

**Meeting of the National Resource Group on Western Isles' Recommendation 27,
Tuesday 6 March, 10am -12noon, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.**

Attendees

Claire Monaghan, Children & Families Division, SE
Maggie Tierney, Children & Families Division, SE
Lindsay Ferguson, Chief Nursing Officer Division, SE
Nicola Macnaughton, Children & Families Division, SE
Penny Curtis, COSLA
Alwyn Bell, Lothian and Borders Police
Maria McKay, Western Isles
Gus MacDonald, Tulliallan
Brigid Daniel, personal capacity & for SCCPN
Peter Ashe, NHS National Services Scotland

Welcome and apologies

1. Peter Ashe was introduced to the group.
2. Apologies had been received from Brenda Doyle of ADSW, David Anderson of ADES and Rosie Ilett from the Scottish Executive.

Minutes from the previous meeting and matters arising

3. Claire Monaghan apologised for the format of the minute from 6 February, explaining that it should be taken as a combination of a minute and a written update.
4. The group was informed that the aim of the meeting was to look at the redraft of Recommendation 27 and clarify whether or not an individual should be assigned to take 'ownership' of the recommendation, or to otherwise find an alternative.

Presentation and discussion on the National Crime Faculty Model

5. Gus MacDonald gave a brief presentation to the group on the National Crime Faculty Model used by Police services across the UK.
6. Gus explained that when a Major Inquiry is undertaken, inquiry teams will determine if they need expert advice on particular areas to assist them with the case. If they decide that they do, the National Centre for Policing Excellence (NCPE) will access from a pool of experts the most appropriate individual adviser(s) to provide advice or knowledge on the subject.
7. The National Centre for Policing Excellence (NCPE) have robust quality assurance mechanisms in place to monitor the NCPE and they learn from good practice. Regular evaluation allows them to determine the most appropriate specialists for jobs and ensure expertise remains consistent.

8. These experts will not necessarily come from a police force, but are likely to be pooled externally. However, this will not compromise the control that the force retains over the inquiries.
9. Maria McKay stressed a need for a validation process and robust quality assurance mechanisms if the working group were to take forward a similar notion with Recommendation 27. In particular, how to provide assurances on what constitutes an 'expert' or an individual with 'expertise'.
10. It was outlined that the NCPE maintain high standards and share good practice by sending out regular bulletins and holding seminars and conferences, relevant to other agencies in addition to the police, including health agencies and Child Protection Committees.
11. The practical difficulties of using a similar notion to roll out Recommendation 27 were discussed. It was agreed that boundaries in police and in major inquiries are generally clear cut, and that there would be potential difficulties in implementing this type of system in the area of child protection, where cases are much more complex.

Presentation on Managed Care Networks

12. Peter Ashe provided a presentation on the use of Managed Care Networks, using examples from Health.
13. The group was informed that in Health, Managed Care Networks, which aim to ensure that the patient in question receives the most appropriate advice and care available, are practically-minded.
14. Lindsay Ferguson expressed her concerns with Managed Care Networks, explaining that in her experiences they were complex and difficult to manage. The procedure-based nature of MCNs can sometimes lead practitioners to focus more on the paperwork and bureaucracy involved than on the patient themselves.
15. As MCNs tend to focus on very particular areas of illness or health (e.g. specific types of cancer), it may be a difficult mechanism to apply in broader child protection cases. Brigid also outlined that processes around MCNs are similar to interagency guidelines already in place in child protection. And that it may not be valuable to duplicate these processes and protocols in child pathway thinking.
16. There was general agreement from within the group that MCNs, for the purpose of Recommendation 27, would be a less viable and attractive option than the NCFM. The key lesson from Recommendation 27 was not to build more bureaucracy.
17. Claire suggested that the group should next view how Recommendation 27 sits with Getting it Right for Every Child. **ACTION:** Children & Families Division to communicate with David Thomson.
18. Maria expressed a need for clarity with whatever network model is adopted about each individual's responsibility and role. There was brief discussion within the group over Lindsay's definition that the term 'referring' in reference to child protection

should be changed to 'sharing'. Very difficult situations can arise here regarding ownership and accountability of cases. **ACTION:** Alwyn to send over anonymised case review.

19. Claire asked the group to think practically on how the MCNs could be taken forward in relation to Recommendation 27. Lindsay said that she could provide feedback to the working group after a steering group meeting on 12 March. **ACTION:** Lindsay to provide feedback from meeting
20. The group decided it would be useful to have stylised case studies to help calibrate MCNs to the group. **ACTION:** SE to invite someone from an MCN along to the next meeting for interest
21. The group decided they should discuss inviting CPC Lead Officers to the next meeting. **ACTION:** Alwyn to put together a mind map of bringing CPCs into the picture.

Update on the Research Network

22. Brigid Daniel provided the group with an update on the Research Network.
23. The group was informed that a literature review had been completed on nurses and child protection, and a fairly extensive bibliography had been accumulated. Substantial gaps had been found in the data. The audit is also currently being worked on. Heike Tarara's post will be filled for 8 months rather than 5, working from Children in Scotland.
24. Brigid explained that the three strands of the research network were improving their focus. This included the research strand group, the dissemination strand, and the evaluation group.

Next Steps

25. The group discussed the status of Recommendation 27. It was agreed that there needed to be an in depth discussion around its applicability, taking into consideration that it was written in response to a particular issue at a particular time.

AOB

26. There was brief discussion over administrative details on the meeting's agenda.

Date of Next Meeting

27. It was agreed that the next meeting of the group should be held at the end of April. **ACTION:** Secretariat to issue invite.