

22. CHILDREN'S HEARINGS SCOTLAND CONSULTATION - PROPOSED NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR SCOTLAND'S CHILDREN'S

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy seeking approval for a response to be submitted to the Scottish Government on proposed national standards for Scotland's Children's Panel.

The Head of Social Policy explained that the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act was introducing significant changes to the way in which panel members were recruited, inducted, trained, supported, appraised and re-appointed. However fundamentally the ethos of the system and the role of Panel Members who participated in hearings would not change.

The Children's Hearings Scotland consultation document set out a series of standards for the work of Panel Members, Area Support Teams, the National Convener and Children's Hearings Scotland staff and board members. The standards, which were driven by a core set of values, were being developed to help realise the Children's Hearings Scotland's vision and mission statement. The report provided a summary of the eight proposed standards. It was further noted that Children's Hearing's Scotland had stated that the standards would come into place in September 2012.

The report concluded that the implementation of the proposed standards would play an important part in achieving the intended aim of providing a clear, robust and value driven framework for Panel Members and to all those who applied.

A copy of the proposed response was attached to the report at Appendix 1 and the Council Executive was invited to approve the proposed council response.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.