Minute of Meeting
Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee

Item No 1

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Wednesday, 09 September 2015</td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>CMR 2, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN</td>
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PRESENT

Filippo Capaldi, Police Scotland; Liz Daniels, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership; Dorothy Hawthorn, Head of Child Care and Criminal Justice; Councillor Jacqueline Henry, Renfrewshire Council; Andrew Lowe, Independent Chair; Selwyn McCausland, Barnardos; Gordon McKinlay, Head of Service; Jim Melrose, Renfrewshire AST; Sylvia Morrison, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership; Dr Aileen Van Der Lee, GP Representative

INDEPENDENT CHAIR

A Lowe, Independent Chair, presided

IN ATTENDANCE

Susan Bell, Education Manager (GIRFEC); Sharon Glasgow, Senior Officer (RCPC/GIRFEC); Michelle McCargo, Children’s Services Manager; David McLavin, Senior Communications Officer; Helen Parker, Lead Officer - RCPC; Donna Richmond, Housing Strategy Manager; Paul Shiach, Committee Services Officer; and John Trainer, Transition Manager.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Belinda McEwan, Child Protection Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillor Maria Brown, Renfrewshire Council; David Leese, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership; Eileen MacLean, Head of Housing Services; and Peter MacLeod, Director of Children’s Services.
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.
1 **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee held on 24 June, 2015.

**DECIDED:** That the Minute be approved.

2 **MATTERS ARISING**

Case Review Group

The Independent Chair indicated that as a result of the number of apologies intimiated for the meeting of the Group to be held on 9 September, 2015 and the issues to be considered, that the content to be discussed be shared with partner organisations and that the Group reconvenes at a later date. This was agreed

**DECIDED:** The Committee agreed that as a result of the number of apologies for the next meeting of the Case Review Group, the content be shared with partner organisations and that the Group reconvene at a later date.

3 **THE PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL CHILD ABUSE IN SCOTLAND AND THE NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL FORUM**

There was submitted a report by the Child Protection Officer, Children’s Services providing an update on the Public Inquiry into Historic Child Abuse in Scotland and the National Confidential Forum, both of which were actions reflected in the Scottish Human Rights Commission InterAction Plan on Historic Abuse in Scotland.

The report advised that in December 2014, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning announced that a public inquiry would be undertaken into historic child abuse of children under 18 years under the Inquiries (Scotland) Act 2005 and that a consultation process would take place involving survivors and others in relation to the terms of reference and the appointment of a suitable Chair. Susan O’Brien QC was subsequently announced as Inquiry Chair.

The report advised that a statutory inquiry could compel public bodies or private organisations to produce particular documents. It also had the power to summon people who were involved, such as a person providing care, to give evidence.

The report indicated that the Inquiry would examine any instance where a child was abused “in care”, including residential care; children's homes; secure care; borstals and young offenders institutions; and also those placed in foster care. “In care” would also carry a broader interpretation to include allegations affecting boarded out children; child migrant schemes; school hostels; and health care establishments providing long term care for children. Independent boarding schools are also included.

The report intimated that the Inquiry would be asked to report to Ministers within 4 years of the date of commencement which was to be no later than 1 October 2015.
The report further advised that in 2011, the Scottish Government announced its intention to establish a national acknowledgement forum to recognize the experiences of adults who were in institutional care as children. The intention was to build on the positive work of the “Time to be Heard” Pilot Forum which reported in 2011 and focussed on the experiences of adults who had been placed in Quarriers.

Following a consultation on the proposal in 2012, the National Confidential Forum (NCF) was set up in 2014 as part of the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014.

Renfrewshire Children’s Services (social work) were undertaking a review of records and exploring options to publicise the work of the NCF to ensure that those eligible to participate were made aware of this.

The Child Protection Officer, Children’s Services was then heard in answer to questions from members on various aspects of the report.

**DECIDED:** That the report be noted.

### 4 RENFREWSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Lead Officer Child Protection relative to recent activity and emergent issues in relation to child protection.

The report provided information on the review of governance arrangements for Public Protection in Renfrewshire; the Inspection update; field visits; the Significant Case Review (child MK); sandstories and the development opportunity for RCPC members; and the RCPC Sub Group Chairs meeting.

In terms of governance arrangements, the Lead Officer Child Protection intimated that the Chief Officers Group had agreed to an independent review of the governance arrangements for Public Protection which would be chaired by D McAuley.

The Lead Officer Child Protection was then heard in answer to questions from members on the report.

**DECIDED:** That the report be noted.

### 5 CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL FOR CYBER RESILIENCE STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND

There was submitted a report by the Lead Officer Child Protection presenting the finalised RCPC response to members, relative to the Scottish Government Consultation on proposals for a Cyber Resilience Strategy for Scotland, as presented to the Scottish Government on 28 August, 2015. Appendix 1 to the report outlined the response.

**DECIDED:**

a) That the contents of the consultation response, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report be noted; and

b) That it be noted that the completed national response to the consultation will be presented to the Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee when published.
6  PROTOCOL : RCPC RESPONSES TO SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

There was submitted a report by the Independent Chair relative to a proposed protocol for preparing and responding to consultation requests.

The protocol, as contained in appendix 1 to the report, outlined the circumstances where it would be appropriate to provide a Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee response to a consultation on a future piece of work or legislation, and set out how this would be achieved.

The Head of Health Care & Criminal Justice suggested an amendment to Part 8 of the protocol to ensure that RCPC members were advised of the outcome at the earliest opportunity.

**DECIDED:**

a) That the report be noted; and

b) That the protocol be amended and a report thereon submitted to the next meeting for approval.

7  WEST OF SCOTLAND CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

There was submitted a report by the Independent Chair relative to revised arrangements for the hosting of the West of Scotland child protection procedures.

The report advised that hosting arrangements for the West of Scotland Child Protection Procedures had had changed from Reconstruct to Tri.x following agreement from the 13 CPCs in the West of Scotland consortium. Initial costs for Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee were £2500 followed by a subsequent annual charge of £600.

The report advised that the previous website remained live until 28 August, 2015 and pending completion of the new website, the West of Scotland procedures were available in pdf format at the following address:

http://www.proceduresonline.com/westofscotland/

**DECIDED:**

a) That the report be noted;

b) That the RCPC members advise their respective agencies of the interim arrangements for West of Scotland procedures; and

c) That the members promote the use of the procedures within their respective agencies.
8 RENFREWSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION - CONFERENCE 3 SEPTEMBER, 2015: INITIAL FEEDBACK

The Children’s Services Manager updated the Committee on the initial reaction to the Child Protection conference held on 3 September, 2015.

She advised that overall the conference had been received positively with around 260 delegates attending, and excellent comments had been received particularly in relation to the workshops.

She advised that a full report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

**DECIDED:**

a) That a comprehensive report on the conference be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee, and

b) That the information be otherwise noted.

9 ADDITIONAL ITEM

The Chair, being of the opinion that the following item was competent and relevant, authorised its consideration at this time.

9 POLICE SCOTLAND - CHILD PROTECTION PRESENTATION

There was submitted a presentation from Detective Chief Inspector Capaldi relative to child protection and social media issues. DCI Capaldi was then heard in answer to questions from members on the presentation. DECIDED: That the presentation be noted.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee would be held on Wednesday 28 October, 2015 at 10.30 am.