

the communicator

Children's Panel Chairmen's Group Newsletter

Eating with the Enemy

Congratulations and well done to **Bert Sandeman** of Dundee CPAC who, having been runner up in BBC2 programme "Eating with the Enemy" hosted by celebrity chef James Martin, a national competition to find Britain's best home cook, capitalised on his new-found fame to raise £1,300 for Breast Cancer Awareness through the sale of his booklet "Pink Recipes", which featured three of his award-winning recipes from the programme which he adapted with strong pink credentials as promoted by this campaign.



Bert with celebrity judging panel

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CHAIRMEN'S GROUP

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“Eating with the Enemy” saw domestic cooks compete to impress four of Britain’s toughest culinary judges and most-feared food critics – Charles Champion, Jay Rayner, Kate Spicer and Toby Young – as they battled it out in a series of heats culminating in a national final. Top TV chef James Martin, mentored and monitored the amateur cooks before they took their dishes on a journey from their own kitchens to a professional kitchen!

Bert delighted the panel with recipes including:

Arbroath smokies with baby leeks, gruyere and cheddar cheese, served with baby asparagus and garnished with grated parmesan

This was a dish Bert cooked in the grand final of ‘Eating with the Enemy’ and was subsequently selected for inclusion on the BBC Good Food website.

Burger with refried beans, cheese and salsa

Bert said: “This is a ‘posh’ burger with a Mexican twist which got me into the final two of the regional final which I went on to win. The salsa, although an accompaniment to this dish, is a favourite with my family and friends and was commended by the judging panel on the programme.”

Brandy snap baskets with crannachan and raspberry coulis

Bert said: “This dish helped me into the final three play-offs. One of the Judges (Kate Spicer) said she would eat her shoes if I produced a good Crannachan. Charles Champion subsequently said that it was the



Bert with TV chef James Martin

best Crannachan he had ever tasted. Much to my chagrin Kate did not eat her shoes!”

Bert, a firm believer in the Children’s Hearings system, having served as a panel member with Dundee and currently a member of the Dundee CPAC, works as Dundee’s Integrated Children’s Services Manager.

Bert said: “I don’t see myself giving up my daytime job any time yet, but I was delighted that my time on the programme gave me such a high profile which encouraged me to use this as a way of raising funds for Breast Cancer. I would like to offer my thanks to colleagues and friends for supporting me and buying my booklet and a very special thanks to the design team of Dundee City Council and for the sponsorship of Winters of Dundee for the printing of the booklet.”

Bert still has some copies of his “Pink Recipes” booklet. He can be contacted on email at bert.sandeman@dundeecity.gov.uk for a copy.



EDITORIAL

By Gerard McEneaney

Chair, Children's Panel Chairs Group

Dear colleague,

I hope you are all enjoying the summer. This used to be the time of year when panel members had a “quiet” spell with fewer hearings taking place due to school holidays, social workers being on holiday and no training taking place. It was an opportunity to take a well earned rest and to re-charge the batteries.

Whilst many of us will be looking forward to our holidays, for many of the children and families that come to hearings, this will be a time of extra pressure, increased hardship and for some children, a time of increased risk. For the vast majority of school children, the seven weeks' summer holidays are a time of excitement and adventure; however, for others, it means seven weeks without the safety net or the place of refuge that school can be.

For panel members, there is often little difference in the number of hearings taking place during the summer months; certainly, there are far more hearings now than there were in summers gone by.

This year will also see the roll out of training on the Role of the Reporter at hearings and the introduction of Legal Reps for Relevant Persons. The timing of these

changes has not gone unnoticed by the Children's Panel Chairs' Group; we are very concerned at the introduction of new measures of this kind without enough time being allowed for the necessary training. I have written to both Adam Ingram, Minister for Children & Early Years, and Netta Maciver, Principal Reporter and Chief Executive of SCRA, to express that concern. Regardless of whether or not these changes are necessary, the training arrangements are likely to prove problematic, with many panel members taking a well-earned break.

This year too we have the draft Bill, which – in the Scottish Government's view – will strengthen and modernise the Children's Hearings system. You will all have received a copy of the proposals. Some parts of the draft proposals may be welcomed. Other parts may not. There will be plenty of opportunity for every panel member to give their views on these draft proposals, either individually or through the Local Authority Chairperson, as the Bill passes through the various committee stages of Parliament.

Enjoy your summer as the coming months may well prove to be very busy, interesting and hopefully, productive, for Scotland's children and Children's Panel members.

Changes at Edinburgh CPAC

By Anne Hetherington

There have been a number of changes at Edinburgh CPAC in the last few months.

Gavin McGregor stepped down after six years as Chair in December 2008. Many of you may know Gavin through his long involvement with the Children's Hearings system. His roots were as a panel member: he served from May 1982 for some 12 years, including a period as Area Chair in the former "Edinburgh North" area. After a break, he became a member of the CPAC in January 1998 and from January 2003 was appointed CPAC Chair.

Our committee clerk for many years, Jane Lockhart, who has worked tirelessly for the Children's Hearings system has moved on to other duties within the council. She has been replaced by **Jack Dunn**.



Jane Lockhart and Gavin McGregor relaxing after their farewell dinner

We had an evening out in January as a team to say goodbye to Gavin and Jane and give them each a presentation to thank them for all their hard work. We have all enjoyed working with them over the years and appreciate their commitment to the Hearings system, not to mention their sense of humour!

Linda Blencowe who has been involved with the Children's Hearings system for almost 20 years has been appointed as the new chair. Three new committee members have also been appointed – **Marissa Bryden, Pat Gilfillen** and **Maire Brennan**. We are looking forward to working together as a new team.

Les Scarth, who joined Edinburgh CPAC in 2005, resigned in May to focus on his many other commitments. So the changes are ongoing!



Committee at a recent in-service training event

From left to right: Jan Schyma, Linda Blencowe, Bill Edgar, Maire Brennan, Tom Walker, Pat Gilfillen, Marissa Bryden, Alan Montgomery. Front row: Anne Hetherington, Linda Jones

West Lothian CPAC

By Senga Kemp, West Lothian Panel Chair

Changing times – as West Lothian CPAC goes from strength to strength: after the loss of our Chair, Lewis Thomson, through the ill-health of his wife, and a period of falling numbers, we have managed to bring the Committee back to full strength this year said Bill MacDonald, recently joined and newly appointed Chair. We now have our full compliment of 6 members including: myself, Anne Johnstone, John Reid, Patricia Russell, Les Williams and Greg Ewing. In addition we have our 3 Elected Members, Cllrs John McGinty, Janet Campbell and Jim Walker – with additional help from our Sub CPAC of: Ramsay Weir, Mel McDonald, John Wilson, Karen Cawte, Mhairi Hall, Pam Mackay and Mary Benson.

West Lothian New Panel Members – Trainees 2009



West Lothian's New Panel Members, having completed their pre-service training, receive their Certificates at the Provost's Reception held at West Lothian House on 27 May 2009. This year they had to compete for attention with "Veda" – Guide Dog Puppy in Training who managed to take central front spot in the picture. Veda is currently being "Puppy Walked" by our New CPAC Chair.

Island Solutions – Inter Island Seminar 2009

By Mary Philp, CHTO

On 30/31 May 2009, panel members from the island communities of Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles, together with three representatives from Guernsey's newly-established Child Youth and Community Tribunal, gathered together to participate in a Seminar hosted this year by Shetland Islands Council.

Lots of discussion and debate took place about the uniqueness of island living both in respect of the challenges that panel members face when making decisions for children but also the strengths that the island communities have in terms of community spirit and flexibility of services.

Panel members were addressed by representatives providing children's services from each of the three Scottish island communities. There were also spirited inputs from the perspective of education and foster care.

We were delighted to welcome as an honoured guest, Lars Siggelin, who travelled all the way from Gotland in Sweden to give delegates an insight into the Hassela project, which was his brainchild. Hassela is a residential project which offers a holistic and nurturing environment to some of Sweden's most troubled children who would normally be accommodated in secure accommodation. The information he gave us was inspiring and the feedback from many of the delegates was that they would like to see the Hassela project replicated in an island setting in Scotland. Details of Hassela and its work can be found on www.hasselagotland.se/

(Click on the United Kingdom flag (bottom right) for the English version)

Barbara Hudson, Director of BAAF, addressed the conference about the matters that should be taken into consideration when considering contact if permanency is thought to be the best option for the child. She also delivered a powerful presentation on what children need when they are placed away from home in terms of both emotional and practical supports. She graphically demonstrated how important it is to treat children with dignity and respect when a child needs to move away from home. She asked us to remember that children are no different from adults in this respect. She asked us to imagine that we were planning a trip away from home, for whatever reason. What, she asked, would we pack, taking care to include not only the things we actually need or might need but also the things that are important to us and that identify us as the people we are? As she pointed out, none of us would go away on an overnight visit or a holiday and simply thrust random things into a black bin bag.

Delegates also had an opportunity to hear about the ongoing developments in Guernsey and the recently established "Child, Youth and Community Tribunal". Karen Brady, who formerly worked with SCRA as Head of Practice, is Convenor of the new tribunal, which is the equivalent of the Reporter in Scotland. She gave a fascinating presentation on the current situation and Scottish panel members were able to share their thoughts with the two newly-trained members of the Tribunal. The tribunal is likely to come into service around October 2009.

Blackout

Mary Philp, CHTO

Delegates who attended the Inter Island Seminar in Shetland at the end of May 2009, were extremely lucky to be entertained by a wonderful group of young people from the Shetland YUF Theatre.

They presented the play "Blackout" by Davey Anderson which is inspired by the stories of a young offender in Glasgow. The company of children (thirty-three in all) who presented the play came from all over Shetland including Yell, Unst and Fetlar.

The story of James has relevance to everyone but panel members in particular! The components are as follows: a young lad, caring mother, abusive father, grandfather role model, identity issues, death of a loved one, taunting by peers, change in personality, serious trouble, a second chance, relief and quiet reflection.

The play was extremely thought-provoking and the set up of the production denied anyone in the audience any opportunity of

sitting back and ignoring their role in creating the society that we live in.

As well as performing to the delegates of the Inter Island Seminar with brilliance, the company took the production to the Royal Lyceum in Edinburgh where the production and performance was rapturously received.

The Children's Hearings Training Unit in Inverness thanks both the cast and the crew for all their efforts and thought provoking performance.



Professor Fred Stone OBE

It was with great sadness I learned of the death of Professor Frederick Hope Stone on the 21st June. Born in Glasgow, Fred attended Hillhead High School and graduated MB, ChB from the Glasgow University in 1945. He worked with the health service and was Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Glasgow from 1977 to 1987. In addition to his remarkable medical and academic work he had a long and very much valued association with the Children's Hearings System. Fred was a member of the Kilbrandon Committee from 1963 to 1965, and Chairman of the Children's Panel Advisory Committee for Strathclyde Region from 1988 to 1993 and was awarded an OBE for services to children in 1993.

Throughout his life he was always a generous friend and willing contributor to the system. He willingly offered advice, became involved in training events from the very local to chairing the National School and international conferences about the Scottish System. In 1995 he delivered the second Kilbrandon Lecture which commemorated 25 years of the system. In addition to his medical writings he wrote a foreword when the original Kilbrandon Report was republished and also contributed to publications on wider child protection systems.

He will be sadly missed by many both within and outwith the system.

Barbara Reid
Children's Hearings Training Officer, University of Glasgow

Long Service Awards Event

By Isabelle Jacobsen, Children's Hearings



Award recipients (left to right:) Front row: Adam Ingram, Minister for Children & Early Years, Flora Paterson, Anne Morrison, Frances Powell, James Stallard – Back row: Jenny Blinkhorne, Margaret Allison, Isobel Scorgie, Anne Bell, William McMeikan, Jim Adamson, Roy McGivney

The Long Service Awards event was held earlier this year in recognition of the Scottish Government's appreciation for the commitment and invaluable role panel members play within the system and to highlight the remarkable achievement of long serving members who have twenty or more years' service.

The event was hosted by Adam Ingram, Minister for Children & Early Years and the Children's Hearings team in the beautiful surroundings of the George Hotel in Edinburgh. The evening began with a drinks reception where a cross section of panel Chairs, panel members and key partners

from across the system mingled and sampled cocktails, wine and canapes. This was followed by a sumptuous dinner in the magnificent Kings Hall which had been transformed to mark this very special occasion and to accommodate the 160 guests who attended the event.

The Minister addressed the audience on behalf of the Scottish Government with a thank you speech to the long-serving panel members. He emphasised how the success of Scotland's unique Children's Hearings system was down to the commitment of its panel members. The crucial part they play in the system, the time and dedication offered to helping those

children most at risk, all go towards ensuring that those vulnerable children are provided with a supportive environment to enable them to achieve their full potential. The Minister then went on to talk about the many challenges the role itself presents, notwithstanding the difficult decisions that have to be made based on the evidence which is presented before the Hearing.

In a change from tradition from previous

years, the Minister presented eleven long-serving panel members with individually engraved quaichs – the Scottish symbol of friendship. Feedback from invited guests was overwhelmingly positive and there was a particular appreciation for the gift of the quaichs. The evening was crowned with live music and dance enjoyed by all. I hope that the memory of this evening will stay with our guests for many years to come.



Children's Hearings Team (left to right): Front row: Adam Ingram, Minister for Children & Early Years, Shirley Laing, Moira Hughes, Denise Swanson, Gaynor Davenport, Nataliya Shkoda, Isabelle Jacobsen – Back Row: Eleanor Manson, Phil Reid, Ken McKenna, Hamish MacFarlane

Minister's Meetings

By Moira Hughes, Children's Hearings

Adam Ingram MSP, Minister for Children and Early Years meets with Panel Chairs, CPAC volunteers, panel members and others with an interest in the Children's Hearings system.

Over the course of this Spring and Summer many of you will have attended one of the eight meetings across the country with Adam Ingram MSP, Minister for Children and Early Years.

The Minister has been keen to meet with Children's Hearings volunteers to discuss Scottish Government's plans for the reform of the Children's Hearings system and to reassure panel members that Scottish Ministers are committed to the local delivery of the Hearings system – building on its

strong foundations of supporting local communities, with local people taking decisions for local children – to improve outcomes for children and young people.

These meetings provided the Minister with a broad perspective of views and a greater understanding of the work undertaken across the system.

The Minister will continue this dialogue over the Summer months.

Many thanks to all who attended.



Minister's meeting at Mansfield Traquair, Edinburgh

Training Working Group

By Eleanor Manson, Children's Hearings

Changes in legislation, policy and procedures often result in a need to provide additional training. This, along with the normal in-service training, can often result in additional pressures being placed on panel members. We would like training to be delivered in such a way that it allows panel members to feel fully supported and confident in their work, but at the same time takes up the minimum of time. To achieve this, we need to ensure that the timing of training is properly planned. We also need to look at our methods for the delivery of training.

It is for these reasons that the Scottish Government has decided that a Training Working Group should be created. The Group aims to identify the main changes affecting panel members, on which training and/or support will be needed, and to put in place measures to deliver this.

The Group's members are:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Judith Bell | Children's Hearings Training Officer (CHTO) |
| Joan Rose | Children's Hearings Training Officer (CHTO) |
| Joy Knight | Chair, Children's Panel Advisory Group (CPAG) |
| Alastair Hamilton | Chair, Shetland Children's Panel |
| Tom Philliben | Director, Reporters Operations, SCRA |
| Joe Rafferty | Training & Development Manager, SCRA |
| Stuart Robb | Care & Justice Division, Scottish Government |
| Ken McKenna | Children's Hearings Branch, Scottish Government |
| Eleanor Manson | Children's Hearings Branch, Scottish Government |

It is hoped that the Group will be in a position to report back by Autumn 2009.

Draft Children's Hearings (Scotland) Bill

The draft Children's Hearings (Scotland) Bill was published on June 26, 2009. It contains the Scottish Government's proposals to reinforce and modernise the Children's Hearings System. It gives stakeholders the opportunity to consider the proposals. We welcome your comments on the Draft Bill – please email the Bill team at chbillteam@scotland.gsi.gov.uk. For ease of reference, please find attached copy of letter issued on June 26, 2009.

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Panel Members

Children's Panel Chairs

Children's Panel Advisory Committees

Children's Hearings Training Officers

Scottish Safeguarders Association

26 June 2009

Dear Colleagues

DRAFT CHILDREN'S HEARINGS (SCOTLAND) BILL

Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, wrote to you in May announcing proposals to reinforce and modernise the Children's Hearings system – building on its strong foundations of supporting local communities, with local people taking decisions for local children – to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Those proposals followed careful consideration of the responses to “Strengthening for the Future”, last year's consultation on the reform of the Children's Hearings system, and they form the basis of the Draft Children's Hearings (Scotland) Bill.

I have pleasure in enclosing the Draft Bill pack which contains three documents:

- **The Draft Children's Hearings (Scotland) Bill:** this sets out the draft legislative framework for a reinforced and modernised Children's Hearings system.
- **A Policy Overview Statement:** this describes the policy background and what the proposals contained within the draft Bill are intended to achieve.
- **Explanatory Notes for Part I:** these should be read alongside part I of the draft Bill and are designed to make it accessible to readers who are not legally qualified or who have no specialist knowledge of the Children's Hearings system. Explanatory Notes for the rest of the draft Bill will be published on the Scottish Government website soon.

A Financial Memorandum providing a full costing on the proposals, and a Policy Memorandum setting out the policy objectives, will accompany introduction of the Bill to the Scottish Parliament in the autumn.

An Equality Impact Assessment, measuring the impact of the Children's Hearings reforms on equality groups, will also be published when the Bill is introduced.

The key proposals contained within the Draft Children's Hearings (Scotland) Bill are:

- The creation of a new national body, the Scottish Children's Hearings Tribunal, to be responsible for all functions associated with the Children's Panel, including recruitment, selection and training of panel members. The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration will deliver the Children's Reporters service.
- Changes in functions and practice to improve support for both professionals and panel members, leading in turn to better outcomes for children and young people.
- Legal and procedural changes to increase efficiency and ensure that children's rights continue to be properly upheld.

We know that many children's lives have been turned round through effective intervention, overseen by confident, informed children's panels. The proposed Tribunal will support the embedding of best practice and consistent decision making so we get it right for every child, wherever they are in the country.

Under the proposals, people will continue to be recruited, selected, trained and sit on hearings on a local basis. Panel Members will benefit from more consistent support and training in order to make the important decisions that can have such a positive effect on children's lives.

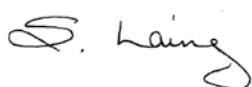
The draft Bill contains proposals to provide for the transfer of functions currently carried out by Children's Panels Advisory Committees and panel Chairs to the President of the Tribunal. We propose that the President will have the power to deliver their functions using paid staff, volunteers or both, and to put in place structures which reflect local issues in all of Scotland's communities. There is no intention to lose the support and experience that CPAC members or panel Chairs currently provide, and the President will work together with existing stakeholders in the transition to these new structures.

We have published the draft Bill to give you time over the summer to consider the proposals. Adam Ingram, Minister for Children and Young People has been meeting with panel Chairs, CPAC volunteers, Panel members and other interested parties involved in the Children's Hearings system across Scotland this spring and will continue these discussions over the summer months. The Bill is scheduled for introduction to the Scottish Parliament in the autumn.

We welcome your comments on the draft Bill, whether at events this summer or by email to the Bill Team: chbillteam@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Please also contact the Bill Team if you need additional hard copies of the draft Bill pack. Electronic versions of the pack documents, and Frequently Asked Questions, can be found on the Scottish Government's Children's Hearings Bill WebPage: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/childrens-hearings-bill>.

Yours faithfully,



Shirley Laing
Deputy Director
Workforce & Capacity Issues Division

Reporters' Practice Change

By Maryanne McIntyre

SCRA is introducing changes in the autumn relating to the role of the Reporter in a Hearing.

The **new Practice Guidance** – which was developed following a series of staff workshops – comes into effect on 1 September.

Every Reporter is currently being trained in preparation for the new Practice Guidance being introduced. From 9-26 June, every Reporter is attending a half day training course about the changes to Practice Guidance.

The reason for the change to Practice Guidance is to ensure that the role of the Reporter in Children's Hearings does not compromise the independence and impartiality of the Hearing. This will ensure the Hearing complies with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Having reviewed the role of the Reporter at a Hearing, there were concerns about two aspects of the role which could be seen to taint the independence and impartiality of the Hearing. These issues were:

- If the Reporter performs an advisory role to panel members either before, during or after the Hearing; and
- If the Reporter is present with the panel members in private before or after the Hearing (even if silent).

Having considered these issues earlier this year, the Principal Reporter, concluded that some aspects of the role of the Reporter should be refined.

Tom Philliben, SCRA's Director of Reporter Operations, told the Communicator: "The new Practice Guidance was developed to allow our practice to be modified, but to ensure the ethos of the Children's Hearings system is maintained, that Reporters continue to support fair process in a Hearing, and that children and families

attending Hearings have the best possible experience."

The new Practice Guidance provisions includes:

- To restrict private contact before and after a Hearing between the Reporter and panel members to dialogue about essential arrangements regarding the Hearing; and
- During the Hearing, the Reporter will no longer act as a legal advisor, but will still be able to make representation on procedural matters.

To help develop the new guidance, SCRA held three staff workshops at the end of April in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Perth. Almost 40 members of staff took part in the workshops which looked to identify the various practical situations that are likely to require some change of practice, but also to find solutions to those situations.

Tom explained: "The workshops were a good way of getting staff – particularly Reporters – involved in the discussions to develop new Practice Guidance on this issue. There were some great suggestions at the workshops and many of the ideas have now been incorporated into the new Practice Guidance."

In addition to obtaining the views of staff, SCRA has held meetings with the Children's Hearings Training Organisers, the Children's Panel Chairmen's Group, and members of the Scottish Safeguarders Association, to explain the changes and to ensure that their views are also considered in the development of this new guidance.

In order to help panel members understand the changes and the reasons behind them, it is expected that Reporters in local areas will contribute to training sessions with panel members, along with CHTOs.

Update on Hearings Management

By Maryanne McIntyre

New figures from SCRA have revealed an increase in the number of Hearings taking place across Scotland.

The length of time taken for Hearings has also risen in the past year.

SCRA collates the figures to assist in driving up standards and ensuring better consistency in Hearings Management.

The figures for 2008/09 show:

- There were 42,866 Children's Hearings – an increase of 1.3% on 2007/08.
- More than half (54%) of Hearings took place in the morning – an increase of 1% on the previous year.
- 90% of Hearings had three or less slots per session – a rise of 3% on 2007/08.

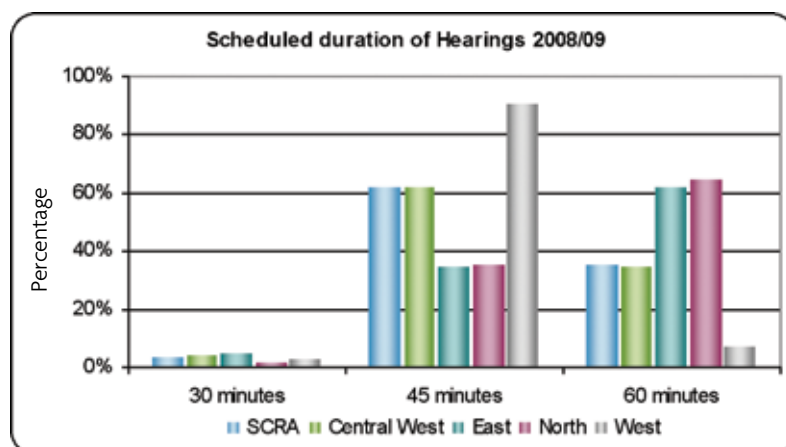
The figures also revealed a noticeable increase in the duration of Hearings – more than a third of Hearings (35%) now last longer than one hour, an increase of 7% on the previous year.

Duration of Hearings

| Scheduled duration | 30 minutes* | 45 minutes* | 60 minutes* |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of Hearings** | 1,349 | 25,951 | 14,888 |
| As a % of total Hearings | 3% | 62% | 35% |
| Change in proportion from 2007/08 | -1% | -6% | +7% |

* 30 minutes includes all Hearings scheduled to last up to 30 minutes, 45 minutes includes all Hearings scheduled to last up to 45 minutes and 60 minutes includes all other scheduled Hearings.

** Hearings in this table exclude emergency and CPO Hearings.



The proportion of Hearings with a scheduled duration of 60 minutes increased in all but North Region (which had a marginal decrease) against 2007/08. East Region had the largest increase. The durations continue to have marked differences between Regions.

Tom Philliben, SCRA's Director of Reporter Operations, said: "Although we have seen a drop in the number of referrals to the Reporter, the number of Hearings and Supervision Requirements continue to rise. These are indicators of the increased workload of Panel Members and Reporters."

Tom Philliben said the draft standards for Hearings management was currently being reviewed. He added: "We are currently working with the multi-agency group on Hearings Management to revise the draft standards and bring them up to date to reflect a greater focus on outcomes, rather than simply processes and timescales."

Members Rap SLC ANON

Panel members – who are we?
We're exactly what you see!
Mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts
Even grannies! Ain't that pants?
We're not trying to stop your fun
We just care for everyone
Just how awful can we be?
So bad we have to work for free!
Lots of papers we must scan
Every problem known to man
Mums and dads and children too
Our help we want to give to you
Do you do drink or even do drugs?
You know these things are just for mugs
Go to school! That's not for me!
What kind of future do you see?
You may not like what we will say
But bare with us and then someday
For you and all the rest
We tried to do our very best
Children are our number one
We want you all to have some fun
Before the hearing we still quake
What if we make a big mistake?
It's vital that we get it right
For your young lives we must not blight
Believe it mate! For it is true
We want the very best for you
Come to the hearing! Have your say!
Within reason, you'll get your way
Remember that our main concern
Is to keep you safe as you live and learn

And finally... a reminder

This edition of *The Communicator* has been produced by Senga Kemp, Chair of West Lothian Children's Panel, Eleanor Manson and Isabelle Jacobsen, Workforce & Capacity Issues Division.

The Communicator is your publication and we would like to hear from you. Let us know what is happening in your area. Are you doing something that would be of wider interest to other panel members? Articles should be sent to:

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