

SUB-GROUP MEETING - TUESDAY 6th DECEMBER 2022, 10AM

In attendance: Edi Hanley, Marion Robinson, Lesley King, Jacqueline Doherty

Sabbaticals

Edi and Jacqueline have contacted the 4 PMs whose names were provided by Marion – last communication text message on 1/12/22. They were 2 males and 2 females. In addition to this a further 2 females have recently requested sabbatical. 6 PMs in total.

Resignations

6 female PMs – 2 reasons not given, 3 change in personal circumstances, 1 personal/health reasons.

1 male PM – work commitments.

7 in total.

Hearing Statistics – 11th October to the 5th December

- Deferrals – 1 virtual, 24 face to face

Of these hearings: 7 RP not in attendance, 5 LR not in attendance / insufficient time for instruction, 3 child not in attendance, 5 late reports/further information required (3 SW, 1 SG and 1 Independent), 1 change to recommendation, 1 SW lack of information, 2 for safeguarder appointment, 1 PM not in attendance. 2 hearings - 2 reasons given.

v	RP failed to attend	
F2f	Parents failed to attend	
F2f	Still awaiting independent report	LR not present
F2f	LR had insufficient time to consult with client	
F2f	Child failed to attend (age 14, expected)	
F2f	No SW report	
F2f	RP not in attendance	
F2f	Safeguarder requested	
F2f	No SW report – SW off ill	
F2f	RP not in attendance	
F2f	RP failed to attend (grounds)	
F2f	RP failed to attend (grounds)	
F2f	PM failed to attend	
F2f	SW report late (to SCRA day before)	
F2f	Safeguarder requested	
F2f	Child failed to attend (age 14, expected)	
F2f	No SW report	
F2f	Child failed to attend (age 14, expected)	
F2f	SW on leave and duty worker not familiar with case	
F2f	LR did not attend	
F2f	Change of LR – hadn't managed to gain instruction	SW were changing recommendation
F2f	LR on holiday	
F2f	Late safeguarder report	
F2f	Additional information required (re special school)	
F2f	Family failed to attend	

Question asked about hearings being deferred because the legal rep was on holiday and why they hadn't organised alternative cover. It is possible that client only approached them few days in advance of hearing, therefore no time to arrange swap or inform reporter.

- Swaps – 12 in October 16 in November and 5 in December. Noted that there were a high number this time.

- Cancelled hearings

Virtual - 8 no cases allocated
 -1 reporter training

Face-to-Face - 7 no cases allocated
 - 3 reporter leave
 - reporter training

- Standby

5th December am – not required

- Continuity

There have been 2 continuity requests.

20th November

2nd December – some confusion around this hearing caused by technical issues accessing papers and PM not being clear that the swap was for both hearings that session and not just the continuity case.

Brief discussion around CSAS system making it difficult to only swap one case within a hearings session – whilst still allowing all PMs access to papers, etc. However, there is a work around should this be necessary.

Continuity requests made for 19th December and 10th January – next meeting stats

Pastoral Care

4 PMs were sent texts on 1st December re their sabbatical. All four have responded with, no definite answer from any, but all have been asked to consider their situation and let us know within the next couple of weeks. One has asked for some support to return and will receive phone call this afternoon.

One PM provided support to build confidence, following the enhanced practice training, and Edi continues to provide ongoing support to others.

Panel Strength

72 PMs - 54F and 18 M

65 active – 49F and 16M

27 chair qualified - 18F and 9M, of these there are 26 active chairs - 18F and 8M

Rotas

January to March rotas have now been published. Marion will explore possibility of group text to alert PMs to this and ask them to check emails.

Technical Issues

Some PMs have had issues viewing papers on CSAS and this requires further exploration. These PMs never received an email to say papers were available either. This has also been a problem elsewhere.

Issues with the Wi-Fi at Glen Lane which is causing delay to panel members accessing papers. This has been flagged up to the SCRA technical team. This is a difficult issue for all involved and is undoubtedly causing additional stress and workload for PMs and SCRA staff.

Trauma Informed Practice

3 of our LDCs attended this training in Edinburgh on 28th November, with the plan being for this to become embedded into our practice, not only at a hearing room level (when dealing with children, young people and families) but at all levels.

Much of this is already used within the system however we do need to be mindful of our interactions with others. Basics of kindness, courtesy, empathy and compassion when dealing with all are to be encouraged. There was a brief discussion around emails, which can be misinterpreted, so all should be mindful when writing these.

AOB

Nothing raised.