

CHILDRENS SERVICES BOARD

Note of Meeting

2nd June 2025

Present: - Eleanor Shepherd (ES), Gette Cobban (GC), Graham Dale (GD), Graeme Simpson (GS) (Chair), James Simpson (JS), Julie Warrender (JW), Kirsten Douglas (KD), Margaret Stewart (MS), Paul McNamee (PMcN), Phil Mackie (PM), Sarah Wilson (SW), Shona Milne (SM)

Apologies: - Marjorie Johnstone (MJ), Nicola Graham (NG), Robin McGregor (RM)

Others noted in the text: Allison Swanson (AS), Arlene Reynolds (AR), Bethan Murdoch (BM), Kristopher O'Mahony (KO), Larrissa Gordon (LG), Mhairi Shewan (MSw), Tracy Davis (TD)

Agenda item		Actioned by:
1. Welcome and apologies	GS welcomed PMcN (Professor of Health Economics at the University of Aberdeen and part of the Health Determinants Research Collaborative.	GS
2. Note of previous meeting	Note of Meeting 17th March 2025 Proposed by: GC Seconded by: SM The following actions were confirmed to be complete: - CSB members have shared CEYP Thematic Review Nov. 2024.docx and Promise Oversight Board Report 3 reports widely with staff and encourage them to read them as there are implications for all services - JS has circulated the approved CSP Annual Report and Workforce Summary	All JS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
3. HDRC Embedded Researcher	PMcN provided a brief overview of the role of the HDRC Embedded Researcher: • The HDRC is aligning applicants with research backgrounds to support informed decision-making for Community Planning Aberdeen, focusing on evidence-based decisions for medium to long-term actions. • An example discussed in a recent meeting was the support and evaluation of the new Family Support Model. • The embedded researcher role is a time-limited project running until the end of the year, with an evaluation planned to assess its impact. • The HDRC is funded for 2.5 years, with potential for continued involvement beyond the current year. • PMcN will support the CSB over this time, particularly in transitioning to the revised 2026/36 LOIP and Children's Services Plan development over the next 6 months.	PMcN
4. Progress update from each Subgroup LOIP Overview Report June 2025 CSB Progress Tracker	CSB Leads provided progress updates on the <u>CSP Tracker/LOIP Project Overview and ongoing Subgroup actions:</u> SO3 – JW JW noted that overall, each project was progressing and remain on track with a view to completion towards the end of the current LOIP cycle. 3.1 Recognising and responding to signs of neglect JW provided feedback on activity to improve tracking and data of those referred to children's social work with signs of harm and neglect: • JW confirmed she and the 3.1 project lead had met with health colleagues and established further data that can be used to support tracking of those that don't meet thresholds for Children's Social Work intervention.	Subgroup Leads

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	JW has also connected with the Thematic Neglect Group to share evidence data and activity to support the projects outcomes and will continue to collaborate.	JW
	PM confirmed that he has been in discussion with AR who is working to algin the data gathered and provided for the Population Needs Assessment, which will further support the development of the draft LOIP	PM
	Best Start in Life Group Role and Remit - A planning workshop has been scheduled in August to review the role and remit of the group, including determining current gaps, future priorities and better alignment to The Promise - GS offered to provide contacts that could attend and assist with this. JW/GS to discuss further	GS/JW
	SO4 – PM PM Presented the draft end report for Project 4.3/5.2: - <u>4.3/5.2 Project End Report DRAFT - Health Assessments for CEYP:</u> - PM confirmed that the Project had not yet commenced but that a scoping exercise has been underway for the previous 6 months, the end report representing a status update and proposal for future action - The report noted that whilst health assessments are taking place, there is a need for a clearer understanding of referral pathways and transition needs, as well as improved communication of the detail of assessments between agencies. - Recommendations included: refining and better understanding current referral pathways, improving data collection and piloting a community appointment day approach. PM suggested that this inform actions to be prioritised for the next cycle of the LOIP.	PM

Commented [AS1]: @James Simpson is this with the workshop facilitation?

Commented [JS2R1]: No it was essentially an offer to provide a couple of attendees that have a close background in the promise (I'm thinking the likes of Shona Duff or Kris) to be part of the priority setting discussions/alignment to the promise

Commented [AS3R1]: maybe reflect that so clear

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	6.1/8.5 Recognising Signs of Harm and Neglect: • There has been positive progress in the project, with an increase of 43% in the number of reports identifying neglect since the project started. • There had also been a steady increase in the number of users of the neglect toolkit. 6.5 Digital and Technology Courses: • Although data currently showed improvement, it is predicted that there may be a dip in the number of young people taking on Digital and Technology courses. Due to a number of factors including recruitment of Digital and Tech school staff and the discontinuation of funding for the work. The Project is looking to mitigate this by working with University and College to innovate ways increase recruitment. SO7 – KD KD Provided an update on the current status of SO 7 Projects: 7.1 Care Experienced Young People Cautioned and Charged • The project is making positive progress with and overall reduction in the number of young people being cautioned and charged, as such the team will be seeking bring the project to a close in the near future, subject to continuing improvement. 7.2 Care Experienced Young People Going Missing • GS highlighted that Aberdeen City has been accepted as a pilot area for the refresh of the Missing Persons Protocol.	

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	7.5 Young Anti-Social Behaviour • KD acknowledged that he<u>there</u> had been a slight increase in the number of cases of youth anti-social behaviour over the easter break but assured CSB that support work continues and is having a positive impact. • Multi agency work through the Community Action team and Youth Horizons is ongoing and will continue throughout the summer break • The project is seeking to close by the end of the year SO8 – SW SW Provided an update on the current status of SO 8 Projects: 8.4 Community Support for Families with ASN/Disabilities • A detailed analysis of project 8.4 baseline survey results had been undertaken with a view to responding to participants feedback. In particular uncovering that parents had limited knowledge of the supports available through Third Sector. Further evidenced by a small number of Third Secor organisations that have reported being oversubscribed. • Future plans are to establish a single online directory of services, local supports and what they offer, likely through (or linked to) Parent Hub 8.6 Project End – Neurodivergent Pathways • SW noted that the project had not been able to secure funding to expand the pilot and no immediate alternate funding stream had been identified • CSB raised concerns that continuation of the project now rested entirely with the school staff trained with no clear sustainable solution. • ES commended the commitment of the school staff who undertook the work and continue to support families asking that NHS representatives seek to provide a complementary resource to continue and expand the work. SW/TD to discuss further and link with ES	SW/GC/MSw SW/TD/ES

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	SO8 Chair SW informed CSB that she would be stepping down from the role of the SO8 Subgroup Chia as a permanent replacement for the Lead Allied Health Professional role has been recruited and will take on responsibility for the work of the group. SW to link with new lead and JS to transition into the CSB and development of new LOIP Priorities	SW/JS
5. LOIP/ Children's Services Plan Refresh 2026 MG 210525 Slides - LOIP Development Stages.pdf	JS provided an overview of the timelines for the LOIP refresh and expectations of CSB in its development: Overview: - The new LOIP will follow a 10-year cycle with a mid-point 5-year review. - Over the following 6 months the CPA OIGs are to establish priorities for the new LOIP 2026-36 identifying draft Stretch Outcomes and Improvement Aims - This LOIP development will be informed by data provided through the PNA and LOIP Annual Report as well as Engagement Feedback from communities. Further support through the identification of interventions that have worked elsewhere is being provided by the HDRC, PHS and CHES - The new logic model focused on identification of bold and systemic changes required to meet the Stretch Outcomes as opposed to more numerous short term improvement projects.	JS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	- Look at examples from other cities and countries, such as Ireland, to learn from their models of children's engagement and participation. - Establish clear conditions for the engagement process, ensuring representation of all children across the city and encouraging local-level engagement. - MS to consider how to involve Children and Young People in the LOIP Development Sessions	MS
8. Governance and Assurance CSB Progress Tracker (QAF Audits Tab)	JS noted that actions of the Quality Assurance Framework are progressing. GS/JS to further review content by next CSB	JS/GS
9. 10. Real Living Wage Action Plan/ Child Poverty Action Report Review Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire Living Wage Action Plan - DRAFT - v4.docx Child Poverty Action Plan 2023-24 Review.docx	Real Living Wage Action Plan JS provided overview of the 'Making Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire a Living Wage Place - 2025-28 Action Plan' asking that CSB consider the content of the Plan from a children and families perspective, providing any last feedback on the Plan to author Martin Barry by COP 6 th of June Child Poverty Action Plan Review JS Provided an overview of feedback on the 2023/24 Aberdeen City Child Poverty Action Plan: - The report is a review of the 2023/24 Child Poverty Action Plan, a further analysis on the content of the 2024/25 plan will be provided by the Scottish Government in due course - Overall feedback was positive, with use of data and evidence being a key strength as well as detailed examples of activity in Aberdeen City underway to tackle the poverty agenda. - Areas for development included making the links between actions and priorities of the Child Poverty Action Plan the Children's Services Plan the Local Outcome Improvement Plan clearer - ES noted that this feedback had been considered and helped to inform the new Plan	CSB

Agenda item		Actioned by:
10. CSB Newsletter	JS asked the CSB to consider content for the next Workforce Newsletter Suggestions for content included: • Update on the LOIP Refresh • List of CSB Membership • Note on the activity of the Third Sector Forum • Spotlight: LOIP Consultation feedback from Children and Young People • Children's and Young Peoples Version of the CSP Annual Report Workforce Summary to be circulated 20 June (after CHES Conference)	James Simpson
11. Funding and awards tracker	GS asked leads to consider the opportunities available in the various trackers a) CPA Funding Tracker b) CPA Award Tracker c) CPA Comms Tracker	CSB Board members
12. Key messages from other groups:	Child Protection Committee The CPC has completed its self-evaluation which has been strong and positive, will be review a change in focus for the group moving forward. Chief Officers Group The COG is continuing to review risk and the impact of violence across public protection and drawing together the public protection learning and development approach. Aberdeen Young Movement MS acknowledged the involvement of the Youth Movement in the delivery of the LOIP Engagement Consultation across 5 secondary schools. As well as sharing that one of the Youth Movement Members attended the United Nations Forum in New York to promote how we are implementing UNCRC across Scotland	GS GS MS
13. AOB		

Agenda item		Actioned by:
14. Date of Future Meetings	Date of Next Meeting: <i>18th August 2025</i> Future Meeting Dates: <u>CSB Meeting Dates 2025 (Revised)</u> • 18 August (for papers reporting to Oct/Nov CPMG/CPA Board) • 6 October • 1 December Children's Services Board 2025 Dates and Deadlines	