

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

Minutes of SCRA Board Meeting held on Thursday 6 May 2010 at Bell Street, Glasgow

Present: Carole Wilkinson (Chair)
Anne McNeill (Deputy Chair)
Pamela Bowman
Malcolm Dickson
Margaret Wells
Netta Maciver (Principal Reporter/Chief Executive)

In Attendance: Eddie McConnell, Director of Corporate Development
Maggie McManus, Director of HR
Ed Morrison, Director of Finance
Malcolm Schaffer, Head of Practice and Policy
Shirley Laing, Deputy Director, Scottish Government
Janis McDougall (Minutes)

Carole Wilkinson, Chair, welcomed everyone to her first Board meeting and introduced Shirley Laing, Deputy Director, Workforce & Capacity Issues Division, Scottish Government who will be attending future Board meetings.

Prior to the commencement of the formal business, the Press & Communications Manager (Maryanne McIntyre) and the Communications Officer (Lesley Taylor) gave a short presentation on SCRA's new information portal 'Connect'.

Noted:

- (1) Connect has been developed following extensive consultation with staff.
- (2) Arrangements are being progressed to allow Board members access to the Information Portal with a designated 'Board' work area.

Board members all agreed that this was an exciting development which provided a comprehensive resource base for staff and welcomed the intention to provide Board members with laptops and access to the ScotsConnect network.

		Timescale	Action
1.	Apologies Apologies were received from Andrew Miller.		
2.	Update Ed Morrison <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recently attended a meeting of the NDPB Directors of Finance Forum which included a presentation on projected resources		

		Timescale	Action
	<p>Malcolm Schaffer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involved in an extensive range of activity in relation to the Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Bill • Work ongoing with the Crown Office on a protocol for jointly reported cases • Regular meeting held with the Scottish Legal Aid Board <p>Anne McNeill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently attended a meeting of the Children’s Convenor Board for Guernsey. The Board has expressed an interest in sharing experiences with SCRA and will be extending an invitation to both Sponsor Division and SCRA to visit <p>Margaret Wells</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent attendance at a Chairs Adult Protection meeting in relation to protection of vulnerable groups <p>Netta Maciver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented evidence to the Committee on the Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Bill and SCRA were given the opportunity to send in further information • SCRA has been invited to be represented on the new Justice Outcomes Group which will play a key role in the new arrangements being developed to work more effectively to improve delivery of outcomes • Looked After Children Strategic Implementation Group – invitation to be part of a new strategic group which will be responsible for driving forward the implementation agenda to improve outcomes for looked after children and young people in Scotland • Fred Stone Memorial Conference 7 May 2010 – invited to chair the morning session of the conference <p>Carole Wilkinson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction programme has included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - attendance at the evidence-giving session in Parliament in relation to the Children’s Hearing’s Bill - met with Shirley Laing, Deputy Director, Workforce & Capacity Division and her colleagues • New Board Member recruitment – the timetable has now been confirmed – the process will run through the summer with appointments confirmed in August 2010. 		
3.	<p>Minutes of Meeting held on 25 March 2010</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a correct record.</p>		

		Timescale	Action
	<p>Agreed:</p> <p>(1) The link to the Board in terms of the governance role to be clearly defined.</p> <p>(2) In terms of reporting arrangements, this will be quarterly via the Organisational Performance Report with exception reporting as required. An annual report on activity will be presented to the Board.</p>	Ongoing May 10	NM EMcC NM
7.	<p>Developing the Children’s Hearings System</p> <p>Noted:</p> <p>(1) The formal evidence has now concluded. The Committee will now submit a report to the Government who will respond over the summer.</p> <p>(2) There are number of partner events being organised by Scottish Government over the next few months.</p> <p>(3) Board members will be kept up-to-date as information is received.</p>		NM
8.	<p>Health & Safety</p> <p>No issues to report.</p>		
9.	<p>Date of next Meetings:</p> <p>Audit Committee – 18 May 2010</p> <p>Board – 17 June 2010</p>		

The Chair, on behalf of the Board, acknowledged and gave thanks to Anne McNeill and Pamela Bowman who were due to retire from the Board. Both had made a very positive contribution to both SCRA and the wider Children’s Hearings System over the years and they will be greatly missed. Board members wished them well for the future.