

DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BOARD

Friday 20 November 2020, 10.30am
Via Microsoft Teams

Present

Aberdeenshire Council	Cllr Gillian Owen
Angus Council	Cllr Derek Wann
Argyll & Bute Council	Cllr Kieron Green (Substitute)
Clackmannanshire Council	Cllr Graham Lindsay
Dumfries & Galloway Council	Cllr Jeff Leaver
East Ayrshire Council	Cllr Fiona Campbell
East Dunbartonshire Council	Cllr Jim Goodall
East Lothian Council	Cllr John McMillan
Falkirk Council	Cllr Adanna McCue
Fife Council	Cllr Craig Walker
Glasgow City Council	Cllr Chris Cunningham
Highland Council	Cllr John Finlayson
Inverclyde Council	Cllr Stephen McCabe (COSLA Spokesperson)
Midlothian Council	Cllr Jim Muirhead
North Ayrshire Council	Cllr John Bell
North Lanarkshire Council	Cllr Frank McNally
Orkney Islands Council	Cllr Gwenda Shearer
Perth & Kinross Council	Cllr Fiona Sarwar (Substitute)
Scottish Borders Council	Cllr Carol Hamilton
Shetland Islands Council	Cllr George Smith
South Ayrshire Council	Cllr William Grant
South Lanarkshire Council	Cllr Katy Loudon
Stirling Council	Cllr Susan McGill
West Lothian Council	Cllr David Dodds
ADES	Professor Michael Wood
Public Health Scotland	Kerry McKenzie
SOLACE	Dr Grace Vickers

Apologies

Aberdeen City Council	Cllr John Wheeler
Argyll & Bute Council	Cllr Yvonne McNeilly*
City of Edinburgh Council	Cllr Ian Perry
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Cllr Angus McCormack
Dundee City Council	Cllr Roisin Smith
East Lothian Council	Cllr Shamin Akhtar*
East Renfrewshire Council	Cllr Paul O’Kane
Inverclyde Council	Cllr Natasha Murphy
Moray Council	Cllr Sonya Warren
Perth & Kinross Council	Cllr John Duff*
Renfrewshire Council	Cllr Jim Paterson
West Dunbartonshire Council	Cllr Karen Conaghan
ADES	Peter McNaughton
CIPFA – Directors of Finance	Alan Puckrin

Directors of Public Health
SOLACE
Social Work Scotland
Argyll & Bute Head of Service

Dona Milne
Kristine Jonson
Ben Farrugia
Louise Connor

* denotes substitute

Public Session

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Stephen McCabe welcomed Members to this meeting. It was noted that Cllr Fay Sinclair is no longer a member of the Board and that Cllr Craig Walker will be her replacement as the Fife representative.

2. Children and Young People Board Workplan (paper)

This item presented Members with an updated version of the Board workplan. It was noted that many areas in the plan were paused due to the pandemic but 'normal business' is now resuming while the pandemic response is ongoing.

Board Members agreed the workplan and noted that a review will be undertaken for discussion at the next Board meeting.

3. Minute of Previous Meeting of 2 October 2020 (paper)

The minute of the previous meeting was agreed as an accurate record.

4. Introducing the National Trauma Training Programme - Dr Caroline Bruce, Head of Programme for Trauma at NHS Education for Scotland. Dr Laura James, Project Manager, Violence Against Women, Improvement Service.

The Board were provided with a presentation from Drs Caroline Bruce and Laura James, which introduced the work of the National Trauma Training Programme. This programme seeks to provide trauma-informed training for the workforce.

Board Members noted the other areas of work that this training could address and thanked Drs Bruce and James for their presentation

5. The Impact of COVID-19 on Children in Conflict with the Law and in Secure Care - Fiona Dyer Deputy Director, Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ)

Fiona Dyer, Deputy Director, joined the meeting to provide further information on secure care and some research which is currently ongoing. This research focusses on the impact of COVID-19 on children in conflict with the law and the justice system in general.

It was noted that similar issues have previously been raised at the Children and Families Leadership Group where the group raised some concerns. This is also an active issue with the Secure Care Board.

Board Members noted that Cllr McCabe will discuss the next version of the Youth Justice Strategy with Fiona and other colleagues and see how the Board can move this forward.

6. National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (paper)

This paper highlighted a Scottish Government consultation on a review of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland. This guidance sets out how agencies should work together with children, young people and the wider community to protect children from neglect and exploitation. Board Members were asked to agree that Cllr McCabe may sign off any COSLA response as Children and Young People Spokesperson.

Board Members noted the proposals set out in the paper and provided views and agreed that COSLA officers should continue to work with professional partners to develop a response for sign-off by Cllr McCabe.

Private Session

7. CELCIS Protecting Children Programme - support for local authorities (paper)

This paper provided an update on the work of the CELCIS Protecting Children Programme. This is a three-year programme of work established in 2016/17 and the views of the Board were sought on recommendations to Leaders.

Board Members provided their support for the project, agreed that the work undertaken by the programme over the last two years has been a valuable contribution to support local authorities' own work, and noted that a paper will go to Leaders in January outlining how continued funding will be used.

8. Supporting COVID 4P Log for Children's Wellbeing (paper)

This paper outlined a project from the Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures at the University of Strathclyde which sought support from COSLA. This project constitutes a three-part program which aims to create a better understanding of children's issues during the pandemic. Professor Jennifer Davidson also joined the meeting to provide more information on the project. Board Members were asked to provide their support for this project.

Board Members noted the aims of the project and agreed that COSLA officers should continue to work with the Institute to promote their work to local authorities.

9. Kinship Care and Child Payment Disregard (paper)

This paper discussed a new form of social security benefit being introduced by the Scottish Government and administered by Social Security Scotland, with the aim of tackling child poverty for low income families in receipt of reserved benefits. Members were asked to agree that the Scottish Child Payment should be disregarded as income when calculating kinship carer allowance.

Members provided their views on the draft guidance and agreed that the payment should be disregarded as income in order to achieve its overall aims of reducing child poverty.

10. Children's Hearings Recovery (paper)

This paper provided an update on the national recovery plan for Children's Hearings, which Members were asked to endorse. An earlier draft of this plan was discussed at the previous Board. The draft plan outlines options which can be taken subject to local discussion, demand and capacity.

The need for a child-centred approach was discussed and it was noted that this should be stressed in any work on recovery from COVID-19 going forward.

Board Members noted the paper and agreed that COSLA should endorse the draft recovery plan, noting that Cllr McCabe can provide feedback to political contacts.

11. CYP Mental Health Update (paper)

This paper highlighted various pieces of improvement work currently being undertaken around children and young people's mental health and sought support for the sharing of good practice. It was noted by way of an update that ten local authorities have expressed an interest in taking part in collaborative work on this topic.

Board Members noted the contents of the paper and indicated that they supported the work undertaken by COSLA and Scottish Government to facilitate the sharing of good practice.

12. Review of Co-ordinated Support Plans (paper)

This paper concerned the creation of a group to review the use of Co-ordinated Support Plans (CSPs). This has been discussed in the Scottish Parliament previously and Board Members' views and agreement were sought.

Some comments on membership of the group were raised and it was noted that union representation is particularly important to represent non-teaching staff.

Board Members agreed that COSLA and Scottish Government should work together to establish this review, and further comments will be incorporated into the scope of the work carried out by the review group.

13. Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Return to 1140 (paper)

This paper set out the process to agree a new date for the return to 1140 hours, following its suspension due to the pandemic. Board Members were invited to note the process and provide any views.

It was noted that the pandemic has put a number of pressures on councils, including preparing for a return to 1140 hours and an increase in the cost of some capital projects. Workforce expansion to provide this should be emphasised going forward, as well as provision of relevant training and team building exercises. The need for a realistic lead-in timescale was stressed and it was noted that at least a six-month period of notice for reimplementation would be helpful.

Members noted that some parents have chosen to use partner providers rather than council providers, as those were kept open during lockdown. This unexpected financial pressure may delay councils' ability to deliver 1140 hours with a few months' notice.

Board Members' further comments were noted.

14. Deferred Year of ELC - Joint Implementation Plan (paper to follow)

This paper followed one at the previous Board Meeting, where the high-level principles of the Joint Implementation Plan for providing deferred-year ELC funding were agreed. This paper provided further details on that plan.

It was noted that Scottish Government have not yet provided a definitive number of projects to be funded but a decision is expected next week. A paper will go to the December COSLA Leaders meeting with more detail.

Board Members noted the contents of the paper and agreed that this should go to COSLA Leaders for their input.

15. Education Resilience and Renewal Discussion Paper (paper)

This paper asked Members to consider a draft COSLA paper on 'Resilience and Renewal in Education,' which has been developed in partnership with ADES. The draft paper showcases some of the good work that has been done in education by councils since the outset of the pandemic, and sets out the strategic view from Local Government on education for the medium to long term. COSLA Officers also provided more information on future funding. Board Members were asked to agree the draft paper and agree that the Children and Young People Spokesperson should engage with the Cabinet Secretary for Education and opposition spokespeople to discuss the paper's priorities further.

Board Members noted that emphasis on children's rights and a child-centred approach would be welcome within the paper. Some examples of positive parent-carer engagement would also be useful. The work of Regional Improvement Collaboratives was emphasised and it was noted that their work has been helpful in returning to education. It was noted that additional comments can be emailed to COSLA Officers after today's meeting.

Board Members endorsed the paper and mandated that Cllr McCabe should undertake political engagement on its priorities.

16. CYP Update (paper)

This paper provided an overview of actions undertaken by the Children and Young People Team since the previous Board meeting, which Members were happy to note.

17. Any Other Competent Business

No additional competent points of business were noted.

In closing the meeting at 12.30pm, Cllr McCabe thanked Members for their attendance and contributions.

Date of Next Meeting: 19 February 2021