

Scottish Child Health Commissioners' Group

Note of meeting held on 17 June 2008
Surgeons Hall, Edinburgh

Present:

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| Lorraine Currie (Chair) | NHS Grampian |
| Sally Amor | NHS Highland |
| Jim Chalmers | Information Services, NHS National Services Division |
| Graham Foster | NHS Forth Valley |
| John Froggatt | Scottish Government, Child and Maternal Health Division |
| Joy Tomlinson | NHS Ayrshire and Arran |
| Cathy Orr | NHS Lothian |
| Caroline Mackie | NHS Tayside |
| Dr Louise Smith | Scottish Government, Senior Medical Officer, Women and Children |
| Robert Stevenson | Scottish Government, Child and Maternal Health Division |
| Chris Ridley | Scottish Government, Child and Maternal Health Division |
| Alison Taylor | Scottish Government, Child and Maternal Health Division |

In attendance:

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| Anncris Roberts | Scottish Government, Early Years Framework Team |
| Caroline Inwood | NHS QIS |

1. Welcome and apologies

Lorraine Currie welcomed all in attendance. Apologies were received from –

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| Charles Clark | NHS Lanarkshire |
| Emelin Collier | NHS Western Isles |
| Sarah Taylor | NHS Shetland |
| Catriona MacDonald | NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde |
| Kathy Collins | NHS National Services, Scotland |
| Jennifer Milligan | NHS Dumfries and Galloway |
| Maxine Moy | NHS Fife |
| Alastair Philp | Information Services, NHS National Services Scotland |
| Elaine Grieve | NHS Orkney |
| Morgan Jamieson | Scottish Government, Child and Maternal Health Division |

There was a request from Lorraine Currie on behalf of Caroline Inwood that she would like to be included on the distribution list for the Child Health Commissioners which was agreed to be fine.

2. Note of meeting on 9th April 2008

A copy of the minutes was unavailable. It was felt the agenda for this meeting covered relevant points and if anything was missed it could be picked up.

Action – To circulate before next meeting and be discussed at that date.

3. Early Years Framework

Lorraine welcomed Anncri Roberts from the Early Years Framework Team, Scottish Government. Anncri gave a presentation on Early Years and Early Intervention. Lorraine thanked Anncri.

On behalf of the group Lorraine gave comment, stating there was a feeling that there was no new money for the work, but was impressed with the speed of the task groups. Cathy Orr and Caroline Mackie had concerns about how it would be built in the timeframe to try and make all the work fit together, anxious about the speed. Anncri reassured the group that this was a positive process and it was possible to rise to the challenge of knitting it all together.

There was much discussion about what the future would and how concerns would be addressed. Louise Smith felt there was a discussion needed around what was meant by need and what was meant by risk, the medical issues are not always translated. Lorraine asked how this could be addressed, and Louise said there was a need to identify what risk meant, and not just look at the public health issues. Sally Amor agreed and added that the Early Years Agenda could get lost around Better Health Better Care, and that there wasn't enough focus on pre conception and antenatal services, which could mean services will end up having to 'catch up.'

Anncri said there was an emphasis on universal services, and the role of primary care. She was disappointed it was seen as a Scottish Government/ COSLA thing as it involves the NHS and the third sector also.

Lorraine stated that from this discussion we should be more reassured about the process, especially when made aware of the people involved in the working groups, Zoe Dunhill being mentioned. Anncri referred members to the Early Years Website for a full list of names.

It was then questioned by Jim Chalmers how the strategy would work in transition services, and would there be an opportunity to take advantage and change/ improve things now? Graham Foster agreed stating that one of the problems with Hall 4 is the move from Midwife to Health Visitor, as the midwife already knows the family. Cathy Orr pointed out that there was a cross over span. There was a discussion on the role of children and maternity services, and Anncri thanked the group saying this was

very useful to take back with her. John noted that the meeting on June 23rd should pull things together, and that things were still on target for autumn.

Action – circulate slides and website address.

4. We Can and Must Do Better secondment and Getting it Right for Every Child roadshows update.

Chris Ridley gave an update on the GIRFEC roadshows, and made members aware of the GIRFEC website and the production of a USB pen. Lorraine Currie asked how the roadshows went and there followed a discussion. Lorraine asked what happens next? Chris said there was a lot of work to be done and that the website would continue to be updated. Graham Foster said the USB pens were very useful to give presentations due to the videos and exercises on them.

Chris also introduced Carol Watson as a new secondee into the Scottish Government. Carol will be working for 4 months on issues surrounding Action 15 from We Can and Must Do Better.

Action – circulate link for the website

5. Specialist Children’s Services update

Robert Stevenson gave an update on Specialist Children’s Services. Discussing the National Delivery Plan Consultation, he said that targets of meeting with between 300 - 500 people during the public consultation events had been met, and that they were looking to get a report at the end of July although this may take longer. The main themes that had been picked up so far were support for the approach, and also questions on national vs regional planning, which the report would answer. Once there was an implementation plan in place, then a review amongst the planning groups could take place. Caroline Mackie said that for some areas, including Tayside, which falls between planning groups, this would be hard. Lorraine also raised concerns there was anxiety about distribution of resources, and what would happen if the money was taken away after 3 years. Robert replied that if it worked and was needed then it would survive. There followed a discussion on the work surrounding the National Delivery Plan and the costs involved.

Lorraine asked when the plan would be published, Robert said hopefully end of September.

Break for lunch

Lorraine welcomed Caroline Inwood after lunch, and noted that Louise Smith had had to leave.

Caroline gave an update on the work she was doing on Hall 4, saying there would be two questionnaires, and there was also an intention to hold a national event, hopefully in September/ October, then the report writing would begin.

6. Child Health Commissioner role/ remit.

Lorraine reminded the group that it had been agreed to hold a workshop and produce a paper. Lorraine had produced a paper which she presented to the rest of the group, noting that there were still some bits she needed to include.

There followed a discussion on the role of the Child Health Commissioner. It was noted that there is a difference between boards and therefore the CHC in different areas would have different approach. Cathy Orr stated that the main role of the CHC should be to improve the health and well being of children and also to lead and be point of contact. Caroline Mackie felt it should hold an advocacy role. The name Commissioner was also talked about, with some members of the group feeling it was misleading, but it does however seem to sum up the role and it holds an amount of respect.

Caroline Inwood expressed concern that the paper doesn't say why the role is essential, and it's importance is not expressed. Sally Amor asked where the paper was going to go? Lorraine said she understood it had been agreed to go to the CYPHSG for them to put to the Chief Executive. John Froggatt said that the role/ group would need to feed into the groups of Better Health Better Care. Sally suggested taking advantage of the new Early Years Framework to revise the role of the CHC.

Robert said the next CYPHSG meeting was in June, and then after that October, but agreed the timing was right to flag to boards. It was agreed that the more positive outcomes of the CHC role should be highlighted in the revised paper, and the impact the position had be made more aware of.

Action – Group to email Lorraine with amendments

- **Once agreed, send paper to CYPHSG**

7. Action Framework Progress Returns

Robert Stevenson introduced a draft document that had been prepared based on the Action Framework, showing the difference in progress between boards. The group felt the document was useful. At a glance it shows where progress is being made/ hindered. Once they are all in the information can be circulated, then updated to see where everyone is.

In the future, the plan is to;

- Present to support groups
- Have more in depth analysis
- Tie this in with visits
- Policy proof the action framework with the impact of BHBC and the Early Years Framework
- See the potential for child health to be raised up the agenda.

Would like to get a steer from the Child Health Commissioners.

Lorraine stated this was a useful piece of work, allowing the group to focus. Graham stated he felt that the Health Boards don't feel the Action Framework is their responsibility. Robert said this could be discussed on visits.

8. Child Psychotherapy

Lorraine brought to the groups attention a paper by Charles Clark for the group on Child Psychotherapy. Cathy Orr said the main problem was that the service does not need to be provided at the moment, it doesn't fall within the timeline. Lorraine said it was a valuable service, but it wouldn't be prioritised, but had concerns that if they didn't then they would lose the service.

It was discussed by the group the criteria of the role and also how the training would be funded. Robert questioned if children were getting appropriate level of care in out of area placements, is there a full commitment. Caroline Mackie agreed there was a problem regarding priority. Lorraine noted that there were inconsistencies and Cathy Orr stated that there was a problem over prioritising a 'smaller Rolls Royce' or a 'Mini for large groups.'

It was felt that it was not unreasonable to go back to NES.

9. AOB

Joy Tomlinson brought to the groups attention a consultation in progress about Unruly Certificates, it was agreed comments could be emailed to Joy for her to prepare a response.

Robert Stevenson brought to the groups attention another consultation regarding Disclosure Checks, the group had a discussion.

10. Dates for further meetings

It was agreed September the 2nd or the 9th should be circulated.

Action – To circulate the dates to the members