

Speech, Language & Communication Needs Subgroup January 1, 2022

Present:

Maureen Roberts (Chair)	MR	CYCJ
Jennifer Barr	JB	Govan Law Centre
Tracy Kirk	TK	University of Stirling
Julia Pollock	JP	Perth & Kinross Council
Janie Scott	SB	Pert & Kinross Council
Alison Penman	AP	SW Scotland/Dumfries & Galloway Council
Glenn Carter	GC	RCSLT
Laura Mulcahy	LM	Coalition of Care & Support Providers in Scotland
Alison Gooding	AG	NHS Ayrshire & Arran Person Centred Care Team
Annemarie Macrae	AM	NHS Tayside
Ann Clark	AC	Queen Margaret University
Alice Squire	AS	Association for Real Change (ARC)
Danny Clark	DC	Police Scotland
Lauren Hopp	LH	RCSLT

Apologies:

Gael Cochrane	GC	Community Justice Scotland
Janine McCullogh	JMc	Education Scotland
Maxine Jolly	MJ	Education Scotland
Pauline Beirne	PB	SG
Jan Green	JG	Talk Links
Clare Moser	CM	RCSLT

1. Welcome and Introductions

MR welcomed everyone to the newly formed subgroup and members introduced themselves.

2. Background and Remit

MR explained that the new youth justice vision and action plan was published last year, building on the work of the previous strategy which concluded in 2020. Two Implementation Groups have subsequently been established under the Youth Justice Improvement Board (YJIB) – the Whole System Approach Implementation Group (WSAIG) and the Children's Rights Implementation Group (CRIG). The CRIG will take forward priorities and actions relating to children's rights and participation and agreed the formation of two subgroups - Participation, and Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).

MR acknowledged that several members of the current subgroup were actively involved in the work and priorities of the previous SLCN group, reiterating that this will be invaluable when considering resources and work previously undertaken. AC and JP provided a summary of work the previous subgroup had been involved with including various practitioner and strategic

leadership events, articles and guidance, conferences and presentations, and other activities to raise awareness of SLCN in terms of children and young people in conflict with the law.

MR highlighted that the remit of the SLCN subgroup will build on the outcomes from the new vision and focus on the priorities and actions as agreed by the CRIG and defined within the SLCN subgroup Terms of Reference.

3. Membership

MR opened discussion and suggestions regarding membership of the group:

- AC suggested that the group should also have a young person who has experience or interest in SLCN. AC suggested that the group could benefit from representation from Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), Children's Hearing Scotland (CHS) and Scottish Prison Service (SPS), although thought that JG might be able to represent SPS and SLT given her role within the prisons?

MR to request suggestions from CRIG regarding new members who could represent SCRA/CHS/SPS

GC suggested Melanie Lowe or Louise Steel given relevant SLCN work they have been involved in. **MR to raise with PB as she attends on behalf of SG.**

- MR, AP and TK are members of the CRIG and subgroup
- Several members considered it would be appropriate for educational psychology to be represented. **JB agreed to follow up.**
- AM suggested a representative from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). **AM agreed to follow up.**

4. Terms of Reference

This had previously been circulated to the group who wished to rearrange the wording to prioritise SLCN:

- **Provision should be made to ensure professionals/services are taking into account speech, language and communication needs, including additional support needs to improve life chances.**

Several members proposed a further action to reiterate the importance of transitions relationships of a child with SLCN who has found themselves in conflict with the law (in red):

- Develop information for the workforce on recognising undiagnosed SCLN and adapting services to meet those needs
- **Consider how services working with children and young people with SLCN can support transitions, to prevent ongoing barriers and promote the importance of relationships when working with children and young people.**
- Continue to support local areas to recognise and support those with SLCN and work with partners to consider whether therapists should be embedded in local teams through analysis of the benefits of adopting such an approach.

5. Next Steps

MR highlighted the work of the previous subgroup and progress made since 2017. Given the group consists of various professionals with a diverse range of experience and expertise across the sector, to consider the first action re developing information for the workforce, it would be useful share resources which are currently being used. For example, JS advised that she is delivering virtual training on SLCN awareness to the local community as part of the REACH Project in Perth and Kinross and AC/AM have been working with the Police Scotland ACR Team. **MR agreed to set up a Teams Channel for members to share resources/make comments in one place.**

AM suggested that a webinar potentially hosted by CYCJ could also be a useful vehicle to address proposed actions within the ToR.

MR suggested that a useful resource for professionals working with children and young people in conflict with the law is CYCJ's 'Guide to Youth Justice in Scotland'. This is a document which is updated annually and has a specific chapter dedicated to SLCN, which has already been forwarded to the group. The guide is due to be updated and the group agreed to peer review the chapter with consideration given to new research, resources, practice etc. **MR to circulate to the group for review/comment.**

6. Actions

- MR to request suggestions from CRIG regarding potential new members from SCRA/CHS/SPS and any children/young people who are currently involved with similar work with SG participation groups
- MR to clarify representative members from SG with PB
- JB to contact Educational Psychologist to join group
- AM to contact CAMHs regarding representative to join group
- MR to set up an SLCN subgroup Teams Channel for members to share information
- MR to circulate CYCJ SLCN chapter for review
- Any suggested members details to be e-mailed to MR for inclusion and invitation to the next meeting.

7. Next Meeting

April 4, 2022