

Links between Child Protection Planning Meetings and the Scottish Children's Reporter Authority

SCRA employs a Reporter in Shetland to receive and assess referrals in respect of any child who may require compulsory measures of supervision.

The local Shetland Reporter should be invited to every initial and review Child Protection Planning Meeting as per the Shetland Inter Agency Child Protection Procedures. The decision to attend is at the discretion of the Reporter however it is likely attendance will not be routine but may depend on whether the Reporter has information to contribute to the discussion and the assessment of risk or the Reporter is gathering information to assist in making a decision about the requirement for compulsory measures in respect of a child who has already been referred.

The Executive Manager, Children's Social Work or the Team Leader can specifically request the Reporter to attend a Child Protection Planning Meeting if, in their opinion, this is required, due to the nature and seriousness of the case.

All initial and review Child Protection Planning Meeting should consider the need for compulsory measures, and only in the cases where a referral to the Reporter is decided upon should the minutes and reports available to the Planning Meeting be sent to the Reporter to accompany a referral. However, reports and minutes can be shared with the Reporter if the child is subsequently referred or the Reporter requests information following a referral. For example, a child may be reported to the Reporter by the police for an offence and the fact that the child's name is on the Register and the child is at risk of significant harm would be very important information to share with the Reporter in response to a request for an initial assessment report.

For ease of reference the Grounds of Referral are below or can be accessed by clicking on the following link Children's Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/1/contents>

Children's Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011

GROUNDNS FOR REFERRAL

Meaning of "section 67 ground"

67.

- (1) In this Act "section 67 ground", in relation to a child, means any of the grounds mentioned in subsection (2)
- (2) The grounds are that –
 - (a) the child is likely to suffer unnecessarily, or the health or development of the child is likely to be seriously impaired, due to a lack of parental care
 - (b) a schedule 1 offence has been committed in respect of the child
 - (c) the child has, or is likely to have, a close connection with a person who has committed a schedule 1 offence
 - (d) the child is, or is likely to become, a member of the same household as a child in respect of whom a schedule 1 offence has been committed
 - (e) the child is being, or is likely to be, exposed to persons whose conduct is (or has been) such that it is likely that –
 - (i) the child will be abused or harmed, or
 - (ii) the child's health, safety or development will be seriously adversely affected
 - (f) the child has, or is likely to have, a close connection with a person who has carried out domestic abuse
 - (g) the child has, or is likely to have, a close connection with a person who has committed an offence under Part 1, 4 or 5 of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 (asp9)
 - (h) the child is being provided with accommodation by a local authority under section 25 of the 1995 Act and special measures are needed to support the child
 - (i) a permanence order is in force in respect of the child and special measures are needed to support the child
 - (j) the child has committed an offence
 - (k) the child has misused alcohol
 - (l) the child has misused a drug (whether or not a controlled drug)
 - (m) the child's conduct has had, or is likely to have, a serious adverse effect on the health, safety or development of the child or another person
 - (n) the child is beyond the control of the relevant person
 - (o) the child has failed without reasonable excuse to attend regularly at school
 - (p) the child –
 - (i) has been, is being, or is likely to be, subject to physical, emotional or other pressure to enter into a civil partnership, or
 - (ii) is, or is likely to become, a member of the same household as such a child
 - (q) the child –
 - (i) has been, is being, or is likely to be forced into a marriage (that expression being construed in accordance with section 1 of the Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Act 2011 (asp 15)), or
 - (ii) is, or is likely to become, a member of the same household as such a child.

- (3) For the purposes of paragraphs (c), (f) and (g) of subsection (2), a child is to be taken to have a close connection with a person if –
- (a) the child is a member of the same household as the person, or
 - (b) the child is not a member of the same household as the person but the child has significant contact with the person.