

Changing Lives: Practice Governance Group
Minutes of Meeting held on 6 May in Conference Room 7, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

Present:

Andrew Lowe (Chair)
Liz Bohan
Alexis Jay
Michelle Miller
Andy Miller (attended for item 5)
Ruth Stark
Bryan Williams
Alan Campbell (via teleconference for item 3)

Scottish Government

Bill Ellis
Moira Hughes (Secretariat)

Welcome & Apologies

Andrew welcomed all to the meeting and reported apologies from Sandra Nutley, Catherine Rainey, Peter Gabbitas and Geraldine Doherty informing the meeting of the news of the death of Geraldine's sister. The thoughts of everyone are with Geraldine at this sad time.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 March were agreed.

Action Point at paragraph 4 Bill informed the Group that following circulation of the specification for the Practice Governance Framework by colleagues in Health's Joint Improvement Team (JIT) an expression of intent to bid had been received from FAS Edinburgh, and the company had come highly recommended by Health colleagues. This company if selected would be appointed through the JIT call off contract. It is hoped that a first draft of the Framework would be produced by end June and that a representative from FAS will join the next meeting of the Group on 8 July. Thereafter the document will be issued for consultation. Bryan also said that it was important to make the linkages here to R&D and spoke about the question of accountability to the Practice Governance Framework and the need for there to be a written link to accountable practice to an evidence base. It would be helpful to give FAS Bryan's contact details and the company will be informed of this Group's role in overseeing the project.

Action Point at paragraph 11: Following the circulation of the first draft of the Reserved Functions for social workers comments have been received from BASW and SSSC.

Role of the Chief Social Work Officer

2. Andrew asked the Group for their preliminary thoughts on the paper and comments received from SOLACE on the paper.

3. A tele-conference followed with Alan Campbell, Chief Executive of Aberdeenshire Council in his capacity as SOLACE representative.

4. Andrew thanked Alan for the SOLACE comments and said that he was grateful for their support. The points raised by SOLACE on the paper were taken in order –

Introduction, paragraph 3 – Following discussion with Alan it was agreed that the wording in the sentence “This is quite different should be changed to read “This requires a particular balance of need, risks and rights.

Paragraph 14 – It was agreed that the phrase “in all social work settings” should be deleted

Paragraph 15 – It was agreed that the last bullet point “advise elected members in support of strategic decision making” should be deleted.

Paragraph 16 – second bullet point. It was agreed that “the authority” should be changed to read “the Chief Executive to intervene

5. Alexis thought it would be useful to have a continuation of the discussion in order to gauge Chief Executives’ views on those Chief Social Work Officers with split services. Alan said that this issue was not discussed or explored in discussion with SOLACE but that he would be happy to take a note back to SOLACE for further discussion.

Action: Alexis agreed to provide a paper for discussion by SOLACE.

6. Andrew thanked Alan for the comments from SOLACE which were very much appreciated.

Action: Bill Ellis would look to make the amendments plus comments from SOLACE and re –draft a final version of the paper in the next few days to issue to COSLA.

7. In discussion the following points were made:

- May be an idea in wider consultation to direct people to certain aspects of the paper in order to address specific actions;
- Catriona Renfrew, Andrew Lowe, Peter Gabbitas and Michelle Miller to meet as part of the consultation process;
- Perhaps a need to issue the '95 Local Government guidance along with the paper;
- Scotland only country to have a Chief Social Work Officer. How do we frame the paper in a UK wide context;
- Paper needs to be amended to reflect what is in the Reserved Social Work Functions paper which states that the Chief Social Work Officer post should be registered.

Action: Bill agreed to initiate discussions with CoSLA and circulate.

Action: CSWO paper should be amended to reflect what is shown under the ‘Professional Leadership’ heading in the Reserved Functions paper which states that only a registered social worker may carry out the role of CSWO.

Reserved Functions

8. Andrew thought it important to make the linkage to Bernadette Docherty's paper and the paper on the Chief Social Work Officer whilst remaining separate and distinct documents. Comments had been received on the paper from BASW and points made by Bernadette. Bill informed the Group that Catherine Rainey was in discussion separately with Bernadette.

9. In discussion the following points were made:

- Title needs re-working – Protecting and Promoting Welfare in the title seems somewhat old fashioned and undermines self and individual responsibility which doesn't fit with the Citizen Leadership paper.

Action: Ruth happy to work on a re-wording

- First sentence needs further revision giving guidance on how the role can be delegated.
- Need to be strong on where the ownership for this document lies
- Need to set this in context – a commentary piece on how social work sits in Scottish society
- Need to have the international definition of social work near the beginning of the paper. Ruth happy with using the last sentence of the definition "Principles of human rights and social justice are fundamental to social work".
- Both within the general categories and the specific categories set out in the paper there are some areas missing
- Need to make clear of the need to refer to the individual rather than to group e.g. sex offenders
- Child Care Provision this section should be deleted as title and the two functions separated. The first point should move up to **Children Looked After and Accommodated** and the second should move down to the **Professional Leadership** section
- Issues re professional leadership and the need for the Chief Social Work Officer post to be registered –needs to be amended in the Chief Social Work Officer paper
- Issue about key SSSC posts not being included in the paper

Action: Moira to check previous minutes from Role of Social Work sub-group

Action: Bill agreed to add these comments to the paper and to circulate a second draft to the group.

Citizen Leadership

10. Andy Miller from SCLD joined the meeting for this item. Andy updated the meeting on the work of the Users and Carers Forum and reported on the successful launch of their report at the conference on 23 April and the positive evaluation received following the conference. Discussion continued on how Citizen Leadership can be embedded in mainstream practice and what needs to be done to take this agenda forward. Andy also spoke about the 2 citizen leadership training pilots currently running with North Ayrshire and Scottish Borders which involves a 10 day training schedule with professional staff, people who use services and family carers. There will be a 3 month follow up to evaluate the training. Alexis explained how SWIA involve people with Learning Difficulties in their inspection process and how this

has led to Carers Scotland putting together an SVQ for those engaging in this, Alexis suggested this may be something Andy may want to look at.

Action: Alexis agreed to discuss with colleague in SWIA how to take this forward.

11. Reference was made to the work that Zoe Van Zwanenberg has been asked to do in drawing together all the strands of Changing Lives together. It was felt that in carrying out this work Zoe needs to give proper attention to the links to Practice Governance and the Personalisation agenda.

12. Andrew thanked Andy for attending today and thanks also to the users and carers for the work they have carried out.

Updates

13. Andrew reported that since the last meeting:

- Andrew had met with Romy Langeland who has taken up a job-share post along with Wendy Harrington at ADSW. They have met with Chairs of each of the Change Programmes.
- Changing Lives Chairs Group met on 25 April and discussed progress on each of the Change Programmes.
- Attended the National Social Work Services Forum on 29 April. Key presentations were delivered by Bernadette Docherty and Gill Ottley.

Date of Next Meeting

14. The next meeting will be held on 8 July 10.00-1.00 p.m. in Victoria Quay, Edinburgh