

# Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee

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Annual Report 2018-19





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## Preface from Chief Officers

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This is the fifth Annual Report of Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee. Ensuring that all children in Aberdeen are safeguarded and protected from harm and abuse is taken very seriously by all involved. The commitment of all agencies is apparent in the day to day delivery of child protection services. It can also be seen in those agencies' extensive contribution to the strategic improvements and developments carried out in 2018-19.

Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee covers the Aberdeen City local government area. The Child Protection Committee works with child protection agencies locally and nationally and, more widely, with colleagues across Integrated Children's Services in this City. It aims to support the multi-agency workforce and members of the public to ensure Aberdeen is the best place in Scotland to grow up, to promote the care and welfare of our children and to protect them from abuse and harm.

We are committed to partnership working to ensure the protection and safety of the City's children and young people. We are committed to understanding the child protection concerns which arise in our City and to

making improvements together to address these. We are committed to recognising the strengths within our families in Aberdeen and to including parents, carers and young people in the ongoing development of our child protection processes. The Child Protection Committee has representatives from Social Work, Police, Health, Education, Housing, Children's Reporter and the third sector. Their achievements are highlighted in this report and include improving outcomes in the areas of child sexual exploitation, child trafficking, on-line safety, cumulative neglect, the impact of domestic abuse, the provision of consistent child protection services and making the best use of our data.

The work of the Child Protection Committee could not have been delivered without the commitment and support of many practitioners. We thank them for the contribution of their time, experience and insight towards the safeguarding of our children and young people. In particular, we would like to recognise and thank Heather MacRae for her commitment to the role of Chair over the last 3 years and to welcome Sheena Gault as independent Chair as we move forward.



Angela Scott, Chief Executive,  
*Aberdeen City Council*



Chief Superintendent Campbell  
Thomson, *Police Scotland*



Amanda Croft, Chief Executive  
*NHS Grampian*

Heather MacRae, Chair of Aberdeen City CPC  
(June 2016 - February 2019)

Lead Nurse, Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership

## Introduction to the Child Protection Committee

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### What is the role of the Child Protection Committee?

The Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee (CPC) is a locally based, multi-agency strategic partnership responsible for the design, development, publication, distribution, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of child protection policy and practice across Aberdeen City. The CPC are also responsible for the quality assurance of multi-agency practice and ensuring that the performance measures put in place ultimately lead to improving outcomes for children and young people.

Child protection means preventing a child suffering significant harm from abuse or neglect. The CPC is committed to its responsibility to keep all children in Aberdeen City safe from harm whether abuse or neglect has already taken place or looks likely to take place.

In working to achieve that, the functions of the CPC are continuous improvement, strategic planning, public information and communication. Professional and public bodies work collaboratively to promote and improve child protection across all areas of their agencies and services.

### Who are the members of the Child Protection Committee?

The CPC has senior membership across the full range of agencies and services with child protection responsibility including Aberdeen City Council (Social Work, Education and Housing), Police Scotland, NHS Grampian, the Reporter to the Children's Hearing, Aberdeen Violence against Women Partnership and the third sector. The CPC has been chaired by Heather MacRae, Lead Nurse, Aberdeen City Community Health from June 2015 until February 2019. The CPC has now appointed an Independent Chair, Sheena Gault, who assumed the role in February 2019. The CPC is vice-chaired by Graeme Simpson, Chief Social Work Officer and Chief Officer for Integrated Children & Family Services. The CPC appointed a new Lead Officer, Stuart Lambertson, in March 2019. All members aim to consistently improve upon the delivery of robust child protection practices across the public, private and wider third sectors.



## Who is responsible for and to the CPC?

The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014, requires that each CPC be governed by a Chief Officer Group. The Local Police Commander and the Chief Executives of NHS Grampian and Aberdeen City Council are the Chief Officers responsible for the leadership, direction and scrutiny of the local child protection services and they have strategic responsibility for the CPC.

Aberdeen City CPC works collaboratively with other strategic partners; in particular, the Integrated Children's Services Board, Violence against Women Partnership, Adult Protection Committee and the Alcohol & Drugs Partnership. This means that child protection is seen alongside the wider context of supporting families and meeting children's needs. It ensures that partners are aligned in their aims, priorities and delivery of improvements as set out in the Child Protection Programme and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). We are committed to Getting It Right For Every Child. GIRFEC is the national practice model which aims to ensure children and young people are safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected responsible and included.

Some areas of child protection activity are shared across Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray local authority areas. These are delivered under the identity of the Child Protection Partnership. These activities are the Child Protection Register (CPR) and the delivery of child protection learning and development opportunities to the multi-agency workforce, including Joint Investigative Interview training.

The CPC also works in partnership with the Scottish Government and other CPC's nationally to take forward child protection policy and practice across the local area and across Scotland.

## How does the CPC work?

**Aberdeen City CPC** meets four times each year as well as having an annual development day. All the members have child protection skills and knowledge. They consider information from a variety of sources such as the local Child Protection Register, Children's Reporter, significant case reviews, formal inspections of Children's Services, case file audits and national developments. Identified areas for improvement and emerging trends in relation to child protection are then incorporated into the Child Protection Programme, which is detailed in this report.

The CPC has three permanent Sub Committees, each reporting directly to the CPC. The **Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Committee** (formerly the Operational Sub-Committee), has been established to focus on the monitoring and measuring of improvements in child protection practice. The **Significant Case Review (SCR) Sub Committee** progresses any SCRs locally and ensures that the learning from SCRs around the country is disseminated across the Aberdeen City area. The **Learning & Development Sub Committee** identifies and has oversight of the delivery of multi-agency child protection learning.

The CPC also has short life Thematic Groups which are established to take forward key areas of improvement activity. These now also report directly to the CPC and are currently:

The **Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Trafficking and On-line Safety group**. Although originally established as a short life group in relation to CSE, it's remit has extended to include the inter-related areas of child trafficking and on-line safety.

The **Child Protection & Domestic Abuse group** has worked collaboratively with the Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP) in the development of multi-agency guidance on this topic.

The **Missing Children group** has been established to ensure single agency guidance on missing children is consistent and to produce multi-agency guidance if necessary.

The **16/17 Year Old group** is aiming to produce multi-agency guidance to support this particularly vulnerable group of young people.

The **Neglect group** has worked on auditing the effectiveness of Child's Plans in addressing cumulative neglect and on a developing a multi-agency Neglect Strategy.

The **Strength Based Practice group** is utilising Quality Improvement Methodology and tests of change to roll out this approach across the City, particularly at Case conferences.

The structure is illustrated in **Appendix 1** to this report.

## The Child Protection Programme 2016-19

### What are the key themes of the Child Protection Programme?

This Annual Report focusses on the work delivered in 2018-19 by the Child Protection Programme (CP Programme). The programme, running from August 2016, was concluded in January 2019. The CP Programme has developed and evolved over that period to ensure that the CPC functions are fulfilled. The core functions of all Scottish Child Protection Committees are specified by the Scottish Government in national guidance as **continuous improvement, strategic planning, public information and communication**. Those functions have been incorporated into the multi-agency CP Programme.

The three key themes of the CP Programme are linked to the Quality Indicators as outlined in the Care Inspectorate document [“How Well Are We Improving the Lives of Children and Young People?”](#) as follows:

- How well are the lives of children and young people improving?
- How well are partners working together to improve the lives of children, young people and families?
- How good is the leadership and direction of services for children and young people?

The new CP Programme 2019-21 has adopted the themes of the Care Inspectorates’ revised [Quality Indicator Framework July 2018](#).

### How is the Child Protection Programme informed?

In the CP Programme, we make sure national priorities are addressed as well as work required by local strategic plans, such as the Children’s Services Plan and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) which recognises that ‘Children Are Our Future’ and need to be safe and responsible as well as protected from harm.

We also incorporate other local work identified through various self-evaluation strands such as case file auditing, significant case reviews, inspection findings, statistics, data analysis and practitioners’ knowledge. The programme is reviewed at the annual CPC Development Day and routinely at quarterly CPC meetings.

We have carefully considered and contributed to the Scottish Government’s National Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP) which was initiated in March 2017. The key themes identified are

- the CPC governance structure and links with Chief Officer Groups
- the operation of Child Protection Registers and Child Protection Case Conferences
- learning from Significant Case Reviews
- children’s and families’ experiences of the child protection process.

The current CP programme has concentrated on child sexual exploitation, child trafficking, on-line safety, learning from SCRs particularly in relation to cumulative neglect, the provision of consistent child protection services and making the best use of data. We have continued to build on that to include child protection and domestic abuse, strength based practice, better participation of parents, carers and young people and the quality assurance of our processes.

The CPC is committed to improving links with other public protection partnerships in the City such as the Adult Protection Committee, AVAWP and the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP); the work of all these other partnerships impacting on vulnerable children in the City.

The CPC has also committed to the establishment of a Learning & Development Sub Committee to ensure local training issues are addressed and learning from SCRs is disseminated.

## What has the Child Protection Programme delivered in 2018?

There follows a flavour of some of the work carried out under the programme throughout 2018 and to its conclusion in January 2019.

### Making Best Use of Data

- Child Protection data including information from the Child Protection Register (CPR), SCRA and Child Protection Case Conference Performance Reports are reviewed and analysed at the CPC and Operational Sub Committee meetings. This enables us to review performance, benchmark with other authorities, identify trends and areas for improvement. We recognise the ongoing importance of this and have reformed the Operational Sub Committee, with new Terms of Reference and some new membership, as the Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Committee. This had its inaugural meeting in March 2019.
- In 2018, the CPC refreshed its data and performance framework. This is a suite of scrutiny questions which provides analysis of the available data and ensures that the outcomes of the CP Programme are being met. We continue to work collaboratively with CELCIS as they implement the data and performance elements of the Scottish Government's Improvement Programme.
- This area of focus has been extended in 2018 into the quality assurance of our processes and procedures; in particular, inter-agency referral discussions (IRDs), joint investigative interviews, records of child protection investigations, child's plans and re-registration trends.



## Child Protection Register

- A significant source of information about categories of concerns and emerging trends comes from the management information compiled by the Child Protection Register team. The CPR has been modernised in this last year to reflect the increasing use of statistical information in the planning and delivery of child protection services. The sharing of the Register with our neighbours in Aberdeenshire and Moray enables the CPC to consider issues in its own geographical area and to compare trends across Grampian. The annual figures are taken at 31 July each year and reported to the Scottish Government. As can be seen from the performance information provided later in this report, the predominant risk factors across Aberdeen City remain domestic abuse, parental drug and alcohol misuse, emotional abuse and neglect, with increasing evidence of concerns around parental mental health.

## Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Trafficking and On-Line Safety

- There is now widespread professional understanding of CSE and an ever-increasing understanding of the link with other child protection issues, namely child trafficking and on-line safety. For that reason, the work of the original CSE group has been extended to cover these other issues as well. As a pilot area for Barnardo's RISE project, Aberdeen City is one of the two areas in Scotland with an allocated CSE adviser. The success of this project has seen recent proposals for it to be extended nationally. The CSE adviser has worked alongside other key professionals in the Child Protection Committee's CSE Group and with the Comic Relief funded Green Light Project. This has enabled extensive and specialist learning of CSE, child trafficking and on-line safety to be disseminated across professionals, families, young people and the wider public.
- The CPC has worked in partnership with the regional Human Trafficking police expert who has supported the development of our multi agency guidance on child trafficking. This sits alongside established guidance in relation to CSE.
- Key to the success of this work is the engagement of young people who have responded well to social media events, to small group sessions in residential homes and to the opportunity to become CSE Ambassadors at Harlaw Academy. Cybersafe Scotland is represented on the CPC thematic group and is developing materials for use in local schools on on-line safety, with an expectation that these will be rolled out nationally. Direct work in schools is raising awareness of grooming and internet safety and covers legislation relating to the sharing of indecent images. This has led to disclosures as well as many, many young people reviewing their privacy settings on electronic devices. A total of 2057 school pupils of primary and secondary school age were reached in 2018 (cf 403 in 2017). One to one support is available through the CSE Adviser, Green Light Project, Young Women's Service and Includem.

- Learning, development and awareness raising opportunities continue. A multi-agency Child Trafficking and CSE event was held in January 2018 in conjunction with Robert Gordon University, with 131 multi agency representatives in attendance. On-line offending has been the subject of a session in September 2018 with colleagues in Stop it Now! and our criminal justice services. A Facebook multi agency live chat event took place in March 2018 and attracted 44,000 views. The total number reached through this series of events in 2017 and 2018 is over 102,000 people. A twitter campaign in October 2018 coincided with national Child Trafficking Awareness month. The CPC also participated in the national CSE workshop via video-link in February 2019, with 31 local practitioners in attendance.
- The frequency of Strategy and Care & Risk Management meetings involving groups of young people potentially at risk of CSE, child trafficking and associated vulnerabilities led to the improvement of these procedures in 2018. The number of these meetings has increased from 3 in 2017 to 31 in 2018 which indicates significantly increased professional awareness. Data collection is still in course of development and is a priority for improvement, although the gathering of intelligence continues to grow.
- Ongoing work includes the preparation of information for parents and carers in the form of an electronic leaflet as their attendance at PTA events has not been significant.



## Multi -agency Learning and Development

- The Learning & Development Sub Committee has oversight here. Learning and development opportunities have been made available through commissioned core child protection training from Aberlour Trust, the Child Protection Partnership and national initiatives. Significant awareness raising and training has been delivered through the CSE, Child Trafficking and Online Safety group as noted above.
- The Aberlour Trust has a programme covering core child protection training. Their courses include: an Introduction to Safeguarding and Protecting Children & Young People; Assessing & Planning with Children and Young People; Managing Information, Recording, Chronologies & Single Plans; and Neglect.
- The Child Protection Partnership (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray CPCs) have held awareness raising events in 2018 on Child Trafficking (January) Interagency Referral Discussions (April), and a series of events in relation to Cumulative Neglect in October, November 2018 and January 2019. These are co-ordinated by the three CPCs in conjunction with Robert Gordon University, with specialist speakers on the various topics.
- The National CSE Workshop in February 2019 was hosted in Elgin and teleconferenced to Aberdeen City. We aim to extend this approach to enable learning & development opportunities to be widely available across the Grampian area, whilst reducing the impact on resources.
- Continuous improvement, including training and staff development, is one of the three key functions of the CPC. Whilst we have utilised the resources available advantageously, the absence of a multi-agency training coordinator is noted.

## Significant Case Reviews

- The SCR sub committee meets regularly to consider local and national cases which require scrutiny.
- An Initial Case Review (ICR) originally notified in October 2017 was considered in detail and at length by the SCR Sub Committee through 2018. The findings focussed on Cumulative Neglect and led to an action plan to address this issue. The series of three conferences from October 2018 – January 2019 detailed the current theory and practice in relation to Neglect, the findings this ICR, and an opportunity for all staff to contribute to the strategic planning to address the issue.
- Two further ICRs were received in 2018. One, relating to the issue of Fabricated and Induced Illness, is proceeding to a Significant Case Review, utilising the Welsh Methodology and supported by colleagues in CELCIS. The other ICR is currently being considered by the SCR Sub Committee.
- National SCRs are also considered and local learning intimated to agencies.



### Child Protection and Domestic Abuse

- Work continues to develop multi agency practice guidance on child protection and domestic abuse. Expertise is drawn from practitioners in this field, the AVAWP, Grampian Women's Aid, Caledonian Project and Criminal Justice. It will be based on the Scottish Government "Safe and Together" Strategy. The issue of the guidance will be followed up with local (Aberdeen) awareness raising and monitoring of use and impact of the Equally Safe approach.

### Neglect

- We have been developing a strategy and Practitioners Guide in relation to Neglect which nears completion and will be rolled out in 2019.
- The findings of the M Family case review led to agencies taking particularly proactive approaches to addressing Neglect; from staff sessions to larger scale multi-agency events, such as the Neglect Conference series in 2018-19.
- This continues to be one of the main areas of focus of the local child protection improvement programme.



### Strength - Based Practice

- Consistent with the CPIP aims, we aim to adopt a strength based practice approach across all agencies and services in Aberdeen City. There are many areas across agencies where this approach is already embedded such as in the use of systemic practice in the children's social work service, Family Nurse Partnership and the Educational Psychology Service. We have been utilising the improvement methodology to extend this approach to the child protection case conferences and in particular their physical environment, supporting paperwork, style of conference itself and in gaining the feedback from families. Early indications are that this approach is well received by families and promotes their participation and involvement in the child protection process.

### Missing Children and Vulnerable 16 - 17 year olds

- Work has commenced in 2018 to consider the single agency processes in relation to missing children, to ensure they are consistent with each other and to produce multi agency guidance if needed.
- This work is aligned with the development of a multi agency protocol in relation to vulnerable 16-17 year olds who do not meet a child or adult protection threshold but who are none the less vulnerable. We aim to "get it right for every child" and to draw on the value of this embedded multi agency approach for younger children.



## Child Protection Partnership

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Aberdeen City CPC participates in the joint activities of the Child Protection Partnership. The three separate CPCs for Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray have worked together under the banner of the Child Protection Partnership in relation to the Child Protection Register, Joint Investigative Interview training and some bespoke child protection training, such as conferences. As well as a resource for professional staff across agencies, valuable management information is drawn from the Child Protection Register and, as part of the CPC's self-evaluation activity, assists in the identification of emerging gaps and trends.

### Conferences

In 2018-19, conferences focussed on Child Trafficking, Inter Agency Referral Discussions, the series of three Neglect Conferences and the national CSE Workshop. The Partnership, works with The Robert Gordon University in the coordination and hosting of these events. These are available free of charge to relevant professionals across all agencies and services.

### Joint Investigative Interview training

Joint Investigative Interview training is coordinated by the Grampian Joint Investigative Interview Group which is chaired by Police Scotland. This group ensures that select staff in Police and Social Work are adequately trained to deliver this essential element of child protection in Aberdeen City. Coordination meetings are held quarterly as well as an annual business meeting. The Grampian Joint Investigative Interview Group report to the Child Protection Partnership and are currently working on establishing a standard process for quality assuring these interviews.



## Child Protection Register

The CPR enables agencies to be aware of the children at greatest risk of abuse or harm and to intervene to minimise those risks appropriately.

The areas of concern are identified at a case conference and recorded on the CPR. These can be one or more of the following categories

1.	neglect
3.	parental mental health problems
5.	domestic abuse
7.	physical abuse
9.	child placing themselves at risk
11.	child sexual exploitation

2.	parental substance misuse
4.	non-engaging family
6.	sexual abuse
8.	emotional abuse
10.	forced or dangerous labour
12.	child trafficking

Statistical information from the CPR is intimated to the Scottish Government, annually with figures as at 31 July. Useful management information flowing from the CPR is produced by the Child Protection Partnership office and assists in informing the CP Programme. Some more detailed performance management information is considered below. This information has been drawn from the CPR.



## Performance Management

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The suite of performance management information considered by Aberdeen City CPC includes the following; comprehensive quarterly reports from the Child Protection Register, SCRA Child Protection Committee reports, numbers of Child Protection Orders from Legal Services, administrative information from Child Protection Admin (Aberdeen City Council), and other annual statistical information from others such as the Scottish Government and Social Work Scotland. These reports are analysed by the Operational Sub-Committee and reported upon, in accordance with the data framework, to the CPC. The extension of this area of work has led to the reframing, in early 2019, of the Operational Sub Committee as the Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Committee with refreshed Terms of Reference and membership.

A significant source of information about categories of concerns and emerging trends comes from the management information compiled by the CPR team. This enables the CPC to consider issues in its own geographical area and to compare trends across the Grampian area. The annual figures are taken at 31 July each year and reported to the Scottish Government. The statistics used in this report are therefore consistent with the return to the Scottish Government. We have also, where possible, illustrated the figures right up to the end of March 2019.

Throughout 2018, Aberdeen City applied for and were granted 18 Child Protection Orders in court for the purpose of the immediate protection of a child from the risk of significant harm. Most work is, however, conducted with parents and families without the need for a court order. Case Conferences involve families and multi-agency professionals in the making of a child protection plan.

As at 31 March 2019, in Aberdeen City there were 82 children on the Child Protection Register. The greatest percentage (at 52%) of the children was in the pre-school age group of 0-4 years. Registration does not substantially vary according to gender.

Compared to March 2018, registrations in the City have increased from 61 to 82 children (2.4 per 1000 population). These numbers are comparable to the national average rate which is 3.0 per 1000 children.

33 of the 150 children registered over the year to end July 2018 in Aberdeen City, had previous registration history, although only 7 of those children had been on the CPR within the previous 2 years. In the same period, there were 162 de-registrations in Aberdeen City area.

The CPR is a well utilised resource with a total of 1,335 enquiries in the period from January 2018 – March 2019. From the Aberdeen City area, there were 455 direct and web-based enquiries during that period. The main referrers continue to be Police, Education and internal Social Work.

Key areas of risk are identified and recorded on the CPR. A number of risk factors are therefore likely to be recorded in each case. The identification of risk factors enables focussed work with families through the child's plan on these identified areas. It also allows for a strategic focus on in the predominant areas of risk. The CPC, through the CP Programme, will continue to focus on those issues.

The most recent figures from the CPR indicate that the predominant risk factors across Aberdeen City remain domestic abuse, parental drug and alcohol misuse, emotional abuse and neglect, with increasing evidence of concerns around parental mental health.

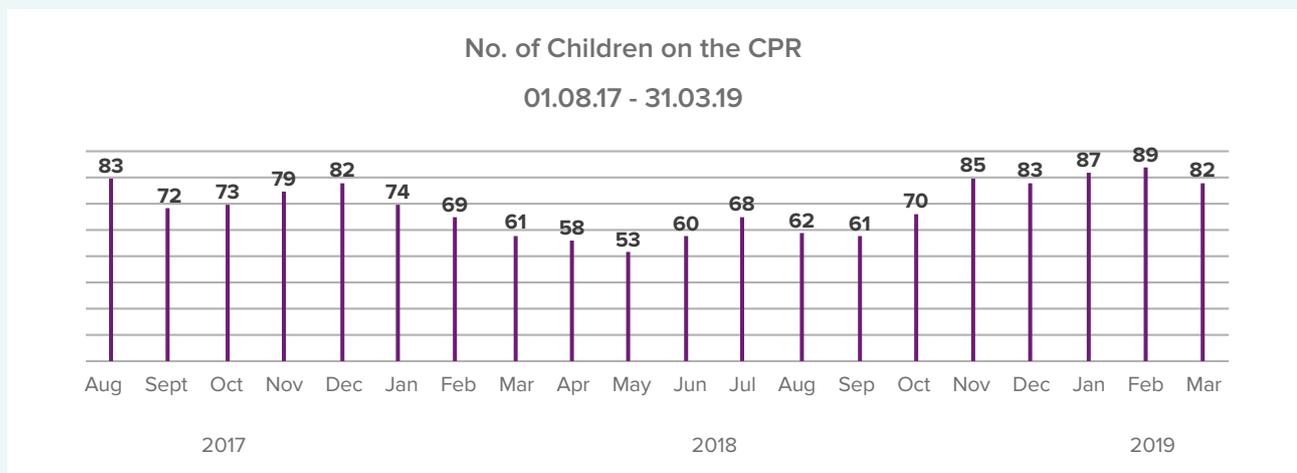
The ages of the children on the CPR also assist in recognising, and planning for, the most vulnerable. Unborn babies in Aberdeen City accounted for 5% of total registrations, the pre-school age group for 52%, the 5-10 age group for 29%, the 11–15 age group for 14% of total registrations. There are no registrations in the 16+ age group.

The following tables detailing information relating to Aberdeen city are extracted from the statistical return to the Scottish Government submitted for the year to 31 July 2018, with some extended to include data to the 31 March 2019.

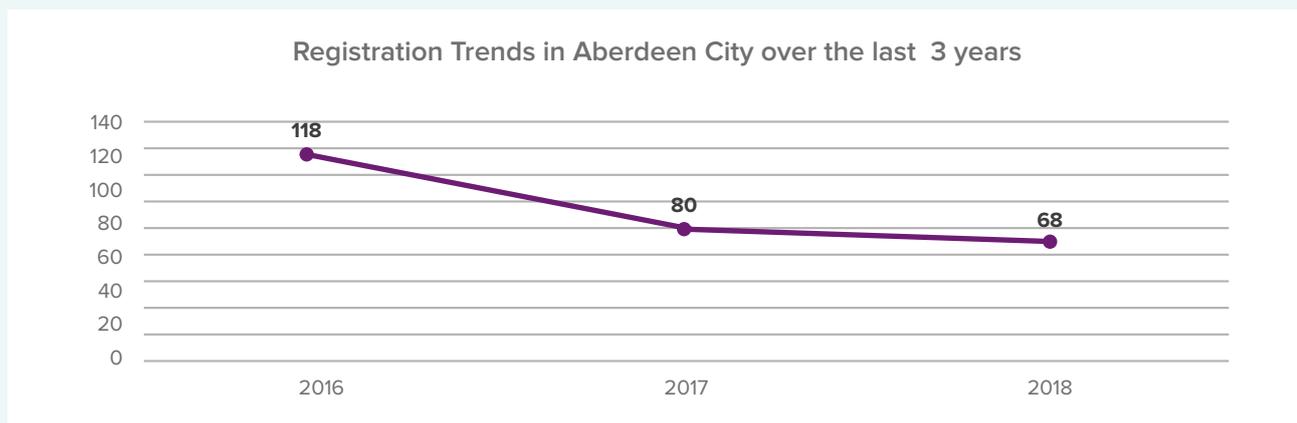
### Registrations in the North East

As at 31.03.19, there were 82 children in the Aberdeen City area on the North East Scotland Child Protection Register.

#### Registration Trends in Aberdeen City to 31.03.19



#### Registration Trends in Aberdeen City over the last 3 years (as at 31.07)



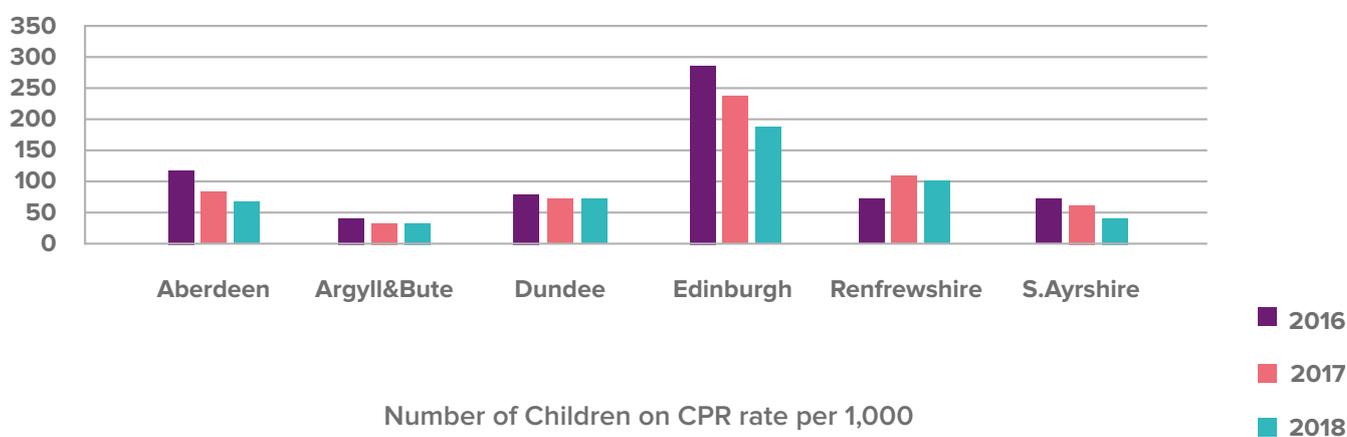
## Re-Registrations

In relation to Aberdeen City, in the period 1 August 2017 – 31 July 2018, 33 children had a previous registration history:

- 33 children out of 150 (22%) registered over the year had previous registration history
- 33 children involving 23 families
- The longest time interval between individual registrations was 9 years 1 months and the shortest 1 year 1 month
- 33 children had previous registrations compared to 47 in 2016/17
- Only 7 children (5%) had been on the CPR within the previous 2 years
- Nationally 18% of children had been previously registered

## Registrations per Comparative Local Authority Areas

No. of children on the CPR  
Comparative Local Authorities



Number of Children on CPR rate per 1,000  
population aged 0-15



## Case Conferences

Number of scheduled Case Conferences between 01.08.17 - 31.07.18

Authority	*Initial/Pre-Birth			Reviews			Total		
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
City	132	152	123	277	291	198	409	443	321

\*Initial Case Conference include any Transfer in and Reviews include any transfer out Case Conferences involved singular and multi-sibling families.

In the most recent period of available annual statistics, 2017/18, the conversion rate from case conference to registration is 87%. This reflects a recent improvement work in this respect; an increase from 81% in period 2016/17.

## De-registrations

In the period 1 August 2017 - 31 July 2018, Aberdeen City had 162 de-registrations

Duration	Number	Comparator Local Authorities 31.07.17
0 - 1 month	3	Edinburgh 353
2 - 6 months	95	Dundee 152
7 - 12 months	44	South Ayrshire 109
13 - 18 months	11	Argyll & Bute 82
19 - 24 months	7	Renfrewshire 159
24 months +	2	
Total	162	

## Risk Factors

Of the children registered in Aberdeen City

% 31.03.19

% 31.07.18

Domestic Abuse	30%	31%
Parental Drug Use	23%	25%
Parental Alcohol Use	16%	9%
Parental Mental Health	28%	23.5%
Sexual Abuse	5%	3%
Physical Abuse	22%	10%
Emotional Abuse	28%	37%
Non-engaging family	16%	19%
Neglect	33%	32%
Child placing Self at Risk	2%	0%
Child Sexual Exploitation	0%	0%
Forced & Dangerous Labour	0%	0%
Trafficking	0%	0%
Other	10%	6%



Aberdeen City	2018											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. on CPR	74	69	61	58	53	60	68	62	61	70	85	83
Affected by Neglect	22	13	12	17	19	20	22	21	15	16	23	19
Physical Abuse	13	11	7	4	0	5	7	7	10	14	15	15
Sex Abuse	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	20	2	2	2
Emotional Abuse	38	34	34	25	21	24	25	20	18	20	26	25
Domestic Abuse	19	17	12	12	13	18	21	17	19	26	29	26
Parental Drug Abuse	17	11	16	19	21	17	17	17	14	20	22	20
Parental Alcohol Abuse	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	8	15	15
Parental Mental Health	12	16	15	16	13	17	16	10	9	14	22	21
Non-engaging Family	3	2	3	4	5	11	13	12	14	13	13	16
Child placing Self at Risk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	3
Danger & Forced Labour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Sexual Exploitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trafficking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	1	1	1	1	5	4	6	8	7	11	11

Aberdeen City	2019		
	Jan	Feb	Mar
No. on CPR	87	89	82
Affected by Neglect	25	33	37
Physical Abuse	20	19	18
Sex Abuse	6	4	4
Emotional Abuse	31	35	23
Domestic Abuse	28	25	25
Parental Drug Abuse	18	21	19
Parental Alcohol Abuse	15	15	13
Parental Mental Health	21	26	23
Non-engaging Family	14	15	13
Child placing Self at Risk	1	2	2
Danger & Forced Labour	0	0	0
Child Sexual Exploitation	0	0	0
Trafficking	0	0	0
Other	11	8	8

## Financial Implications

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The shared north east activities (Child Protection Partnership) are funded by Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian each contributing 26%, and Police Scotland and the Moray Council each contributing 11% of the total annual cost. The total for the year 2018-19, was £89,532, with an estimated cost for 2019-20 of £111,234. Staffing consists of the Child Protection Admin Officer (who also fulfils the role of Keeper of the Child Protection Register) and 2 part-time admin support assistants. Aberdeen City Council provides the management and employment support for the staff of the Child Protection Partnership.

In relation to Joint Investigative Interviews in Grampian, the budget is administered by the Child Protection Partnership and continues to be is £24,000 for 2019-20.

Aberdeen City Chief Officers Group comprising the statutory agencies (ACC, NHS and Police Scotland) determine the budget for the ongoing work of the City CPC. This is required to meet staff costs, child protection partnership contribution costs and anticipated local expenditure such as in relation to significant case reviews. The staffing complement for Aberdeen City CPC is the Independent Chair, Lead Officer, and a Learning and Development Co-ordinator.



# Services for Children and Young People in Aberdeen City

## Child Protection Programme

January 2019 - December 2021

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### Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee

Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee (CPC) is a multi-agency strategic partnership governed by the Chief Executive Officers of Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian and the Police Commander for the area. It is committed to providing individual and collective leadership and direction for the management of child protection services in the Aberdeen City area. Improvements are driven through the Child Protection Programme.

The CPC works alongside Integrated Children's Services in Aberdeen to ensure that improvement areas are aligned. In this way we ensure the best and most effective use of resources. The CPC also aims to work collaboratively with other strategic partnerships in the City such as Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership (particularly in relation to child protection and domestic abuse), Adult Protection Committee, Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.

Improvement activity is reported to and monitored by the CPC and an Annual Report is made widely available across agencies.

#### Our Aims

The Child Protection Programme aims to improve the safety, wellbeing and life chances of vulnerable children and young people. As a partnership we achieve this by

- recognising and responding when children and young people need protection
- helping children and young people stay safe, healthy and, for those who have experienced abuse and neglect, to recover from their experiences and
- providing strong and effective collaborative leadership to deliver the Child Protection Programme

The Child Protection Programme includes the improvement activity identified by

- Local self-evaluation through data analysis, case file auditing and the collaboration of multi agency professionals in the City,
- National initiatives driven by legislation and other Scottish Government priorities and
- Local priorities identified in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

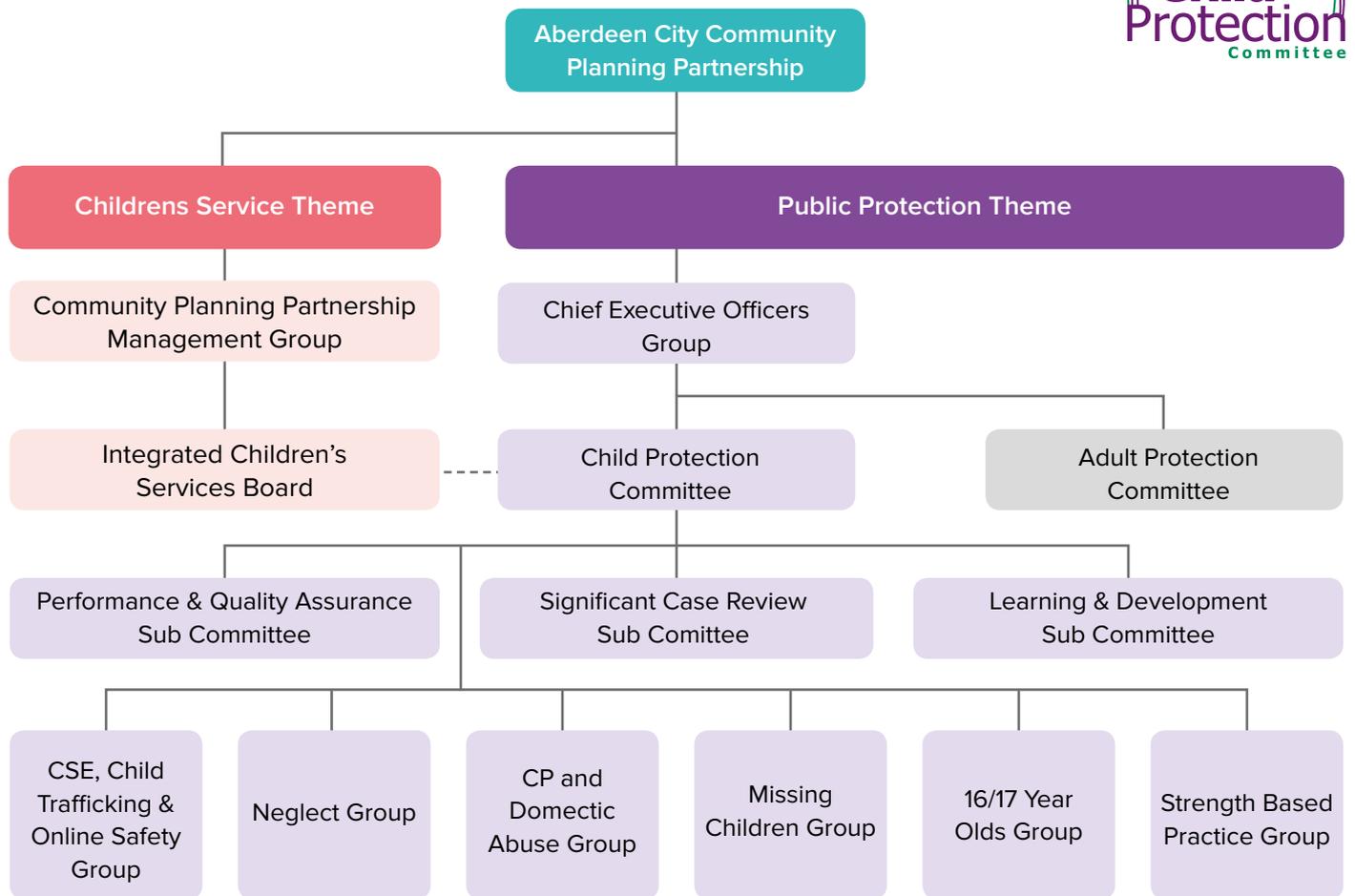
#### Our Priorities in the Programme 2019 - 2021

- Strength Based Practice and Participation of children, young people and families in child protection processes
- Cumulative Neglect
- On-line Safety, Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Trafficking
- Child Protection and Domestic Abuse
- Vulnerable 16-17 Year Olds and Missing Children
- Emotional Abuse
- Cultural Issues (including Female Genital Mutilation, Ethnicity, LGBT+, Prevent, Forced Marriage) and Disability in the field of Child Protection

This fifth annual report of Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee highlights the developments and improvements over 2018 and early 2019. It demonstrates the commitment of agencies and services to address current and emerging issues in order to continue to improve services for the protection of children and young people from all forms of abuse, neglect or exploitation. The CPC aims to make sure that professionals are supported through improvement opportunities, evidence-led strategic planning and up-to-date learning and materials to safeguard and promote Aberdeen's children's health, welfare and development.

Child Protection Programme Development Manager  
*Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee*  
April 2019

# Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee Governance Structure 2019



This programme will be delivered on a phased basis as this ensures better embedding of improvements in practice as well as realistically enabling us to deliver on the programme with the resources available. It is acknowledged that, whilst this is a comprehensive programme, it requires to be sufficiently flexible to be adjusted as needs arise, such as from the findings of case reviews, audits, joint inspections as well as developing areas identified in the LOIP or by Integrated Children's Services.

Priorities	Responsible	Start	Finish	Duration	2018				2019				2020				2021			
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Strength Based Practice and Participation	Children's SW	01/01/2018	31/12/2020	156w 4d	[Teal bar spanning from Q1 2018 to Q4 2020]															
Cumulative Neglect	NHS Grampian	01/01/2018	31/12/2020	156w 4d	[Teal bar spanning from Q1 2018 to Q4 2020]															
Online Safety, CSE and Child Trafficking	Education Services	01/01/2018	31/12/2020	156w 4d	[Teal bar spanning from Q1 2018 to Q4 2020]															
Vulnerable 16-17 year olds and Missing Children	Third Sector	01/01/2018	31/12/2019	104w 2d	[Teal bar spanning from Q1 2018 to Q4 2019]															
Emotional Abuse	Children's SW	01/10/2019	31/12/2020	65w 3d	[Teal bar spanning from Q4 2019 to Q4 2020]															
Child Protection and Domestic Abuse	Police Scotland	01/10/2019	31/12/2021	117w 4d	[Teal bar spanning from Q4 2019 to Q4 2021]															
Cultural Issues (including FGM, ethnicity, LGBT+, Prevent and Forced Marriage) and Disability in the field of Child Protection	SCRA	01/01/2020	31/12/2021	104w 3d	[Teal bar spanning from Q1 2020 to Q4 2021]															

All improvement priorities are a multi-agency responsibility and sit collectively with the agencies and members of the CPC. However, each area of priority will be led by one agency as indicated above.

## Child Protection Programme • January 2019 - 2021

Stretch Outcome Aim	Key Drivers	Improvement project aim	Key Improvement Measures	Responsibility	Progress update
<p><b>At all times to recognise and respond when Children and Young People need protection from significant harm or abuse</b></p>	<p>By 2020, to have improved multi agency recognition and response to indicators of <b>cumulative neglect</b>.</p> <p><b>Source:</b>  <i>Local Initial Case Reviews</i>  <i>National SCRs</i>  <i>CPR data</i>  <i>CPIP</i>  <i>CPC Dev Day 2017 Priority 1</i>  <i>Case File Audit 2017</i>  <i>LOIP</i></p> <p><b>Led on behalf of the CPC by:</b>                      Lead Nurse, Child Protection, NHS Grampian</p>	<p>To develop and disseminate multi-agency Neglect Strategy and Practice Guidance</p> <p>To increase professional understanding and confidence of the current theory and practice around Neglect through multi agency Learning &amp; Development Conferences</p> <p>To involve multi agency practitioners in the identification and development of outcome measures</p> <p>To further develop single and multi agency Learning &amp; Development on Cumulative Neglect with a focus on impact and outcomes for children</p>	<p>Numbers on the Child Protection Register (CPR) under the category of Neglect</p> <p>Reregistration of children on the CPR where Neglect remains a concern</p> <p>Numbers of multi agency meetings where Neglect is the predominant issue</p> <p>Numbers of Notifications for ICR/ SCRs where Cumulative Neglect is the predominant cause for referral</p> <p>Percentage of files where Child's Plans and Chronologies effectively identify and address cumulative Neglect</p> <p>To ascertain that professionals better recognise and respond to indicators of cumulative neglect in accordance with local child protection procedures and guidance</p>	<p><b>Children's Social Work (CSW):</b>                      Keeper of the CPR</p> <p><b>CSW:</b>                      Keeper of the CPR</p> <p><b>ICSB:</b>                      GIRFEC group</p> <p><b>CPC:</b> Chair of the SCR Sub Committee</p> <p><b>CSW:</b>                      Lead Service Manager</p> <p><b>CPC:</b> Chair of Performance &amp; QA Sub Committee</p>	

Stretch Outcome Aim	Key Drivers	Improvement project aim	Key Improvement Measures	Responsibility	Progress update
	<p>By 2021, to have improved multi agency recognition and response to the child protection implications of <b>domestic abuse and coercive control</b></p> <p><b>Source:</b>  <i>CPR data</i>  <i>SCRA data</i>  <i>Dev Day 2017 Priority 4</i>  <i>Multi-agency File auditing</i>  <i>CPIP</i>  <i>LOIP</i></p> <p><b>Led on behalf of the CPC by:</b>  DCI, Public Protection Unit,  Police Scotland</p>	<p>To develop and disseminate multi-agency Child Protection and Domestic Abuse &amp; Coercive Control Practice Guidance reflecting the Safe &amp; Together approach</p> <p>To increase professional understanding and confidence of the current theory, practice and legislation around Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control</p> <p>To further develop single and multi agency L&amp;D on Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control with a focus on impact and outcomes for children</p>	<p>Numbers on the CPR under category of domestic abuse and coercive control</p> <p>Numbers of Reregistration of children on the CPR where domestic abuse and coercive control remains a concern</p> <p>Numbers of multi agency meetings where domestic abuse and coercive control is the predominant issue</p> <p>Numbers of referrals to SCRA where domestic abuse is a ground for referral</p> <p>Percentage of files where Child's Plans and Chronologies effectively identify and address domestic abuse and coercive control</p> <p>Reduce numbers of children removed from parental care where domestic abuse and coercive control is a significant concern (reflecting Safe &amp; Together approach)</p> <p>To ascertain that professionals better recognise and respond to the child protection implications of domestic abuse and coercive control in accordance with local child protection procedures and guidance</p> <p>Numbers of cases involving children considered in MARAC, MATAAC and MAPPA processes</p> <p>Numbers of individuals with a court disposal requiring participation in the Caledonian project</p>	<p><b>CSW:</b> Keeper of the CPR</p> <p><b>CSW:</b> Keeper of the CPR</p> <p>GIRFEC group</p> <p><b>SCRA:</b> Area Reporter Manager</p> <p><b>CPC:</b> Chair of Performance &amp; QA Sub Committee</p> <p><b>CSW:</b> Lead Service Manager</p> <p><b>CPC:</b> Chair of Performance &amp; QA Sub Committee</p> <p><b>Police Scotland:</b> DCI rep on CPC</p> <p><b>Police Scotland:</b> DCI rep on CPC</p>	

Stretch Outcome Aim	Key Drivers	Improvement project aim	Key Improvement Measures	Responsibility	Progress update
	<p>By 2020, to have improved multi agency recognition and response to the child protection implications of <b>emotional abuse</b></p> <p><b>Source:</b> <i>CPR</i> <i>M-A Audit 2017</i></p> <p><b>Led on behalf of the CPC by:</b> Lead Service Manager, Children's Social Work</p>	<p>To develop a consistent professional understanding of Emotional Abuse across the partnership in Aberdeen City commencing with L&amp;D event April 2019</p> <p>To address Emotional Abuse in all Child's Plans where registration has included this category</p> <p>To routinely QA the effectiveness of interventions outlined in Child's Plans to address emotional abuse</p>	<p>Numbers on the CPR under category of Emotional Abuse</p> <p>Reregistration of children on the CPR where Emotional Abuse remains a concern</p> <p>Numbers of multi agency meetings where Emotional Abuse is the predominant issue</p> <p>Percentage of files where Child's Plans and Chronologies effectively identify and address Emotional Abuse</p>	<p><b>CSW:</b> Keeper of the CPR</p> <p><b>CSW:</b> Keeper of the CPR</p> <p>GIRFEC Group</p> <p><b>CSW:</b> Lead Service Manager</p>	
	<p>By 2021, to have improved multi agency recognition and response to <b>cultural issues (including FGM, ethnicity, LGBT+, Prevent and Forced Marriage) and Disability</b> in the field of child Protection</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <i>SCR</i> <i>CPR data</i> <i>Dev Day priorities 8, 9</i> <i>National priority</i></p> <p><b>Led on behalf of the CPC by:</b> Area Reporter Manager, SCRA</p>	<p>To ascertain the local statistical picture in comparison to national data in relation to the various cultural issues identified</p> <p>To increase professional understanding and confidence of the current theory, practice and legislation around CP and Disability</p> <p>To draw upon the national consultation on the FGM statutory position</p> <p>To research the approach of other LA areas in relation to Prevent</p> <p>To ensure that child protection procedures are followed equally and consistently across all children and young people regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexuality, disability, religion or culture</p>	<p>Numbers on the CPR identifying disability, FGM, ethnicity, LGBT+, Prevent or Forced Marriage</p> <p>Numbers of multi agency meetings where child protection concerns relate to disability, FGM, ethnicity, LGBT+, Prevent or Forced Marriage</p> <p>To ascertain that professionals better recognise and respond to indicators of disability, FGM, ethnicity, LGBT+, Prevent and Forced Marriage in accordance with local child protection procedures and guidance</p>	<p><b>CSW:</b> Keeper of the CPR</p> <p><b>ICSB:</b> GIRFEC Group</p> <p><b>CPC:</b> Chair of Performance &amp; QA Sub Committee</p>	

Stretch Outcome Aim	Key Drivers	Improvement project aim	Key Improvement Measures	Responsibility	Progress update
<p><b>At all times to help children and young people stay safe, healthy and, for those who have experienced abuse and neglect, to recover from their experiences</b></p>	<p>By 2019, to have improved professional, family and young people’s awareness, knowledge and skills to safeguard and protect from the abuse and harm of <b>Online Safety, CSE and child trafficking</b></p> <p><b>Source:</b>  <i>National priority (CPIP)</i>  <i>Legislative priority</i>  <i>Local CSE action plan</i>  <i>Dev day priorities 5 and 10</i></p> <p><b>Led on behalf of the CPC by:</b>            Chief Education Officer,            Aberdeen City Council</p>	<p>To develop and disseminate multi-agency Practice Guidance in relation to Child Trafficking</p> <p>To signpost professionals, families and young people to key messages in relation to Online Safety</p> <p>To increase young people’s knowledge and confidence in keeping themselves safe on line</p> <p>To improve our single agency reporting and multi-agency analysis of data in relation to CSE, child trafficking, on- line safety</p>	<p>Numbers on the CPR under categories of CSE, Trafficking, Sexual Abuse and Child Placing Self at Risk</p> <p>Reregistration of children on the CPR where CSE, Trafficking, Sexual Abuse or Child Placing Self at Risk remains a concern</p> <p>Numbers of multi agency meetings where CSE, Trafficking, Sexual Abuse or Child Placing Self at Risk is the predominant issue</p> <p>Numbers of Notifications for ICR/SCRs where CSE, Trafficking, Sexual Abuse or Child Placing Self at Risk is the predominant cause for referral</p> <p>Numbers of VPDs where CSE, child trafficking or online abuse is an identified concern</p> <p>Numbers for convictions or other disposals for offences against children for CSE, child trafficking or online abuse</p> <p>To ascertain that professionals better recognise and respond to indicators of CSE, Trafficking, Sexual Abuse or Child Placing Self at Risk in accordance with local child protection procedures and guidance</p> <p>Note - Ask CSE group to consider this section of the programme and revise where needed</p>	<p><b>CSW:</b> Keeper of the CPR</p> <p><b>CSW:</b> Keeper of the CPR</p> <p><b>ICSB:</b> GIRFEC Group</p> <p><b>CPC:</b> Chair of the SCR Sub Committee</p> <p><b>Police Scotland:</b> DCI rep on CPC</p> <p><b>Police Scotland:</b> DCI rep on CPC</p> <p><b>CPC:</b> Chair of Performance &amp; QA Sub Committee</p>	

Stretch Outcome Aim	Key Drivers	Improvement project aim	Key Improvement Measures	Responsibility	Progress update
	<p>By 2019, to have improved partnership processes and responses to the <b>vulnerabilities of 16-17 year olds and all young people who go missing</b></p> <p><b>Source:</b> National priority CPIP Local data National SCRs</p> <p><b>Led on behalf of the CPC by:</b> Assistant Director, Barnardo's</p>	<p>To issue and embed multi agency guidance for all agencies in relation to vulnerable 16-17 Year Olds</p> <p>To issue and embed multi agency guidance to supplement existing provision where Young People go missing</p>	<p>Professionals report an awareness and understanding of their role and responsibilities in relation to -Vulnerable 16-17 year olds and -Young people who go missing</p> <p>Responsible CPC Thematic groups will identify data sets to demonstrate implementation of these Guidance documents</p>	<p><b>CPC:</b> Chair of Performance &amp; QA Sub Committee</p>	
<p><b>At all times to provide strong and effective collaborative leadership to deliver the Child Protection Programme</b></p>	<p>By 2021, to have adopted a <b>strength based and participatory approach to child protection practice</b> across the partnership in Aberdeen City</p> <p><b>Source:</b> CPIP M-A Audit 2017 Local ICRs</p> <p><b>Led on behalf of the CPC by:</b> CSWO, Aberdeen City Council</p>	<p>Further develop a model of child protection case conference which is strength based and participatory</p> <p>All services to have a consistent understanding of strength based practice in Aberdeen City in relation to working with families</p> <p>All professionals to adopt a strength based approach to information sharing, risk assessment and professional challenge</p> <p>All services to have a consistent understanding and application of participatory practice in working with children, young people and families involved in child protection processes</p> <p>To routinely Quality Assure child protection case files</p>	<p>Number of child protection case conferences utilising a strength based approach</p> <p>Increase parental attendance at case conferences</p> <p>Increased participation by families in the planning and implementation of the child's plan to reduce risk</p> <p>Increased feedback from children, young people, families and carers involved in the child protection process</p> <p>Increased understanding and confidence across the multi agency workforce to delivering a strength-based approach to practice including information sharing, risk assessment and professional challenge</p>	<p><b>CSW:</b> CP Admin</p> <p><b>CSW:</b> CP Admin</p> <p><b>CSW:</b> CP Admin</p> <p><b>CPC:</b> Chair of Performance &amp; QA Sub Committee</p>	

Stretch Outcome Aim	Key Drivers	Improvement project aim	Key Improvement Measures	Responsibility	Progress update
			<p>Quality Assurance of case conferences Percentage of files which demonstrate a strength based and participatory approach with children, young people and families</p> <p>To ascertain that families have been included in the child protection processes involving them</p>	<p><b>CSW:</b> Lead Service Manager</p> <p><b>CPC:</b> Chair of Performance &amp; QA Sub Committee</p>	
	<p>To have <b>learning and development opportunities</b> available to all professionals in order to support the aims of this programme</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <i>National Guidance</i></p> <p><b>Led on behalf of the CPC by:</b> Chair of the L&amp;D Sub Committee</p>	<p>Ensuring appropriate multi agency child protection Learning and Development opportunities are available to all professionals</p>	<p>Training Needs Analysis and L&amp;D programme overseen by CPC Learning &amp; Development Sub Committee</p> <p>Annual report to CPC</p>	<p><b>CPC:</b> Chair of L&amp;D Sub Committee</p> <p><b>CPC:</b> Chair of L&amp;D Sub Committee</p>	
	<p>Throughout this programme, 2019 to 2021 (and beyond), to <b>work collaboratively with other strategic partners</b> in order to ensure ongoing strategic development and continuous improvement of our child protection services.</p> <p><b>Source:</b> <i>Scottish Govt CPIP National Guidance</i></p> <p><b>Led on behalf of the CPC by:</b> Chair of the CPC</p>	<p>Ensuring proactive engagement with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Scottish Government's Child Protection Improvement Programme</li> <li>CELCIS programme of child protection improvement, including data set, neglect and case review model</li> <li>CPC Scotland and other national groups</li> </ul> <p>Ensuring this programme is understood and annually reviewed by strategic leaders across agencies with responsibility for child protection</p> <p>Ensuring effective links with ADP, APC, AVAWP, MAPPA and ICSB</p>	<p>Demonstrable links between Aberdeen City's improvement programme and current and emerging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>legislative changes</li> <li>policy changes</li> <li>National improvement programme</li> </ul> <p>Demonstrable interface with the other strategic partnerships through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The COG</li> <li>Joint Independent Chair of CPC and APC</li> <li>Membership links</li> <li>Multi agency attendance at CPC events</li> </ul> <p>Annual CPC Development Day and CPC Annual Report</p>	<p><b>CPC:</b> Chair of CPC</p> <p><b>CPC:</b> Chair of CPC</p> <p><b>CPC:</b> Chair of CPC</p>	



If you are concerned about the safety of a child in Aberdeen, call

- 01224 306877 (Joint Child Protection Team)
- 101 (Police Scotland)
- 0800 731 5520 (Reception Team and Emergency Out of Hours)