

Dear Sir/Madam,

I support the full Aberdeenshire Children's Panel Response. I would agree that I cannot see the benefit of having an additional tier of Committee, with two sub-committees, instead of two separate ASTs. It seems to me that each "sub-committee" would act as an AST in its own area, as there are very few commonalities between the two Panels or Authority areas. It then would seem that the larger AST would serve very little purpose, but from the evidence available in the paper, it would be an additional body, necessitating additional meetings, and therefore causing additional expense to allow the joint AST to function.

Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire already work together where it is appropriate and there is no evidence that by putting the two Panels under one AST any further joint working could be achieved.

It has not been demonstrated how a joint AST would provide *better* support to members, indeed it is likely to provide similar support but at more cost, with an additional tier of bureaucracy.

As things stand in Aberdeenshire, the Authority provides very good support to Panel members, in way of remuneration of expenses, a full time Secretary and Clerk to the CPAC, which in turn allows Panel Members to provide their best service to the children of Aberdeenshire. We would not want to see this support reduced, by having to match another Authority, who may not be in the position to provide similar support.

Thank you for the consideration of my response.

Regards,

Cherie Morgan
Deputy Chair
Aberdeenshire Children's Panel

