

CHILDRENS SERVICES BOARD

Note of Meeting

1st September 2025

Present: - Grame Simpson (Chair) (GS); Allison Horne (AH); Graeme Dale (GD) George Nixon (GN); Gette Cobban (GC); James Simpson (JS); Julia Milne (JM); Julie Gibson (JG); Julie Warrender (JW); Margaret Stewart (MS); Paul MacNamee (PMcN); Phil Mackie (PM); Robin McGregor (RM); Tracy Davis (TD).

Apologies: - Emma Scrimger (ESc; Eleanor Sheppard (ES); Michael Cassie (MC); Nicola Graham (NG); Shona Milne (SM)

Others noted in the text: - Alasdair Condie (AC); Callum Spence (CS); Emma McPherson (EM); Kristopher O'Mahoney (KO'M) Natasha Martens (NM); Pippa Robbie (PR); Vibha Gaikwad (VG)

Agenda item		Actioned by:
1. Welcome and apologies	Apologies noted above	GS
2. Note of previous meeting	Note of Meeting 2nd June 2025 Proposed by: PM Seconded by: GC The following actions were agreed as complete: - JS CSB Summer Workforce Summary completed and approved - MS CYP Version of the CSP Annual Report 2024/25 completed and approved - JS to circulate links to the above	JS MS JS

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Agenda item		Actioned by:
	looked after and accommodated system, as well as what additional elements are required to make the health assessment process better for care leavers • The project also aims to better understand the data transfer of assessments which are currently undertaken but not effectively communicated • The project team is aiming to provide an updated end report for April 2026. JS to link with VB and support <u>SO5 – GS</u> Project 5.5 Corporate Parenting Training: • GS noted that this project was now complete. A draft report will be presented to November CSB for consideration. JS to support KO'M to draft • Conversations continue with Education Scotland regarding Promise Awards to identify how final certificates can be administered. ACVO do not have the capacity to monitor and make awards for Scotland as a whole. GC has had discussions with Children in Scotland to see if they would progress this nationally. GC will provide an update following these discussions • Due to the delay in certification The Promise Training for Third Sector organisations has not yet been developed. <u>SO6 – AH (on behalf of SM)</u> • Work is currently under way to support children in P6 and 7 in one of the local primary schools to raise and maintain their attendance into S1. This work is showing initial signs of success	JS/VB JS/KO'M GC

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	- The school nursing team have established drop-in sessions at several secondary schools, currently reviewing to see how successful these have been and how to continue the support into the school term. <u>SO7 – George Nixon</u> Project 7.1 Cautioned and Charged - GN confirmed that the project has now reached it's aim and intends to provide a project end report for the next CSB. JS to support CS to complete. Project 7.3 Diversion from Prosecution - A letter to court template is currently being trialed to ensure that the sheriff receives a full picture of the young persons background and circumstances <u>SO8 – Tacy Davis</u> - An new Allied Health Professional Lead EM, has entered into post and will now be taking on chairing responsibilities Project 8.6 Neurodivergent Pathways £477k of funding has been secured to support a Pan Grampain Neurodivergent Pathway programme. TD to provide a further update to the CSB on how this will impact on the expansion of the work previously carried out re 8.6	GN/JS/CS EM TD
4. Department of Public Health Annual Report	PM provided an overview of the final draft of the Department of Public Health Annual Report for CSB discussion and comment:	PM

Agenda item		Actioned by:
DPH Annual report draft FINAL (Aug 25).docx	• This year's report has a specific focus on reflecting the activity underway by NHS and partners to support Child Health. Feedback on the draft from relevant bodies, such as the CSB is now being sought. • Key topic areas include: Poverty, Inequalities, Mental Health/Neurodiversity, Climate Change and finally recommendations for future activity. • Finalised content is to be presented to NHS Grampian Public Health Governance Group and thereafter the Public Health Portfolio Board for approval, publication, and adoption of the recommendations. After which this will be shared with CSB. • In the interim PM will continue to provide revised drafts and updates to inform the production of the LOIP and CSP. PM to link with JS to share drafts with CSB	JS/PM
5. Care and Justice Act Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 Children (Care and Justice) Act (2024): First Annual Operational Review 2024/25	JM provided overview of the implementation of the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Act [<i>Abbreviated to 'the Act' or 'CCE Act' in the text below</i>], and its implications for CSB partner services: • The enacted elements (and further planned implementation) of the UNCRC Act has delayed implementation timelines for the CCE Act whilst it is adapted to adhere to the UNCRC. • The planned timeline of staged implementation for April 2026 of the CCE Act is now likely to be regarded as a 'preparation for implementation' timeline. With the intention to move to full implementation in April 2026. • National working groups have been assigned to key areas of the implementation to inform how these will be rolled out. JM Co-Chairs the Workforce development group, reviewing workforce and L&D needs for which it also has responsibility. • Each subgroup reports to the Implementation Resourcing Group. The next meeting is on the 10th of September JM to provide update to CSB on actions/implication from this meeting to JS for distribution.	JM

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	Implementation also has a number of capacity/resource implications for other services JM to meet with AH/Education reps and separately GC to discuss potential impact on Education and Third Sector	JM/ SM/ AH/ GC
6. LOIP/ Refresh 2026/36 Conference Proposal Posters	James Simpson provided feedback from the Fairer Futures Conference on the draft proposed System Changes / LOIP Priorities and Actions for the Children, Families and Lifelong Learning Theme: - A total of 8 system changes were presented as part of the theme, six of which were proposed by the Children's Services Board. These covered under three Priority areas. Namely: Best Start in Life; Empowered and Resilient; and Attendance, Attainment and Transitions. JS provided a summary of each change - Overall conference feedback was positive, CSB proposed system changes were also well received. A summary output of feedback from the conference is being produced and will be shared with CSB in due course. - CSB Subgroups are asked to review and refine the system changes relating to their areas based on the feedback and provide updated narrative/rationale for their respective system changes using the Logic Model Template, to be shared with leads by JS. - Updated system changes are to be provided to JS no later than COP Monday 6th of October for consideration by the Community Planning Management Group on the 22nd of October	JS JS JS/CSB Leads JS/CSB Leads
7. Children's Services Plan Refresh 2026-2031 Summary LOIP-CSP Development Timeline.pptx	James Simpson presented the timeline and content requirements for Children's Services Plan (CSP) development: - Following immediately from Item 5 JS shared the timeline for the wider LOIP and Children's Services Plan development. - Children and Young People LOIP content will provide the overall priorities and strategic direction for the Children's Services Plan, however the CSP will require further and more detailed narrative on the activities and actions of the CSB and partners. In particular	JS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	related to areas such as: Child Poverty, UNCRC Compliance, The Promise, and the Family Support Model. • Timelines for the Children's Services Plan development will overlap with the production of the LOIP to ensure both can be drafted for public consultation in February 2026 • JS asked that CSB Leads provide relevant content for the draft Children's Services Plan for the 12th of November ahead of the CSB on the 17th of November. JS will assign specific asks to CSB leads in due course	JS/CSB Leads
8. Refreshed CLD Plan CLD Plan 2025-2030	Margaret Stewart provided an overview the new Community Learning and Development Plan: • The updated CLD Plan has been co-produced with communities and partners. It is structured around the determinants of health and is aligned with other city strategies. • There is a strengthened governance structure for the CLD plan, responding to feedback from HMIE A strategic partnership has been developed, comprising various CLD leads across the city, responsible for the plan, annual reporting, and its shared evaluation. The partnership reports to Community Planning. • There are six priority areas identified: Adult Learning; Youth Work; Family Learning; Community Development; Workforce Development; Collaboration and Shared Accountability • Key aims include: improving access to learning and support for marginalised groups, enhancing health and well-being, increasing employability outcomes, promoting stronger community participation and influence, and strengthening workforce capability and collaboration. • The plan will maintain and strengthen governance through ongoing engagement with HMIE and other stakeholders, supporting thematic groups focused on the six priority areas.	MS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	Work continues to finalise the CLD Plan for committee consideration on 16th September.	
9. The Promise Framework Aberdeen City Tracker	James Simpson provided an update on the development of the CSB Promise Data Tracker: • Work is underway to consolidate the Corporate Parenting and CPC Power BI data trackers. • A new Power Bi has been developed by the Analytics and Insights team to be presented at the Promise Implementation Board that follows the format of the National Promise Tracker • JS to liaise with AC to incorporate local datasets aligned to the National Promise Tracker indicators into the Power Bi	JS JS/AC
10.Children's Services Joint Inspection FINAL - CPC Self Evaluation Activity - Conclusion - March 2025.pdf CPC QAF Audit 8 - Final Remit - July 2025.docx	Graeme Simpson provided an update on Joint Inspection preparations. In particular the ongoing and planned activities of Quality Assurance Framework Audit 8: • The Child Protection Committee has approved Audit 8, focusing on children looked after at home within parental care. This topic has been identified as it will be a key area of focus for the next Joint Inspection. Though a date has not yet been confirmed it is expected that Aberdeen City will be inspected soon • The audit provides a benchmark to understand local practice, as outcomes for children looked after at home are among the poorest in areas such as positive destinations and school attainment. • Audit involved a review of 20 files across multiple agencies, completed in August: with the evaluation of findings to be provided in due course • Workforce and family engagement will follow, involving a small number of cases (three families) for more in-depth exploration. • Participation from families is voluntary; engagement sessions will focus on general support practices rather than specific family cases.	GS

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Agenda item		Actioned by:
	- GC offered to provide support by linking with Third Sector organisations to recruit young people from other participation groups and support the mapping of youth participation, identify gaps, and remove barriers to engagement. - MS to consider and confirm a position regarding the Shadow Board Reporting through the CSB or the wider CPA structure - TD to be invited to meeting with Prof. Lundy	MS TD/MS
12. Governance and Assurance CSB Progress Tracker (QAF Audits Tab)	James Simpson to provide an overview of outstanding actions from Quality Assurance Framework Audits JS was asked to continue review the content and ensure that detail on ongoing actions was up to date	JS
13. Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill C (CCE Services Planning) Bill.pdf	Graeme Simpson provided an overview of the new Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill, and implications: - The bill (often referred to as 'The Promise Bill' has an ambitious timeline set to presented before Parliament rises for elections by April next year. - The bill extends eligibility for through care and aftercare support for children who left care before their 16th birthday, with assessments and support based on individual need. - Local authorities will have a duty to fund support for care-experienced young people, including access to education and further academic studies. - Th proposals also restrict profit-making within care, with reference to high costs charged by some organisations (e.g., over £1,000,000 per year for one child).	GS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	• There is a suggestion that fostering agencies be required to register as charities, in response to concerns about profit-driven ownership by hedge funds. • There is a proposal for Integrated Joint Boards to also be responsible for signing off Children's Services Plans, in addition to health boards and local authorities. • GS to share a briefing on the Bill, JS to circulate. • GS will continue to update CSB as the Bill progresses	GS/JS GS
14.Refreshed NIF Plan Evaluation of the ACC NIF Plan 2024-25 Final.pdf	Shared for noting National Improvement Framework Plan Evaluation:	AH
15.Funding and awards tracker	Leads were asked to consider opportunities available in the various trackers a) CPA Funding Tracker b) CPA Award Tracker c) CPA Comms Tracker	CSB Board members
16.Key messages from other groups:	Child Protection Committee: • Has not met since last CSB Chief Officers Group • A risk register is currently in development; this will be shared with CSB in due course Champions Board: • Has not met since last CSB	GS

Agenda item		Actioned by:
	Aberdeen Young Movement No Update	
17. AOB	None discussed	GS
18. Date of Future Meetings	Date of Next Meeting: <i>17th November 2025</i>	JS