

SCRA response to Falkirk Council Pension Fund

Background

The Children's Hearings System is Scotland's distinct system of child protection and youth justice. Among its fundamental principles are:

- That children who offend and children who are in need of care and protection are dealt with in the same system
- That the welfare of the child remains at the centre of all decision making

SCRA operates the Reporter service which sits at the heart of the system. SCRA employs Children's Reporters who are located throughout Scotland, working in close partnership with other professionals such as social work, education, the police, the health service and the courts system.

SCRA's vision is that vulnerable children and young people in Scotland are safe, protected and offered positive futures. We will seek to achieve this by adhering to the following key values:

- The voice of the child must be heard.
- Our hopes and dreams for the children of Scotland are what unite us.
- Children and young people's experiences and opinions guide us.
- We are approachable and open.
- We bring the best of the past with us into the future to meet new challenges.

Revised Governance Arrangements

In December 2010 SCRA submitted a response to the Scottish Public Pension Agency (SPPA) regarding their consultation on governance compliance and the guidance under Regulation 27 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 (SSI 2008/228).

In that response SCRA suggested that:

- The main committee should include both representatives of participating employers and admitted scheme members.
- Where there is a secondary committee, governance and communication could be strengthened by having the views of the secondary committee considered at each meeting of the main committee.
- The secondary committee should meet immediately in advance of the main committee and have equal access to main committee papers.
- Administering authorities should publish details of their governance arrangements.

It is noted that revised governance arrangements are consistent with these suggestions.

In SCRA's response to the SPPA it was also suggested that:



- There should be an independent professional advisor on the main committee.
- There should be a clear description required for the training of main committee members.
- The governance arrangements should include proposals for the issuing of Annual Reports, Annual Accounts and Newsletters to stakeholders.

It is suggested that some further consideration is given to strengthening the draft governance arrangements to develop the last 3 recommendations.

SCRA
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