

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.