



**Minutes of Parenting Network Meeting  
Albert Halls  
Dumbarton Road  
Stirling FK8 2QL  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017  
10am – 1pm**



**Who was there:**

Ailsa	Stewart	Chair (University of Strathclyde)
Morag	Innes	City of Edinburgh Council
Katie	Wanless	City of Edinburgh Council
Shellie	Connor	NHS Tayside
Carole	Fraser	NHS Tayside
Amanda	Muir	Equal Say Advocacy
Sandy	Cruikshank	People First (Scotland)
Jane	Lewis	People First (Scotland)
Alan	Roberts	NHS Fife
Paul	McKee	Central Advocacy Partners
Maggie	McAlpine	Central Advocacy Partners
Elizabeth	Findlay	Central Advocacy Partners
John	Bowes	Parent
Donald	Jamieson	Parent
Jamie	Shankley	Parent
Jackie	Rothwell	Parent
James	Henderson	Parent
Andrea	Vallance	Parent
Anne	Draper	Parent
Darren	Tamburrino	Parent
Debbie	Tamburrino	Parent
Marlene	Carruthers	Parent
John	Laird	Parent
Dominic	Jarrett	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
David	Barr	Aberlour
Sharon	Swan	Aberlour
Deborah	Fletcher	East Ayrshire Advocacy Service
Paul	McConnachie	Parent

Victoria	Scott	Advocating Together
Janet	Cormack	Clan ChildLaw
Oonagh	Brown	Scottish Commission for Learning Disability
Christine	McBain	Minute taker from Scottish Commission for Learning Disability

### **1) Welcome and Introductions**

Ailsa welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Oonagh gave a brief history of the Network.

### **2) Review of Minutes of Meeting of 12 October 2016**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed following a change to the note of the update from David Barr from Aberlour.

### **3) Updates from Network members**

**Paul McConnachie** – The Lanarkshire ACE / Speak Out Advocacy group has been working with NHS Lanarkshire to produce easy read health information in various formats. Paul brought examples of leaflets and booklets for everyone to look at. The Network members were very impressed. All of the information can be found at <http://www.healthlanarkshire.co.uk/>

People First (Scotland) Parents' Group in Edinburgh has been involved in the production of easy read letters and agendas for Child Protection meetings and for LAC reviews. They have also worked with Ronnie Hill from the Scottish Government to produce easy read information regarding Child's Plan meetings. Upon completion, this will be circulated to the Network.

### **Central Advocacy Partners Parents' Network**

- **John Laird** – the Parent's Network is getting stronger and bigger with more people attending every month. The group usually meets on the first Wednesday of every month in Stirling. This year there

will be a mix of meetings with invited speakers as well as some fun activities out in the community.

- **Debbie Tamburrino** – the Parents' Network made a 5 minute film 'I'm a Good Parent' in 2015. In the summer of 2016 another 5 minute film was made called 'Parents Network MAP – Our Story'. It includes the following stages that parents go through including Our Dreams / Our Nightmares / Who I Am / My Strengths & Talents / What Would Make Things Better? Both films can be watched on the website <http://centraladvocacypartners.org.uk/projects/network.aspx> Debbie asked the Network to watch these.
- **Marlene Carruthers** – Marlene has been attending the Unity Group at Stirling University. This group helps students to learn from service users' experiences. The students are mainly studying to become social workers and some are studying nursing and forensics. The Unity Group is planning a conference in April 2017. Marlene hopes to deliver a workshop on the films that the CAP Parents' Network have made.

**David Barr** – a conference is taking place on 1 March 2017 at the Stirling Court Hotel, funded from the Keys to Life Development Fund. The conference will offer an opportunity to share experiences of supporting parents who have a learning disability and for parents to share their experiences. The conference will also introduce the Scottish Government's implementation plan in response to the recommendations from the report 'Supporting Parents with Learning Disabilities in Scotland: Challenges and Opportunities August 2016'. The conference should be viewed as the beginning of the work to support parents and not the end.

Sandy Cruikshank and Bianca Woods are providing support to make the conference accessible.

### **Sandy Cruikshank**

- The Parents' Group recently celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. 40 people attended the party. A pack containing an easy read

summary of the work done by the Parents' Group over the last 10 years was given to everyone who attended. Sandy asked Andy and Oonagh to send the pack round the Network.

- Bianca Wood has met with Susan Key to talk about the training of health visitors.

**Morag Innes** – Bright Light in Edinburgh is trying to set up a group for parents with a learning disability. Some individual counselling has taken place. The success of the one on one counselling was commented on.

**Deborah Fletcher** – East Ayrshire Advocacy Service has a group meeting once a week. The group's focus is on

- a relaxation session
- sharing experiences and
- a healthy eating week have taken place.

**Alan Roberts** – NHS Fife – support is being offered to pregnant mothers. Looking at how to best support parents as the child gets older.

**Shellie Connor** – NHS Tayside – information is being shared by attending meetings with Child and Family Social workers, Children 1<sup>st</sup> and the Children's team.

**Sharon Swan** – Aberlour – there has been an increase in pre-birth referrals with 5 referrals in the past 6 months. Teaching programmes for parents are being developed.

**Oonagh Brown**

- A survey was sent to the Network asking members how parents can be best involved in the Network. As a result, the Network meetings will now be less formal, half day meetings and the locations where these take place will change. The structure of future meetings will be agreed through the completion of evaluation forms. All Network meetings are open to parents and professionals

- Oonagh thanked those who have signed up to join the UK network. This will help with sharing information and learning from others. Oonagh will send a further email to the Network so that those who have not signed up can do so. A paper copy will be posted to Paul McConnachie.
- Oonagh has tried to increase the number of Children and Families Social Workers to join the Network however uptake has been poor. Oonagh asked Network members to promote the Network within their own localities.
- Implementation events on Part 12 Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014: Supporting parents with learning disabilities are taking place on 6 February in Fife and on 23 February in Dundee. A further event will take place in East Renfrewshire.
- A Working Together with Parents Network web page has been created within SCLD's website. The page has not gone live as yet as ethical approval is required from the University of Bristol. When the page does go live, examples of good practice and information to be shared should be sent to Oonagh to add to the page.
- Ailsa asked if a short presentation could be given at the next Network meeting on the findings from the Network survey.

#### **4) Clan ChildLaw presentation**

Janet Cormack gave a presentation on the work that Clan ChildLaw does and the services they provide. A free advice line is available. Further information can be found at <http://www.clanchildlaw.org/> Following the presentation, Janet answered questions from the Network.

#### **5) Equal Say presentation**

Amanda Muir gave a presentation on the advocacy support work and Mellow Parenting work that Equal Say does. The evaluation of this work was also presented followed by questions and answers. Anyone wishing to have a copy of the full or summary evaluation report can contact Amanda by email at [amanda@equalsay.org](mailto:amanda@equalsay.org) or by phone on 0141 556 3477.

## 6) Good Practice Example Template

The template was handed out to the Network. Ailsa asked the Network to contact Oonagh with comments either by phone on 0141 248 3733 or by email at [oonagh.b@sclid.co.uk](mailto:oonagh.b@sclid.co.uk)

## 7) Network Meeting Evaluations

Those attending the meeting were asked to complete an evaluation of the meeting. This will be the practice at all Network meetings in future. The results from the evaluations will be distributed with the Minutes.

## Date and venue of next meeting

To be confirmed

## Actions from this meeting:

- Send the easy read information regarding Child's Plan meetings to the Network when this has been completed **(People First (Scotland) Parents' Group, Edinburgh / Christine)**
- Send the pack containing an easy read summary of the work done by the People First (Scotland) Parents' Group round the Network **(Andy / Oonagh)**
- Send an email asking Scottish Network members to join the UK Network. Post a paper copy to Paul McConnachie **(Oonagh)**
- Promote the Network to Children and Families Social Workers within own localities **(All Network members)**
- Give a short presentation on the findings from the Network survey at the next Network meeting **(Oonagh)**
- Email or phone Oonagh with comments on the Good Practice Example template **(All Network members)**
- Distribute the evaluation results from this and all future Network meetings with the Minutes of each meeting **(Oonagh / Christine)**