

National Appropriate Adult Oversight Group

10 January 2023 10.00am – 11:30am

Attendees:

Sandy Riddell, Mental Welfare Commission (Chair)
Fran Donohoe, COSLA (Secretariat)
Lindsey Mckean, Scottish Government
Sarah Meanley, Scottish Government
Michael Gough, Scottish Government
David Mitchell, Scottish Government
Rhianna King, Scottish Government (Note taker)
Anil Gupta, COSLA
Donald Coutts-Wood, Practitioners Forum
Wendy Ramsey, Practitioners Forum/Operational Group
Franck David, SOLD Network, People First
Stephen Robertson, SOLD Network
Stephen Heath, Clarity in Communication
Jane Kelly, Care Inspectorate
Louise McInnes, Police Scotland
Jana de Villiers, Forensic Network
Laura Kerr, Social Work Scotland
Matthew Webb – National Operational Group

Apologies:

Ann Marie Partridge, Law Society of Scotland

1. Welcome

- Apologies & introductions

Sandy welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new attendees:

- Rhianna King – Scottish Government
- Lindsay Mckean – Scottish Government
- David Mitchell - Scottish Government
- Matt Web – National Operational Group
- Sue Freeth – Victim Support Scotland

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest noted.

3. Note from Previous Meeting

Minutes have been circulated and feedback has been received. The note has been amended to reflect and will be uploaded to the COSLA website in due course.

Outstanding Actions:

- Revised Terms of Reference – this is being finalised.

Reflections on previous meeting:

- There was a discussion in relation to SAAN – there has been no attendance from SAAN for a year prior and it was agreed that members from SAAN would be welcome to attend a Practitioners Forum. This will be kept under review.
- A decision needs to be made on what form future meetings may take. The consensus was that it was successful meeting in person last time and beneficial having discussions face to face out with a strict agenda, may be useful to hold more in person meetings. However, we must be mindful of the ongoing pandemic – can make a decision closer to the date of the next meeting.
- Additionally, should explore the possibility of having a more seminar focused approach rather than a straightforward business meeting.

Fran advised that from recent conversations, COPFS feel that they are better suited for the operational group rather than the oversight group. Police Scotland sits at various levels including the oversight group.

ACTION: It was noted that it would be helpful to compile an up-to-date diagram of the structure, membership and what the remit of the group is.

4. Update from National Appropriate Adult Project

- PROCXED – system for data collection. The Data Protection Impact Assessment should be signed off in January. It is hoped to go live within the next month.

Stephen Heath raised that there is an operational impact to services with large numbers of calls as they are storing sensitive personal data without being able to transfer it.

Sarah acknowledged these concerns and assured that the DPIA would be finalised and up and running as soon as possible.

Practitioners Forums – hoping to get dates from COPFS and the Law Society to speak at a future Practitioners Forum. Has been useful to facilitate discussions about current issues.

Donald raised concerns with Police Scotland not seizing notes after appropriate adults have dealt with victims. It was suggested that these concerns are addressed at the Operational Group where it can be discussed in detail. Louise McInnes confirmed that this is an issue that has been highlighted and is being reviewed.

Training evaluation - the training has been developed and sessions have been run. Following these there have been a few adjustments to the training. Fran hoping to get a meeting shortly with West Lothian College to discuss the evaluation as well as next steps.

Stephen Robertson raised concerns that before the pandemic, SOLD were more involved with appropriate adult work/training and it seems to have fallen

off the radar. Stephen Heath clarified that SOLD are still a valuable aspect of training, however, the pandemic had affected the amount of in person work they could do. SOLD had been asked to create a video on the impact of stress and pressure in a police interview or in court which was a successful tool. They are in the process of requesting another video covering these points.

Governance arrangements - there are plans to get a training and standards subgroup established.

Updates from Local Government Advisory Group

Met 3 times last year, planning to meet twice this year. Next meeting will be in March. Fran asked for any issues to take forward – previous issues were governance, care inspectorate and finance, some of which may need to be revisited as well as budgets. Fran to look at drafting an agenda and setting a date shortly with Anil.

Anil highlighted that relationship is important and it would be helpful for the group to discuss current issues. There is a need to consider how to engage with health and social care and community wellbeing and making sure that political awareness is there.

5. Member updates

Care Inspectorate – the draft quality improvement framework has been sent out – would welcome comments/feedback, deadline is 22nd January.

Scottish Government – review of guidance – SG asked for submissions by 23rd December, next steps are to consider these responses and begin thinking about how the guidance can be reframed. Would welcome ongoing support on this.

Funding review will be conducted in the next financial year – expected to support any necessary changes to funding in the following financial year.

Scott Review - extensive review that was completed, making multiple recommendations, one of which relates to appropriate adults.

Recommendation 5.1 refers to the existing appropriate adult scheme -should be expanded to increase the support for individuals throughout current justice processes. There is a lot of work being done to assess the implications of the report and a response from Government will be published with priority actions in due course.

6. AOB

Police Scotland will have a new representative at future meetings – DCI Steven Grimason.

Clarity in Communication -Stephen Heath gave an update on a paper that was submitted to the Oversight Group in December 2021 suggesting the

production of four 2-minute audio visual scenarios. These were developed in partnership with the National Appropriate Adult Coordinator at COSLA and Police Scotland.

They were filmed in May 2022 by the AV unit of Police Scotland and their work was outstanding. Stephen would like to record they are done. Comments have been fed back and we now need to get agreement on a covering note to accompany them.

This is going to be part of an evolution of a number of products that will help to try to support train and guide staff and in the short to medium term.

7. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 9th May 2023 @10:00 via MS Teams

Future Meetings

Tuesday 11 July 2023

Tuesday 10 October 2023 TBC

Action: COSLA to send out invites, agenda and related documents.