

REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE – 28 JANUARY 2019

REPORT ON: DUNDEE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 52-2019

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present Members with the Independent Convenor of the Child Protection Committee's annual report for the period April 2017-March 2018. This includes a summary of the work undertaken and identifies future priorities.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report (attached as Appendix 1).
- 2.2 Note the Recommendations and Future Plans identified for 2018-19 as outlined in paragraph 4.6.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 All agencies, professional bodies and services that deliver child and/or adult services and work with children and their families have a responsibility to recognise and actively consider potential risk to a child, irrespective of whether the child is the focus of their involvement.

Child Protection Committees have overall strategic responsibility for the continuous improvement of child protection policy and practice in their local areas. There are 31 child protection committees across Scotland and they consist of representatives from a range of backgrounds including the police, health services, local authorities, children services and community planning structures and relevant voluntary sector fora.

- 4.2 Although not a statutory requirement, most Child Protection Committees publish an annual report. The first such report for Dundee City was published last year. This report outlines Child Protection in the wider Protecting People context before examining the progress made in strengthening arrangements for the protection of children in Dundee. It also details management information relating to key child protection processes across the partnership.
- 4.3 Last year saw the development of the Dundee Child Protection Delivery Plan and the report offers a summary of the Key Achievements and Areas Identified for Further Development as well as work undertaken across NHS Tayside in respect of Continuous Improvement. Progress is also detailed in respect of the Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families as well as activity relating to Information, Engagement and Communication. The report concludes by outlining Recommendations and Future Plans.
- 4.4 The report includes a focus on identified priorities and showcases examples of work being undertaken to provide support to specific risk groups. Namely:

- **Focus on Alcohol and Substance Use**

- Key to Change

- **Focus on Domestic Abuse**

- **Focus on Child Sexual Exploitation**

RISE

- **Focus on Neglect**

Addressing Neglect and Enhancing Wellbeing (ANEW)

4.5 Key Achievements detailed in the report include.

- The revision of Dundee Integrated Children's Services System staged intervention process and guidance.
- Review of the multi-agency child protection procedures. "Dundee Child Protection Committee's Interagency Child Protection Operational Instructions"
- The Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) Improvement Programme has continued to be developed across Dundee.
- Further development of the Reducing the Impact of Sexual Exploitation (RISE) project in partnership with Barnardo's, Police Scotland and Comic Relief.
- Dundee is one of three Community Planning Partnerships, to take forward the ANEW strand of the National Child Protection Improvement Programme which has a specific focus on neglect and wellbeing.
- Further development of the Safe and Together Approach to address the number of children and young people affected by domestic abuse.
- Child Protection training has been refreshed and more clearly set in the context of GIRFEC and has now been delivered to 550 staff across the partnership.
- An increase in the number of staff designated to operate as Child Protection Buddies supported by Children 1st to promote more meaningful family engagement in child protection processes.
- The development of public facing materials to support the identification and reporting of Child Protection concerns.
- An expansion of both the Child Protection Forum and Chief Officer Engagement Activity.

4.6 Dundee Child Protection Committee has identified six priority areas recommended for further development over the next year. Specifically:

Recommendation One: We will improve the integrity, collation and presentation of data to Dundee Child Protection Committee and Chief Officers Group to better inform decision making and the monitoring of progress.

Recommendation Two: We will undertake a review of roles, core functions and membership of Dundee Child Protection Committee.

Recommendation Three: We will consider the Recommendations from The Thematic Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection through the Public Protection Improvement Programme, monitor and evaluate progress with regular reports to the Committee and identify specific areas for development in respect of Child Protection.

Recommendation Four: We will develop a working culture across the partnership whereby multi-agency self-evaluation activity is planned, supported and quality assured. The Child Protection Committee will seek to bring together single and multi-agency self-evaluation activity into an integrated picture, including supporting preparation for inspections as and when appropriate.

Recommendation Five: We will work with our partners across Tayside to deliver on the priorities identified by the Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families.

Recommendation Six: We will ensure that learning from Initial and Significant Case Reviews are applied in the context of Child Protection across Dundee.

Work has already begun to address a number of these recommendations, including through collaboration with the other Child Protection Committees across Tayside. The full participation of a range of council services in multi-agency working is critical to the full implementation of the recommendations over the coming year. Officers from the Council are active participants in multi-agency child protection governance and strategic planning structures and the Chief Social Work Officers provide professional oversight and advice regarding the protection of children and young people at risk.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainable Development, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Integrated Impact Assessment and Risk Management.
- 5.2 There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Council's Management Team have been consulted in preparation of this report.

In addition, the Chief Officers Group (Protecting People) and the Dundee Child Protection Committee have contributed to the production of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

Paul Clancy
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dundee Child Protection Committee



Annual Report

April 2017 - March 2018

www.dundeeprotectschildren.co.uk



**Dundee
Child Protection
Committee**

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Introduction

Independent Chair of Dundee Child Protection Committee

Welcome to our Dundee Child Protection Annual Report 2017-18: this report covers the period 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

For the second consecutive year I am very pleased to present this overview report of our multi-agency activity for the past year. This report identifies our achievements; both key strengths and areas for further improvement. It also describes our capacity for improvement and our ambitious improvement programme and work plan for the next year. It is certainly our aim to have in place a refreshed and updated website and to publish updated multi-agency child protection instructions by the end of 2018; each of these will reflect the significant changes in child protection legislation, policy and practice which have taken, and continue to take place.

In order to ensure that Dundee has an effective child protection committee we have, in partnership with the Scottish Government Improvement Service, undertaken a Dundee Child Protection Committee Self-Assessment exercise in order to identify our high level priorities for the upcoming year. Identified priorities include the need to ensure that the committee is provided with relevant, good quality data to better inform decision making and to support the committee in its role as a multi-agency scrutiny body. It is also our intention to further develop a working culture across the partnership whereby multi-agency self-evaluation activity is planned, supported and quality assured.

We are also keen to ensure that we work in partnership with the public and continue with our **“If Not You, Who?”** campaign to raise awareness of their role in the protection of children and young people in Dundee. The campaign, together with the publication of the booklet “Protecting People of All Ages” (which provides information for people who have concerns about harm and ensures that they are directed to the right public protection agency) and our refreshed website, will, it is hoped further our ambition of a city which provides *“...the protection children and young people need, when they need it, to protect them from harm”*.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the hard work, commitment and dedication of staff, who, working in partnership, continue to realise the city’s ambition of **“...creating a community which is healthy, safe, confident, educated and empowered”**. (City Plan for Dundee 2017 – 2026).



Norma Ritchie
Independent Chair
Dundee Child Protection Committee

Protecting People



“Dundee’s future lies with its people. They deserve the best this city can give them. We will provide the protection they need, when they need it, to keep them safe from harm.”

Key Principles of Protecting People

The protection of people in Dundee is part of the overall provision of services that will deliver positive outcomes for people in Dundee.

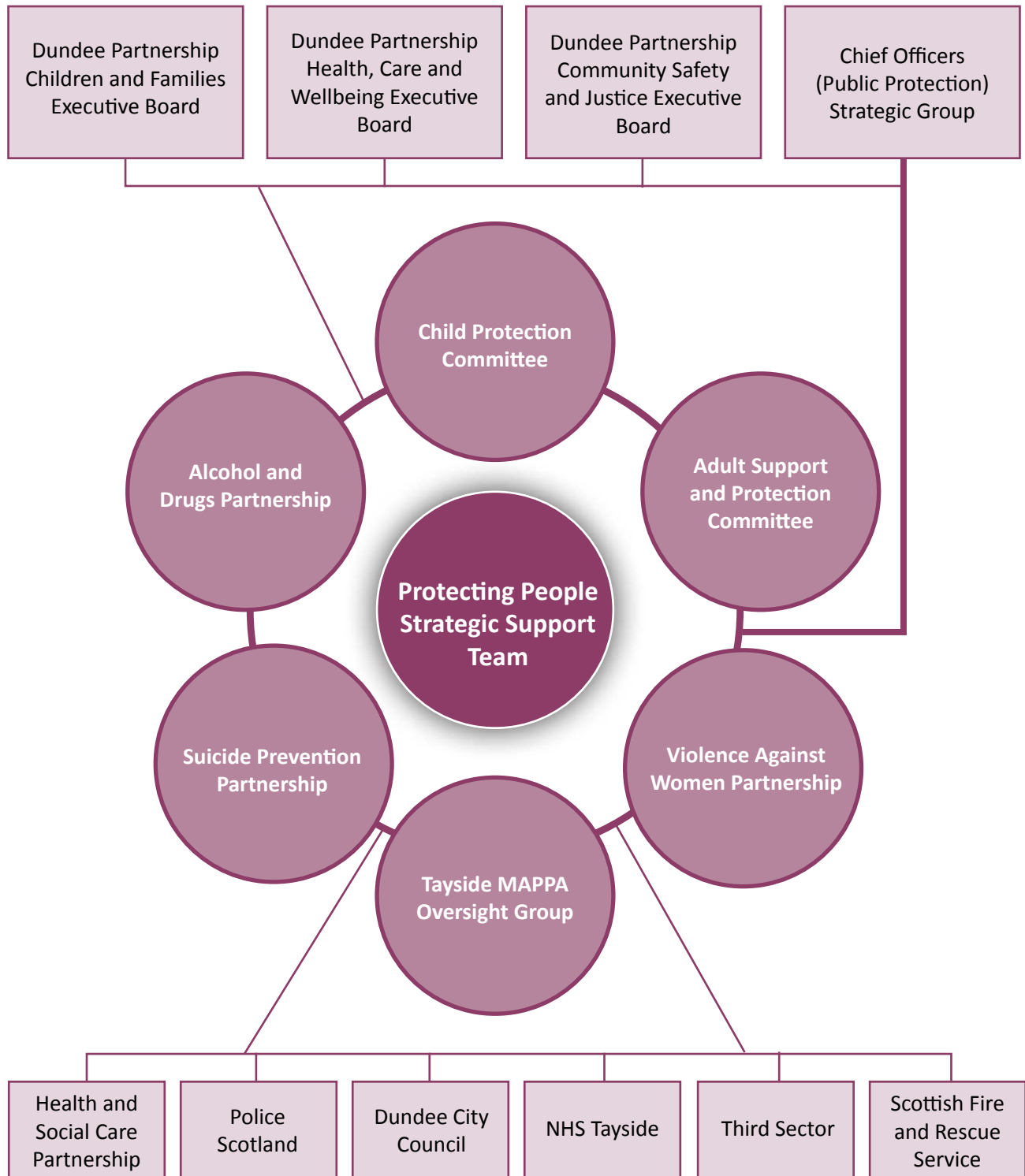
The people delivering those services will have the knowledge, skills and experience to deliver quality services.

We will deliver our vision by working in partnership across the statutory (Dundee City Council, NHS Tayside, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) and voluntary sector.

We will work with our partners in other local authority areas, both in Tayside and throughout Scotland, to improve services to protect people and work towards a consistent approach.

The wider Protecting People strategic agenda in Dundee City is led by a number of key public protection partnerships - these include the Adult Support and Protection Committee, the Child Protection Committee, the Violence Against Women Partnership and the MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group, all reporting to the Chief Officers Group (COG). Over the last year, the Protecting People Strategic Support Team has broadened its responsibility to include suicide prevention and displaced persons.

The Chief Officers Group is the strategic forum for public protection in Dundee with responsibility for shaping the operational development of the public protection arrangement. As such it will work through public safety and partnership committees statutory and otherwise to assess risk and to work to reduce it. The image below illustrates the relationship between the various bodies and groups to protect the people of Dundee.



Child Protection



All agencies, professional bodies and services that deliver child and/ or adult services and work with children and their families have a responsibility to recognise and actively consider potential risk to a child, irrespective of whether the child is the focus of their involvement. Child Protection Committees have overall strategic responsibility for the continuous improvement of child protection policy and practice in their local areas. There are 31 child protection committees across Scotland and they consist of representatives from a range of backgrounds including the police, health services, local authorities, children services and community planning structures and relevant voluntary sector fora amongst others.

Child Protection in Dundee

Dundee is home to 23,889 children and young people under the age of 16 (General Records of Scotland), most of whom live in safe and nurturing home environments where they are supported to develop and reach their full potential.

It is widely recognised that children and young people living in poverty often have poorer outcomes than their more affluent peers. Deprivation is a significant issue for Dundee with almost half of its children and young people, **11, 665 (43.4%)**, living in communities identified as the most deprived in Scotland.

Deprivation also contributes to the prevalence of other health and social inequalities such as alcohol and substance misuse, physical and mental health and domestic violence and these in turn and recognised as contributory factors to the abuse and neglect of children.

However, any child, from any background, living in any community can be at risk of abuse or neglect and we all share a responsibility to protect children from harm.

All local authority areas have a responsibility to provide supports and services to minimise risk and protect children and young people. This includes raising awareness amongst the public, supporting the development of our community as well as the provision of a structure by which risks can be identified, responded to and, where necessary, appropriate proportionate action taken.

Child Protection Committees

Child Protection Committees were first established in each local authority area across Scotland in 1991. Since then, they have been subject to many reforms and reviews, in particular in 2005 when they were strengthened as part of the then Scottish Executive's Child Protection Reform Programme.

Child Protection Committees are locally based, inter-agency strategic partnerships responsible for the design, development, publication, distribution, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of child protection policy and practice across the public, private and wider third sectors in their locality and in partnership across Scotland. Their role, through their respective local structures and memberships, is to provide individual and collective leadership and direction for the management of child protection services across Scotland. They work in partnership with their respective Chief Officers' Groups and the Scottish Government to take forward child protection policy and practice across Scotland.



Dundee Child Protection Committee

The Dundee Child Protection Committee core membership consists of representatives of key stakeholder agencies, namely...



The committee is chaired by an independent chairperson contracted to fulfil this role by Dundee City Council on behalf of Dundee Child Protection Committee. The Vice Chair role is undertaken by the Service Manager, Strategy and Performance Team, Children and Families Service, Dundee City Council.

There may be more than one representative of a partnership agency, for example, The Chief Social Work Officer for Dundee City attends together with a Learning and Organisation Development Officer. The committee also has a number of minuted members who are not required to attend every meeting. In addition, the Lead officer is neither a core nor minuted member but provides the necessary support for the committee. Full details of the membership of Dundee Child Protection Committee can be found in **Appendix 1**.

The work of the Dundee Child Protection Committee takes place within a framework on both a local and national level. The committee is represented in a Tayside collaborative as well as the Central and North Scotland Child Protection Committee Consortium and Scottish National Chairs and Lead Officers group. Over the past 12 months this has provided an opportunity to share learning and experiences and develop areas for joint working in an effort to further develop continuous improvement of child protection policy and practice.

The Child Protection Process



The following summarises key management information relating to the formal Child Protection process.

The Child Protection process is one end of a spectrum of staged interventions applied across the partnership in Dundee to address concerns in respect of children and young people. Social Work come into contact with a very small number of families, with the majority not requiring any additional support at all. All children will, however, at various stages have ongoing input from health or education professionals and it is these services that are often the first point of contact to recognise and respond to issues of concern. When a child or young person is identified as having significant additional support or wellbeing needs, a written plan describing these needs and how they might be met is prepared. This involves a “Team around the Child” (TAtC) meeting which includes parents, the child or young person and any other professional agencies who may provide support.

Most Team around the Child meetings will not result in statutory child protection procedures, the presenting issues being adequately addressed by the appropriate agencies at the appropriate stage.

Similarly, Police Scotland operate a “Risk and Concern Hub” ensuring that all concerns raised are assessed appropriately and where wellbeing concerns are identified, relevant and proportionate information is shared with partners in a timely manner to enable the necessary additional support from all partner services.

**Last year police in Dundee were involved in over
child concern incidents.**

800

The chart below details the prevalence of concerns as identified by the Police Scotland response to child concern incidents.

Percentage of reported concerns as identified by Police Scotland



Domestic abuse is by far the largest concern resulting in police involvement. However it should be noted that there may be a number of concerns identified from a single incident.

For a small number of children and young people it may be necessary to address the identified risk by way of statutory child protection procedures. This involves a referral to Local Authority for assessment / investigation.

510 new referrals made to the Local Authority relating to child protection concerns in 2017/18, an increase of 100.

Referrals have increased 25% over the past year. This may be reflective of a greater awareness of child risk issues with the public and across the partnership and relates, in part, to the awareness raising activity carried out across the city. It is also demonstrative of the changing nature of the risk and concerns being reported, for example, young people sharing inappropriate digital images may result in multiple referrals depending upon the number of young people involved. Our screening and intake services report an increased awareness of risk and protection issues amongst young people themselves which has led to increased episodes of disclosure to named persons and child protection officers.

Some of these referrals may not relate to risk that requires a statutory response, however where it is suspected that a child or young person has suffered, is suffering or maybe at risk of harm or abuse then a joint assessment of this risk is undertaken.

398 Interagency Referral Discussions took place across Dundee in 2017/18 in relation to 367 children. This is a slight increase on previous years of 20 (6%).

An Interagency Referral Discussion (IRD) is the first stage in the process of a joint child protection investigation and assessment. The purpose of an IRD is to discuss the concerns raised and to further consider them in the context of what is known about the child, their family, including siblings and children connected through adult relationships and the particular circumstances in which they live.

410 Child Protection Investigations recorded in 2017/18. An increase of 179 (77%) on the same period last year. Accounting for changes in recording processes over the last year this equates to a comparable increase of 90 (39%).

Although this year's figures seem to indicate a startling (77%) increase in investigations recorded this can be explained, in part, by a change in the process by which investigations are identified and recorded. Once this is taken into account a comparable increase of 39% (321) investigations is calculated.

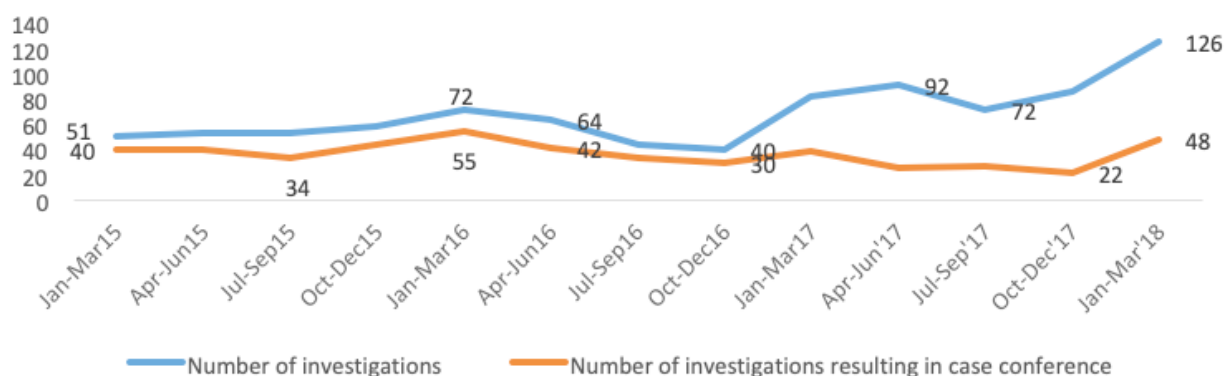
Nevertheless this is indicative of a significant increase in investigative activity.

An initial child protection case conference (ICPCC) is held if the child is assessed as being at risk of significant harm, so that all of the relevant professionals can share information, identify risks and outline what needs to be done to protect the child.

Any agency may request a Case Conference and Social Work Services are responsible for responding to the request. A significant part of the function of the case conference is to determine if a child's name should be entered onto the Child Protection Register.

140 initial case conferences held in 2017/18, all but two resulted in registration.

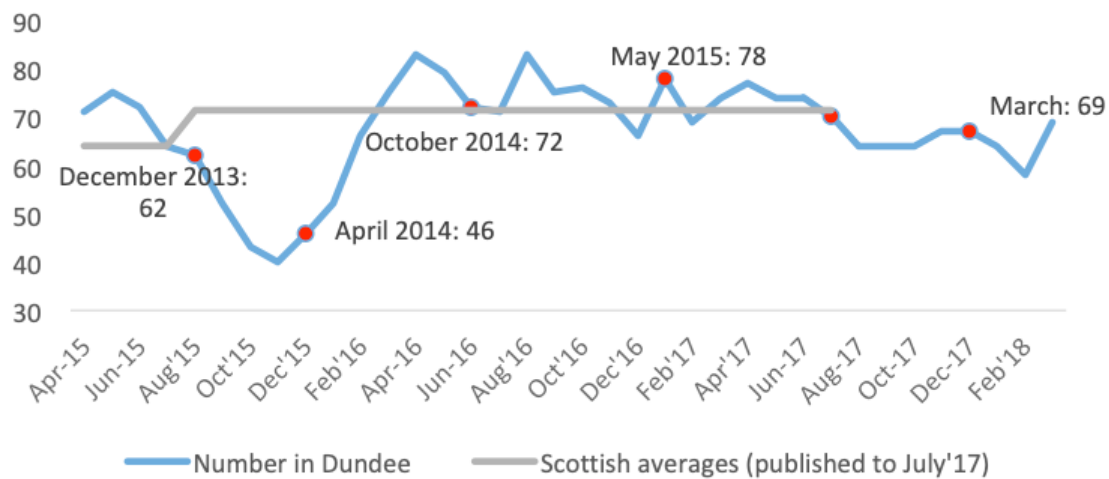
Number of investigations per quarter and number progressing to case conference



Every local authority area in Scotland has a child protection register, which is a list of children who may be at risk of current or future harm. A child's name (including unborn babies) will be entered onto the register when they are believed to be at actual or potential risk of significant harm. The number of children whose names are on the register at any given time will vary.

69 children and young people were on the Child Protection register for Dundee on 31st March 2018

Number of children on the Child Protection Register since April 2015



Children's names can be entered onto the register for a variety of reasons relating to identified risk.

A child's name will remain on the register until it has been agreed by a Child Protection Review Case Conference that they are no longer at risk of significant harm. This may be because the issues identified as placing them at risk have been addressed and no longer warrant registration, the child has been made subject to a supervision order by way of a Children's Hearing or the child is being cared for by someone else in a living environment other than the one in which they were considered to be at risk. This may be with relatives or family friends (kinship care) or in a foster placement or residential establishment.

95% Between April 2017 and March 2018 95% of children deregistered had their names removed from the CP register within 12 months of the original registration date with 49% having their names removed from the CP register within 6 months of the original registration date.

If, at any point during the child protection process, a child is considered to be in immediate danger, an order can be made through the sheriff court. A child protection order (CPO) can be issued to immediately remove a child from circumstances that put them at risk, or to keep a child in a place of safety (e.g. a hospital). Anyone can apply to the sheriff for a CPO although in practice this is normally undertaken by the local authority. These emergency measures allow time to decide the best way to protect a child. This may involve a case conference and possibly care proceedings.

31 CPO's granted in Dundee during 2017-18, a significant reduction on the previous year's figures. (42)

Indicator	2016-17	2017-18	Trend Analysis
New referrals to Local Authority	410	510	⬆ Increase 25%
Child Protection Investigations	231	410	⬆ Increase 77%
Child Protection Investigations (allowing for changes in recording)	231	321	⬆ Increase 39%
Initial Case Conferences Held	145	140	➡ Stable
Registrations as of 31 st March	77	69	➡ Stable
Child Protection Orders Granted	47	32	⬇ Decrease 32%

In summary

Although there has been a significant increase in the reporting and investigation of Child Protection concerns this has not been converted into an increase in Case Conferences convened or registrations.

This is indicative of both an increased awareness of Child Protection and risk issues across Dundee and the development of the named person across Dundee. Hence more concerns being reported and requiring investigation.

Case Conferences remained relatively stable over the past 12 months with a significant increase in the last quarter. Similarly, registrations were consistent with a slight decrease during the third quarter of the year.

The 32% decrease in the number of Child Protection Orders granted is illustrative of the joint work undertaken between Dundee City Council Children and Families Service and the Scottish Children's Reporters Administration to address this issue. There has been a consistent decrease in the use of Child Protection Orders since a peak of 79 in the year 2013-14.

Dundee Child Protection Delivery Plan 2017-18 Key Achievements and Areas for Further Development



Dundee Child Protection Committee Annual Report April 2016 – March 2017 detailed the Delivery Plan for 2017 -2018. This set out our long term goals detailing not what we could measure but rather what we needed to do.

It also introduced the Child Protection Delivery Group as a means by which identified actions would be progressed and Key Performance Indicators reported and analysed.

The committee reviewed this arrangement early in 2018 and concluded that it was more practicable to transfer the format of the delivery group from a physical meeting to a digital environment with progress reports being provided to the CPC on a quarterly basis.

The following summarises the progress achieved over the time covered by this report and identifies further areas for development.

Long Term Outcome

Improve outcomes for children and young people identified as being at risk of significant harm, including those at risk from domestic abuse, substance misuse sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation (CSE) and neglect.

We will reduce risk of significant harm and ensure appropriate support is provided where early concerns are identified.

Dundee Integrated Children's Services System staged intervention process and guidance has been reviewed and revised.

This includes clear definitions of each stage of the process as well as an agreed hierarchy of need. The role of the named person and lead professional is clearly defined within the context of Dundee and operational guidance including procedural instruction is now available to all partners.

Work has continued throughout the year on reviewing the multi-agency child protection procedures. "Dundee Child Protection Committees Interagency Child Protection Operational Instructions" will be formally launched in the Autumn of 2018 supported by a programme of engagement and awareness raising activity as well as a review of single and multi-agency guidance relating to specific areas of Child Protection and Protecting People.

The new operational instructions can be found at:

www.dundeeprotectschildren.co.uk/sites/default/files/docs/Inter-AgencyCPIInstructions.pdf

The Getting It right for Every Child (GIRFEC) Improvement Programme has continued to be developed across Dundee. This includes the Addressing Neglect and Enhancing Wellbeing (ANEW) Programme, as well as the development of shared priorities across the Children and Families Service and Health and Social Care Partnership.

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We will reduce the number of children and young people affected by sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation

The past year has seen the further development of the Reducing the Impact of Sexual Exploitation (RISE) project in partnership with Barnardo's, Police Scotland, and Comic Relief.

A Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Advisor from Barnardo's is embedded within the Risk and Concern Hub. The Advisor role takes a proactive, multiagency approach, aiming to ensure effective systems and supports are in place to identify and robustly respond to CSE. The Advisor works in partnership with Police Scotland and other key agencies – by sharing skills, specialist knowledge, and intelligence – in order to provide a coordinated response to CSE.

The CSE advisor in Dundee has made a considerable contribution to the development and delivery of Dundee's Child Sexual Exploitation Plan.

An evaluation of the project is currently being undertaken by Stirling University and will report early in 2019.

We will reduce the number of children and young people affected by substance misuse

The period covered by this report has seen significant developments in the role of the Dundee Alcohol and Drug Partnership. One of the key priorities for the ADP includes: "ensuring that children who are at risk of early initiation into alcohol and drug use, and / or are at risk of exposure to harm in family settings where substances are misused - have improved life chances and are safe." An example of this is detailed in the next section of this report.

We will reduce the number of children and young people affected by neglect

Dundee is one of three Community Planning Partnerships, to take forward the ANEW strand of the national Child Protection Improvement Programme. This is focusing upon addressing neglect and enhancing wellbeing across the city. This activity draws together a comprehensive and diverse range of developments that reflect national, regional and local priorities with the shared, collective aim to improve outcomes for children and families in Dundee.

A summary of this activity is detailed in the next section of this report.

We will reduce the number of children and young people affected by domestic abuse.

Dundee began introducing Safe and Together in 2016 with the first cohort of training taking place in conjunction with Fife Council. This was followed with another program of training in 2017. This compliments the work already underway with a Domestic Abuse Resource Worker now located within Intake Services at Seymour House. In addition to operating in an advisory capacity for domestic abuse cases direct work is now undertaken with perpetrators of domestic abuse.

We will promote a multi-agency learning culture in respect of Child Protection.

Over the last year a training programme was designed and a schedule of workshops delivered with 550 places available.

An open education learning resource was launched in February 2018. The Protecting People Learning and Development Framework and the Dundee open educational resource signposts to a full range of additional learning resources and options across the workforce groups. Practitioner Forums / CP Forum / COG events / locality events all provide additional focussed learning and development opportunities.

The full range of multi-agency training is updated and is being promoted on the Protecting People website, where the current multi-agency guidance is also now located.

Full details of the Learning and Organisational opportunities available can be found at: www.dundeeprotectschildren.co.uk/professionals/learning-and-development

We will provide children and young people with opportunities to be listened to and heard at all stages of the child protection process

The Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (Priority Group 5) has undertaken a comparison of opportunities for children and young people to be heard throughout the Child Protection process. This will help inform future developments across Dundee and the wider Tayside area. In addition, there has been an increase in the training of Child Protection Buddies supported by Children 1st to promote more meaningful family engagement.

We will promote public identification and reporting of Child Protection concerns

Dundee CPC has led on the development of public facing materials promoting the identification and reporting of Child Protection concerns. This is detailed in the Information, Engagement & Communication section of this report.

We will ensure that learning and outcomes from above is communicated in the right way at the right time to the right audience

Similarly, the past year has seen a focus upon workforce engagement with an expansion of both the Child Protection forum and Chief Officer Engagement Activity.

NHS Tayside: Continuous Improvement



A wide range of work has been undertaken throughout 2017/2018 to strengthen and develop services to protect children and young people in NHS Tayside. Significant achievements include developments in how information is shared across partner agencies and measures to support staff across the organisation to ensure they confidently engage with others when concerned about a child.

Generic Email Boxes

Sharing relevant information at the right time between partner agencies is fundamental to the protection of unborn babies, children and young people who are at risk of harm. An important development in September 2017 was the establishment of two centralised generic email boxes, hosted in NHS Tayside, which support information flow and partnership working. The boxes receive and distribute information relating to practitioner concerns about children and young people. Standardised processes and monitoring arrangements ensure any delays in information flow are minimised enabling timely and appropriate partnership responses to protect vulnerable children and young people.

Child Protection Advice Line

NHS Tayside's centralised telephone child protection staff advice line provides advice on child protection matters and signposts staff to other agencies when needed, Mon - Fri 9.00am - 4.30pm (excluding Public Holidays). In addition to the support given to those working in children and young people's services contacts from services including Sexual Health, Mental Health, General Practitioners and Social Work accounted for 61% of all contacts in 2017/2018 indicating increased staff child protection awareness across the wider organisation.

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Child Protection Training & Case Supervision Programmes

NHS Tayside has a responsibility to ensure that all staff have the appropriate skill level for the role that they undertake. A refreshed programme of training reflecting learning from both national and local child protection reviews was developed and a comprehensive training programme that included mandatory Child Protection e-learning for all staff, core child protection training and training on specific areas including Neglect, Working with Hostile and Non Engaging Families, Assessment & Decision Making Skills and Child Sexual Exploitation was available to all staff.

885 staff attended NHS Tayside Child protection training sessions appropriate to their role over the last year.

For staff involved in the day-to-day work with children, young people and families, effective supervision is important to promote good standards of practice and to supporting individual staff members to understand their roles, responsibilities and identify their training and developmental needs. An enhanced model of robust child protection supervision targeting key front line practitioners i.e. Health Visitors, Family Nurses, Community Midwives, School Nurses and Looked after Children (LAC) Nurses and other key staff groups i.e. Medical, Nursing or Allied Health Professionals who come into direct contact with children and young people was implemented across NHS Tayside in 2017/2018. This process ensures practitioner access to appropriate and timely specialist support when there are emerging risks and concerns about children and young people. Implementation of this programme was supported by the delivery of a bespoke training programme for supervisors and managers.

Focus on Priorities



The Dundee Child Protection Committee Annual report 2016-2017 identified four priority areas for the focus of Child Protection activity - domestic abuse, substance misuse, child sexual abuse/exploitation and neglect.

Across the city there are a number of organizations and services providing support, advice and guidance in respect of the identified priorities.

The following section gives examples of one such provision for each of the identified areas.

Focus on Alcohol and Substance Use

Key to Change

Key to Change is a Young Persons Drug & Alcohol Service delivered by Gowrie Care to provide support to young people aged 12 – 17 affected by their own drug and alcohol use.

The service provides one to one support as well as individual and group outreach work. Specific input (including prevention work) is also delivered in collaboration with secondary schools in Dundee.

A tiered model of intervention is applied as follows;

Tier 1 - generically raising awareness

Tier 2 - provides drug & alcohol prevention work to groups and on a 1-2-1 basis

Tier 3 - provides prevention and therapeutic support to individuals affected by drug and alcohol issues

During 2017-18 the service received 53 referrals for young people.

The following table illustrates the age and gender breakdown of these referrals.

Referral Breakdown of Referrals by Age and Gender

	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	TOTAL
Male	2	5	8	16	5	5	1	42
Female	1	0	2	6	2	0	0	11

The above table illustrates that males outnumber females by a ratio of almost 4:1 in respect of the referrals made to the service. It is also the case that fifteen year olds make up 41% (n. 24) of the total referrals.

The majority of the referrals (24) 45% are made from schools, with the The Helm (Career and Supportive Learning) accounting for a further 17% of the referrals.

The table below outlines the specific substances used by the young people referred to the service, and illustrates the primary, secondary and tertiary substances used by the young people.

Substances Used (reported at Initial Assessment)

Substance at time of Referral	Primary Substance used	Secondary Substance used	Tertiary Substance used
Alcohol	5	12	4
Cannabis	32	4	1
Cocaine	2	1	2
Ecstasy	2	5	4
Heroin			
Ketamine			
Solvents			
Valium			
Speed		1	
Synthetic Cannabinoids			
NPS			
Prescribed Medication			
Other			

Cannabis use features as the highest substance, with alcohol identified as the next most prevalent.

Of the active service users accessing the service on 31st March 2017, 25 (50%) completed their involvement with the service and were discharged on a planned basis.

In addition to the one to one support, 220 young people were provided with substance misuse prevention support and advice; 175 young people attended awareness sessions at drop-ins; and 540 young people accessed the drama & dance tours focussing on the impact of substance use.

Key to Change is one example of support being offered to young people identified as at risk from substance use and compliments the work already undertaken by organisations such as Tayside Counsel on Alcohol, Addaction and services offered by The Corner health, information and peer led services for young people.

Focus on Domestic Abuse

Dundee Women's Aid Children and Young Persons Service

Dundee Women's Aid has been supporting women, children and young people who are experiencing Domestic Abuse for almost 40 years.

The service works individually with a child or young person who is allocated their own keyworker. The keyworker uses issue based resources to work through feelings and records this in the child or young person's individual journey (Support Plan) and offers a safe and consistent place to discuss/work through feelings. Individual work takes place with children and young people who are living in refuge accommodation or on an outreach basis and any supporting documentation is collated in a "My Journey" book at the end of support.

The book contains the child or young person's safety plan, support plan, evidence of sessions (outcomes covered) photographs, evaluations and art work. The book is theirs to keep and look back on in times of need. It also gives their mother/care giver a chance to look through and discuss the issues that have been covered. There is a clear start, middle and end to support by using the journey and children and young people are very proud of their journey books.

The service also delivers age appropriate focused group programs lasting 8 weeks. This covers topics considered to be most prevalent in young people's lives in Dundee; bullying, domestic abuse, healthy relationships, friendships, conflict, equality and gender roles feature regularly. This approach encourages children and young people to realise that they are not alone and are able to seek support, strength and understanding from their peers contributing to the building of strong positive relationships.

The team also deliver family work which highlights the effects of domestic abuse and provides a therapeutic support system for the family to recover and develop more positive relationships. The CYP support workers support information sessions for parents to consider the effects on children and young people when they have experienced domestic abuse and the effect this can have on their behaviour.

Using the Solihull approach support workers will share this information in a supportive and contained way to help the mums understand why their children may be behaving in a certain way. The CYP team have a presence in schools across the city, through providing outreach support sessions to children, assisting with health drop-ins and also by way of a prevention worker who delivers awareness raising and training to children, young people and professionals.

During 2017/18, 118 children and young people accessed the service. The following case study outlines the experience of two such children.

Case study:

"A referral was made from social work to Dundee Women's Aid Children and Young Peoples Service regarding a family with two children who had recently been exposed to a violent assault on their mother by her then partner who was in prison. As the perpetrator was released earlier than first thought the support for the children took this into account.

The children's names were placed on the child protection register due to the severity of the incident and the significant risk of another happening. The children were subsequently referred to the children's reporter in order to put measures in place to keep them safe.

Concerns were raised regarding the effect the incident had had on the children and the risk further exposure to the perpetrator may have for them when he was to be released. Although initially wary of engaging with services Mum agreed to support for the children first and then for herself.

The children, during the support sessions were given time to share their account of what had happened and address their feelings surrounding it. Safety plans were discussed with the children including what they would do in an emergency, what they would do if mum's ex-partner approached them and who they felt their safe people were to go to for help if they needed to.

Due to the eldest having ADHD she required additional support in recognising and managing her feelings. Support sessions were adapted to ensure that she could cope with the issues being addressed and to give her the best chance of understanding what had happened in her family. The younger child, due to his emotional needs, required a gentle, calming approach towards the difficult issues and addressing the assault on his mother. The children, throughout support, presented with mixed feelings regarding any future contact with mum's ex-partner and due to their age and needs appeared to be unaware of the level of risk to them. The children's views were sought during the support sessions and shared at the relevant child protection meetings to ensure their views and opinions were taken into account.

The children, after being placed on interim compulsory supervision orders were placed on a twelve month compulsory supervision order after grounds of domestic abuse were established. The order included a no contact order with mum's ex-partner due to the level of risk to the children's well-being.

During the course of support, Social Work colleagues felt that mum was not able to accept that she was experiencing domestic abuse and they were concerned that this presented

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safety issues for both her and the children. The Women's Aid Children's Services Manager visited mum together with the children's support worker to see if applying the safe and together approach would help. With this approach the aim is to partner with the non-abusing parent, keep the child/children safe and together with the non-abusing parent and hold the perpetrator fully accountable as the source of risk to the family.

The workers talked through the woman's life so far and how these experiences had impacted on her as an adult in an attempt to build a relationship with her to enable mum to have honest discussions. By partnering in this way it meant mum was able open up about her experiences because she did not feel judged or blamed for the situation she was currently in. This gave workers the ability to gain a greater understanding of the situation and therefore of the risks the family were facing. The Safe and Together approach advocates that this is the only way to truly assess risk as the non-abusing partner is the person who knows the full extent of the coercive control and the full range of specific tactics used by the perpetrator. In this situation mum had previously felt that she was being held accountable rather than the perpetrator and this had contributed to hostile relationships with agencies.

As it was felt to be a significant factor the workers attempted to understand why she would not name her experience as domestic abuse. The woman was able to explain that her life with her partner was better than her early childhood experiences and this helped workers understand that to her, even being with a violent partner was an improvement on what had happened to her in the past and therefore, she didn't recognise it as abusive in a way that someone else might. Over time mum showed emotion and acknowledged that the fighting between herself and her partner was not ok and it was not ok for her children to witness it.

It was discussed with mum what she did to keep her children safe, mum recognised that, even though she loved her partner she knew she could not be with him because the fighting was not good for the children so she had separated from him. She also called the police when he approached her. Mum was engaging with the children's service from Women's Aid and during discussion it was clear that mum might benefit from speaking with someone about her past. This was progress, mum had opened up and had shown a vulnerable side. Mum was not yet able to name her experience with her partner as domestic abuse but was able to see that it was not healthy or safe for the children to be exposed to it.

Mum engaged with a women's aid support worker and latterly a counsellor to address the abuse that she had been subjected to.

The family are currently supported by the Children and Families Service and the Team Around the Child process."

Focus on Child Sexual Exploitation

Funded by Barnardo's, Police Scotland, and Comic Relief, (Reducing the Impact of Sexual Exploitation) RISE is a partnership between Barnardo's and Police Scotland. The project was launched, as a two year pilot, in December 2016. The pilot operates in Aberdeen and Dundee.

Within the context of the pilot, the Scottish Government's National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (2014, and Update March 2016) is highly relevant. In line with the Action Plan, the pilot project recognises that preventing and tackling child sexual exploitation (CSE) requires a co-ordinated, multi-agency response, in which effective work with children, young people, parents, and carers, requires skilled practitioners, and "must be accompanied by work to detect, disrupt and prosecute perpetrators and reduce re-offending".

The pilot relates to achieving a number of the Scottish Government's National Outcomes, and is designed to contribute to achieving progress towards the Scottish Government's aim of eliminating CSE in Scotland, which in turn contributes to the Scottish Government's vision of making Scotland the best place in the world to grow up in.

CSE Advisors from Barnardo's are embedded within local child protection arrangements, and are co-located within Police Scotland Divisions in the two pilot sites. The Advisor roles take a proactive, multiagency approach, aiming to ensure effective systems and supports are in place to identify and robustly respond to CSE. Advisors work in partnership with Police Scotland and other key agencies – by sharing skills, specialist knowledge, and intelligence – in order to provide a coordinated response to CSE.

Within Dundee the CSE Advisor role has, to date, focused primarily on:

- Enabling culture and systems change, in order to embed effective responses to CSE into existing arrangements
- Capacity building, through awareness raising and training across a wide range of professionals (and others) involved in supporting children and young people – this has involved, for example, work with police, schools, housing, social work, local Multi-Agency Screening Hub (MASH), sexual health clinics, residential care workers, and community safety wardens, as well as work with foster carers, and parents/carers
- Working in consultation with Police Scotland, to coordinate intelligence information, to assist in improving identification and disruption of perpetrators and perpetrator networks, in order to protect current victims and prevent potential victims of CSE.

The CSE advisor in Dundee has made a considerable contribution to the development and delivery of Dundee's Child Sexual Exploitation Plan.

An evaluation of RISE is currently being undertaken by Stirling University and will report early in 2019.

Focus on Neglect

Addressing Neglect and Enhancing Wellbeing (ANEW)

In 2016 The Scottish Government and the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS) selected Dundee City to take forward the ANEW strand of the national Child Protection Improvement Programme.

The past year has seen a significant amount of progress, specifically;

- Robust exploration of how neglect manifests itself and is currently addressed across sectors, resulting in identification and clear definition of three strands of work, namely;
 - Co-ordinated and quicker access to resources to address unmet need
 - Support for Named Persons
 - More meaningful family engagement
- Careful selection of first 'target group' for testing and installing changes i.e. pupils at three primary schools and their younger siblings
- Forming and supporting implementation teams within each of the 3 schools, as well as within the Dundee Health Visiting Service, to build capacity for sustainable change
- Testing of several changes in each site designed to promote improved family engagement with services and better joint working, including:
 - Team Around the Child (TAtC) meetings without minutes
 - TAtC environment changes
 - The 'Meetings Buddy' approach
 - Health Visitor Named Person's chairing pre-school TATC meetings
- Significant progress towards a suite of tools to ensure that changes are implemented with fidelity and have the desired outcomes/impact, including: a Named Person practice profile, a Meetings Buddy practice profile, feedback tools on TAtC process for children and parents, TAtC meeting observation tools and last a (SHANARRI based) Dundee wellbeing tool.
- Strong and effective collaborative relationships with key partners such as Children 1st and Dundee Educational Psychology Service (DEPS), as well as collaboration with a wide range of colleagues and stakeholders across the partnership, to support long term sustainability and alignment with other key strategies and interventions.
- Specific developments related to three strands to date:
 - Co-ordinated and quicker access to resources to address unmet need.
 - Support for Named Persons – Named Person practice profile in development, increased support from, and alignment with DEPS and Education Officers for the 3 primary school sites, guidance and mentoring for chairs of TAtC (and other meetings), and early progress relating to more efficient and effective recording of concerns, assessments and plans.
 - More meaningful family engagement – additional numbers of Meeting Buddies trained and supported by Children 1st.

Developments in respect of ANEW are just one part of the wider GIRFEC Improvement Programme drawing together a comprehensive and diverse range of developments that reflect national, regional and local priorities with the shared, collective aim of improving outcomes for children and families in Dundee.

The overarching improvement programme is ambitious in its intent with an increasing range of partners directly involved, together with ongoing support and leadership from Chief Officers Group Children and Families Services and Dundee Community Planning Partnership.

Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families



The **Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2017 - 2020** is the first joint plan to be produced by the three Community Planning areas of Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross. It reflects shared leadership towards multi-agency cross-border collaboration in the planning, management, commissioning, delivery, evaluation and improvement of services to children, young people and families. It also reflects a shared and longstanding commitment to implementing Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC).

The plan has been developed by the three Councils, NHS Tayside, Police Scotland, Health and Social Care Partnerships, the third sector and other organizations. It supercedes the Integrated Children's Services Plan.

The Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families identified five priorities underpinned by key policies, such as GIRFEC and the consistent implementation of the Named Person and providing the right help at the right time; the Curriculum Excellence; and Developing the Young Workforce.

Priority 5 states...

Our children and young people will be safe and protected from harm at home, school and in the community.

Our approaches to protecting vulnerable children and young people will be integrated and focused on early identification, and immediate and effective intervention to remove and reduce the risk of significant harm.

In addition, the Tayside plan outlines what we will do to keep children safe:

- Continue to build a confident, competent and supported workforce in order to protect children and young people from abuse, exploitation and neglect.
- Continue to promote highly effective practices in the sharing of information in order to protect and safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults
- In partnership with the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCLIS), strengthen our approaches to tackling and mitigating the effects of childhood neglect
- Improve children and young people's capacity for personal safety and the avoidance of abuse and exploitation, including from their use of the internet
- Develop a shared Tayside communication strategy in support of consistent messages to promote the protection and welfare of children and young people
- Involve children, young people, parents and wider families in decision-making and planning processes that affect them

In order to deliver on the identified priorities and commitments a multi-agency group representing Angus, Dundee and Perth & Kinross Child Protection Committees Priority Group 5 has convened to address the following;

- Develop, implement and quality assure a standardized approach to key child protection processes across Tayside, in particular Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) and Medical Examinations to improve practice consistency and to provide better outcomes for children and young people.
- Raise practitioner awareness and understanding on tackling neglect and enhancing wellbeing by holding a Practitioner Shared Learning / Showcase Event in Tayside.
- Develop creative approaches to helping children and young people to stay safe online.
- Develop and implement best practice for the involvement and participation of children, young people and families in key child protection processes and in the work of the CPCs.
- Develop and pilot qualitative measures in relation to the impact of child protection interventions on the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- Review and implement a consistent approach to chronologies (single agency and multi-agency) to improve practice consistency and to provide better outcomes for children and young people.

Dundee Child Protection Committee is contributing to and leading on these identified priority actions.

Information, Engagement & Communication



One of the core functions of Dundee Child Protection Committee is communication.

Over the past year there have been three primary areas of focus in respect of Information, Engagement and Communication.

Public Awareness and Engagement.

In January 2018 Dundee Child Protection Committee launched a new appeal to the public – If Not You, Who? – initiating an ongoing campaign informing people how they can raise concerns should they be worried about a child or young person in Dundee.

Posters have been widely distributed around public buildings with plans to expand this to schools and local businesses over the coming months.

The Child Protection content of the Protecting People website has been revised with a launch set for late 2018.

Dundee Child Protection Committee contributed to the development of **Protecting People of All Ages** in Dundee which is a booklet providing information for people who have concerns about harm and ensures they are directed to the right public protection agency. The booklet was put together with the involvement of community representatives of the 8 Local Community Planning Partnerships (LCPP's) in Dundee.

It is supported by 4 key protecting people forums: Dundee Child Protection Committee (CPC), Dundee Adult Support & Protection Committee, Dundee Violence Against Women Partnership and Tayside Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

These bodies are involved with children in need of care and protection, adults in need of support and protection, adults and children affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence and protecting the general public from people who could be dangerous.

The Protecting People Team have promoted the public protection agenda at a number of local events including the Dundee Farmers Market and Flower and Food Festival.

Together with colleagues working within the Community Safety partnership, a Facebook page has been run throughout the year highlighting areas of local and national importance and publicising development and events relating to community safety and Protecting People.

Engaging with the workforce

Practitioners Forum

2017-18 saw the further development of the Child Protection Practitioner Forum in Dundee. Supported directly by a Service Manager from Children and Families service and the Lead Officer Protecting People this has continued to provide a means by which practitioners can share knowledge, skills and experience as well as communicate directly with the Child Protection Committee and Chief Officers Group. The forums have focused on particular areas for discussion and development including domestic violence and statutory intervention processes and Child Sexual Exploitation.

Chief Officers Engagement

Since 2014 the Chief Officers' (Public Protection) Group (COG) has held events focusing on different Protecting People (PP) issues. In recent years, the aim of these events has been to upskill those working in Dundee about different PP issues and to provide an opportunity to explore, discuss and consider solutions for such issues. In addition, the events provided the opportunity for a 'two-way' communications between the Chief Officers and the wider multi-agency workforce.

These engagement events had previously taken the form of two large events per year. In August 2017 the COG agreed that there is a need to consider the correct balance between engagement and learning at future events, and to seek practitioner feedback regarding their expectations of COG events planned for the future. Consultation was undertaken with practitioners attending the Child Protection Practitioners Forum, Adult Support and Protection Practitioners Forum and Adult Support and Protection Stakeholder Group regarding the purpose and format of COG events and a revised programme of smaller, more frequent events was initiated from the start of 2018.

On January 24th, the Public Protection Chief Officers Group held an event titled 'Transitions' – 'Protecting People of all Ages'. The event was attended by 60 stakeholders representing a cross section of statutory and voluntary organisations concerned with protecting the citizens of Dundee. This included Children and Families, Neighbourhood Services, Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Tayside, Police Scotland, Community Justice, Scottish Prison Service and a variety of 3rd Sector Providers.



COG Transitions Conference January 2018

Throughout March the engagement events took the form of a series of breakfast meetings. Chief Officers led a focus group style discussion focused on the issue of communication and engagement in relation to public protection. These were hosted by the Executive Director of Children and Families Services, Independent Chair of the Child Protection Committee and the Chief Executive of Dundee City Council.



In February - March 2018 Chief Officers hosted a number of Breakfast sessions where a variety of Protecting People issues were discussed.

Engaging with Young People subject to Child Protection Procedures

Children 1st Dundee Child and Family Engagement Service supports the Child Protection “Buddy” programme. Buddies support children in the child protection process before, during and after decision-making meetings, helping them to express and share their views either in person or by expressing them on their behalf with their consent.

The buddy approach makes the most of the positive relationships already existing within the child’s network as an alternative to introducing another unknown adult into the child’s life. As such, the Buddy is usually a person already known to the child who, with the child’s agreement, helps them to choose how they want to participate and share their views in their child protection case conference. So far, Buddies have come from a range of roles within education, social work, health services and voluntary organisations.

Recommendations and Future Plans



The Key Achievements and Areas for Further Development identified in relation to Dundee Child Protection Delivery Plan 2017-18 are detailed elsewhere in this report.

Dundee Child Protection Committee has identified the following as priority areas recommended for further development throughout 2018-2019.

Recommendation 1

We will improve the integrity, collation and presentation of data to Dundee Child Protection Committee and Chief Officers Group to better inform decision making and the monitoring progress.

Work across the partnership to;

- a) Revise Balanced Scorecard content for Chief Officers Group. (February 2018)
- b) Revise Dataset to be tabled at each CPC meeting. (Commencing December 2018)

Recommendation 2

We will undertake a review of roles, core functions and membership of Dundee Child Protection Committee.

In partnership with the Improvement Service, Transformation, Performance and Improvement Team we will undertake self-evaluation activity of the core business of the Child Protection Committee and incorporate the Committee Improvement Plan into the Child Protection Delivery Plan. (Commencing June 2018, reporting December 2018)

Recommendation 3

We will consider the Recommendations from The Thematic Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection through the Public Protection Improvement Programme, monitor and evaluate progress with regular reports to the Committee and identify specific areas for development in respect of Child Protection.

Primarily:

The partnership should make sure that full implementation of its Information and Communication Technology (ICT) system is achieved in order to meet the user needs of council officers and other users to record all information clearly and effectively.

The partnership should make sure that its key processes follow a clearly defined path, which council officers and other staff fully understand and implement.

The partnership should make sure that it prepares valid chronologies, risk assessments and risk management plans in respect of children and young people at risk of harm

Recommendation 4

We will develop a working culture across the partnership whereby multi-agency self-evaluation activity is planned, supported and quality assured. The Child Protection Committee will seek to bring together single and multi-agency self-evaluation activity into an integrated picture, including supporting preparation for inspections as and when appropriate.

Recommendation 5

We will work with our partners across Tayside to deliver on the priorities identified by the Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families.

Recommendation 6

We will ensure that learning from Initial and Significant Case Reviews are applied in the context of Child Protection across Dundee.

Appendices



Appendix 1

Appendix One Dundee Child protection Committee Membership As of March 2017

Position

Organisation

The following are core members. Dundee CPC also has a number of minuted members who are not required to attend every meeting. In addition, the Lead officer is neither a core nor minuted member but provides the necessary support for the committee.

Independent Chairperson

Dundee Child Protection Committee

Lecturer Social Work

Dundee University

Chief Executive Officer (Cair Scotland)
(Alcohol and Drug Partnership Representative)

Alcohol and Drug Partnership

Chair of the Vulnerable Adolescent
Partnership

Dundee City Council

Chief Social Work Officer

Dundee City Council

Learning and Organisational Adviser

Dundee City Council, Learning and
Organisational Development Service

Strategy and Performance Manager (IJB)

Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership

Principal Officer / Chief Social Work Officer

Dundee City Council, Children and Families
Service, Strategy and Performance

Service Manager
(Vice Chair)

Strategy and Performance Team, Children and
families Service, Dundee City Council

Locality Manager

Scottish Children's Reporters Administration

Assistant Director
(Third Sector Rep)

Barnardo's Scotland

Independent Chair

Violence Against Women Partnership

Protecting People Team Leader

Dundee City Council, Neighbourhood Services

Lead Paediatrician Child Protection

NHS Tayside

Lead Nurse Child Protection

NHS Tayside

Lead Nurse Children and Young People

NHS Tayside

Detective Chief Inspector
PPU & CID Partnerships and Support

Police Scotland

Appendix 2 Glossary

This is an explanation of some Child Protection terms.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

Assessment of need - Evaluation of the child and family identifying areas of need, which may require additional support.

Assessment of Risk - Evaluation of possibility of child abuse has taken place or that it is likely to occur in the future.

B

Buddy Scheme - is aimed at supporting children to express their views in any child protection meeting. Each child will be asked to choose someone they trust who can act as their Buddy, their voice in meetings. The scheme is supported by Children 1st

C

Child - For the purpose of child protection instructions a child is defined as a young person under the age of 16 years or between 16-18 if he/she is the subject of a supervision requirement imposed by a Children's Panel or who is believed to be at risk of significant harm and there is no adult protection plan in place.

Child Abuse - Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent, significant harm to the child. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. Assessments will need to consider whether abuse has occurred or is likely to occur. To define an act of omission as abusive and/or presenting future risk a number of elements can be taken into account. These include demonstrable or predictable harm to the child that would have been avoidable except for the action or inaction by the parent(s) or other carers.

Chief Officers Group – the COG comprises of the chief officers for each of the key partner agencies in Child Protection and Protecting People. This includes members from Health and Social Care, Children and Families, Health, Neighbourhood Services Police and Third (voluntary) Sector.

Child Assessment Order - A Child Assessment Order allows for a child to undergo a medical examination or assessment where this has been deemed necessary. This does not supersede the child's rights under the Age of Legal Capacity (Scotland) Act 1991. At all times the child's welfare is paramount.

Child Protection Committee – Every Local Authority must have a Child Protection Committee. Child Protection Committees are locally based, inter-agency strategic partnerships responsible for the design, development, publication, distribution, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of child protection policy and practice across the public, private and wider third sectors in their locality

Child Protection Order - A Child Protection Order may be granted on application to a Sheriff if conditions for making such an order exist. A Child Protection Order can allow for the removal of a child to a place of safety or prevent removal of a child from their home or any other safe place. A Child Protection Order can last up to six days and is granted to secure the safety and wellbeing of a child.

Child Protection Plan - Agreed inter-agency plan outlining in detail the arrangements to ensure the protection of the child and supports to the family.

Child Protection Register - A formal list of named children where there are concerns about the possibility of future abuse and where a child protection plan has been agreed.

Child Trafficking - This is the term given to the movement of children into and within the country with the intent to exploit them.

Core Group Meeting - Meeting of small group of inter-agency staff with key involvement with the child and family who meet (with child and family) to review progress and make arrangements for implementing the child protection plan.

E

Emergency Police Powers - The Police have the power to remove a child to a place of safety for up to 24 hours where the conditions for making an application for a Child Protection Order exist.

Emotional Abuse - Emotional abuse is persistent emotional neglect or ill treatment that has severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve the imposition of age or developmentally inappropriate expectations on a child. It may involve causing children to feel frightened or in danger, or exploiting or corrupting children. Some level of emotional abuse is present in all types of ill treatment of a child; it can also occur independently of other forms of abuse.

Exclusion Order - An Exclusion Order allows for a named person to be ejected or prevented from entering the child's home. Conditions can also be attached to secure the child's safety and wellbeing.

I

Initial Child Protection Conference - An inter-agency meeting to consider the safety and welfare of children who have been the subject of a child protection investigation. The meeting will consider whether the child is a risk of significant harm, and place their name on the child protection register. It will also create a child's protection plan. The parents and sometimes the child will also attend this meeting.

Inter- Agency Child Protection Discussion - An IRD is an inter-agency meeting to share information where there are child protection concerns which need further clarification. Strengths within the family and the family's capacity to co-operate with agencies should be discussed. Any support required should also be identified and a plan of intervention should be agreed which could include organising a Initial Child Protection Conference.

J

Joint Investigative Interview - A Joint Investigative Interview is a formal planned interview with a child. It is carried out by staff, usually a social worker and a police officer trained specifically to conduct this type of interview. The purpose is to obtain the child's account of any events, which require investigation.

N

Non-organic Failure to Thrive - Children who significantly fail to reach normal growth and development milestones (i.e. physical growth, weight, motor, social and intellectual development) where physical and genetic reasons have been medically eliminated and a diagnosis of non-organic failure to thrive has been established.

P

Physical Abuse- Physical abuse is causing physical harm to a child or a young person. Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child they are looking after.

Physical Neglect - Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or failure to respond to, a child's basic emotional needs. Neglect may also result in the child being diagnosed as suffering from 'no organic failure to thrive', where they have significantly failed to reach normal weight and growth or development milestones and where physical and genetic reasons have been medically eliminated. In its extreme form children can be at risk from the effects of malnutrition, lack of nurturing and stimulation. This can lead to serious long-term effects such as greater susceptibility to serious childhood illnesses and reduction in potential stature. With young people in particular, the consequences may be life-threatening within a relatively short period of time.

Planning Meeting - A Planning meeting (usually between social work and police) is usually held to plan a joint investigation - who does what and when is agreed.

Pre-Birth Child Protection Conference - An inter-agency meeting which considers the risk of harm to an unborn child and future risk upon the child's birth.

R

Review Child Protection Conference - An inter-agency meeting which reviews the circumstances of a child whose name is on the Child Protection Register.

S

Safe and Together – Is a programme for working with families where there are concerns about domestic abuse. It is a strengths based approach working in partnership with the victim of abuse to reduce risk to themselves and any children. It is an approach that strives to help the perpetrator of the violence responsible for their behaviour.

Sexual Abuse - is any act that involves the child in any activity for the sexual gratification of another person, whether or not it is claimed that the child either consented or assented. Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or in watching sexual activities, using sexual language towards a child or encouraging children to behave in a sexually inappropriate way.

Significant Harm - Physical or mental injury or neglect, which seriously affects the welfare or development of the child.

T

Team Around the Child – Is a meeting involving parents and children with key professionals where some concerns or the need for additional supports are identified. There are usually three levels meeting. A level one meeting will be a meeting between the named person and the parent, level 2 will involve other professionals – sometimes a specialist such as speech and language, a specialist nurse or similar. If there are increased concerns a level 3 team around the child will involve a social worker. A TATC meeting at levels 2 and 3 will agree a Childs Plan to support the child and their family to ensure needs are met and risks reduced.

Transfer Child Protection Conference - An inter-agency meeting which considers arrangements to transfer cases of a child whose name is on the Child Protection Register where the family moves to another area.



If not
you?
...who?

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**Dundee
Child Protection
Committee**