

Scottish Child Health Commissioners' Group

Note of meeting held on 28 June 2006
BMA, 14 Queen Street, Edinburgh

Present

Charles Clark (Chair)	NHS Lanarkshire
Sally Amor (Vice Chair)	NHS Highland
Jennifer Armstrong	NHS National Services Scotland
Jim Carle	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Sarah Corcoran	SEHD, Child and Maternal Health Unit
Graham Foster	NHS Forth Valley
Sarah Gledhill	SEHD, Child and Maternal Health Unit
Morgan Jamieson	SEHD, Child and Maternal Health Unit
Caroline Mackie	NHS Tayside
Jennifer Milligan	NHS Dumfries & Galloway
Sarah Taylor	NHS Shetland (Via video link)
John Thomas	NHS Lothian

1. Welcome and apologies

Charles Clark opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance, particularly Sarah Gledhill, who had recently joined the Child and Maternal Health Unit. Apologies were received from –

Ian Bashford	SEHD
Jim Chalmers	Information Services, NHS National Services Scotland
Emelin Collier	NHS Western Isles
Kathy Collins	NHS National Services Scotland
Lorraine Currie	NHS Grampian
Rosie Ilett	SEHD, Child & Maternal Health Unit
Caroline Inwood	NHS Fife
Anne Leigh- Brown	Information Services, NHS National Services Scotland
Catriona Macdonald	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Zelda Mathewson	NHS Tayside
Cathy Orr	NHS Lothian
Ralph Roberts	NHS Borders
Robert Stevenson	SEHD, Child & Maternal Health Unit

In attendance:

Mairi Tulbure SEED, Getting it Right For Every Child Team

2. Getting it Right for Every Child

Charles welcomed Mairi Tulbure from the Executive's Getting it Right For Every Child Team to the meeting and invited Mairi to open on this item. Mairi gave a presentation to the Group, the full content of which is enclosed.

Sally Amor raised how important it was that *Hall 4* linked in with Getting it Right. Mairi assured Commissioners that they would have a copy of the Pathfinder Framework at the earliest opportunity.

There was real concern that if Getting it Right does not come with serious funding then it simply won't work. Commissioners agreed that an increase in staff would be needed. It was suggested that the massive increase in workload during the pilot in Ayrshire and Arran needed to be studied, and the real problems addressed. Jim advised that this was a paper based pilot with no IT backup, and there had not been enough officers to meet the increase in workload.

The Group discussed the Additional Support for Learning Act and considered the impact of the ASL Act, particularly with AHPs. Commissioners were interested to know whether there would be legislation to ensure that Getting it Right is followed so that children would not have to wait. Mairi advised that processes for children with ASL needs will be improved and that streamlining should take place so that children and families can access the services they need.

Mairi advised that she had no definitive answer in clarification of the difference between lead officers/ named person/ key worker in Getting it Right.

Mairi stated that she would take all Commissioners questions and comments back to the Getting it Right team. Mairi advised that in the same way that local areas are challenged, so too is the Scottish Executive. The issues regarding the ASL act have already been raised and are being looked at.

Charles thanked Mairi for her helpful presentation to the Group and advised that Getting it Right should be discussed frequently by this Group and he would invite Boyd/ Mairi to give a further update at a future meeting. (*Action Point*)

3. Action Framework Consultation

The Action Framework issued for a 3 month consultation on 10th April, with a closing date of 7th July, and many Commissioners had attended one of the two regional events held recently. Commissioners discussed the consultation document and whilst broadly welcoming the Framework, considered the particular concerns they had surrounding it including timescales and the fact that no mention is made of Child Health Commissioners. Commissioners also discussed the content of Jim Chalmers email dated 23 June 2006.

It was agreed that issuing a joint response from the Child Health Commissioner Group would send a strong message. Charles proposed that he would draft a response to the Action Framework Consultation on behalf of the Child Health Commissioner Group, summarising the issues and concerns raised by members. Charles would send the draft to Sarah to circulate to the Group for comments by 17 July, before sending as an official response to the Action Framework Consultation. This joint response would be in addition to any local comments

sent by individual Child Health Commissioners. The response sent by Charles, on behalf of the Group, is enclosed. (*Action Point*)

4. CHAS

Charles raised the importance of having a link Child Health Commissioner to CHAS with a view to clarifying their role and the overall dynamics between NHS Board funding and CHAS reporting. After discussion, Jim Carle agreed to take this role on. Caroline Mackie offered to support Jim in this role, given Tayside's role as lead Board for sorting out financial arrangements.

Charles thanked Jim for agreeing to taking this role on, and suggested inviting the new Chief Executive of CHAS to a future Child Health Commissioner meeting, possibly in November. (*Action Point*)

5. Minutes of previous meeting held on 20 March 2006 and Action Points Update

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 March 2006 were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters arising

❖ Joint Inspections

Caroline Mackie advised that formal feedback on the Joint Inspections was expected shortly.

❖ Child Health Commissioner for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Catriona Macdonald is now the official Child Health Commissioner for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

6. Plagiocephaly

Sarah Corcoran advised that Ministers had committed to producing information for parents on plagiocephaly and that the Child & Maternal Health Unit had agreed to produce a leaflet on this subject with NHS Health Scotland to give to new parents. Charles raised concerns about the need for such a leaflet. Jennifer suggested having text on plagiocephaly in the next edition of Ready, Steady, Baby, which is given to all new parents, and Sarah advised that NHS Health Scotland had agreed to do this.

7. Representation of Child Health Commissioners on other Groups

The Group discussed the issues highlighted in the paper produced by Charles and circulated prior to the meeting. Charles advised that he felt it was time for Commissioners to review their representation on other Groups. Commissioners regularly receive a wide range of requests to sit on national, regional and local Groups, and many Commissioners already do represent the Group on a variety of groups. However, as this Group is small it is not possible to continually add to this ever increasing demand.

Jim Carle referred to his email, circulated prior to the meeting, and advised that AHP is another reference group which discussed valid subject matters. However, Jim considered his role to be very small and that the group should be contacting local Child Health Commissioners instead.

Charles would prefer clarity about what can reasonably be offered by this Group. If appropriate, Groups could be invited to come and talk to the CHC Group if it is a subject affecting all Child Health Commissioners. The Group discussed setting up a link, via an email structure with the Child and Maternal Health Unit so that groups could link in with Commissioners with noted areas of interest, although they would not necessarily attend meetings.

It was agreed to discuss this further and the agenda for the Child Health Commissioners Group should include a standing item to enable representatives who are sitting on other groups to report back to Commissioners. (*Action Point*)

8. Impact of Changing Children's Services Fund budget alignment

This was discussed very briefly at the last CHC meeting when Rosie Ilett had reported her concerns. Concern was also expressed at the last Children and Young People's Health Support Group meeting, that as Changing Children's Services funding was now going into GAE funding, some projects were being withdrawn. Charles advised the group that Rosie would issue a letter on this subject shortly. (*Action Point*)

UPDATE: Rosie Ilett wrote to Child Health Commissioners on 7 August 2006

9. Feedback from CYPHSG meeting on 1 June 2006

Charles advised the Group that he had attended the last meeting of the Children and Young People's Support Group on 1 June and this had covered enormous ground. Charles considered that it would be very useful if Commissioners were aware of the full discussion at the meeting and planned to gain approval to simply circulate the minutes of CYPHSG meetings to the Child Health Commissioner Group, when available. (*Action Point*)

10. Role of Child Health Commissioners

Charles advised that he planned to discuss the role of Child Health Commissioners in more detail with Rosie Ilett, hopefully before the next meeting. The group discussed that the role of Child Health Commissioners had never been formally signed off by Chief Executives, and although an HDL does exist, there is no description of Commissioners' role. The Group need to draft an annual report and Charles advised that he would start to consider this. (*Action Point*)

11. Emergency Department Information System (EDIS)

Charles invited Sally to speak to this item. Sally explained to the Group that Highland have implemented the Emergency Department Information System (EDIS), but encountered some difficulties with the flagging of child protection concerns. Although the system has a facility to flag child protection concerns, a flag cannot be set up until a patient record has been established and this requires attendance at A&E. The outcome of this is that EDIS is not

fulfilling expectations in the important role in alerting A&E colleagues to a child known to be vulnerable.

The Group hoped there would be a chance to discuss these child protection challenges at a national level and Charles agreed to write to Boyd McAdam in due course asking whether there will be a Getting it Right steering group that Commissioners could link in with about this type of concern. (*Action Point*)

12. Date and venue of future meetings

Wednesday 30th August 2006, 10:30 – 14:30, venue to be confirmed.

UPDATE: Meeting will take place in conference room 3, Victoria Quay.