



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP

Minute of virtual meeting of the Children, Young People and Families Partnership held on Friday 18 September 2020 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillor J Duff, PKC
Councillor C Shiers, PKC
S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services), PKC
D Fraser, Head of Adult Care & Social Work, PKC
S Johnston, Head of Education and Learning, PKC
J Pepper, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services) and Chief Social Work Officer, PKC
Chief Inspector G Binnie, Police Scotland
K Pacholek, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

In Attendance: B Atkinson, Independent Chair of Child Protection Committee;
P Davison, C Mackie and L Brown (all PKC).

Apologies: Councillor J Rebbeck; J Hutton, Independent Advocacy, H Zhang, PKAVS Third Sector; Dr T Knight and A Fitzpatrick (both NHS Tayside); K Reid and H Robertson (both PKC).

S Devlin in the Chair

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

S Devlin welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Children Young People and Families Partnership since the national lockdown commenced in March 2020. Apologies for absence were submitted and noted as above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in terms of the relevant Codes of Conduct.

3. COVID-19

Prior to considering the remaining business on the agenda S Devlin thanked partners for their continued efforts in the services to children, young people and families across Perth and Kinross throughout the most challenging of times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thereafter partners shared the impact of the pandemic on their service delivery and how it is influencing their recovery planning.

FOLLOWING A SHORT RECESS, THE PARTNERSHIP RECONVENED AT 10.45AM

**4. PERTH AND KINROSS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE BUSINESS
ACTIVITY REPORT SINCE 21 FEBRUARY 2020**

There was submitted a report by B Atkinson, Independent Chair, Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee (CPC) (G/20/94) summarising the key business activities of the CPC since February 2020.

In referring to Dr Sharon Vincent's research report as detailed in section 2.6.2 of B Atkinson's report J Pepper advised that a date has been set for a leadership event involving the members of the Chief Officer Groups across the 3 local authority areas. This will consider the findings of Dr Vincent's research and help to set the leadership priorities for the next 3 years. These priorities will inform the contribution in relation to safeguarding and child protection within the next Tayside Children's Services Plan.

J Pepper suggested there was a need to ensure that the messages from the leadership event are disseminated across the various groupings and levels of management across different services and agencies. In considering this she suggested that an event should be organised to ensure the CYPFP is informed and connected to that agenda. This in turn would provide an opportunity for partners to consider what this will mean in terms of workforce development given that the focus will shift from providing guidance and procedure for staff to moving on in the next 3 years to how staff will be supported to work together differently. Ideally this should take place by December 2020 or very early into 2021.

The Partnership agreed:

- (i) To note and endorse the update on the business activity of the Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee as detailed in Report G/20/94)
- (ii) To prepare a programme for a Partnership event to be held on 4 December 2020 which will look at what has been learnt across Tayside from Dr Vincent's research and what that means at a local level for the Partnership in particular in relation to workforce development. **(Action JP/BA)**

**5. THE TAYSIDE CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2020-2023 – JOINT
STATEMENT PREPARED BY NHS TAYSIDE AND PERTH AND KINROSS
COUNCIL**

There was submitted a joint statement (G/20/95) which set out the commitment of NHS Tayside and Perth and Kinross Council to the preparation of a three-year progress report on the Tayside Children's Services Plan 2017-20 by December 2020, indicating the intention to continue this existing plan for a further year (2020-2021) and, to publish a new plan for 2021-2023 by April 2021.

J Pepper advised that the people and resources who would normally be involved in reviewing progress and writing plans have been engaged in other activities associated with the COVID-19 response, and, as a result the ability to make progress has been constrained. At the same time it was recognised that it would be beneficial to have more time to think about what the true impact of the global pandemic has had on the children, young people and families in Perth and Kinross and across Tayside and to use that to revisit a needs assessment and identify what are the key risks and priorities to take forward.

The current plan and governance arrangements for the 5 priorities will continue until such time as the new plan is developed and approved.

The decision taken was reported to Perth and Kinross Council's Gold Command and has been reported to NHS Tayside Health Board.

S Devlin added that the Partnership has not as yet had an opportunity to consider the implications of the outcomes from the Independent Care Review and the Promise, published shortly before the national lockdown, and how the Partnership would wish to address those recommendations. It would be the intention to build a response to the Independent Care Review recommendations into the next iteration of the Plan.

The Partnership:

- (i) Noted the joint statement by NHS Tayside and Perth and Kinross Council in relation to the Tayside Children's Services Plan as detailed in report G/20/95).
- (ii) Noted that the decision taken was made by Gold Command under emergency powers.
- (iii) Agreed that a report be submitted for discussion to a future meeting on the results of the Independent Care Review and what it means for the Partnership.

6. PERTH AND KINROSS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE (CPC) STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2019/2020

There was submitted the Perth and Kinross CPC Standards and Quality report for the academic year 2019/2020 (G/20/96) by B Atkinson, Independent Chair of the CPC. The report provided an overview of the key activities and work of the CPC to protect children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation and identified the achievements, key strengths and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, areas for further improvement and, the CPC's programme of improvement work for 2020 and beyond.

Councillor Duff noted the number of non-engaged families had increased from 35 in 2018/19 to 64 in 2019/20 and enquired if this was related to the current situation around the pandemic and to the perception that some people were less likely to adapt to new technologies and to engage in that way. In response B Atkinson advised that there had probably been an element of

under-reporting in the past. Guidance and training for staff had been produced on how to deal with non-engaging families and as a result people were more aware of recording if a family was not engaging. He advised that a key learning point from Dr Vincent's work is the importance of how to strike a balance between working with families and at times doing things that a family will not necessarily appreciate. J Pepper added she did not think the figures related to new families, rather it was a higher recognition and visibility of those families that services need to focus on and it should be viewed positively. Staff were recognising those families through agreed processes and the work undertaken in raising the profile of neglect and the training and protocols around non-engaging families was having a positive impact.

J Pepper further advised that data had shown that the number of children being dealt with as a social work service and the pressures from additional children coming through the system between March and July 2020 had been more acute. She advised that more children were placed on the register during that period and that it will take some time to return to a position where the risks associated for those children have returned to an acceptable level. There had also been an increase in the number of children who are looked after in kinship care and foster care. Work is currently taking place to quantify what that will mean in terms of resourcing within Services for Children, Young People and Families. She advised that there will be significant work required over the next few months to address this given that there are statutory processes that need to be carried out which will lead to a significant increase in demand from a social work perspective. This will also have implications for other services and agencies represented on the Partnership. J Pepper advised the challenge would be how this is managed over the medium term and the trend reversed.

J Pacholek advised that the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has focused over the last six months on those children most at risk and has prioritised holding hearings from them. This has come at a cost to other children whose situations have been assessed as being less at risk resulting in a backlog of hearings. SCRA has been successful in securing additional funding to increase staffing on a temporary basis over the next 18 months to tackle this and will be working very closely with Children's Hearing Scotland to increase hearing capacity by holding 30% more hearings than last year. She advised that SCRA will work closely with social work services to tackle this.

The Partnership agreed:

- (i) To note the wide range of work being carried out by Perth and Kinross Council and partners through the Child Protection Committee to provide high quality services to protect children and young people, in particular the high-level commitment to continuous improvement through self-evaluation.
- (ii) To endorse the contents of Report G/20/96 and the Perth and Kinross CPC Standards and Quality Report 2019/2020 (Appendix 1 refers).

- (iii) To endorse the Perth and Kinross CPC Improvement Plan 2018-2020 (Final Update) at 31 July 2020 (Appendix 2 refers).

7. THEMATIC APPROACH TO PERFORMANCE REPORTING

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services, Perth and Kinross Council (G/20/97) outlining the thematic reporting plan for performance/outcome information focused on children, young people and families; and (2) setting out a suite of information focused on the themes of Health and Child Development, Outcomes for Vulnerable Children and Quality of life for consideration and scrutiny by the Partnership.

P Davison advised information contained within the report had been gathered over the previous 9 months and did not reflect the current situation.

Councillor Duff noted the decrease in child obesity in P1 and enquired if this was related to the Daily Mile initiative and is the initiative still ongoing given the current situation with the pandemic. In response S Devlin advised a number of schools have continued with the Daily Mile and as schools have returned after the summer break there has been a big focus on outdoor learning. Many schools are out and about for their daily mile and other outdoor activities regardless of the weather. P Davison added that work continued with NHS colleagues to understand the data and what is happening there.

Councillor Duff sought an explanation relation to the statistics for deaths as a result of unintentional injury per 100K population where both PKC and Tayside levels are well above the Scottish average and their comparators. P Davison advised that the small numbers involved affect the figures dramatically year on year.

The Partnership:

- (i) Noted the information as set out in Appendices 1 to 3 to Report G/20/97.
- (ii) Agreed that thematic performance reports continue to be presented to the Partnership for consideration and scrutiny.

8. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There were no other items of competent business for discussion.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Partnership noted the next meeting would be held on Friday 4 December 2020.