



Minute of Meeting Renfrewshire Area Support Team

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 28 January 2020	14:00	Corporate Meeting Room 3, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present

Derek Bramma; Annemarie Currie; Edi Hanley; John Leckie; Alex MacDonald; Ewan McNaught; Jim Melrose; Amanda Morrison; Marion Robinson; Angela Stevenson; Alison Thompson.

Chair

D Bramma, Area Convener, presided.

Also Present

A Cramb, Area Support and Improvement Partner (Children's Hearings Scotland), and L King, Local Area Reporter.

In Attendance

P Shiach, Committee Services Officer (Finance & Resources).

Apologies

Councillor J Shaw, E Anderson, C Campbell; and B Dorey.

Declarations of Interest

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

Additional Items

The Area Convener indicated that there were four additional items which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting. The Area Convener, being of the opinion that the items which were dealt with at items 6 to 8 were competent and relevant, authorised their consideration.

1 Minute of Previous Meeting

There was submitted the Minute of the previous meeting of Renfrewshire Area Support Team (AST) held on 3 December 2019.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 Matters Arising

(a) Devolved Funding

Under reference to item 9 of the Minute of the previous meeting relative to Devolve Funding, the Area Convener advised that the 2020 Recognition Event had been provisionally booked for 15 May at St Mirren Park, Paisley. As previously, Devolved Funding would be available for 50% of the cost of the event.

(b) Development Day

The Area Convener confirmed that a Panel Member Development Day had been arranged for Thursday 26 March 2020 at St Mirren Park, Paisley.

(c) Secure Hearings

In response to a question raised by A Stevenson in relation to the use of a printer at a hearing at the Kibble Centre, the Locality Reporter Manager clarified the position indicating that there was no protocol for taking mobile printers into secure hearings. However, there was a protocol for locked printers in Glen Lane. The Locality Reporter Manager undertook to revisit the issue and report back to a future meeting of the Area Support Team.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.

3 Hearings Management Sub-group

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Hearings Management Sub-group held on 14 January 2020.

The Minute provided an update on resignations; sabbaticals; hearing statistics between 13 November 2019 and 13 January 2020 including deferred cases, cancelled sessions, secure hearings, extra cases/hearings sessions, swaps and continuity; pastoral care; panel member strength; re-appointments; digital training and new systems; new chair rota training; legal representatives and formal decision making; and general issues.

The Depute Area Convener referred to digital training and new system indicating that the digital group would be discussed at the forthcoming Development day. The Development day would include a root and branch review of all Renfrewshire AST sub-groups.

The Area Convener indicated that he would issue a draft agenda for the Development day which would cover all the current issues.

In terms of the new Chaining arrangements where the Panel Chairs rotate during a hearing session, the Area Support Team was advised that these new arrangements were working well. The Area Convener advised following consultation with the National Convener one Panel Member had been granted an exemption from chaining on medical grounds. However, the Panel Member would continue to attend chair training sessions.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

4 Learning and Development Sub-group

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Learning and Development Sub-group held on 13 January 2020.

The Minute provide an update on pre-service training; in-service training; training sederunts and evaluation arrangements; management of hearings (MOH) updates and actions; CHS digital training requirements; and the proposed AST Development Day.

The Learning and Development Co-ordinator (pre-service) indicated that a further trainee Panel Member had resigned due to conflict of interest issues following a change in her employment circumstances. The number of Trainee Panel members had reduced to 13.

The Area Convener indicated that he would discuss the matter with the Trainee with a view to a pre-service transfer to an adjoining AST area.

The Depute Area Convener Advised that all current CHS email addresses would cease to operate on 10 February 2020. New email addresses would be issued by CHS on 1 February 2020.

J Leckie requested that a briefing note on the changes be made available for all Panel Members for the next training night. The Rota Manager indicated that she would send an email to all Panel Members requesting that they check emails for details of the changes.

DECIDED:

(a) That the Rota Manager send an email to all Panel Members requesting that they check emails for details of the changes; and

(b) That the Minute be otherwise approved.

5 Locality Reporter Manager - Update

The Locality Reporter Manager advised that N Harkness would provide a short presentation from the Reporters perspective to the forthcoming Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee biennial conference to be held on 5 March 2020.

The Locality Reporter Manger provided an update on staffing, appeals feedback and the number of Hearing sessions and cancellation since the last meeting in December 2019.

The Locality Reporter Manager was then heard in response to questions raised by members of the AST on the content of the report.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

6 Area Conveners' Liaison Meeting

The Area Convener referred to the meeting of the Area Conveners' Liaison meeting which had taken place in January 2020 indicating that the finding of the Care Review would be published on 5 February 2020. He indicated that the National Convener intended to host a conference call on the findings on 6 February 2020 and thereafter information would be disseminated to the area teams and relevant parties.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

7 Digital Roll-out

The Area Convener advised that the digital roll-out for the Renfrewshire Area was expected to take place in April 2020 with the Digital Landing Page available from 6 April 2020. He further advised that all AST areas would receive a laptop, projector and screen from CHS in the near future for use at meetings, training etc.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.

8 East Renfrewshire AST

The Area Convener updated the Committee relative to the position with East Renfrewshire Area Support Team following several resignations within the Team.

He advised that J Melrose, Renfrewshire Depute Area Convener had agreed to take over the role of Area Convener for East Renfrewshire Area Support Team in the interim until a more permanent solution could be agreed.

A Currie offered to carry out PPA Observations in East Renfrewshire in the interim period if required.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.

9 Date of Next Meeting

DECIDED:

Members noted that the next meeting of the Area Support Team is scheduled for Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 2.00pm.