which may require further investigation if PMs continue to feel pressure to complete multiple RoPs at the same time given to complete one RoP.

1 f2f delayed 40 minutes to allow replacement SW – this was due to a previous complaint made by SW. At this point we don't know whether PM could have foreseen this or whether different SW expected. Request that this is flagged as potential clash going forwards. Issue with whether this has resolved.


3PMs concerned re lack of trauma informed practice during a secure authorisation emergency transfer, whereby PMs were uncomfortable by reporter asking for further details/repetition around risks and concerns to a child – having completed Trauma Informed Practice training the PMs believed that this was unnecessary and would result in re-traumatising the child.

Keeping the Promise in Renfrewshire's Children's Hearings

Wednesday 29th November 2023

Minutes

		ACTIONS
1.	<p>In Attendance – Nicola Harkness, Andrew Mobbs, Kevin Smith, Brian Gallagher, Randal McTaggart, Maura Kearney, Maurice Gilligan, Selwyn Mccausland, Aine O'Byrne</p> <p>Apologies – Michelle McCargo, Emma Henry, Jim Melrose, Donald Walker, Ruth Wallace, Derek Brama, Mo Quinn</p>	
2.	Minutes of last meeting - agreed	
3.	<p>The Promise – HSWG Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awaiting feedback from Scottish Government – due by end of the year - Ministerial visit – 15/11/2023 – Natalie Don, Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise. 	
4.	<p>The Promise Deferred Hearing Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bumpy start - operational group set up to manage roll-out and encourage/support participation – “champions” identified for each social work team who have done great work raising awareness of the new processes and supporting understanding of the aims and benefits of the project – engagement now much more positive - Initial focus on Renfrew Area Team and the Kinship Care Team – then rolled out to Johnstone Area Team, Children with Disabilities Team and the Pre and Post Birth Team. Great support from Children's Services Admin Team. Will start now to complete roll-out to Paisley Area Teams, Whole Systems and Throughcare. - Too early to measure impact – c/f to next meeting – measure deferred hearings / spreadsheet recording number of cases when date or time changed. - The Project is also embedding use of the Hearing Preparation Guidelines and Checklist – to support preparation and understanding of children and young people attending hearings and also to support SCRA in effective planning and scheduling of Hearings (as is the focus on ensuring Hearing reports are submitted in good time). Checklist to be reviewed once further embedded in practice. Already acknowledge areas that may need refined, e.g. availability of support for transport to hearings / paid travel expenses. <p>Other initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Email Reminder Project – already in operation - Offer of electronic papers for children and families – in planning stage - QR code on SCRA correspondence to children signposting to advocacy (from receipt of referral?) – in planning stage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring of implementation of the Project to continue - Measurement of impact of the Project to begin in the new year - Multi-agency operational working group (using Promise Keepers?) to be set up in the new year to assess the operational effectiveness of Hearing Preparation Guidelines and Checklist - Discussion with advocacy providers to take place before introduction

5.	Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Bill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview attached - Stage 2 of Bill to be considered 6 Feb 2024. Proposed Amendments to the legislation will be known by the End of January.  <p>Children's Care and Justice Bill_0001.pdf</p>	
6.	Bairns Hoose <p>This is up and running. The North Strathclyde Partnership has been awarded Pathfinder status. An overview and more info can be found at:- Next steps for Bairns' Hoose - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)</p> <p>SCRA & Renfrewshire's Children Services continue to be key members of the Partnership, ensuring child witnesses and victims continue to receive a high level, promise compliant service</p>	
7.	Police Referrals to SCRA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When compared to the national picture the numbers of Police referrals to SCRA in Renfrewshire are high - SCRA have carried out an audit of police referrals which confirmed that Police referrals are broadly in line with National Referral Guidance (and that decision making in the locality is in line with national thresholds). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint Training session to be arrange between SCRA and the Police Concern Hub to ensure a shared understanding of the National Referral Guidance (in particular with regards to children already subject to CSOs)
8.	Chronologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chronologies are not currently automatically included in Hearing papers – but reporters have discretion to include them if they feel it appropriate to do so - staff have attended multi-agency GIRFEC relaunch sessions where there was a focus on chronologies and social workers have also attended skills sessions training - Social work also currently working on a test of change around using a chronology summary note for chronologies as part of review reports requested by SCRA. This is small scale and at an early stage. - SCRA will continue to provide support for training and can extend test of change when appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be kept under review
9.	Sheriff Principal Practice Note <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Now completed - Sitting with the Sheriff Principal to confirm a commencement date. - There are key benefits to getting cases progressed – Reporters will just need to ensure Sheriffs implement its terms to prevent drift. Sheriff Principal has indicated compliance with the Practice Note will be monitored. - Possible increase in front loading by Reporters likely to have an impact on partners. Training to be delivered once implemented 	
10.	Action Plan <p>Agreed to move from a formal Action Plan to Actions identified at each meeting.</p>	

11.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Successful social work / panel member liaison event held 20/11/2023</p> <p>Information sessions on safeguarders to be rolled out next year. Recognition that role needs to be better understood by key partner agencies especially in context of possible legislative change.</p> <p>There was some discussion regarding Non-Instructed Advocacy. For information SCRA's written position on advocacy is attached: although noted additional discussions to supplement the note have taken place.</p> <div data-bbox="309 555 362 616" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>PRACTICE NOTE - Advocacy Services.pdf</p>	
	<p>Date of next meeting – 28 February 2024</p>	

Children's Care & Justice Bill 2023

Raising age of referral to Reporter

- Up to 18 for all children
- This means that all offence referrals must be jointly reported – with the presumption that the offence will be referred to SCRA
- Anticipated additional 4-5K children per year, resulting in up to 3.5K additional Hearings p/a (for offence and non-offence)
- Approx £6.7m for additional SW resources to meet this demand
- Has implications for how EEI and Diversion will continue to be used
- Also a commitment to further review the ACR (to 14yo)

Victims

- If more harmful offending is dealt with via SCRA, how are victims supported? Eg:
 - Information about outcomes
 - Information about conditions – particularly if it relates to them
 - Information about returning home from care/secure
 - Support to recover – who best to provide this?
 - Opportunity for restorative justice
- Possible new conditions on CSO restricting a child from a place or a person
- Possible extension of MRC criteria to include risk of psychological harm – and 'de-coupling' it from only as an alternative to secure care

Post-18 support

- Considering placing a duty on LA to provide voluntary support for 12 months after a CSO is terminated simply due to turning 18

Children in custody / Court

- All under 18s treated as children if in police custody – higher bar for admission
- Maximising alternatives – duty to get Advice for all summary cases
- Allowing for HSB and Driving offences to be remitted – court still deals with disqualification / registration
- Providing child friendly environment / process/ personnel – Youth Courts

Secure / Polmont

- Possible addition to secure criteria of psychological harm
- Aim to have no under 18s in Polmont by the end of 2024
- This will require change in legislation to allow a sheriff to remand/sentence a young person to secure even if they're not on a CSO
- All secure criminal admission = care leaver
- SG to fund all secure remands as well as secure sentences (£4m p/a)
- Allowing over 18s to remain in secure care if nearing the end of their sentence

1. SECTION 122

Section 122 of the Children's (Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 deals with children's advocacy services. It came into force in full on 21 November 2020.

Section 122(2) requires the chair of any children's hearing to inform the referred child of the availability of children's advocacy services unless the chair, taking account of the age and maturity of the child, considers it would not be appropriate to do so.

In practical terms:

- The duty applies only if the child is present at the hearing.
- If the child is accompanied at the hearing by an advocacy worker there is no expectation that the chair will inform the child of the availability of advocacy services.
- The requirement is for the chair to inform the child that advocacy services are available. Chairs are likely to do this by asking the child if anyone has already spoken to them about advocacy and if they know they can have an advocacy worker.
- It is not necessary for the chair to elicit a response from the child as to whether the child wants to seek advocacy support, though the chair may give the child the opportunity to do so.
- A hearing may choose to defer in order to enable the child to seek advocacy support. The hearing is not obliged to defer and the hearing should take into account all the relevant circumstances before deciding to do so.

The Scottish Government has made provision for the availability of children's advocacy services. The Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (Children's Advocacy Services) Regulations 2020 ([here](#)) require children's advocacy workers funded through this route to act in accordance with the National Practice Model for Advocacy within the Children's Hearings System ([here](#)). The Regulations also set out training requirements for children's advocacy workers.

2. OPERATION OF ADVOCACY SERVICES

Reporters and support staff are to take the following approach in relation to the operation of advocacy services:

Referral to an advocacy service

- SCRA is fully supportive of the provision of children's advocacy services and has played a key role in developing an information leaflet, setting up a website on

advocacy services for hearings¹, a link to which is on our website, and adding information to hearing notifications - all of which support a child to understand the availability of advocacy services and how to contact them.

- The reporter is not to refer a child to an advocacy service but may ensure the child knows where to access relevant information². Those directly involved with the child are appropriately placed to offer support to the child in relation to referral.

Instruction

- The child must be capable of instructing the advocacy worker in order for the advocacy worker to act as a representative of the child. It is understood that Children's Advocacy Services generally regard children from the age of 5 as potentially being capable of instructing an advocacy worker.
- The reporter is to be satisfied that an advocacy worker is instructed by the child only if the advocacy worker informs the reporter in writing that they are instructed by the child³. This may be by email - provided it comes from a cjsm account or the email address can be verified from the website for children's hearings advocacy support⁴ - or otherwise by letter containing the letterhead of the Advocacy Service. If the reporter is in any doubt about whether the advocacy worker is properly instructed by the child the reporter is to seek a mandate.

Information from the reporter

- It is expected that advocacy workers will operate with information provided to them by the child or on occasion, if additional information is required, by discussion with professionals involved directly with the child.
- However, where an advocacy worker is instructed by the child, the reporter may inform the advocacy worker of the date, time and place of the children's hearing, using the standard letter for instructed representatives (solicitors and advocacy workers)⁵.
- No other information about the hearing is to be provided⁶ nor is any request for written information for consideration by the hearing to be made. It is for the child to decide whether they want their advocacy worker to attend the hearing or provide any information in writing. If an instructed advocacy worker provides written information for consideration by the hearing, the reporter is to include this in the hearing papers⁷.
- The usual approach to providing papers to the child applies. Where the child would not be capable of understanding the papers the reporter is not to provide them.

¹ <https://www.hearings-advocacy.com/>

² If a hearing directs the reporter under rule 61(1)(f) or (g) to refer the child to an advocacy service, the reporter must comply with this, and explain to the advocacy service that the referral is being made following a direction by the hearing to do so. The reporter should provide the child's name and contact details to the advocacy service and the likely timescale for the next hearing (not the date).

³ The advocacy worker must make clear that the instruction comes from the child, not anyone else.

⁴ <https://www.hearings-advocacy.com/>

⁵ The letter [here](#) is available on CSAS and Connect and includes the date, time and place of the hearing and makes reference to providing written information for the hearing if the child they are representing wishes them to do so. (Where the advocacy worker's attendance would be virtual, a separate version of the letter is available.)

⁶ This applies even if the advocacy worker has a mandate from the child.

⁷ Such information will be covered by rule 26.

Advocacy support for those with or seeking participation rights (participation individuals)

- Under the Scottish Government provision, the organisations funded for the national advocacy scheme may provide a service for individuals with participation rights, or who are seeking such rights, and who are aged under 18. The approach set out above in relation for the referred child is to be applied to such individuals (participation individuals).
- The reporter may provide the date, time and place of a hearing to the advocacy worker only if the individual instructing them already has participation rights or the matter of whether they meet the participation criteria or section 132A criteria has been referred to the particular hearing (or PHP).

Non-instructed advocacy

- On occasion, advocacy workers who have not been instructed by the child have been funded through the Scottish Government provision.
- An advocacy worker who is not being instructed by the child cannot be treated as a representative of the child.
- If there is a non-instructed advocacy worker, the same approach applies as for other persons involved with a child. In particular:
 - The reporter may include in hearing papers information provided by a non-instructed advocacy worker only if the reporter assesses the information to be material/relevant for the hearing.
 - The reporter may invite a non-instructed advocacy worker to attend the hearing only if the reporter considers their attendance would assist the hearing in its decision-making.
 - The reporter may request information from a non-instructed advocacy worker if the advocacy worker appears likely to have relevant/material information.
- As the role of non-instructed advocacy for children's hearings is to some extent unclear, the reporter is to consult with their Senior Practitioner and the Practice Team before inviting a non-instructed advocacy worker to provide information or to attend a hearing.
- If a non-instructed advocacy worker seeks to attend a hearing, whether invited by the reporter or not, it will be for the chair of the hearing to decide whether, and if so when, to allow them to attend.
- It will be for the hearing to decide what weight to attach to any information a non-instructed advocacy worker provides.

Advocacy worker at a hearing

- Within the hearing an advocacy worker who has been instructed by the child or a participation individual to attend will be a representative (non-legal) of the child or individual.
- The usual provisions about attendance of a representative apply. The instructed advocacy worker for the referred child is to be enabled to attend the hearing at the start (whether or not the child is attending).

- The instructed advocacy worker for a participation individual is to be enabled to attend, along with the individual, at the point during the hearing determined by the chair⁸.
- The reporter is to ensure that the hearing receptionist is aware of when an advocacy worker for the child or a participation individual is not instructed.
- If a non-instructed advocacy worker wishes to attend a hearing, it is for the chair to decide whether, and if so when, to allow them to attend. They are not to be enabled to attend at the start of the hearing.
- The reporter is to record the attendance of an advocacy worker in the record of proceedings in the 'Other Persons Present' box, selecting the designation 'Child Advocate'. If the advocacy worker is non-instructed, or is an advocacy worker for a participation individual rather than the referred child, the reporter is to record this after the name of the advocacy worker by adding 'non-instructed' and/or 'PI' as appropriate.

3. ADDITIONAL ACTIONS

SCRA continues to look at appropriate ways to promote the availability of advocacy services and support their update by children.

We consider that social workers play the key role in advising the child well in advance of a hearing of the availability of advocacy support.

4. CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY SERVICE PROVIDERS

The contracted service providers are listed on the hearings advocacy website. They are also noted in the following table for ease of reference. On occasion advocacy services may be available to a child outwith the contract.

Area	Primary Provider	Alternate Provider
Aberdeen City	Who Cares? Scotland	Advocacy Service Aberdeen
Aberdeenshire	Who Cares? Scotland	Advocacy Service Aberdeen
Angus	Angus Independent Advocacy	Who Cares? Scotland
Argyll & Bute	Who Cares? Scotland	Partners in Advocacy
Clackmannanshire	Who Cares? Scotland	Barnardo's
Dumfries & Galloway	Barnardo's	Who Cares? Scotland
Dundee	Partners in Advocacy	Who Cares? Scotland
East Ayrshire	East Ayrshire Advocacy Services	Who Cares? Scotland
East Dunbartonshire	Partners in Advocacy	Who Cares? Scotland
East Lothian	CAPS Independent Advocacy	Partners in Advocacy
East Renfrewshire	Partners in Advocacy	Who Cares? Scotland
Edinburgh, City of	Partners in Advocacy	CAPS Independent Advocacy
Falkirk	Who Cares? Scotland	Barnardo's
Fife	Barnardo's	Who Cares? Scotland
Glasgow	Barnardo's	Partners in Advocacy

⁸ Note that a representative of a participation individual has a right to attend the hearing only while the participation individual attends. However the chair may allow attendance in the absence of the participation individual.

Highland	Who Cares? Scotland	Partners in Advocacy
Inverclyde	Partners in Advocacy	Who Cares? Scotland
Midlothian	CAPS Independent Advocacy	Partners in Advocacy
Moray	Who Cares? Scotland	Partners in Advocacy
North Ayrshire	Barnardo's	Who Cares? Scotland
North Lanarkshire	Who Cares? Scotland	Barnardo's
Orkney	Who Cares? Scotland	Partners in Advocacy
Perth & Kinross	Independent Advocacy Perth & Kinross	Who Cares? Scotland
Renfrewshire	Who Cares? Scotland	Barnardo's
Scottish Borders	Borders Independent Advocacy Services	CAPS Independent Advocacy
Shetland	Who Cares? Scotland	Partners in Advocacy
South Ayrshire	Barnardo's	Who Cares? Scotland
South Lanarkshire	Partners in Advocacy	Who Cares? Scotland
Stirling	Who Cares? Scotland	Barnardo's
West Dunbartonshire	Partners in Advocacy	Who Cares? Scotland
West Lothian	Who Cares? Scotland	Barnardo's
Western Isles (Eilean Siar)	Advocacy Western Isles	Who Cares? Scotland

