**Minute of Meeting of Fife Corporate Parent Board**
**held on Wednesday 31 October 2018 in Fife House**

**Present**
Cllr Rosemary Liewald, Chair
Anne Gerry, Locality Manager, SCRA
Dougie Dunlop, Head of Service, Education and Children’s Services
Tomasz Bochenek, Permanence and Fostering
Michael Scanlin, Senior Practitioner YPT
Sean Nolan, NHS Fife
Ross Martin, Communities & Neighbourhoods
Heather Tytler, Skills Development Scotland
Jim Davenport, Police Scotland
Sharon Berrie, Who Cares? Scotland
Robyn Deardon, Who Cares? Scotland
John McFarlane, Employability Service
Deborah Davidson, Education
Jacqueline Price, Education
Chris Moir, Social Work
Kimberley Hankin, Young People’s Team
Fiona Crook, NHS Fife
Kath Collins (Minutes)

**In Attendance**
Fiona Crook, NHS Fife for Debbie Wilson
Neil Munro, Education and Children’s Services

**Apologies**
Cllr Sam Steele
Cllr Ryan Smart
Chelsea Stinson, Children’s Parliament
John Mills, Housing Services
Debbie Wilson, NHS Fife
Pamela Forbes, St Andrews University
Callum Bruce, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
Mary Anne Parker, Development Officer
Nichola Gold, Development Officer
Eleanor Haggett, Housing Service
Gabrielle Podvoiskis, Children’s Parliament
Dawn Clark, Fife College
Lorna Watson, NHS Fife
Lucinda McAllister, Employability Service

<table>
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<th>1. Welcome</th>
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<tr>
<td>M Scanlin welcomed new Chair, Cllr Rosemary Liewald. New members Nichola Gold, Corporate Development Worker and Deborah Davidson, from Education Service were welcomed to the Board. Apologies were noted.</td>
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<th>2. Minute of Last Meeting</th>
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<td>The Minute of Meeting of 22 August 2018 was noted and agreed.</td>
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<th>3. Matters Arising</th>
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<td>Commitment Plan – previous difficulties circulating the plan electronically have been resolved and all members now have a copy.</td>
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4. Corporate Parenting Proposal

Renaming the Board – Young people have selected two options –

- Fife Cultivation Group
- Fife Partnership for Change

Members suggested that Fife Partnership for Change was the more suitable but with the addition of “for care experienced young people” to the name.

Logo – A suggested image drawn by a young person was circulated. Members liked the image and agreed that the young person be given support from Fife Council designers to finalise the drawing. Ross Martin suggested a contact to take this forward.

Content for the new website – the new website for care experienced young people in Fife is now live. Members are asked to contribute items of interest to be added to the site including links to helpful sites and any activities to be added to the calendar of events.

5. Commitment Plan feedback

Each quarter, a third of the Board members will meet with young people at engagement sessions. Members gave a summary of feedback from the first session on their particular service. The engagement day had been a great success with a good mixture of activities. The young people were willing to say what they felt and what support they wanted. Dougie Dunlop noted that feedback to all agencies highlighted the importance of relationships.

Communities & Neighbourhoods – Ross Martin reported that young people are asking for more choices for activities provided by youth clubs. There are some restrictions with regard to suitable venues and halls and work is ongoing with the Leisure Trust to use their venues. Work will progress on more targeted work to promote what is on offer from the various clubs. Noted that youth workers are not aware of who is care experienced.

Cllr Liewald thanked Ross for his input and it was noted that the next session will feature photography.

Housing Service – Kimberley Hankin gave an update on behalf of Housing. Young people reported three issues - not enough housing options, not enough practical support and issues around continuity of relationships. The training flat is now ready and will be used to give young people ready to move to a tenancy an opportunity to live in the flat with support to see how they manage.

The housing waiting list is long and in some cases young people are waiting for two years. Availability of one bedroom accommodation is limited. When tenancies do become vacant consideration is given to matching the right young person to the right tenancy. Cllr Liewald asked about joint tenancies: This is being tried but the challenge is to find the right match, given each young person’s specific needs and experiences. Loneliness is an issue and if young people are able to share safely this will be encouraged.

Services are trying to be more creative but there is a need to increase options and housing projects suitable for young people. Some of these young people have chaotic lifestyles and difficulties with boundaries and rules and good communication between housing and social work professionals is crucial to avoid tenancies being removed.

Robyn Deardon reported that Who Cares? Scotland would be made aware of where there is a need for practical support to help with bills, shopping and basic household skills and
| K Hankin/  
| R Martin/  
| E Haggett  
| D Davidson |

Frontline Fife are also commissioned to do this work for Fife Council. Cllr Liewald advised that Elmwood College offer a life skills course for adults which may be suitable for some young people.

It was agreed that Kimberly Hankin, Ross Martin and Eleanor Haggett would meet off table to look in more detail at the three issues and report back to the next meeting.

**Education Service** – Deborah Davidson reported that the education service have a wealth of rich data available and are currently looking at how it is used. Key messages will be shared at the next meeting.

Some trends are positive and where they are less so actions will be put in place to address these. Attainment data for care experienced young people is available as well as wellbeing trends. Locality networks will look at local issues and will look at the impact on care experienced young people.

Jacqueline Price explained that the Pupilwise survey is undertaken every two years. All children from nursery to S6 can access the survey and increasing numbers are now taking part. Results show some positives and some scope for improvement. Data is available for specific schools. The next survey in two years will look to see if work undertaken following this current survey is making a difference.

Dougie Dunlop asked if there was a mechanism to feedback the comments from young people to schools. One message from the engagement day was that teachers are not listening to the young people. Jacqueline advised that the Pupilwise results have been circulated to schools.

Cllr Liewald asked if numbers of children who self-identify as looked after were available. Deborah Davidson confirmed that the survey is anonymous so they are asked to self-identify.

Michael Scanlin asked if there was data on approved flexible packages for care experienced young people to ensure they are getting their full entitlement of 27 hours education per week. Some work is required to look at the impact of flexible packages across all services.

Cllr Liewald asked about staffing and the peripatetic role for staff who can go out to the home setting or safe environment. Neil Munro reported that England have resources available for outreach and study groups. Evidence from Offsted confirms that when interventions are properly funded they have a positive impact.

Robyn Deardon indicated that unplanned moves and changing schools makes the ability to achieve difficult for young people.

**Social Work** – Chris Moir reported recent work to review the Have Your Say forms and indicated that an electronic method of gaining views is being considered. A presentation on the MOMO app is being arranged for social work and any other interested services and it was suggested that this be presented to the Corporate Parent Board.

There is a focus on transition from care to independence and all young people are offered a pathway plan. Work is ongoing to minimise the number of placement and social work changes, however it was acknowledged that some placement changes are good ie moving from short term to long term care or where a planned move takes place. Some comments in the forms indicate that young people are happy to move.

Tom Bochenek agreed we need to manage transitions well. Some young people don't
D Dunlop

want to complete the have your say forms especially if in a permanent placement that is working or if they are on supervision at home. Robyn indicated that older children don’t want to fill out a form and some questions are difficult for them to answer. They are confident to speak up for themselves.

We need a variety of ways to capture their feedback. A breakdown of categories of children filling out the forms would be useful. Feedback from the Care Inspectorate questionnaire will produce a lot of data and it is important that this is shared with the Corporate Parent Board.

Identity is important to young people. Dougie will circulate the young people’s film to members as a reminder.

A Gerry

SCRA - Anne Gerry reported that Fife has undertaken a range of focus groups with young people, panel members and a review of social work reports. 24 children who have come to hearings were interviewed about being prepared before, during and after the hearing. The results will be made available to a future Board meeting. Most young people felt they were able to say what they wanted and felt they were listened to.

Young people generally do want to be at the hearing to give their views. We need to challenge some cultural issues about children not wanting to come to hearings in case they are upset and help workers understand there is a legal test which must be applied. It was acknowledged that there will be occasions where excusal is entirely appropriate. Work is underway on non-disclosure of address and the result that children may feel that they have to keep secrets.

Sean Nolan asked how we maximise engagement in the process if young people don’t attend meetings. Anne indicated that children have an obligation to attend hearings and there is a clear test to be exempt. Work is ongoing to ensure that those who want to attend can.

Robyn confirmed that not many young people say they don’t want to go. They may be nervous but with careful planning they feel more prepared and able to participate.

Anne invited members to visit the new style hearing room in Albany House. The SCRA Having Your Say Form is now electronic.

Noted that a new national board Our Voice Our Hearing are now recruiting young people and it may be of interest to some from Fife.

SCRA are undertaking a piece of research around children on supervision at home.

6. Care experienced children and young people funding Fife

Dougie Dunlop reported that Fife had received a significant sum of money from the Scottish Attainment Challenge to be used for raising attainment. Neil Munro has been seconded to consult with partners and look at different initiatives. Work is in the early stages and anyone wishing to help should contact Neil. Timescales are tight. A draft response will be circulated round members electronically for feedback.

7. Inspection Update

Inspectors have completed their first week in Fife. Case files have been read and they have met with groups of young people. Inspectors return to Fife week beginning 12 November and are interested in the work of the Corporate Parent Board. Initial feedback highlights strengths and good evidence of improvements to the lives of looked after
children. Relationship with young people was highlighted as “exceptional”. Inspectors found good therapeutic support and unique services in Fife.

Areas to follow up include how we use data, how we use advocacy, support to care leavers and how we use the involvement of young people in service redesign.

Inspectors have asked to meet a group of Corporate Parents on Friday 16 November. Dougie Dunlop will approach key members for availability. Inspectors may want to meet elected members separately.

Heather Tytler reported work with Fife College looking at transition after college. John McFarlane reported Rising Stars first international visit with 12 young people going to Poland.

Cllr Liewald asked for stats for looked after children who go to college or university. Kimberley Hankin will provide data.

### 8. 2BHeard Update

2bheared members were unable to attend today due to a clash with the group events for Halloween. M Scanlin gave a brief update on recent activities for the groups.

- Development of the smoking awareness video
- Taking part in the Kilt walk
- The engagement session with a number of young people coming for the first time
- Involvement in interviews for the fostering team
- Attending a probationary teachers/ newly qualified social workers market place in Glenrothes High School and giving their views- feedback will be shared with Education and Children’s services
- Papier Mache week – models underway
- Meeting with staff and students at Fife college

### 9. Seen and Heard Update

An update paper was received this morning and will be circulated with the minute.

### 10. AOCB

**Bursaries for Care Experienced Young People** – Robyn Deardon reported some financial difficulties for young people. Because they are receiving a bursary some benefits are impacted. This has been raised nationally via CELCIS. Dougie Dunlop will enquire with CELCIS what the outcome was. Chris Moir asked for names of any additional Fife young people who have been affected, noting that action has been taken to offset any hardship caused in many cases.

### 11. Next Meeting

Tuesday November 20th – Conference Room, Fife House

Members agreed a 4 pm start

Wednesday 6 February 2019
Wednesday 1 May 2019
Wednesday 21 August 2019
Wednesday 20 November 2019
Contact Group Name: Corporate Parent Board

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