

**CHANGING LIVES: PRACTICE GOVERNANCE GROUP
MEETING HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Present:

Andrew Lowe (Chair)
Liz Bohan
Geraldine Doherty
Ruth Stark
Michelle Miller
Peter Gabbitas

Scottish Executive

Bill Ellis
Andy Bruce
Moira Hughes (Note Taker)

Apologies

Apologies were received from Bryan Williams, Sandra Nutley, Alexis Jay, Alan Campbell and Catherine Rainey.

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June should reflect that apologies were received from Peter Gabbitas.
2. The fifth bullet point on page 2 should read “.....CSWO and whether or not the Appointments Panel/Chief Executive has access to professional advice on appointment”
3. Bill updated the meeting with regard to the action point at paragraph 7 of the minutes. He reported that Alexis has had discussions during the course of her SWIA visits with Chief Executives and Directors of Social Work/CSWOs to discuss with them how they have worked through some of the issues in relation to the role of the Chief Social Work Officer. A date for Alexis and one or two members of this group to visit West Lothian was currently being pursued.

Workplan

4. Bill informed the meeting that a copy of the revised workplan had been placed on the social work Scotland website. Andrew said there was a need to ensure that in revising the work plan to make it achievable, we do not get a work plan which moves to fit the action achieved. The meeting was content with the workplan as amended.

Ministerial Priorities and re-configuration within Scottish Executive

5. The presentation DVD of Adam Ingram, Minister for Children and Early Years speech at the National Practitioners Conference held in June was presented to the meeting. Discussion followed on the points made during the Minister's speech. Some of the issues raised during the discussion were:

- Understand the messages from the Minister's speech that individuals are expected to do more in a climate of constraint, but also something about a need to know what the Government are going to do;
- Need to empower competent workforce and balance of issues;
- Cultural shift varies across local authorities;
- Links with personalisation agenda, aspirations of the 21st Century Review may not be so easily achieved;
- Why hasn't change happened over the last 25 years – what have been the barriers;
- Treasury decision on Supporting People has been the biggest shift;

Key Principles of Role of Chief Social Work Officer Paper

6. Andrew spoke to his presentation of this paper and explained that this followed on from the discussions held at the last meeting of the Group. Andrew set out the three broad areas for the role:

- **Role and function**
- **Scope, rights and responsibilities**
- **Accountability and reporting arrangements**

7. A full discussion followed on each of the slides. Members raised issues regarding some of the terminology used in the report. Issues raised during the discussion were:

- How you exercise the **right of access** of the CSWO to the Chief Executive; It was recognised that Local Authorities must be free to determine where the CSWO is located in their structures.
- Need to be more explicit regarding **professional advice**;
- Possibility of CSWO holding a **register for risk management**
- **Inappropriate for the SSSC as the Regulator of the workforce to have** a role in the appointment of the CSWO;
- Need to be more explicit re the term '**professional advice**';
- Helpful to have further debate about what **the interface issues** are;
- Important to reflect the relationship with the **voluntary and private sector**;
- Need to recognise **other partners**, currently paper exclusively focuses on local authorities. This should be added to the context section.

8. Contentious issues were also highlighted during the course of the presentation and Andrew agreed to amend the presentation in light of this morning's discussion and to circulate quickly to the Group in order to present to the National Social Work Services Forum on 12 September.

Draft Framework on Governance

9. It was agreed that this was a very helpful paper which clearly links to the Role of the Chief Social Work Officer paper. All were in general agreement that the five key elements contained in the paper that purpose, people, process and performance were the overarching points. It was also acknowledged that one of the drivers was the Service User and this should be reflected in the paper. Issues of peer supervision, self-management etc also needs further exploration.

Action: Geraldine agreed to draw together the issues about supervision and consultation that emerged from discussions from the Role of the Social Worker sub-group formed as part of the 21st Century Social Work Review for discussion at the next meeting.

Research and Development
10. Andrew, in Bryan's absence, tabled the R&D update. The updated provided clarification on UK dimensions of the R&D issues. SIESWE and SCIE (in line with their partnership agreement) are promoting and supporting the emergence of a Social Care Research Collaboration, to oversee research developments across the four countries and to achieve maximum complementarities and mutual reinforcement. This follows responses to the recent SCIE consultation on social care research capacity. To date, an executive group has been developed, comprising social care research policy leads from the four countries, together with ESRC and other major funders (Rowntree and Nuffield at this stage). The Scottish Executive is represented by Dr Rod Harrison. As things move forward, wider stakeholder interests will be engaged.

11. There was brief discussion on the need for evidence based practice in order to be able to promote good practice. The need for a substantial discussion on research and development, need for a summary of current capacity and how it is being deployed; and the Research and Development Strategy were all areas that were highlighted during the discussion. **Action: This needs to be a substantive agenda item for the New Year.**

Moira to canvass calendar dates for next year.

Professional Rights and Responsibilities

12. Ruth spoke to her paper explaining that it had raised considerable amount of interest. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have a discussion within this Group first, following that a decision would be taken whether or not to circulate this round the other Change Programmes. It was thought to be appropriate to discuss this in the context of the Chief Nursing Officer, Paul Martin's presentation at the Group's next meeting

Action: Moira to check date with Paul

Personalisation

13. Andrew drew members' attention to this paper in order to ensure that we are engaging with the work of the Service Development Group. This has possible links to Ruth's paper and the ethical discussion.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 6 November with the possibility of a presentation and dinner/overnight on the evening of 5 November.