

Meeting 09 July 2021 13:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)
Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland
Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group
Maria Galli, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland
Gill Imery, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)
Chief Superintendent Linda Jones, Police Scotland
Dr Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Carnegie UK Trust
John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS
Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International
Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh
Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission
Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Apologies:

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner
Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance
Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr, Police Scotland
ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland
Barry Sillers, Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy and Performance, SPA

Secretariat:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA
Karen Vallance, SPA

OFFICIAL

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees. Apologies were noted as above.

2. Note of the previous meeting and matters arising

Members noted the minute of the meeting held on the 2nd July 2021.

The secretariat has contacted Professor Reicher to see if he is available to attend a future meeting, and the Chair indicated he will follow this up personally.

Action: The Chair will contact Professor Reicher

3. CYPSC Report.

The Chair invited Maria Galli to provide a summary of what the written report will cover.

Maria Galli indicated that the report will look ahead to recovery and what that will mean for young people, as well as reflecting on experiences of young people during the pandemic. The report will detail the clear exacerbation of poverty, mental health and the impact on children with disabilities during the pandemic, plus the continued criminalisation of children. Evidence from children and young people has indicated that they feel that no one is listening or letting them take part in decision-making, particularly with regard to exams. There has been a perceived reluctance from SQA and Scottish Government Education Department to recognise the impact. The report will highlight that, despite the right of children and young people to be treated within a child friendly standard, during the pandemic this has not happened.

Looking forward, the report will indicate a cultural shift in giving children and young people a voice in decision-making, attention to the growing movement of trauma informed lawyers, children's liberties in police custody and incidents in secure care. The report recommendations will amalgamate the list of global work that has happened during lockdown with regard to children rights.

The group discussed the anticipated judgment from the Supreme Court and when it would likely be issued. Bruce Adamson informed the group of his concerns regarding the potential verdict.

The group heard that initial conversations with young advisors had taken place. However, due to other demands, the children's impact assessment has not been completed. Maria Galli highlighted that Police Scotland are improving participation and engagement with young people, and suggested consideration be given to a children's impact evaluation following the conclusion of the group.

The Chair thanked Maria Galli for the update and agreed to further discussion at the next meeting when the report has been circulated.

Action: Maria Galli to provide a copy of the presentation to the Secretariat for distribution to IAG.

4. Impact of changing regulations and weekly data report

Elizabeth Kelly updated members on a recent report from the Health Foundation, which put into context how the UK was situated prior to Covid-19 in terms of

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

public services. The report includes detail on care home deaths during the 1st wave, and timing on government decisions particularly around travel. The report also details other impact areas such a rise in domestic abuse concerns, increase in NSPCC contact, and implications of long covid. Strong recommendations were made around recovery plans.

Brian Scott provided an update on recent reporting and associated media coverage of the number of covid-related deaths among those with a disability.

The Chair thanked Chief Superintendent Jones for the weekly report, and the group acknowledged the decline in enforcement and the increase in interventions and quarantine referrals. The group heard that online reports may be up slightly, as C3 staffing had been impacted by self-isolation and had moved to business continuity arrangements over the weekend. The group noted there was no information as yet on whether there will be a four nation policy on international travel and quarantine when the next changes occur.

Action: Brian Scott to provide a copy of the open letter from disability organisations for circulation to the group.

5. AOCB

Professor McVie advised there would be an OpTICAL meeting scheduled for the following week.

Professor McVie highlighted the increase in premises interventions and agreed to discuss further at the OpTICAL meeting and report back to the group.

Date of next meeting

Friday 16 July 2021 – 13:00 – 15:00

OFFICIAL