



Renfrewshire
Area Support Team

Minute of Meeting Renfrewshire Area Support Team

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 09 May 2023	14:00	Corporate Meeting Room 2, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present

Craig Campbell; Jacqueline Doherty; Edi Hanley; Alex MacDonald; Jim Melrose; and Marion Robinson.

Chair

J Melrose, Depute Area Convener, presided.

In Attendance

P Shiach, Senior Committee Services Officer, (Finance and Resources).

Apologies

Councillor Hughes, D Bamma, L King, C McLean and P Wilson.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated by members prior to the meeting.

Additional Items

The Depute Area Convener indicated that there were three additional item of business which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting. The Depute Area Convener, being of the opinion that the items were competent and relevant, authorised their consideration at items 5, 9 and 10 respectively of the agenda.

1 Minute of Previous Meeting

There was submitted the Minute of the previous meeting of Renfrewshire Area Support Team (AST) held on 21 March 2022.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 Matters Arising

Item 12 – Professional Development Award

In relation to Personal Development, the Depute Area Convener advised that efforts were continuing to encourage Panel Members to complete training, in particular Management of Hearings training. Several suggestions were put forward in this regard, including compiling a list of those requiring training and a plan of action to achieve this; indicating to Panel Members that they should complete their training but would not be given chairing duties until they felt comfortable to do so; and the use of a “Buddy” system.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.

3 Learning & Development Sub-group

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Learning and Development Sub-group held on 1 May -2023.

The Minute provided updates on Pre-service training, including advocacy training; Kibble visits; and IG training; an In-service update including area plan training elements; the training calendar 2023/24; a presentation by Who Cares in October; Management of Hearings training; and Trauma-Informed Practice.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

4 Retention & Reappointment

The Depute Area Convener provided a verbal update on panel member reappointments, indicating that 13 Panel Members had been re-appointed, 11 following a discussion via a Microsoft Teams platform and two following face-to-face interviews. The Depute Area Convener also provided details on two Panel Members who had not sought reappointment, one Panel Member who would have less availability as a result of changed employment circumstances.

In addition, the Depute Area Convener advised that observations had taken place of two Panel Members who had attended at Hearings where decisions had been the subject of appeals.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.

5 Hearings Management Sub-group

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Hearings Management Sub-group held on 2 May 2023.

The Minute provided information in relation to sabbaticals, resignations; panel strength; hearing statistics for the period 13 March to 28 April 2023 including information on deferrals, swaps, cancelled hearings, standby arrangements, continuity, cross-area assistance, police presence, additional hearings; and pastoral care.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

6 North Strathclyde Standby Rota

There was submitted a report by the Area Convener relative to the North Strathclyde Standby Rota providing details of the day, date, reason for standby, SCRA office providing cover and the AST allocated.

The Rota Manager provided an update, indicating that AST s could be asked to provide standby cover for cases in any of the six areas in North Strathclyde on a rota basis. The purpose of the rota was to reduce the number of Reporters on standby.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

7 Renfrewshire Area Plan 2023/24

There was submitted a report by Children's Hearings Scotland relative to the Renfrewshire Area Plan 2023/24.

The Plan set out the priority actions for the Renfrewshire area for the year April 2023 to March 2024. The plan also acknowledged that the priority for Renfrewshire for 2023 was to focus on the core operations of recruiting, training, supporting and retaining Panel Members, to ensure that the hearing system continued to support and protect infants, children and young people whilst also preparing for the implementation of the recommendations of the Hearings System Working Group as part of The Promise.

The report indicated that the Plan would be reviewed regularly to take account of developments in the wider environment.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

10 Complaint against Reporter

The Depute Area Convener provided an update relative to a complaint by two Panel Members against a Reporter. He advised that the complaint have been investigated and that a response would be sent to the Reporters' office by 10 May 2023.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.

8 **Devolved Funding**

There was submitted a matrix by the Clerk relative to Devolved Funding expenditure.

The Clerk indicated that there had been no devolved budget spending as at 9 May 2023. However the matrix would be populated as fund were committed for various activities during the current financial year. The budget currently available was £2,400.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

9 **Panel Member Recognition**

The Depute Area Convener provided an update relative to the forthcoming Panel Recognition event, indicating that 51 invitees had confirmed their attendance, including CHS Chief Executive Elliot Jackson.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.

11 **Date of Next Meeting**

DECIDED: That it be noted that the next meeting of the Area Support Team was scheduled for Tuesday 20 June 2023 at 2.00pm in Renfrewshire House.