

REFERENCE EML/0023/145

For the attention of Children's Panel Convener

Dear Sir/Madam

As a member of Aberdeenshire Children's Panel my response to the AST proposals for the Aberdeenshire area are as follows.

1. Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City have significantly different issues and needs which in my view need to be reflected in the range of knowledge and experience of City and Shire panel members. We do have two members who have transferred from the City to the Shire and one of those members confirms this view.
2. Many years ago the City, Shire and Moray were as one group under the title of Grampian. In the essence however because of geographical considerations and different needs these areas crystallised into smaller groups to meet the needs of their specific areas.
3. The City and Shire do combine particularly in Pre-Service Training which makes eminent sense as all new panel members are receiving the same training. The continuance of this arrangement would be appropriate in my view.
4. The creation of an over-arching AST group with the inevitable resulting separate sub-committees to represent City and Shire needs would appear to be unnecessary as it creates another tier of beaurocracy with some members of the sub-committees having to attend AST group meetings.

In conclusion I am of the view that both the City and Shire operate satisfactorily on an independent basis to meet the needs of families in their areas. Accordingly it is my view that there is merit in there being a separate AST group representing both City and Shire.

With kind regards

Bob Antczak

Depute Chair - Aberdeen Children's Panel

