

Improving Life Chances Implementation Group 20 February 2018

In Attendance: Gill Robinson (Chair SPS); Liz Murdoch (SG Youth Justice); Carole Dearie (St Mary's Kenmure); Fiona Bennett (Barnardos); Craig French (SACRO)		
Apologies: Debbie Nolan (CYCJ); Alan McCloskey (Victim Support Scotland); Iain Macaulay (NYJAG/North Lanarkshire Council); Alison Melville (SG Youth Justice); Alan Milliken (ADES); Lynne McNiven (Child Health Commissioners); Michelle Gibson (Skills Development Scotland); Ann Kivlin (Education Scotland); Russell Hamilton (Action for Children); Jackie Deas (Care Inspectorate); Gemma Fraser (Community Justice Scotland) Christine Walker (Robertson Trust); Jenny Leishman (Justice Analytical Service);); Michael Shanks (Includem); Brian Reid (Police Scotland); Vonnie Sandlan (Colleges Scotland)		
	Agenda Item	Notes of Discussion
1/2	Welcome and introductions	<p>Craig was welcomed to the Group as a replacement for Monica Merson (SACRO).</p> <p>It was noted that a large number of members were unable to make the meeting. It was agreed that it would be helpful to contact members individually before the next meeting to discuss the work of the group and its meetings.</p>
Actions		By Whom
1. Contact members to seek views on the work of the group and its meetings.		GR/DN
		Status
		Prior to the next meeting
3	Note/Matters arising	<p>CD mentioned that on page 2, point 4 a fourth sub-group on visions and purpose was missing.</p> <p>All actions were complete or for discussion. It was noted that various visits are planned to HMYOI Polmont as part of the Year of the Young Person. LM also indicated that Paul Johnson and Michael Chalmers are both attending the joint Justice Board and Youth Justice Improvement Board (YJIB) meeting on 23 February at which the Year of the Young Person will be discussed.</p> <p>It was agreed VS would be invited to provide an update on retention and attainment in advance of the next meeting.</p>
Actions		By Whom
2. Update the minutes to reflect that the secure care strategic board has 4 sub-groups.		DN
3. GR/DN to contact VS to ask for an update on retention and attainment		GR/DN
		Status
		Prior to the next meeting
		Prior to the next meeting

4	<p>Update from the Youth Justice Improvement Board (YJIB)</p>	<p>The last YJIB took place in December. Issues discussed included sustainability, Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act and LGBTI. It was noted that Police Scotland are setting up a short life working group to look at aspects of the CJ (Scotland) Act relating to young people and an event is being organised around LGBTI.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be helpful for members to see the minutes from the Board meetings.</p> <p>GR provided an update on the Justice Board at which she gave a presentation on the narrative paper. The paper had prompted strong interest and the Board are keen to act on issues raised by the paper.</p> <p>A joint Justice Board/YJIB is due to take place on 23 February which will focus on sustainability and children's rights. It was noted that the ILC group would be well placed to gather evidence about factors affecting sustainability of services and that more information was required about social work training as there is currently limited training around youth justice, gender and secure care.</p> <p>A meeting took place on 16 February to look at the common messages from recent 'high impact' reports on children and young people in the justice system in Scotland.</p>	
Actions		By Whom	Status
4. Send minutes of YJIB to ILC members		LM	Prior to next meeting
5/7	<p>Impact: reflection on document</p> <p>Workplan and agreed future priorities</p>	<p>Thanks were expressed to DN and MS for the helpful paper on impact and outcomes of ILC work. CW had offered helpful comments on evidencing impact, noting that there are two levels of impact – influence and practice change – and that, given the resources available, the emphasis for ILC should probably be mainly around influencing policy and messaging.</p> <p>This reinforced the importance of the final action within the ILC action plan (to develop key messages covering across ILC themes). Further discussion will take place with members of the group about what they will be able to contribute to this. It was suggested that the products should be similar to the group's 'Educational exclusion and inclusion' paper.</p>	

		<p>Considering the action plan as a whole, comments had been received from ILC group members and will be incorporated. Points included the need to make reference to adverse childhood experiences and the role of schools. The layout of the action plan was welcomed but it is ambitious and needs to be prioritised.</p> <p>A discussion about the workplan's priorities took place but it was recognised that these would need to be finalised in consultation with the wider group. Two suggested priorities were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vulnerable girls. Gender informed training is already available but more is needed (this would fall under the Developing Capacity and Improvement Group). St Mary's have carried out a diversion from secure scoping study for girls on edge of secure and CD offered to share this report. There is an absence of appropriate assessment tools for girls. A possible action to track a cohort of girls aged 14-17 to understand more about their pathways and identify what more could be done to support them, was suggested. 2. Transitions into the community after custody or secure care. Some support is available for those leaving custody but there may be no support if a young person is released at court having been in custody and there may be less support for those leaving secure care. ILC group members could provide evidence of practice if appropriate to the Secure Care Board. The importance of transition support that recognises what is most important for young people, in line with the Scottish Care Leavers Covenant, was emphasised, and also the need for vulnerability assessments. <p>Members supported GR's proposal that the action plan emerging from the work on speech, language and communication needs (see below) should be an immediate priority for the group.</p>
Actions	By Whom	Status
5. Send exclusion paper to CF for information.	GR	Prior to the next meeting
6. All members to consider key messages and the top 2/3 areas of priority.	All	Through contact with group members prior to next meeting

6	Update on Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)	<p>A set of action points have been pulled together following the conference on SLCN. These actions are now being developed further by a small group which includes input from speech and language therapists. ILC would act as a sounding board for this work and any member of ILC who is interested in contributing to this work should let DN/GR know. A proposal for any support required to take this work forward would be submitted to the YJIB in due course.</p> <p>CD advised that a needs analysis on SLCN was carried out in St Mary's, which may be helpful for the group. CD would forward this on for information.</p> <p>FB mentioned a study which has been carried out in Fife on '5 to thrive'. FB would try to source information on this.</p> <p>It was noted that looking at SLCN this will have a cross-over into support for children and young people with autism. This is important given there has been a rise in number of young people who have autism coming in to secure care.</p> <p>FB advised that Laura Faulkner may be able to support work on this. CF also has an interest and some knowledge of learning difficulties through his previous roles.</p>	
Actions		By Whom	Status
7. Send a copy of the needs analysis to GR.		CD	Prior to the next meeting
8. Members of ILC who are interested in contributing to the work on SLNC to indicate to DN/GR		All	Immediately
8. Speak to Laura Faulkner to see if she would be able to consider participating in the work around SLC needs		FB	Prior to the next meeting
9.	Feedback on Equity Report and CPO information sheet	<p>Members of the group are asked to provide comments on the Equity paper to DN for transmission to Sue Brookes.</p> <p>The CPO sheet was seen as helpful. It was felt that CPOs should be considered in their widest sense as a means of improving life chances for young people, which</p>	

		could include actions to address, say, parenting or communication needs. FB will provide a contribution for the CPO information sheet.
	Actions	By Whom
	9. Members to feed back comments on both papers to DN	All
		By 15 March
8.	Date of the next meeting	Wednesday 16 th May 10am-1pm Lord Hope Building Glasgow.
7	AOCB	No other business was discussed.