

**Speech, Language & Communication Needs Subgroup
April 20, 2022**

Present:

Maureen Roberts (Chair)	MR	CYCJ
Maxine Jolly	MJ	Education Scotland
Tracy Kirk	TK	University of Stirling
Kirsteen Doyle	KD	Police Scotland (in place of Danny Clark)
Janie Scott	SB	Perth & Kinross Council
Lily Humphries	LH	Children's Hearing Scotland
Laura Mulcahy	LM	Coalition of Care & Support Providers in Scotland

Apologies:

Gael Cochrane	GC	Community Justice Scotland
Jennifer Barr	JB	Govan Law Centre
Collette Gallagher	CG	SCRA
Julia Pollock	JP	Perth & Kinross Council (going on maternity leave)
Pauline Beirne	PB	Scottish Government
Annemarie MacRae	AM	NHS Tayside
Glenn Carter	GC	RCSLT
Clare Moser	CM	RCSLT (removed from member list as Glenn Carter attending)
Lauren Hopp	LH	RCSLT
Alice Squire	AS	Association for Real Change (ARC)
Ann Clark	AC	Queen Margaret University
Alison Penman	AP	SW Scotland/Dumfries & Galloway Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

MR welcomed everyone and members introduced themselves given the subgroup now has new members.

2. Previous Minutes

Minutes from last meeting discussed and agreed with no issues raised. Alice Squire's item – Carers Helpline Project carried forward in her absence.

3. Update from Children's Rights Improvement Group (CRIG)

Group has met twice since December 2021 with focus on:

- Supporting the development of processes to challenge or complain when children's rights are not upheld
- Providing easily accessible advice for all on aspects relating to rights, linking with other ongoing work, enlisting the support of groups such as YouthJustUs
- Supporting children and young people to articulate and realise their wishes and rights

- Working with practitioners to raise awareness of general rights across the youth justice field through engagement events, fact sheets and other materials.

Achieved to date:

- Cross-reference work underway across Government – mapping exercise
- A data report will be written by CYCJ and CYPSC to monitor if children's rights are being protected
- New Youth Justice Standards and a child friendly version of these standards have been published. Co-produced standards will be started this year
- EEI practitioner's forum is considering how practitioners can engage children in the EEI process
- A suite of rights documents/flyers have been produced/linked to in 'Just the Right Space' (co-produced web site).

Update from Participation Subgroup

Sub-group was yet to meet with membership consisting of representatives from Youth Just Us, an MSYP and potentially young people from Action for Children, Who Cares? Scotland and Our Hearings Our Voice.

4. Terms of Reference/Membership

MR shared the updated Terms of Reference with the CRIG who approved the amendments suggested by the subgroup, including the further action regarding supporting transitions and relationships.

MR advised that CRIG were also happy with our membership, and we now have additional representatives from CHS, SCRA, Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service. Maxine Jolly will attend for Education Scotland as Janine McCulloch is a CRIG member, Claire Moser, Policy Advisor, RCSLT will not attend but will liaise accordingly with Glenn Carter, Kirsteen Doyle is now representing Police Scotland as Danny Clark has moved to another department and Julia Pollock has commenced maternity leave. Jan Green will represent SPS/TalkLinks, and Pauline Beirne will attend on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Jennifer Barr had agreed to consider representation from educational psychology and Annemarie Macrae to approach colleagues in CAMHS, these actions will be **carried forward** as neither were able to attend the meeting.

5. 'A Guide to Youth Justice in Scotland, policy, practice and legislation' - SLCN chapter

MR thanked those members who had also contributed to peer reviewing the CYCJ SLCN Practice Guide Chapter which will be published at the YJ conference in June 2022. CYCJ are still accepting applications for the virtual conference until 30.05.2022 click on the following link to apply:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/national-youth-justice-conference-2022-tickets-274900624167>

6. Mapping Resources

MR thanked those who had already shared resources and JS highlighted some items she had posted onto the Teams Channel. It was agreed that most of the subgroup had not shared

resources and MR would forward the Teams Channel link again to promote sharing what different agencies currently utilise from leaflets, PowerPoints, tools, and web resources etc.

MR advised that Jan Green had also kindly contributed to being filmed as part of the assessment module in CYCJs PG cert Children and Young People in conflict with the law, which currently has 22 students from various professions and backgrounds and a great vehicle for promoting and supporting the needs of those with SLCN.

7. AOCB

- JS is delivering Talking Mats training to support social workers in their approach to the assessment of harmful sexual behaviour with children and young people with SLCN, which she has agreed to share, alongside some of the other tools the REACH team utilise to talk about HSB with children. LH asked if this could be delivered to panel members, however JS informed they would need to have been trained in Talking Mats first (available via University of Stirling).
- LM had asked how the SLCN group would be underpinning work with human rights and the 2021 [Child Protection Guidance](#) ? MJ highlighted training already being undertaken with practitioners specifically in relation to human and children's rights and JS has developed a training resource for the Safer Communities Team in Perth & Kinross. Several members highlighted how CP guidance was not co-produced or developed from a children's rights perspective and will require updating when UNCRC is implemented, particularly given it is for the protection of children yet not in child friendly language.
- LM also asked how we can promote children's rights in independent advocacy given a lack of consistency across the country? LH advised that the Scottish Government national advocacy pilot has been running now for approximately one year for CHS and lack of consistency stems from a national offer going out to various organisations. Members agreed that advocacy is extremely valuable in supporting children, young people, and their families through the CHS however there having been teething problems around non instructed advocacy, whereby children/young people who are nonverbal or are possibly considered too young may not receive advocacy. CHS have established a working group to consider this, and LH will be attending and has agreed to update the subgroup accordingly. JS is attending an Independent Advocacy Group as part as her work with REACH in Perth & Kinross and has also agreed to provide subgroup with update regarding progress/issues.

The two Agenda items were carried over to next meeting as apologies given from relevant members.

8. Next Steps: Key Actions and Timescales

- Members had previously suggested that a webinar potentially hosted by CYCJ could also be a useful vehicle to address proposed actions within the ToR. **MR to raise with CRIG in May and consider CYCJ webinar timetable**
- Members to continue to share relevant resources via Teams Channel. **MR to share link for new members**
- **MJ to share the Scottish Government research regarding practitioner's use of Talking Mats on Teams Channel**
- Members attending Independent Advocacy Meetings – **JS and LH to feedback progress/issues to sub group.**

9. Next Meeting

August 17, 2022 (10am – 12pm) on Teams