

**North Strathclyde Hub**  
**Area Conveners/Area Support & Improvement Partners Meeting**  
**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 11.15am**

**Present**

Ken McKinlay (ASIP) CHAIR  
Audrey Houston (AC Argyll & Bute)  
Maureen Quinn (AC Inverclyde)  
Derek Bramma (AC Renfrewshire)  
Judy Wilson (AC W. Dunbartonshire)  
Michael Stewart (ASIP)  
Pam Wilson (ASIP)

**Apologies**

Ying Zhang (AC E. Dunbartonshire)  
Richard Reynolds (AC E. Renfrewshire)

**Welcome & Introductions**

Ken welcomed everyone to the re-instated North Strathclyde Hub meeting and explained he would be chairing the meeting on a rotational basis with Michael and Pam would be taking the minutes. Apologies were given on behalf Ying and Richard.

**Review of Hub-What works well? What could be better?**

Discussion took place around the benefits of meeting within this forum:

- Ensuring uniform practice and sharing viewpoints on a local basis
- A smaller, relevant group where there is a geographical connectedness
- Meetings are better when they have the structure and relevant agenda and this was enjoyed previously, especially as all localities will be starting the RAVHI rollout within a similar timeframe
- The hub provides a safe space to raise concerns and 'offload'
- It would be helpful to incorporate SCRA/LRM continuity within the Hub in the future

This raised the question around the involvement of LRMs at future meetings and it was agreed that they would be invited to the first half of each meeting to discuss practice items that **ASIPs would invite LRMs to next meeting.**

**Sharing key successes & Challenges**

**Argyll & Bute:** After a successful face to face AST meeting in Inveraray the Area Plan has been completed; virtual hearings are continuing and are going well; there is a face to face 'Welcome' event for new PMs arranged for this weekend. Challenges continue around mandatory training in conjunction with the RAVHI training

**Inverclyde:** PPA recruitment is going well with 5 applications and 3 appointed but might still require assistance from other Areas. Success is due to working with the media team and placing adverts in local papers and across local social media, this local campaign has proved more successful than the national event. Costings for advertising shared between CHS and Devolved Budget.

**West Dunbartonshire:** DAC now recruited and in post; filling AST vacancies continues to be challenging; more PPAs need to be recruited; emergency legislation has been implemented at every last week as there are the challenges to fill the rota; looking forward to new trainees starting; Area Plan near completion

**Renfrewshire:** stability in AST and have had an expression of interest in the PPA role but no current vacancies- a good position to be in; mandatory training-still 31 to complete; good multi agency liaison between agencies

in relation to 'The Promise'; Better Hearings programme has regained momentum locally; super local training provided by SW around virtual contact with over 30 attending; AST communication sub-group established to improve engagement with Teams and weekly Friday Fun quiz/challenge posted on channel to encourage community to read messages-£10 Amazon voucher incentive.

Pam and Derek to share a summary re. panel community engagement

**E. Renfrewshire (Michael):** challenge of gender balance; only 1 male applicant; issues with local Hearing Room based in basement of Barrhead Council offices-will continue to monitor the situation.

**E. Dunbartonshire (Pam):** A very successful 'welcome' evening for new trainee PMs and a new PPA-various agencies represented and asked to introduce themselves and how they fed into Children's Hearings, Area Plans completed, new venue currently being scoped out at the marina.

#### **Collective challenges:**

- PM wellbeing facilities when returning to F2F, break out rooms, tea/coffee facilities
- Gender balance
- RAVHI timescales and training
- Mandatory training
- AST stability/recruitment
- Too much time spent on recruitment and then impacts on retention
- Need a solution focussed approach at National level
- What can CHS offer is AST vacancies can't be filled?

#### **What can ASIPs do to support?**

- Communicate issues/concerns with National Team
- Capture gaps within ASTs and investigate local solutions eg: could Inverclyde's complaints be handed centrally by CHS in relation to DAC position?

#### **RAVHI Implementation in North Strathclyde**

Renfrewshire indicated the RAVHI rollout timeframe was not ideal as it comes at the same time as new PMs starting, return of PPAs, mandatory training and new legislation. VScene is currently stable and therefore not the urgency for Teams. Argyll & Bute, Inverclyde and W. Dunbartonshire all pleased with move to Teams due to frustrations with Vscene.

Flexible drop-in training sessions were suggested and there is a possibility that ASIPs could support with this format. ASIPs will seek/clarity on training requirements and formats from Fife.

#### **Frequency & location once restrictions lift: future agenda items**

Agreement from all that meetings would be held virtually and on a quarterly basis with topic specific meetings as required ie: RAVHI.

#### **Date of next meeting**

20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 @ 11am-1pm

LRMs 11am-12noon to review RAVHI implementation

#### **AOB**

none