

**Changing Lives: Practice Governance Group  
Meeting held on 4 November 2008**

**Present:**

Andrew Lowe (Chair)  
Liz Bohan  
Geraldine Doherty  
Alexis Jay  
Michelle Miller  
Sandra Nutley  
Ruth Stark  
Steve Renwick}  
Eric Purves } For Item 1

**Scottish Government**

Andy Bruce  
Gwen Smith  
Moira Hughes

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Alan Campbell, Peter Gabbitas and Bryan Williams.

**Minutes of Meeting**

1. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 September were agreed.

**Practice Governance Framework for Social Work Services**

2. Andy informed the meeting that the version of the paper circulated for this meeting was not in fact the revised version which took account of the various comments received. The earlier paper showing previous amendments would be circulated to members. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the bullet currently reading 'be able to explain and, if necessary, justify their judgements' should be amended to '*be able to explain and evidence their recommendations and assessments*'

**Questions on the Framework**

3. There followed a discussion of the questions put by Eric and Steve which had arisen during their preliminary consideration of the development of the Framework. From that discussion the following points were raised:

**Question 1**

- It was agreed that it would be helpful if the document was used to signpost the reader to other relevant documentation. Geraldine gave the recently published Safer Recruitment document as an example.
- Also important to refer to the SWIA assessment tools and also the suite of documents from Changing Lives
- Tone and balance of the paper needs to be right - the document should avoid being prescriptive, whilst aiming to provide helpful direction

- A visual diagram would be helpful – Changing Lives diagram already exists perhaps this could be adapted to show the work that sits outside of CL
- Discussion at recent Chairs meeting explored providing a USB pen which would include all papers produced by Changing Lives workstreams, including the Practice Governance Framework
- Ownership by middle management will be important. Operational management is struggling with demanding workloads and it will be important for the Framework to demonstrate how it makes a useful contribution.

### Question 2

- Road testing will be important to ensuring a useful and useable product.
- SWIA already have access to ready made groups used during their self-evaluation process which tap into middle managers and practitioners across 21 local authorities.  
**Action: Eric and Steve to speak separately with Alexis on this.**
- There are also a number of ready made networks that can also be utilised, including Local Practitioner Forums and Leadership Communities, as well as BASW networks.

### Question 3

- SWIA happy to share many areas of good practice they have come across during their Inspection process
- Important to cover all areas of practice
- Questions d. and e. were not especially relevant
- Care Commission and BASW could offer examples of good practice in the private sector

### Question 4

- Key messages in Laming Report about Practice Governance
- It would be worth including an introduction setting out the evidence base for a Practice Governance Framework and how it will help improve services.

4. It was agreed that Eric and Steve would discuss progress with Andrew and officials in December then bring a draft product back to the Group's meeting on 20 January.

### **The Contribution of Social Work to Delivering Better Outcomes for Scotland**

5. Andy introduced the paper and explained that the paper built on the discussions Andrew had with Val Cox and Bernadette Docherty. Additions and amendments to the paper were discussed in full. It was agreed that specific points should be e-mailed to Andy, thereafter he would circulate an amended version. The views of internal colleagues, particularly in justice will be sought before sending the paper for comment to ADSW, COSLA and SOLACE.

### **Chair's Update**

6. Andrew reported that since the last meeting he had attended:

- ADSW Chief Officers meeting in Crieff giving a presentation on the work of the Practice Governance Group. Andrew reported that there was a lot of

support within ADSW to take forward the Changing Lives agenda and found Alan Baird and Harriet Dempster particularly supportive. The Chief Officers were generally keen and willing to take the work forward.

- On 21 October Andrew spoke at a joint Midlothian/East Lothian training forum on practice governance and citizen leadership. He was joined by Andy Miller from the User/Carer Panel. The event was well attended. Andrew was invited to speak at the European Union meeting on Social Services

**Date of Next Meeting**

7. The next meeting will take place on 20 January at 10.00 a.m. in Victoria Quay.