

## **Summary Note - Meeting between LPFs, ADSW and Scottish Government Edinburgh, 11 June 2008**

This note has been produced by the Scottish Government. It provides a summary of the key issues discussed at the meeting and identifies actions that arose as a result of the discussions.

### Links with ADSW

Wendy Harrington set out how ADSW intended to support LPFs:

Alan Baird, President of ADSW, will meet with LPF representatives twice yearly. Scottish Government officials will also attend this meeting. This group will be known as the **National Practitioners Forum (NPF)** and will provide an opportunity for views and suggestions emerging from LPFs to influence policy at the national level.

**Action** – ADSW to contact LPF reps with a view to arranging a first date for the NPF. LPF reps will also be invited to suggest agenda items before agreeing a finalised agenda.

ADSW will also encourage Directors of Social Work/Chief Social Work Officers to support the LPF within their area and to ensure that channels of communication exist. This will create a mechanism for views and suggestions emerging from LPFs to influence policy at the local level.

ADSW are also looking to reactivate their 'geographical areas'. This may provide an opportunity for regional clusters of LPFs to meet outside the round of twice-yearly NPF meetings and will be supported by ADSW.

### Links with Scottish Government

Scottish Government would provide guidance on setting up LPFs

**Action** – Scottish Government to redraft guidance to reflect the links described above and the new relationship between central and local Government created by the Concordat. This would include a diagram setting out the support infrastructure for LPFs, including links with local management, NPF and National Social Work Services Forum (NSWSF)

Scottish Government to ensure LPF representation on the NSWSF. This had been discussed at the meeting in November but there had been concerns at the manner in which a representative had been selected.

**Action** – selecting a LPF representative to attend the NSWSF to be an agenda item for the first NPF meeting.

Scottish Government officials to continue to visit LPF meetings to provide presentations on *Changing Lives*.

## Purpose of LPFs

We agreed that LPFs essentially had 2 roles:

To provide comments and feedback on *Changing Lives* key products. There had been little engagement on this to date, not because of any wish to bypass LPFs, but simply because the products were not at a stage where they were ready for consultation.

**Action** – Scottish Government to ensure, that, where available, emerging work on the products is distributed to LPFs. Scottish Government would also produce and distribute a diagram showing what these core products were, what they aimed to achieve and when they were likely to be produced.

Aside from the *Changing Lives* products, LPFs have an ongoing role in discussing experiences, sharing best practice and offering ideas and solutions for improving local policy and practice. This is an agenda that needs to be set and owned locally and is entirely at the discretion of each LPF, perhaps in discussion with their local management.

Wendy Harrington also provided information on the workplan being taken forward by ADSW, which would cover issues such as personalisation, risk management and the role of universal services. Wendy felt this was an agenda that LPFs could inform.

**Action** – ADSW to circulate details of their forward programme of events to LPFs.

## Contacts

LPF reps would welcome a list of contacts of other LPF reps. This would help LPFs get in touch with each other to share ideas and experiences. LPFs were also happy for their contact details to be passed to those thinking of setting up LPFs, again to allow new LPFs to tap into the experience of those already up and running.

**Action** – Scottish Government to circulate latest contact list to LPF reps. Scottish Government will also send a contact list, along with the updated guidance, to anyone interested in setting up a LPF.

## Funding

There is no funding available for LPFs. Our experience to date has suggested that funding is not a key issue – during the previous financial year we received only 3 applications for funding, all for fairly small amounts of money. The move away from ring-fencing signalled in the Concordat means that the Scottish Government no longer holds designated funding for LPFs. If LPFs do require financial support, we would encourage you to approach your local management.