

Scottish Child Health Commissioners' Group

Note of meeting held on 20 March 2006
Royal British Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh

Present

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| Charles Clark (Chair) | NHS Lanarkshire |
| Sally Amor (Vice Chair) | NHS Highland |
| Ian Bashford | SEHD |
| Jim Carle | NHS Ayrshire & Arran |
| Harden Carter | NHS Lothian |
| Sarah Corcoran | SEHD, Child & Maternal Health Unit |
| Graham Foster | NHS Forth Valley |
| Morgan Jamieson | SEHD, Child & Maternal Health Unit |
| Rosie Ilett | SEHD, Child & Maternal Health Unit |
| Anne Leigh- Brown | Information Services, NHS National Services Scotland |
| Catriona Macdonald | NHS Argyll and Clyde |
| Zelda Mathewson | NHS Tayside |
| Belinda Morgan | NHS Fife |
| Cathy Orr | NHS Lothian |
| Ralph Roberts | NHS Borders |
| Robert Stevenson | SEHD, Child & Maternal Health Unit |

1. Welcome and apologies

Charles Clark opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance, particularly Rosie Ilett who had now officially started as Head of the Child & Maternal Health Unit. Apologies were received from –

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| Kathleen Bree | NHS Orkney |
| Jim Chalmers | Information Services, NHS National Services Scotland |
| Emelin Collier | NHS Western Isles |
| Kathy Collins | NHS National Services Scotland |
| Lorraine Currie | NHS Grampian |
| Caroline Inwood | NHS Fife |
| Fiona Mercer | NHS Greater Glasgow |
| Jennifer Milligan | NHS Dumfries & Galloway |
| Sarah Taylor | NHS Shetland |

2. Getting it Right for Every Child

Gillian Garvie had emailed Commissioners on behalf of colleagues in the Education Department, putting this item on the agenda. All Commissioners were aware of the history of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), but there is real concern that this has been lost within the Children's Hearing consultation.

Catriona Macdonald was the nominated Child Health Commissioner representative with the Education Department on this, but Catriona explained that she felt that meetings and papers were not nearly clear enough to tell Child Health Commissioners what they need to know about GIRFEC. The focus seemed to be on youth justice and the children's panel.

Some Commissioners were aware that a pilot of the Integrated Assessment Framework was taking place, but had no further details of this. Sally explained that Vijay Patel in the Executive is leading on this and the E-Care initiative and pilots were taking place in several areas in Scotland including Highland. Sally presented to the *Hall 4* Group on this recently and offered to either circulate her slides or present at the next CHC meeting.

Rosie advised that the Education Department, rather than Health Department have always led on GIRFEC. Rosie is closely involved in activity in Highland with Sally Amor.

The Group discussed further issues and concerns around GIRFEC and Charles suggested that Stella Perrott or one of her team be invited to come along to the next meeting. Many Commissioners believe there is a need for centrally organised health seminars/ events to be held on GIRFEC as there are so many concerns and no clarity about what is happening. However, Catriona did not find an event she attended in Dundee at all helpful.

UPDATE: Boyd McAdam, Team Leader in Stella Perrott's Division is coming to talk about GIRFEC at CHC meeting on 10th May.

3. Minutes of previous meeting held on 22 November 2005

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd November 2005 were accepted as an accurate record. An electronic copy of the minutes has been added to the Child Health Commissioner page of the Children and Young People's Health Support Group website.

Matters arising

❖ Joint Inspections

Charles advised that the Joint Inspections were commencing in Angus in early June. An Executive conference on Joint Inspections was taking place at Murrayfield stadium on 19th April, spaces were very limited, but could be negotiated through Chairs of local Child Protection Committees.

❖ Domestic Abuse

There was some discussion about local areas developing training manuals on domestic abuse and the possibility of other areas using this information. There was some concern about duplication of work in each area on this and other subjects. Charles suggested that a good first step would be for Lothian and Ayrshire and Arran to give their training manuals to Sarah to circulate and share with Commissioners.

4. Draft NHS QIS Asthma Service Standards

Charles invited Cathy Orr to speak to this item. Cathy circulated copies of several documents prior to the meeting. Both Cathy and Ian Bashford sit on the Group that has been considering the draft asthma standards for around the past 18 months. The standards have not yet been circulated, but written comments from Commissioners are welcome. Meetings will take place in May in Inverness and Edinburgh to coincide with the public consultation of the standards document.

The template is as generic as possible in case it can be used in future for other conditions.

UPDATE: NHS QIS have now issued Draft Asthma Service Standards for consultation.

5. Changing Children's Services Fund

Charles invited Rosie to speak to this item. Rosie asked members how they were finding the revised funding arrangement of the Changing Children's Services Fund in practice.

Commissioners reported varying practices. In some areas there have been letters of assurance that funding will continue, whilst other areas have had no such guarantee, and the availability of funding has been cut. Concern was expressed around the fact that Councils are making decisions on what to fund, and they do not always prioritise children's services. This is hard to challenge if no health representative is at the table when decisions are being taken on funding.

Charles invited Rosie to consider whether she would like to hear more formally about this.

6. RCPCH Scottish Sub Committee on Child Protection

Lorraine Currie circulated a paper to update Commissioners from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health on Child Protection. In Lorraine's absence, Charles brought the paper to the attention of the Group.

7. Plagiocephaly

Charles advised that he had received many requests from parents asking for cranial remoulding helmets to be made available on the NHS, as have several other Commissioners. Scottish Executive Health Ministers have also received many requests in the past few months asking for this treatment to be made available on the NHS. Plagiocephaly has been the subject of much national and local press, and Plagio UK a parental pressure group, have petitioned both the UK and Scottish Parliament. Harden Carter commented that he had started an assessment of the literature, but would discuss with Charles before going any further. Ian Bashford had carried out a systematic review of the available trials and had concluded that there was a lack of evidence and agreed with the current advice that helmets should not be available on the NHS.

Sarah advised that the Child & Maternal Health Unit have agreed to start development of a leaflet on plagiocephaly with NHS Health Scotland to give to all new parents. It was hoped that this leaflet would raise awareness of the condition, as well as re-affirming the back to sleep message. We will circulate all drafts of the parental leaflet to Commissioners for any comments.

UPDATE: Summary document on plagiocephaly is attached.

8. Administration of Medicines in Schools

Sarah advised that Linda de Caestecker had written to some Commissioners last year asking for an update on the guidance on Administration of Medicines in Schools. Linda wrote only to Commissioners in areas where there is no formal agreement on the guidance between the Board and local authority.

Sarah would issue an email to those Commissioners asking for them to provide an update. This was becoming urgent as Ministers have asked for information on the Administration of Medicines in Schools guidance and they are aware that Commissioners' have been asked for this information.

UPDATE: Sarah issued email to a number of Commissioners on 26 April asking for a full update by 31 May 2006.

9. Representation of Child Health Commissioners on other Groups

Charles advised that he felt it was time for Commissioners to review their representation on other Groups. There was increasing demand for Commissioners to sit on Groups at a national and local level. Representation will be discussed further at a future meeting.

10. Registration of vulnerable families with GP

Charles invited Graham Foster to speak to this item. Graham explained his concerns regarding families being removed from a GP list where the family is perceived by a GP to be a risk. The concern is not so much about adults, but Graham is very concerned about the children involved. Children within travelling families are clearly a concern.

In England, the health authority can simply allocate another GP, and whilst this can happen in Scotland, families have to approach the Board in the first instance. Ian Bashford suggested allocating children to another GP at a case conference. This was considered an excellent idea, but Commissioners would like to see it happening on a national basis. Morgan suggested that a GP should not be able to de-register a child without another GP being found for the child. Zelda suggested that targeting of children in *Hall 4* should be in the GMS contract; however Ian advised that this was done on a UK national basis and that colleagues tried to put child health in the GMS contract without success.

Charles recorded that a fair number of Commissioners were not even aware of this issue, and asked all Commissioners to find out if a protocol exists in their area. Rosie offered to write to each Board area and scope out results on this.

11. Revised funding arrangements for ASL Act

Charles asked Commissioners for their views on the revised funding arrangements for the ASL Act, and whether the new arrangements help with health requirements.

Not all Commissioners are sure that they will be able to meet their health responsibilities under the Act. Some areas have had positive responses from their education authorities, others have not and some Commissioners have had a response to the effect that the education authority in their area is struggling to find funding.

Some concern was raised that funding for the ASL Act is not actually being spent properly, and it was suggested that further feedback, in writing, should be sought on this to enable it to be fed back to the lead area in the Executive.

12. Action Framework

Charles invited Morgan Jamieson and Robert Stevenson to open on this item. Morgan gave a presentation to members on the draft Action Framework including the key issues and themes of the Framework and the challenges that lie ahead. The full presentation on the Action Framework is attached.

It was anticipated that the Action Framework consultation would be ready for launching on 29 March. It was likely that the Framework would be available initially on the web before hard copies are issued.

The consultation period will last for a full 3 month period, before Morgan and Robert consider the responses to the consultation document. After a full analysis, the final Framework will go forward to Ministers for their approval before issuing as final guidance. Further consideration will be given to the format of the final guidance once the public consultation is complete. Consideration will also be given much later in the year to a final Ministerial launch date for the final Framework

It was suggested that Morgan present to other groups such as the Chief Executive's meeting and CMO's Medical Directors meeting. There was some discussion about regional events to support discussions on the Framework and Robert will update Commissioners on progress on this at the next meeting.

UPDATE: The Action Framework issued for consultation on 10th April. The closing date for responses is 7th July

13. AOB

National Clinical Lead for Children & Young People's Health in Scotland

Morgan advised that he wished to gain a good working understanding of areas within Scotland and planned to visit areas. Morgan thought it wise to plan this via Child Health Commissioners, although he stressed that visits would be informal and would present a good opportunity to chat with key local figures in each Board area. Morgan would contact individual Commissioners.

Role and Remit of Child Health Commissioners

There was a short discussion about reviewing the role and remit of Child Health Commissioners and who within Boards' is best placed to hold the role. Charles invited Rosie to consider this. Rosie agreed to look at this with a view to a short scoping study.

Child Health Commissioner for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

It was not yet clear who the Child Health Commissioner for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde would be, but it was hoped that this would become clearer after April 1st.

ChildLine

Charles advised that he had been approached by ChildLine who wished to attend a future meeting of Child Health Commissioners to give a presentation. It was agreed that ChildLine should be contacted by email in the first instance to establish what they wanted to present on and what they hoped to gain from meeting with Commissioners.

14. Date and venue of future meetings

Wednesday 10th May, 10:30 – 14:30, venue to be confirmed.

UPDATE: Next meeting will take place in the Scottish Executive building in Leith – Victoria Quay (on 10 May).