

Ms. Debbie Bayne
Children's Hearings Scotland
Area 2E South
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH
EH6 6QQ

Patricia McIlquham - Depute Chief Executive
(Support Services)

Roger Mennie - Legal Manager

21 City Square, Dundee DD1 3BY
LP - 38 DUNDEE

Tel 01382 434000
Fax 01382 434182

Email address:
patricia.mclquham@dundee.gov.uk

If calling please ask for

Ms McIlquham on (01382) 434202

Our Ref PMcl/JMcD/DMC
Your Ref
Date 19 October 2011

Dear Ms Bayne

Consultation on proposals for establishment of Area Support Teams

I refer to the proposal paper issued by the national Convener.

It is proposed in the paper that there be a single AST for the three local government areas of Dundee, Angus and Perth and Kinross, which are each presently served by separate Children's Panel Advisory Committees, and that the single AST should be supported by one "Clerk".

If this model is proceeded with, there is a real danger that an AST covering this very large and diverse geographical area would be unwieldy to manage, and the importance of the local connection of members might be lost. On that basis, Dundee would probably prefer to have an AST for each local authority area.

If it is nevertheless decided that there should be a single AST for the whole area, this danger might be ameliorated if such an AST established sub-committees for each local authority area. The members of the sub-committees could be drawn from their local area. The local sub-committee could be responsible for managing the rota of Panel Members for Children's Hearings for its local area. This would ensure that the benefits of the local connection of Children's Panel members would not be lost with the introduction of the national Panel. The local sub-committee could also mentor members from the Panel who resided in and sat on Hearings in its area, and it might be appropriate for complaints about members of the Panel to be dealt with by a member of the sub-committee for another area.

It is proposed that there be one "Clerk" to support an AST for the three local government areas. Has the volume of work which would be carried out by such a Clerk been assessed? Is there any basis on which to be sure that one person would have capacity to manage the necessary workload? How would cover for absence and holidays be managed if the role was carried out by one person. At present the duties of the proposed "Clerk" are carried out by a number of officers of the three local authorities, and this allows these difficulties and the issue of peaks and troughs in workload to be managed. It would be preferable if there was a "Clerk" for each local authority area sub-committee.

If you have trouble understanding English please contact the address below

اگر آپ کو انگریزی سمجھنے میں مشکل پیش آتی ہے تو براہ مہربانی نیچے درج پتے پر رابطہ کریں:

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ انگریزی سمجھنے میں مشکل پیش آتی ہے تو براہ مہربانی نیچے درج پتے پر رابطہ کریں:

Jeżeli masz trudności w zrozumieniu języka angielskiego, skontaktuj się na poniżej podany adres:

如果你對英語理解有困難，請聯絡以下地址:

Dundee Translation & Interpretation Service, Mitchell Street Centre, Mitchell Street, Dundee DD2 2LJ.
Tel: 01382 435825 Fax: 01382 435805

For information about Dundee City Council visit our website - www.dundee.gov.uk

c:\docume~1\john~1.mcd\locals~1\temp\1cd\domino web access\last consultation.doc



Recycled Paper



If it is decided to proceed on the basis of a single Clerk to a single AST with sub-committees, it may be advantageous if some of the Clerk's duties were shared with and carried out by an assistant for each of the other local government areas. In practice this might mean that one officer from one of the local authorities would be appointed "Clerk", with officers from the other two areas supporting the Clerk, in particular in relation to matters arising in their area. It might be possible for the formal role of "Clerk" to be rotated among the three authorities.

Dundee CPAC has appointed three Sub-CPAC members who assist with the recruitment, selection and monitoring of Panel members. It would be unfortunate if the experience and commitment of these members was lost under the new arrangements, and it would be helpful to have clarification of whether it is envisaged that there would be a role for these members. Again, for these reasons, Dundee would probably prefer to that there be a single AST for each local government area.

Yours sincerely

Depute Chief Executive
(Support Services)