



Minute of Meeting Renfrewshire Area Support Team

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 11 May 2021	14:00	Remotely via Teams

Present

Derek Brama; Annemarie Currie; Edi Hanley; Jacqueline Doherty; Hannah McCulloch; Jim Melrose; Marion Robinson; Angela Stevenson and Alison Thompson .

Chair

D Brama, Area Convener, presided.

Also Present

P Wilson, Area Support and Improvement Partner (Children's Hearings Scotland);

In Attendance

J Trainer , Head of Child Care & Criminal Justice (Children's Services) and P Shiach, Senior Committee Services Officer (Finance and Resources).

Apologies

Councillor J Shaw; L King (SCRA); and E Anderson, C Campbell, A MacDonald and E McNaught.

Declarations of Interest

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

Area Support and Improvement Partner

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Area Convener welcomed Panel Wilson who was attending her first Area Support Team meeting following her appointment as Area Support and Improvement Partner.

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 5,6,7 and 8 of the agenda 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 16 March 2021.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved subject to the following amendments: -

(a) Item 4 line two remove the word “operated” and replace with “convened”, and remove the words “picking up” and with “supplementing: and

(b) Item 6 paragraph 2 line four insert “ manner” after “professional”

2. Matters Arising

(a) Devolved Funding

The Area Convener advised that £155 had been spent on Panel Member recognition gifts from the AST’s Devolved Funding budget

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 4 May 2021 .

The Minute provided updated information in relation to sabbaticals; resignations; hearing statistics for the period 5 March to 29 April 2021 including deferred and cancelled cases, secure hearings, additional hearings; swaps and continuity hearings; pastoral care; panel member strength which indicated that there were currently 74 panel members 51 female and 23 male panel members; availability for Hearings where 59 members were available with 16 available for virtual Hearings, 19 available for face to face, and 24 Panel Members who were available for both.

The Area Convener suggested that an item on Health and Safety be included as a standard item on all future Hearings Management Sub-group agendas. This was agreed unanimously

The Lead Panel representative was then heard in answer to questions on various issues highlighted in the Minute.

DECIDED:

- (a) That an item on Health and Safety be included as a standard item on all future Hearings Management Sub-group agendas; and
- (b) That the Minute be otherwise approved.

4. Learning & Development Sub-Group

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Learning & Development Sub-group held on 29 March 2021.

The Minute provided updated information on a pre-service update including welcome evening arrangements, the pre-service course, local sessions for trainees and support for trainees; in-service update including the return to local development sessions, mandatory training completion and inactive Panel Members; Complaints procedure training for PPA's, DAC and AC; membership of the LDC group; and Re-appointments.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

5. Teams Champion

A Stevenson provided a verbal update on the last Teams Champions meeting which had been held on 19 February 2021 indicating that Teams and its various channels would be streamlined with some channels being moved to alternative areas and the Teams Chat disabled on certain channels. She indicated that the changes were intended to encourage more local engagement with Teams. In addition, she indicated that there had been a suggestion that a dedicated trainee channel should be established. It was also noted that the "how to" channel would be closed and replaced by a central library.

A Stevenson was then heard in answer to questions from members on the report.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

6. Promise Strategic Voice Sub-group

The Area Convener provided a verbal update on the meeting of the Sub-group which had taken place on 28 April 2021.

He advised that the Group encompassed multi-agencies and outlined the priorities of the sub-group including prioritising spending more time with young people, advocacy for those with communications difficulties and young people involved in recruitment

The Area Convener was then heard in answer to question on the content of the report.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

7. Better Hearings

The Area Convener advised that a meeting of the Better Hearings Group had been scheduled for 19 May 2021. He indicated that the Area Support and Improvement Partner would attend on behalf of the Area Support team.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.

8 Covid-19 Practice

The Head of Child Care & Criminal Justice indicated that development sessions were being undertaken in relation to communications and advocacy. He further advised that processes were being put in place where siblings were kept together in foster placements, and where this was not possible, the reasons were required to be explained.

DECIDED: That the information be noted.

9. Date of Next Meeting.

DECIDED: Members noted that the next meeting of the AST was scheduled for Tuesday 15 June 2021 at 2.00 pm