



Renfrewshire
Area Support Team

Notice of Meeting and Agenda Renfrewshire Area Support Team

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 15 June 2021	14:00	Remotely by MS Teams,

KENNETH GRAHAM
Head of Corporate Governance

Membership

Eileen Anderson; Derek Brama; Craig Campbell; Annemarie Currie; Jacqueline Doherty; Rhiannan Dock; Edi Hanley; Jennifer Hay; Alex MacDonald; Ruth MacLeod; Hannah McCulloch; Ewan McNaught; Jim Melrose; Marion Robinson; Angela Stevenson; Alison Thompson.

Representing Renfrewshire Council: Councillor John Shaw.

Chair

D Brama, Area Convener

Additional Items

I refer to the agenda for the meeting of the Renfrewshire Area Support Team to be held on 15 June 2021 and enclose the undernoted additional reports which were not included in the notice calling the meeting and which the Area Convener has agreed to be considered as urgent items of business. Hearings Management Sub-group was marked (copy to follow):

- 1 Better Hearings Group – Minute of meeting held on 19 May 2021
- 2 Better Hearings Action Plan – Report by Area Convener
3. Renfrewshire Charter – Report by Area Convener
4. Children (Scotland) Act changes – AST Promotion Toolkit – Report by Children's Hearings Scotland
5. Hearings Management Sub-Group – Minute of meeting held on 10 June 2021
- 6 Reintroduction of PPAs – Verbal report by Area Convener
7. Review of AST and areas of work – Verbal report by Area Convener

Items of business

Apologies

Apologies from members.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Renfrewshire Better Hearings Group | 1 - 2 |
| | Minute of meeting held on 19 May 2021. | |
| 2 | Renfrewshire Better Hearings Action Plan – May 2021 | 3 - 4 |
| | Report by Area Convener. | |
| 3 | Renfrewshire Charter | 5 - 6 |
| | Report by Area Convener. | |
| 4 | Children (Scotland) Act changes AST Promotion Toolkit | 7 - 20 |
| | Report by Children's Hearings Scotland. | |
| 5 | Hearings Management Sub-group | 21 - 22 |
| | Minute of meeting held on 10 June 2021. | |
| 6 | Reintroduction of PPAs | |
| | Verbal report by Area Convener. | |
| 7 | Review of AST composition and areas of work | |
| | Verbal report by Area Convener. | |

		ACTIONS
1.	<p>Attending: Nicola Harkness, Andrew Mobbs, Derek Bramma, Jim Melrose, Julie MacTaggart, Aine O'Byrne, Jane Scott, Ruth Wallace – for part Kevin Smith, Stuart Wilson,</p> <p>Apologies: Michelle McCargo, Pam Wilson, Susan Clocherty, Selwyn McAusland</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of last meeting on 13 November 2021, previous Action Plan and Completed Action Log shared 	
3.	<p>Previous work Renfrewshire Charter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed we needed to try to refocus on the positive behaviours identified in the Charter – the first bullet point (come prepared and make sure you are too) should be covered by the Hearing Prep Guidance – the rest could be highlighted by the chairperson at the start of the hearing – laying the ground rules and expectations for the management of the hearing, how views will be heard and what behaviours are expected from participants. <p>Hearing Preparation Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current version is being disseminated to SW staff. Although updated to include references to virtual hearings and the new advocacy referral pathway now needs further updated to reflect new legislative changes Collecting feedback from children and young people – we continue to look to find a way to gather feedback from children and young people about how they found the process of attending Children's Hearings - What went well? What could have been done better? What was especially difficult? Did they feel supported? Were their views listened to? Did they understand the decisions made? We had considered looking for a possible technological solution to this, but first will try to gather some initial views of children and young people. 	<p>CHS – Derek / Jim / Pam – chairperson training to introduce / embed the Charter</p> <p>SCRA / SW – Nicola / Andrew / Kevin – Update Hearing Preparation Guidelines to reflect new legislative changes</p> <p>Ruth – tap into ongoing work with children and young people around The Promise to try to gather some initial feedback / views</p>
5.	<p>IAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing new legislation – current reports will need to be adapted to provide the information necessary to implement the new legislative changes around participation and sibling contact Summaries of key information to make reports more accessible and understandable to children and young people still felt to be a positive idea worth considering further Chronologies are often very long adding to often already long reports making hearing papers often difficult to understand / inaccessible to children and young people Case sampling of reports to ensure quality assurance would be beneficial and allow assurance to be given that they are multi-agency and providing sufficient information for robust decision making 	<p>SW / SCRA – Michelle / Nicola –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adapt reports to ensure all information required by new legislative changes is provided. Consider one page summary to make reports more accessible Chronology training to support effective chronologies Arrange for an audit / case sampling to monitor quality and ensure reports are multi-agency


6.	Keeping number of attendees at a Hearing at a minimum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The previous pilots on managing attendance at hearings and has been put on hold due to Covid the way Hearings have operated during the pandemic has dramatically changed – the new legislation increasing participation of siblings will also impact on this – agreed to put this on hold just now until national picture becomes clearer 	c/f
7.	Tackling delay at court <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Sheriff principal Practice Note being developed which should tackle delay in the court process 	SCRA / Bar – Andrew / Stuart - influence and implement new Practice Note
8.	Advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who Cares are now the main advocacy provider for Children's Hearings in Renfrewshire – new provisions are still in their early days but so far signs seems positive and uptake seems high. Service will continue to be monitored to assess uptake and impact. CHS will try to gather some initial figures on numbers of children accompanied by advocacy workers to Children's Hearings 	Advocacy / SW – Julie / Michelle – to monitor implementation and impact of new Advocacy provisions CHS – Derek – attempt to gather some initial figures about level of advocacy representation at Children's Hearings
9.	Panel members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson Training a/a agreed an introduction by the chairperson at the start of the hearing – laying the ground rules and expectations for the management of the hearing, how views will be heard and what behaviours are expected from participants based around the Charter would be helpful – this should also include management of those only entitled to attend part of the Hearing 	CHS – Derek / Jim / Pam – chairperson training to introduce / embed the Charter and manage new legislative provisions
10.	Quality assurance of referrals (in particular of referral screening groups) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed in light of other priorities to c/f at this point 	c/f
11.	Other ideas / what next...? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Promise – all work around Better Hearings should tie in with the overarching aims of the Promise – close links will be maintained between this Better Hearings work and the work on the Promise in Renfrewshire – much of the work already agreed above links closely with the aim of ensuring children are listened to and enabled to participate effectively in decision making about them. Recording child's views – in addition to ensuring children's view are recorded in Hearing reports they should also be reflect in the hearing's reasons for decision to show they have been heard and considered – small initial audit to be completed to see if this is regularly being done 	SCRA / Nicola – carry out initial audit to ensure children's view are reflected in reasons for decision.
	Action Plan - attached	
	Date of next meeting	28 th July 2021

Item 2
Renfrewshire Better Hearings Action Plan – May 2021

Area for Improvement 1: Ensure High Quality Information Is Provided To Children's Hearings					
Areas for improvement	Key Improvement Actions	Owned By	Timescale		Measures of Success
			Start	End	
Before the Hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality assure reports provided for reporters and Children's Hearings. Communications and reports will be understood by children and young people Children's Views should always be available for Children's Hearings Information required to implement legislation to support sibling contact and participation will be available for Children's Hearings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case Sampling of reports to be completed to assess quality, ensure they are multi-agency and provide sufficient information and justification for robust decision making. Consider front page summary for reports and continue to implement the Hearing Preparation Guidelines Implement the Hearing Preparation Guidelines Ensure reports provide sufficient information to implement new legislative provisions. 	SCRA / SW (Nicola / Michelle) SW (Michelle) SW / Advocacy (Kevin / Julie) SW / SCRA (Michelle / Andrew)	May 2021 May 2021 May 2021 May 2021	Oct 2021 Oct 2021 Jul 2021 Jul 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel members will be better prepared for hearings and have all the information they require All agencies will share ownership of single report Children and families will better understand hearing paperwork Hearing paperwork will clearly and accurately reflect the child's views Hearing paperwork will clearly and accurately identify those with a sibling relationship to the child and assess their contact with the child
Area for Improvement 2: The Experience of Children and Young People Attending Hearings Will Be Improved.					
Areas for improvement	Key Improvement Actions	Owned By	Timescale		Measures of Success
			Start	End	
Before the Hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be prepared and understand the process Children's Hearings will be well planned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and implement the Hearing Preparation Guidelines Hearing reports submitted in good time to allow planning 	SCRA / SW (Nicola / Andrew / Kevin) SCRA / SW (Nicola / Karen)	May 2021 May 2021	Jul 2021 Jul 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children be less anxious and more engaged their Children's Hearing will be well prepared and planned
During the Hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hearings will be well managed and run on time. Children should feel able to participate in their own hearings and feel that their views are listened to. Children should feel like the most important person at their hearing Those attending hearings will support and encourage the participation of children and young people and ensure the atmosphere at the hearings remains calm and supportive Advocacy services will be available where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New chairperson training to be considered to support and embed the Charter New advocacy provision will be kept under review to monitor uptake and assess impact. Attempt to gather some figures regarding the number of children attending hearings with advocacy representation 	CHS (Derek / Jim / Pam) SW / Advocacy Services (Michelle / Julie) CHS (Derek)	May 2021 May 2021	Jul 2021 May 2020 May 2020 Oct 2021 F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer Hearings will overrun Hearing will be less acrimonious C & YP will report that their experience at Hearings has improved. Children and YP report that they feel their voices are really being heard by those involved in Children's Hearings Advocacy will be available to all children who wish to access it
After the Hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and YP will understand the outcome of their hearing and know their rights Gathering feedback from children and young people about their experience of the Hearing process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Hearing Preparation Guidelines Initial feedback to be gathered via ongoing work with young people around The Promise. 	SW (Kevin) SW (Ruth)	May 2021 May 2021	Jul 2021 Jul 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and YP will understand the outcomes of children's hearings and understand their rights. Children's views and ideas will influence further improvements
Area for Improvement 3: Delay in the Hearing process will be reduced.					
Areas for improvement	Key Improvement Actions	Owned By	Timescale		Measures of Success
			Start	End	
After the Hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimising delay at proof and appeal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influence and Implementation new Sheriff Principal Practice Note 	SCRA (Andrew / Stuart)	May 2021	Dec 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The time between a grounds hearing and a hearing reaching a decision on established grounds will be reduced

The Renfrewshire Charter

Our commitments to children and young people attending Children's Hearings




We will all
come prepared,
and make sure
you are too



We will make the
Hearing welcoming
and make sure you
feel safe



We will keep
the Hearing
focused on
you



We will listen
to each other and
let everyone have
their say



We will always remain
calm and respectful
of each other even
when we don't agree



We will make
sure the Hearing
does not last any
longer than is
necessary



Children (Scotland) Act changes

AST Promotion Toolkit

Version 1.0

25 May 2021

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Timetable for Implementation

Action Required	By When	By Whom
Partnership working <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaison with partner agencies to establish state of readiness with local authority areas . 	June – 26 th July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Team AC/ASIPS
Preparing the CHS community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and national communications to complement/reinforce key messages around readiness and training (see planner below). 	June – 26 th July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communications – AST National communications – Communications Team
Practice & Procedure Manual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be updated. 	By 30 th June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHS Practice Team
Training our community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of training module to be hosted on LA website. PMS, particularly Chairs, to complete training in advance of sitting on Hearings post 26th July. 	Dates tbc – module to be available in advance of 26 th July. More info to be provided as soon as we have confirmation on the what and when.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of module – Learning Academy and National Training Lead Completion of training: to be managed by local ASTs, Learning Academy.
“Go Live”	26th July 2021	

Background for Area Support Teams

Changes to the law and practice to support the sibling (brothers and sisters) relationships of looked after children are being introduced on 26th July 2021. Children's hearings are key to the implementation of these important changes.

Legal changes

New legal duties will apply to local authorities and children's hearings from 26th July, accompanied by new rules for sibling participation in children's hearings.

In summary, these new laws are:

1. Children (Scotland) Act 2020

- Duty on local authorities to promote contact with siblings (s13)
- Duty on local authorities to ascertain the views of siblings (s13)
- Duty on Children's Hearings to consider contact with siblings (s14)
- Introduces new participation rights (s25)

2. The Looked After Children (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021

- Duty on local authorities to place siblings together or near each other

3. The Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (Rules of Procedure in Children's Hearings) Amendment Rules 2021

- Defines criteria for participation rights (Rule 2A)
- Duty on SCRA to facilitate attendance by telephone or video-link (Rule 20B)
- Broadens chairing Panel Members powers of exclusion (Rule 20D)
- Allows electronic signatures (Rule 98)
- Requires SCRA to share all hearing papers with the local authority, except those provided by the local authority) (Rule 26(7))
- Electronic-only attendance (Rule 20C and 44A)
- Ability to determine that person(s) attend only by electronic means (Rule 20C and 44A)

Local & National Communications Planner

It is important that our community is aware of and prepared for changes to the Act, including what training is required and when. This is where local and national communications become important.

We must have a consistent approach to our communications and consistent messaging, given the level of information we need to share with the community. Therefore, we have created an overview communications plan, which details what is going out to the community and when.

We would ask that you re-share national communications via your local Teams channels/local communications on a weekly basis.

National communications will be shared with Area Partners and Area Conveners on a weekly basis via the 'AST Operations' chat on Teams. They will comprise of blog pieces (video and written) and articles. Where 'local communications' are proposed on the schedule, we have prepared suggested copy for you to share (this copy has been prepared by the team in Central and West Lothian). Please see below.

Thank you and we appreciate your support!

Not complete



in progress



WHAT	WHERE	WHO	CONTENT/ISSUER	w/c 31.05	w/c 07.06	w/c 14.06	w/c 21.06	w/c 28.06	w/c 05.07	w/c 12.07	w/c 19.07	w/c 26.07
National communication	* May newsletter	CHS community	Content: LF/NH Issuer: LF & NH - National channels									
local communication	* via local Teams channels/meetings	AST specific	Content: HO & LF Issuer: ACs									

WHAT	WHERE	WHO	CONTENT/ISSUER	w/c 31.05	w/c 07.06	w/c 14.06	w/c 21.06	w/c 28.06	w/c 05.07	w/c 12.07	w/c 19.07	w/c 26.07
National communication	* Teams - news feed * Teams – via local teams channels	CHS community	Content: LF/NH Issuer: LF & NH - National channels / ACs - local channels									
Local communication	* via local Teams channels/meetings	AST specific	Content: HO & LF Issuer: ACs									
National communication – likely to be a filmed piece to camera promoting training and PPM updates	* Teams - news feed * Teams – via local teams channels	CHS community	Content: LF/NH Issuer: LF & NH - National channels / ACs - local channels									
Learning Academy training email (date tbc)	* via email (tbc)	Those who are required to undertake training (tbc)	Content: Learning Academy Issuer: Learning Academy									
National communication	* Teams - news feed * Teams – via local teams channels	CHS community	Content: LF, AF, & MJ/CM Issuer: LF & NH - National channels / ACs - local channels									

WHAT	WHERE	WHO	CONTENT/ISSUER	w/c 31.05	w/c 07.06	w/c 14.06	w/c 21.06	w/c 28.06	w/c 05.07	w/c 12.07	w/c 19.07	w/c 26.07
Four week countdown - change 1 'Place a duty on local authorities to take steps to promote contact between a child in care and their brothers and/or sisters, as well as a duty to ascertain the views of brothers and/or sisters before making decisions'	* Teams - Practice and Policy channel * Teams – via local teams channels	CHS community	Content: NH, AF Issuer: AF & NH - National channels / ACs - local channels									
Three week countdown - change 2 'Place a duty on decision-makers (Panel Members and Sheriffs) when making, varying or continuing a Compulsory Supervision Order to consider contact with brothers and/or sisters and relevant persons the child is not living with'	* Teams - Practice and Policy channel * Teams – via local teams channels	CHS community	Content: NH, AF Issuer: AF & NH - National channels / ACs - local channels									
Two week countdown - change 3 'Give brothers and sisters greater opportunities to participate in hearings'	* Teams - Practice and Policy channel * Teams – via local teams channels	CHS community	Content: NH, AF Issuer: AF & NH - National channels / ACs - local channels									

WHAT	WHERE	WHO	CONTENT/ISSUER	w/c 31.05	w/c 07.06	w/c 14.06	w/c 21.06	w/c 28.06	w/c 05.07	w/c 12.07	w/c 19.07	w/c 26.07
One week countdown - change 4 'Give children and young people of all ages more opportunities to give their views in the way they choose'	* Teams - Practice and Policy channel * Teams – via local teams channels	CHS community	Content: NH, AF Issuer: AF & NH - National channels / ACs - local channels									

Local Communications Articles/Engagement Articles

These articles have been prepared by the team at Central & West Lothian for use on local Teams channels/in local communications. Outlined in the planner above are the suggested dates for use of these articles, to complement and support engagement with changes to the Children (Scotland) Act at a local level.

DATE	COMMUNICATION
For use w/c 7 th June	<p>1. local communication</p> <p>Let's start a conversation about maintaining sibling relationships</p> <p>On 26th July 2021, changes brought in by the Children (Scotland) Act 2020 welcome into force that place an emphasis on the importance of sibling – brother and sister – relationships.</p> <p>The decisions you make in hearings can have a huge impact on the lives of infants, children and young people who are separated from their brothers and sisters. Click here to read Sylvia Douglas, co-chair of the Independent Care Review's Edges of Care working group, personal experience and the importance of sibling relationships.</p> <p>Did you know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for every 10 children in care, eight (80%) of them will have brothers and sisters and of those brothers and sisters, six will also be in care; • for looked after children, with brothers and sisters, figures suggest that as many as seven in 10 (70%) become estranged; and • even if we cannot keep the family group together in one placement, just having brothers and sisters together for some period of time, is better than not having them together at all. <p>Let us know your thoughts by:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ posting a reply on teams ➤ get in touch with [local contacts to be added] <p>To find out more about this subject matter, further information is available on the Stand up for Sibling website: www.standupforsiblings.co.uk.</p>

2. Local communication

Let's start a conversation about maintaining sibling relationships

The Children (Scotland) Act recognises that the bond between brothers and sisters can be a powerful one and once enacted, it will place a duty on Panel Members to consider contact between a child and their siblings when making, varying or continuing a Compulsory Supervision Order. This duty will come into place on 26th of July.

This week, hear first-hand about the profound and lasting impact experienced by children and young people when separated from their brothers and sisters, from our newly appointed Children's Rights and Inclusion Coordinator, Laura Beveridge.

[link to video – the video is not ready yet and will be shared prior to 21st June 2021, on the 'AST operations' chat on Teams]

We know that conversations about contact can be highly contentious and that the main focus of contact is usually, but not always, considered between the child or young person and parents. We also know that it can be challenging for Panel Members when dealing with contact between brothers and sisters with, for example, a lack of information within social work reports.

Discussion about contact with brothers and sisters should not be a new concept to you, yet failure to do so can be life changing for those young people who are separated from their brothers or sisters.

So the ask of you is simple.

We would ask you to consider sibling contact in hearings where children and young people have been placed in care apart from their brothers and sisters, where it is **appropriate** for you to do so. In the words of Laura Beveridge, we are asking you to "be brave" in your questioning.

Our Area Support Team will also be working proactively with our partner agencies, in particular social work, to highlight the need for information on brothers and sisters to be contained within reports (something which might already be happening!) and to ask social work colleagues to come along prepared to answer your questions.

To find out more about this subject matter, further information is available on the Stand up for Sibling website, link below: www.standupforsiblings.co.uk.

Messaging for ASTs to use within their local community

Note - this document has been prepared to support you in communicating with members of your local area about the upcoming changes. As we move forward with the changes and more updates are announced e.g. practice and policy updates and/or training dates, we will update this document and recirculate.

- The Children (Scotland) Act 2020 was passed in August 2020 in response to calls for change from The Promise and groups such as Stand Up for Siblings, as well as a number of legal challenges.
- Some of the change required within the Act will come into play on 26 July this year. This will have an impact on our role within the children's hearings system.
- These changes within the Children (Scotland) Act 2020 bring our legislation into line with United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) requirements, and you will note below that there is a considerable emphasis placed on relationships being maintained between brothers and sisters through contact.
- More specifically, the changes within the Act:
 - Place a duty on local authorities to take steps to promote contact between a child in care and their brothers and/or sisters, as well as a duty to ascertain the views of brothers and/or sisters before making decisions;
 - Place a duty on decision-makers (Panel Members and Sheriffs) when making, varying or continuing a Compulsory Supervision Order to consider contact with brothers and/or sisters and relevant persons the child is not living with;
 - Give brothers and sisters greater opportunities to participate in hearings;
 - Give children and young people of all ages more opportunities to give their views in the way they choose.
- We are and have been speaking to our partners across the hearings system to understand how we can work together to implement these changes before 26 July. This work is ongoing.
- Our Practice and Learning Team is in the process of reflecting these changes in our Practice and Procedure Manual, and, in conjunction with our CHS Learning Academy colleagues, we are exploring what new and continued training will be required to ensure that Panel Members feel fully supported to implement these changes in hearings effectively.
- We will of course continue to keep in touch with you about any changes that directly affect you via your Area Support Team and communications channels (Teams, the monthly newsletters and email where necessary).

FAQ - Sibling contact

1. When will changes to the Children (Scotland) Act 2020 come into force?

It is anticipated that changes will come into effect in 26 July 2021.

2. What has brought about these legislative changes?

The need for legislative changes has been brought about by:

- Extensive lobbying from Who Cares? Scotland;;
- Compelling research provided by Stand Up for Siblings
- Evidence gathered from people with lived experience during the Care Review consultations;
- High profile appeals against the decision of a children's hearing.

3. What duties does this Act introduce?

The Act introduces new duties on local authorities to place brothers and sisters together or near each other, to promote contact between brothers and sisters and to seek the views of siblings before making a decision about their brother or sister.

It also introduces new participation rights for brothers and sisters when a children's hearing is considering making a decision which would affect their contact, and places a duty on Panel Members and Sheriffs to consider contact between siblings and relevant persons when making decisions.

How this will work in practice, has still to be worked through and further guidance on this will be issued, once it becomes available.

4. Should we consider contact with brothers/sisters at every children's hearing?

Absolutely. If the child or young person who is the subject of the children's hearing has been placed away from home and separated from a brother(s) and/or sister(s), contact should always be considered.

5. Why is consideration of brother/sister contact important?

Often the main focus of contact discussions in children's hearing is ensuring contact is maintained with parents, and contact with a brother(s) and/or sister(s) can be overlooked.

However, if you can look 20 years down the line, the most important person in that child or young person's life might not necessary be a parent, but given the opportunity could be their brother or sister.

6. Should Panel Members defer the children's hearing if information is not available to make a decision around sibling contact?

Any decision to defer must take into account the impact of delay on the child's welfare and the individual circumstances of each child. It should never be an automatic decision.

Similar to the new advocacy arrangements, the decision to defer a children's hearings **always** has to be in the best interests of the child.

7. Should Panel Members record consideration of contact with brothers and sisters within the Record of Proceedings?

Yes, similar to Panel Members recording consideration of the views of the child, it is seen as best practice to record that the Panel considered contact with the important people in the child's life, including brothers and sisters.

8. What supports will be provided to me prior to the introduction of the legislation?

We are currently working on updated practice guidance. Training from the CHS Learning Academy will be provided in advance of go live. You will be notified of this via email and on Teams.

9. Interested in finding out more?

The following resources are available to Panel Members:

- Contact Module located on the Learning Academy website - www.chsacademy.org.uk: [Log in to the site](#)
- Online Practice and Procedure Manual - [\(2\) Practice and policy \(Community Team\) | Microsoft Teams](#)
- Stand up for Siblings Website - [Stand Up For Siblings | Standing Up For Siblings](#)
- Children's (Scotland) Act 2020 [Children \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Thought provoking quotes

On the introduction of the new legislation to promote brother/sister relationships:-

"The Young People will say - it's about time"

Quote from Stirling Champs Board Co-ordinator.

Top Tip

If you lack the confidence to start the discussion around contact with brothers/ sisters – we recommend that you use the time in the pre-hearing discussion to agree how this could be approached, who will raise the issue and strategies for defusing any conflict should this arise.

"I think this is critical, no matter how hard a subject is to discuss at times."

Panel Member

BBC File on 4 Podcast

"When we used to live together, we used to go outside, we were never apart, we were inseparable - like twins."

That stopped when we were taken into care. It's hard as we always looked out for each other.

When asked if they miss each other:-

"Every part of my body is with him/ my heart is with him."

Question Received by Panel Member

Does this mean that the Brother or Sister invited to the Hearing will have Relevant Person Status?

No. Any individual who has Relevant Person status must be deemed a relevant person at a PHP. The new legislation only provides "participatory" rights for brothers and/or sisters which means they will be advised of when the hearing will take place, and their views will be taken into account.

"After reading the recent information, I now appreciate the positive impact maintaining such contacts with a child or young person can be."

Panel Member

YouTube - Portobello Learning Festival 2018

"When I was 13, me and my siblings were all moved into care permanently. I never saw them from that day, from looking after them everyday, for about 16/17 months – this happens a lot, is common practice & needs to be worked on, big time!! "

Chris Kilkenny, individual with lived experience of care

HEARINGS MANAGEMENT SUB-GROUP

AGENDA

Minutes of Meeting 10th June 2021 Virtual @ 10am

1. Apologies

Marion Robinson; Eileen Anderson; Lesley King;

2. Sabbatical

Between Sabbatical/Maternity Leave/Shielding & Key Workers there are ten Panel Members not available.

3. Resignations

One male PM.

4. Hearing Stats - period 5th May - 10th June 2021

1. Deferred Cases - Thirteen Virtual; Three relevant person & child failed to attend; One relevant person required legal representative; One relevant Person not available and no up to date social work report; One relevant Person arrested prior to hearing; One where no relevant persons, child or social work attended and no social work report received; Two no up to date social work reports received; One relevant person attending court; One relevant person failed to attend and had not given instruction to legal rep prior to hearing; One grounds still at court; One relevant person in prison and unable to attend.

2. Cancelled Sessions - One face to face; Four virtual; One SCRA, no report; Two, no reason given; One where second session removed by SCRA.

3. Secure Hearings - None

4. Extra Hearings/Sessions - None

5. Swaps - No face to face and twelve virtual

6. Continuity - None

5. Pastoral Care

One female on leave of absence

6. Panel Member Strength

Seventy Three panel members of which twenty two are male and fifty one are female. We have one female transfer from Glasgow Area to Renfrewshire. There are currently sixty active panel members, made up of eighteen male and forty two female.

There are twenty four panel members who can carry out both face to face and virtual hearings, eighteen who do virtual only, and thirty one who do face to face only.

There are still three panel members who have yet to respond to any emails or other attempts to engage. There may a potential fourth panel member, this panel member was due to return to rota in June but as yet has not made any response to advise on availability or if a further period of sabbatical is required.

7.AOCB

As more face to face hearings are taking place in Glen Lane, there are more enquiries from panel members on when there may be access to the panel room for refreshments or facilities. Further discussion required between AST and SCRA.

Emergency legislation had to be used at Glen Lane after one panel member failed to arrive. Hearing went ahead with two female panel members only.

Discussion with SCRA on issue of invitations, when there has been a change to the rota. The main issue raised by panel members can be not receiving the V-Scene invitations.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14th August @ 10:00am (to be confirmed)