



Standards and Quality Report 2021 / 2022

A child protection community working together to keep children safe.

If you have a concern about a child or young person, please contact

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Protecting Children and Young People: It is Still Everyone's Job

Contents

Preface by the Children, Young People and Families Partnership	3
Introduction by the Independent Chair of Perth and Kinross CPC	4
Pictorial Summary – <i>What key outcomes have we achieved and how are we improving?</i>	5
Context	6
Management Information and Performance Outcomes	8
How well do we meet the needs of our stakeholders?	16
How good is the delivery of our services for children, young people and families and our operational management?	36
How good is our leadership?.....	39
<i>Perth and Kinross Public Protection Chief Officers' Group (COG)</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Perth and Kinross Protecting People Coordination Group (PPCG).....</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Perth and Kinross Children, Young People and Families Partnership (CYPFP)</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee (CPC)</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Learning from Initial Case Reviews (ICRs); Significant Case Reviews (SCRs) and Learning Reviews</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Central and North Scotland CPC Consortium</i>	<i>41</i>
What is our capacity for improvement?	42
Key Abbreviations & Acronyms Used	43

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Preface by the Children, Young People and Families Partnership

The Chief Officers of the public sector organisations in Perth and Kinross, Elected Members of Perth and Kinross Council, Tayside NHS Board and the Command Team of Police Scotland's Tayside Division, are once again pleased to support the Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee (CPC) Standards and Quality Report 2021 / 2022.

The [Children, Young People and Families Partnership \(CYPFP\)](#) continually strives for excellence in our children's services and continues to provide strong and robust collective leadership; direction; governance; scrutiny; challenge and support to the work of the CPC. Our individual and collective commitment to the **protection** of children and young people in Perth and Kinross remains paramount.

It is our firm belief that **safeguarding, supporting** and **promoting** the **wellbeing** of all children and young people and protecting them from harm, abuse and exploitation is **everyone's job**. We take this responsibility very seriously and we are committed to **enabling all children and young people to be the best they can be** and to achieving our shared, ambitious and compelling vision that our **children and young people will have the best start in life and Tayside will be the best place in Scotland to grow up**.

Last year, we acknowledged the significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic was having, and is still having, on the lives of children, young people and their families and we reported on how our services were adapting to meet their needs. We also reported on how our services had embraced new ways of working and / or new technologies, to ensure children, young people and their families are kept safe and continue to get the help they need, when they need it.

Throughout 2021 / 2022, we have continued to support that more flexible approach and we have taken the opportunity to strengthen consolidate our own leadership approach to protecting people; with an enhanced coordinating capacity which promotes a visible [Values-Based Reflective Practice \(VBRP\)](#) practice approach.

Whilst we are pleased that this report shows our child protection services continue to learn and improve, we continue to remain vigilant. Going forward, we are not complacent and together with the CPC, we continue strive for excellence, continuous improvement and to realise fully our capacity for improvement.

We commend and endorse this CPC Standards and Quality Report for 2021 / 2022.

Thomas Glen
Chief Executive
Perth and Kinross Council

Grant Archibald
Chief Executive
NHS Tayside

Phil Davison
Chief Superintendent
Police Scotland – Tayside Division

John Cunningham
Locality Reporter Manager
Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

Date:

Introduction by the Independent Chair of Perth and Kinross CPC

Welcome to our CPC Standards and Quality Report 2021 / 2022. This report covers the period 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022.

Once again, this report presents a high-level overview of our multi-agency activity for the past year.

This report identifies our *achievements*; *key strengths* and *areas for further improvement*. It also describes *our capacity for improvement* and our ambitious *improvement programme* and *work plan* for the future.

Whilst we know how good we are now, we also know how good we can be. We continue to learn lessons and our capacity for further improvement remains very strong.

The CPC is a listening and learning partnership and our strong partnership arrangements have allowed us to quickly change and adapt to new ways of working and in many aspects, strengthened what was already, a very mature and well established working partnership.

Without doubt, 2021 / 2022 has been another very challenging year for the CPC and all its partners.

We have continued to support frontline workers to deliver key child protection services and we are working to ensure they remain empowered and enabled to do so; with new and additional learning and development opportunities and with the support of new practice guidance and technologies.

The CPC's ongoing improvement work is evidenced and articulated in the CPC Improvement Plan 2021 – 2023; which bring together all our learning from quality assurance, self-evaluation and evidences our commitment to continuous improvement. An update on the Plan can be found at Appendix 1.

Going forward, we remain clearly focused on learning, practice change and improvement. We have made, and we are continuing to make, sustained improvement in our key child protection processes and practices and we will continue to do so.

In conclusion, I must acknowledge the hard work, commitment and dedication of all our staff, which remains outstanding and which is improving the life chances of all children, young people and their families across Perth and Kinross and helping to keep them safe.

Bill Atkinson

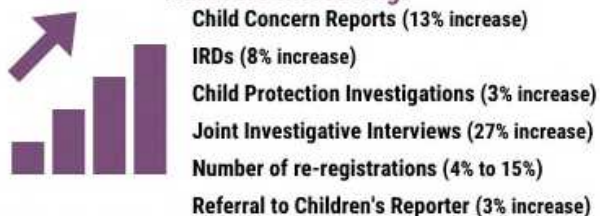
Independent Chair of Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee (CPC)

Date: 25 October 2022

Pictorial Summary – What key outcomes have we achieved and how are we improving?

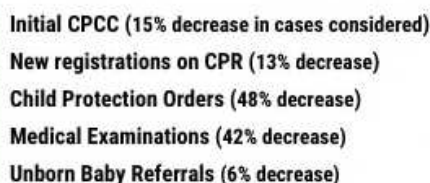
CPC Standards & Quality Report 2021/22 Summary

Numbers Increasing:



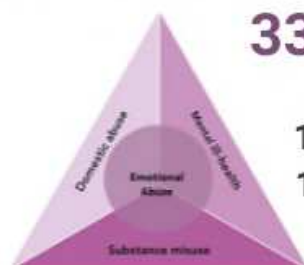
changes compared with 2020/21

Numbers Decreasing:



changes compared with 2020/21

Nature of concerns



33% of child concern reports raised involve the **trio of risk**.

18% domestic abuse
10% parental mental ill-health
5% problematic parental drug and/or alcohol use



Improvements seen in:

New practice guidance and technologies



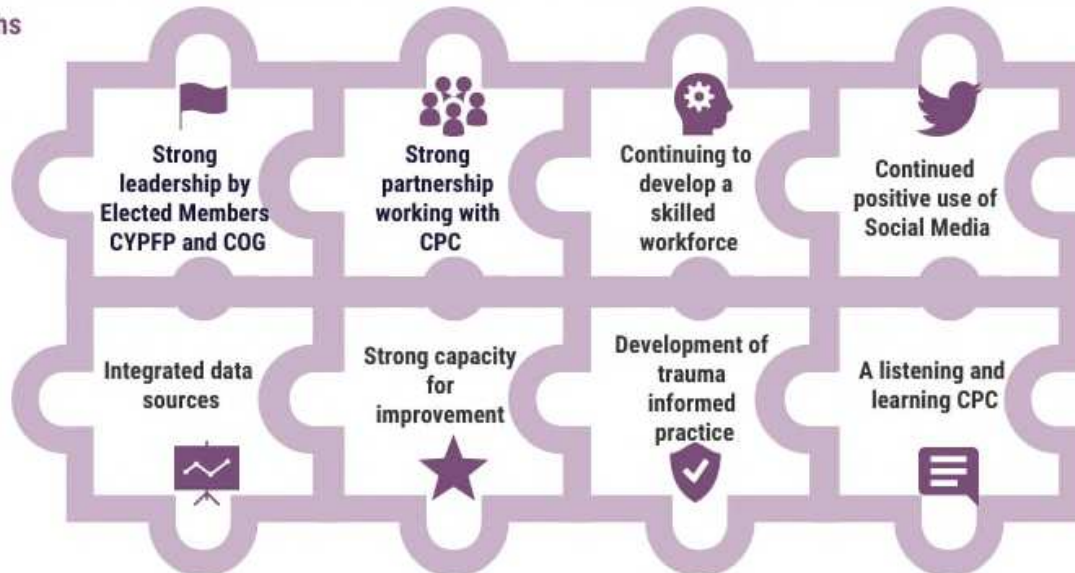
Review of multi-agency decision-making, assessment and planning processes



Listening to, understanding and respecting the views of children young people and families

Development and adaptation of staff training to online delivery model

Strengths



Listening to and Seeking Views from Children and Young People



IAPK Independent Advocacy Panel & Forum

REAP RIGHTS ENGAGEMENT ADVOCACY PARTICIPATION

PKAVS

100%

increase in capacity in 2021/22

495

meetings attended where young people's views were represented

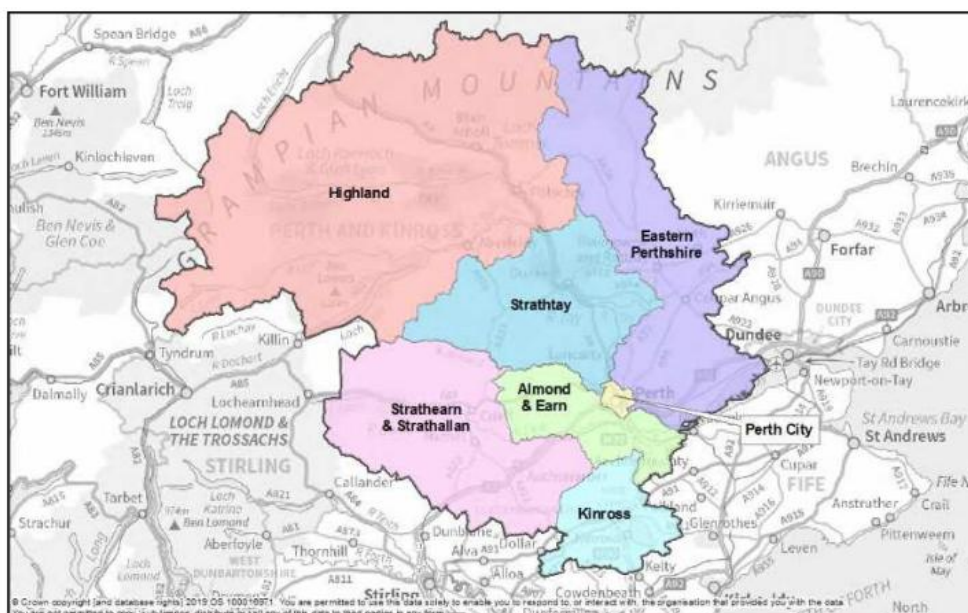
497

number of Young Carers supported in 2020/21

Context

This section sets out our shared, ambitious and compelling vision and briefly describes the context within which we deliver our services for children, young people and families across Perth and Kinross.

Perth and Kinross



Our Vision

Our shared, ambitious and compelling Vision, articulated in the Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2021 – 2023 is that:

“Our children and young people will have the best start in life and Tayside will be the best place in Scotland to grow up”

Tayside Plan – Our Five Priorities

1. Our children will have the **best start in life** in a nurturing environment
2. Our children and young people will be **meaningfully engaged with high quality learning** experiences to extend their potential
3. Our children will **grow up healthy, confident, and resilient** with improved mental and physical health and strengthened emotional wellbeing
4. Our children, young people and families at risk, who face significant inequalities and disadvantage, will have **improved life chances**
5. Our children and young people are **safe from harm**

National Context

The care and protection of children and young people in Scotland is set within the wider policy context of [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\)](#); the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) and more recently within the findings from the [Independent Care Review: The Promise](#) (2020) which clearly advocates Scotland's Ambition for children and young people – *we grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential*.

We also acknowledge [The Promise: The Plan 2021 – 2024](#) which sets out the current five priority areas and key milestones – *the right to a childhood; whole family support; supporting the workforce; planning and building capacity*.

All are inextricably linked and prerequisites in improving outcomes for children and young people, keeping them safe and protecting them from harm, abuse and exploitation.

Local Context

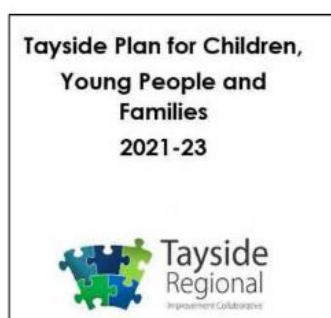


Within Perth and Kinross, **safeguarding, supporting** and **promoting** the wellbeing of all children and young people and protecting them from harm, abuse and exploitation is **everyone's job and everyone's responsibility**.

We consider this to be a shared responsibility for all practitioners and managers working across the public, private and third sectors.

Child Protection Committee (CPC)

The work of the [Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee \(CPC\)](#) in protecting children and young people from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation and in keeping them safe, is fundamental to realising our vision for improving wellbeing and ensuring better outcomes for our most vulnerable and at risk children and young people. The work of the CPC is articulated in CPC Improvement Plan 2021 – 2023, which is aligned with, and supports the [Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2021 – 2023](#).



Management Information and Performance Outcomes

This section describes the findings from our CPC multi-agency management information and performance outcome framework and reports on the **headline messages** for 2021 / 2022.

Evaluation: We continue to strive to ensure that, children and young people in need of care and protection are getting the help they need; when they need it and it is the right help; from the right people; at the right time and that we are committed to improving their wellbeing, their life-chances and keeping them safe from harm, abuse and exploitation

Background Information and Context

The CPC continues to publish Child Protection Management Information and Statistical Reports on an academic year basis (August to July), in compliance with Scottish Government's annual reporting requirements.

Since 2019, the CPC has continued to develop a shared CPC Multi-Agency Management Information and Performance Outcome Framework; with single points of contact, is key services and agencies, providing data on a monthly basis to the CPC.

These Data Reports have been informed and developed in partnership with the [National Minimum Dataset for CPCs in Scotland](#) and includes additional key child protection performance output indicators (quantitative indicators showing frequency and volume); proxy outcome indicators (qualitative indicators showing improved outcomes) and longitudinal trends and patterns.

As a result, the CPC now receives more frequent data reports, in a more integrated multi-agency way and continues to benefit from significant analytical help and support from staff within the ECS - Research Analysis & Performance Team.

Headline Messages 2021 / 2022

For the purposes of this report, we will present the **headline messages** from our Tayside Shared Dataset for CPCs and from the other previously mentioned data sources. These are presented for the academic year 1 August 2021 – 31 July 2022 and, where possible, compared with previous years:

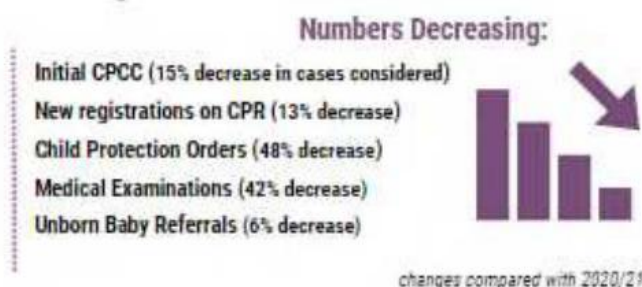
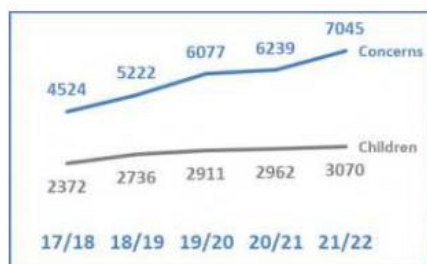


Figure 1: Child Concern Reports (CCRs)^{1 2}



The total number of Child Concern Reports (CCRs) shows a continued increase over the last five years, with an increase of 806 (13%) CCRs this year; whilst the number of children and young people subject to a CCR has risen more slowly. Many of these CCRs relate to concerns which are both multiple and complex in their nature.

CCRs can relate to the same child or young person, particularly where there are multiple or repeated concerns about the same child or young person. CCRs are all subject to multi-agency screening arrangements and

shared proportionately with key partners. Within police and social work services, escalation and trigger mechanisms are in place to monitor and review multiple and / or recurring CCRs.

Following multi-agency screening arrangements there are a number of possible outcomes. Where the child or young person is known to social work and / or an open case to social work, the CCR is shared with the Lead Professional (almost always the Social Worker) for further investigation, assessment and follow-up; or for single or multi-agency assessment and support; or referral to The Reporter (Scottish Children's Reporter Administration – SCRA) for compulsory measures of care; or referral to a Third Sector organisation for help and support.

CCRs which are clearly of a child protection nature and / or which after multi-agency screening indicate the need for a child protection investigation are immediately fast-tracked, without delay, for an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion (IRD).

Figure 2: Child Concern Reports by Age

The number of children and young people with a CCR in most age groups has remained relatively steady; with the number in the 5-10 and 11-15 age groups again being the largest groups.

Of particular note is the children and young people in the 11-15 age group, which continues to increase and feature more prominently over the last two years.

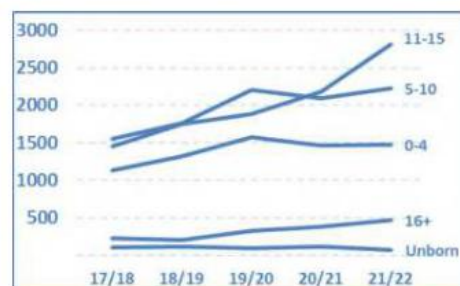
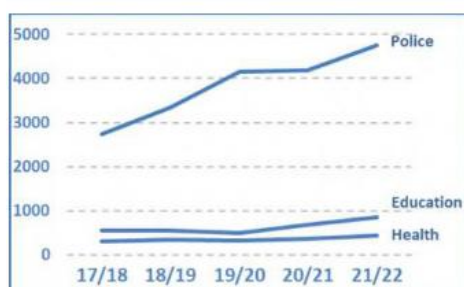


Figure 3: Child Concern Reports by Source



The main source of CCRs continues to be Police Scotland, followed by Education Services and Health Services. Overall, these three source groups account for over 85% of all CCRs submitted.

The number of CCRs submitted by Police Scotland has been continually increasing over the last 5 years. Any Police Officer can raise a CCR and these are coordinated and quality assured, prior to sharing, by Police Scotland's Tayside Division's Risk and Concern Hub.

¹ Note: A Child Concern Report (CCR) is a mechanism by which any practitioner or manager across the public, private or third sector, or indeed, any member of the public, can raise any worry or concern they may have about a child or young person's health and / or wellbeing.

² Note: Figures are accurate as at 31 July 2022, however, they may be updated in subsequent reporting periods due to retrospective data validation and quality assurance processes.

Figure 3a: Child Concern Reports by Source – 2020/21

The originating source of all CCRs continues to be monitored by the CPC. This TreeMap diagram shows the % of CCRs from Police Scotland, Education Services (increasing) and Health Services during the last year; which account for over 85% of all CCRs submitted.

CCRs relate to a wide range of child welfare, child care and protection concerns and are all subject to multi-agency screening, initial assessment and decision-making arrangements.

Overall, 33% of all CCRs relate to the Trio of Risks (Domestic Abuse 18%; Parental Mental Ill-Health 10%; Problematic Alcohol and Drug Use 5%).

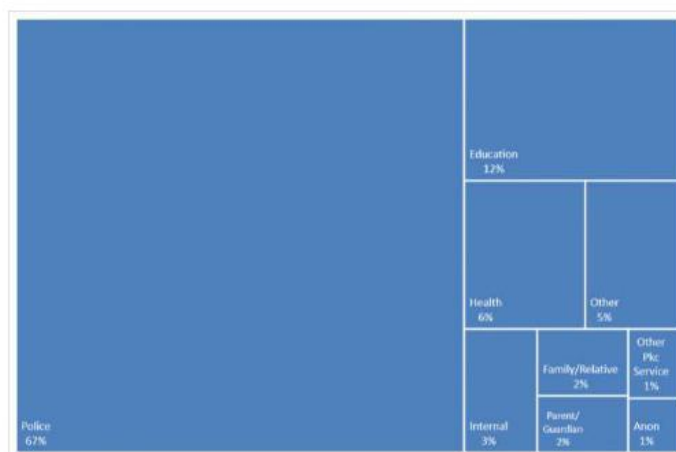
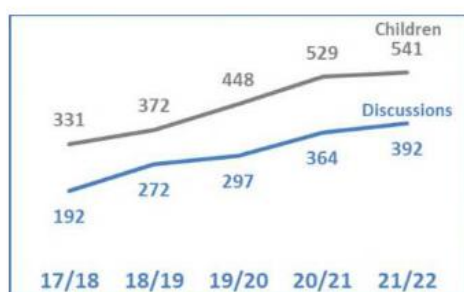


Figure 4: Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) ³



The number of children and young people subject to Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) continues to rise year-on-year and the number of IRD discussions taking place (which may involve more than one child or young person) also shows a long-term upward trend.

Following an IRD there are a number of possible outcomes; including the need for a joint child protection investigation (social work and police); a joint investigative interview (social work and police); a medical examination; referral to SCRA; further emergency legal measures and orders; or a single service or agency intervention and support.

IRDs are recognised as good multi-agency child protection working practice and may be repeated a number of times for the same child or young person. Locally, a significant amount of improvement work has taken place in relation to IRDs and will continue to take place, to ensure our IRDs are robust and our interim safety planning is effective. This is a positive and improving practice position and brings partner agencies together more quickly for key discussions and decision-making.

Our established approach to IRDs is in keeping with the shift expected and with the good practice outlined in the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 (Scottish Government: 2 September 2021).

Figure 5: Child Protection Investigations ^{4 5}

The number of Child Protection Investigations and the number of children and young people subject to an investigation has risen markedly since 2017/18; having more than doubled over that period. This trend appears to have levelled off over the two years, albeit there has been a slight increase in the number of child protection investigations carried out over the last year, when compared to 2020/21.

These are joint investigations between social work and police, decided upon and agreed at the IRD stage and carried out by specially trained joint investigative interviewers who are trauma aware.



³ Note: An IRD is a discussion between practitioners, services or agencies, where a child concern report and / or multi-agency screening arrangements have determined that a child or young person is in need of care and protection from harm, abuse or neglect; or there is a likelihood or risk of significant harm, abuse or neglect.

⁴ Note: A Child Protection Investigation is carried out jointly by specially trained police officers and social workers. Such investigations are carried out where a Child Concern Report, including an Unborn Baby Referral, indicates that a child or young person is in need of care and protection from harm, abuse or neglect; or there is a likelihood or risk of significant harm, abuse or neglect.

⁵ Note: Extracts from P&K CPC Inter-Agency Child Protection Guidelines 2017 – Being refreshed in line with the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021.

Figure 6a: Pre-Birth Child Protection Case Conferences (Pre-Birth CPCCs)



Of the 126 unborn baby referrals (see Figure 15) received this year, after multi-agency screening and assessment, 30 unborn babies were the subject of a multi-agency Pre-Birth CPCC.

At the Pre-Birth CPCC, 29 (97%) out of the 30 unborn babies considered were registered on the Child Protection Register (CPR). All unborn babies registered on the CPR are subject to a multi-agency Child Protection Plan. These cases tend to be complex, and have multi-faceted areas of concern, vulnerability and needs.

This continued high level of pre-birth registrations has also significantly changed the age profile of those placed on the CPR. Overall, unborn babies and young children under 5 now make up the majority of those currently registered on the CPR.

The remaining 96 (see Figure 16) other unborn baby referrals, which did not proceed to a Pre-Birth CPCC, all received a variety of other supportive interventions and responses, having been screened at the Unborn Baby Multi-Agency Screening Group (UBB MASG), i.e. single service or agency support; multi-agency support; the pregnancy did not continue, or the mother moved out with the local authority area, with information being shared proportionately with the new local authority area.

Figure 6b: Initial Child Protection Case Conferences (Initial CPCCs)

Despite the increasing numbers of CCRs, IRDs, ongoing levels of child protection investigations and joint investigative interviews, the number of children and young people being considered at a multi-agency Initial Child Protection Case Conferences (ICPCCs) has been reducing since 2018/19.

This indicates that alternative single and / or multi-agency supports had effectively been put in place at a much earlier stage in the child protection process. Multi-agency Child or Young Person's Plans, which have been agreed early; provide much needed supports and help build positive relationships with the family; are coordinated by a Lead Professional (Social Worker). In many cases, this has negated the need for an Initial CPCC, having effectively reduced risks.



Of the 60 children and young people being considered at an Initial CPCC, 47 (78%) had their names registered on the Child Protection Register (CPR). All were the subject of a multi-agency Child Protection Plan, coordinated by a Lead Professional (Social Worker). Those children and young people not registered on the CPR will also have benefited from ongoing support via a Child or Young Person's Plan, again coordinated by a Lead Professional (Social Worker).

Figure 7: Review Child Protection Case Conferences (Review CPCCs)



Multi-Agency Review CPCCs reconsider the decision to place and retain a child or young person's name on the CPR.

These child protection meetings take place within standard timescales to monitor changes in circumstances and progress made to reduce and eliminate risk. Where sufficient progress has been made, the Review CPCC can make a decision to remove (de-register) an unborn baby, child or young person from the CPR. This is always a multi-agency decision.

The number of children and young people considered at a multi-agency Review CPCC shows a general downward trend over the last four years, while the proportion of continued registrations has remained relatively steady.

Figure 8: New Registrations on the Child Protection Register (CPR)

There has been a reduction in the number of new registrations on the Child Protection Register (CPR). This is closely related to the reduction in the number of Initial CPCCs taking place in 2021/22.

The number of children and young people placed (new registrations) on the CPR has been decreasing for the last three years, following a sharp increase in 2018/19.

This reduction since 2018/19 is a consequence of a significant investment made to secure consistent Chairing of CPCCs and increasing use of Child and Young Person's Plans at a much earlier stage; thus reducing the need to go to CPCC and CPR Registrations.

New registrations include unborn babies, registrations following an ICPCC and temporary registrations (for children and young people who move into the Perth and Kinross Council area for a limited period; for a holiday with relatives etc). These figures routinely include large family sibling groups of 5 and more.

As previously described, this year the age profile of those placed on the CPR has significantly changed. Unborn babies and younger children currently make up the majority of those now placed (registered) on the CPR.

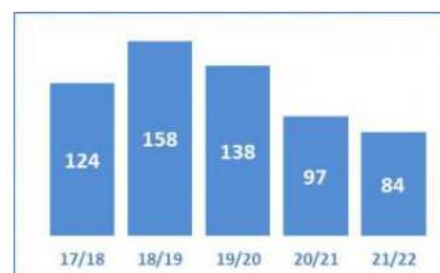
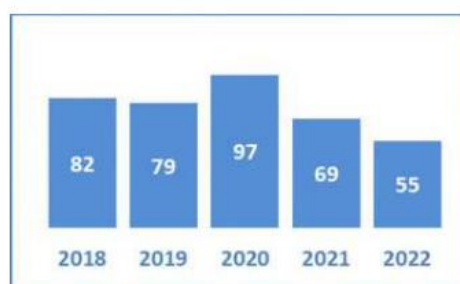


Figure 9: Children on the Child Protection Register as at 31 July 2022



Following the previously described factors, which have resulted in a reduction in the number of Initial CPCC and registrations taking place, this year there has been a similarly expected corresponding reduction in the number of children and young people's names on the CPR at 31 July 2022.

This reduction is also a consequence of the significant investment made to secure consistent Chairing of CPCCs and increasing use of Child and Young People's Plans at a much earlier stage; thus reducing the need to go to CPCC and CPR Registrations.

The number of children and young people, whose names were on the CPR at 31 July 2022 has decreased to the lowest level since 2014, from a relatively high figure of 97 in 2020 (COVID-19 related).

Figure 10: Length of Registration

Most CPR registrations last less than a year, and the number of children and young people who remain on the CPR for 12 months or more has reduced following an increase in 2020/21. Many of these children and young people have multiple and / or complex needs which require coordinated support.

The continued reduction in the number of children and young people whose names are included on the CPR for a period of less than 5 months is to be welcomed, as this can demonstrate that decisions are being made on the evidence of sustained progress and a greater likelihood that the changes made will lead to positive longer-term outcomes.

The CPC closely monitors registration rates and in particular de-registrations, re-registrations and length of time children and young people remain on the CPR as part of its quality assurance work.

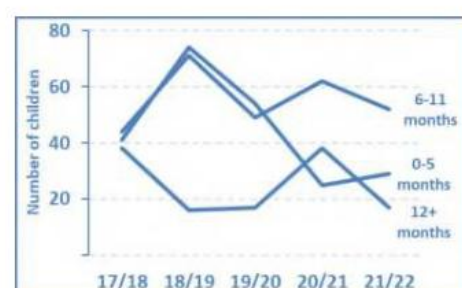


Figure 11: Re-Registrations



The number of children and young people that are re-registered (placed) on the CPR, having been previously removed from the CPR, has returned to previous levels, following a sharp decrease in 2020/21.

Most of these children and young people had last been removed (de-registered) from the CPR more than two years previously, following a multi-agency robust assessment and review meeting agreement.

Re-Registrations take place where the previous improvements in the child or young person's circumstances have not been sustained and the risk of significant harm has returned.

Areas of Concern ⁶

Whilst recognising that the number of new registrations on the CPR has continued to decrease over the last two years; the number of children and young people whose names are included on the CPR and who are affected by parental mental ill-health, domestic abuse, problematic parental drug and / or alcohol misuse (sometimes referred to as the trio of risk) remains significant, and in many such cases, there is an element of parental non-engagement. We continue to recognise that in the majority, if not all of these cases, there will be an element of emotional abuse and neglect. The CPC continues to monitor these trends closely and also concerns relating to neglect and poverty.

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)

(figures based on Financial Years (01 Apr – 31 Mar))

During the last 12 months, SCRA figures have continued to return to pre-pandemic levels.

The numbers of Children's Hearings being convened across Tayside has increased significantly. Dundee alone has seen an 75% increase and Angus a 61% increase. Perth and Kinross however has seen a rather less dramatic rise with only a 20% increase. This is to be explored further on a multi-agency basis via the the CPC.

Figure 12: Referrals to SCRA *(figures based on Financial Years (01 Apr – 31 Mar))*



Whilst the overall number of referrals to SCRA, from Perth and Kinross has remained relatively steady, there was an 11% overall reduction in the number of individual children being referred to SCRA. However, this overall reduction, masked a reduction of 41% of referrals coming directly from Social Work.

Police referrals increased by 80% and referrals directly from Education also increased. These trends are not replicated elsewhere in Tayside and are to be explored further.

The basis of referrals continues to be under s67(4)(a) of The Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 – "lack of parental care" but is very closely followed by 67(4)(j) – "offences". As we emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, it was expected that there would be a high proportion of 67(4)(f) – "domestic abuse" cases, but this does not appear to have transpired.

⁶ Note: Areas of Concern are the registration categories for placing a child or young person's name on the CPR and these have been specified by Scottish Government. Children and young people can have more than one area of concern recorded. These are decided upon at the multi-agency CPCC and recorded by the Chair, after the CPCC has been concluded.

Figure 13: Compulsory Supervision Orders
(figures based on Financial Years (01 Apr – 31 Mar))

The number of children and young people placed on Compulsory Supervision Orders (CSOs) and the number of children and young people who remained on a CSO, has continued to display a general downward trend over the last five years.

However, this year, there was an increase of 32% of children being made subject to a new CSO, following grounds of referral being established. Overall however, actual numbers remain small.

The current conversion rate of referrals to Grounds Hearings remains stable in Perth and Kinross at 29.8%.

Children and young people who are placed on a CSO are looked-after, either at home or away from home in another placement and subject to regular supervision visits and contacts by a social worker.



Figure 14: Child Protection Orders (CPOs)
(figures based on Financial Years (01 Apr – 31 Mar))



This year, the number of children and young people placed on Child Protection Orders (CPOs) has fallen, following a generally steady trend over the previous five years. These figures, which regularly include large sibling groups, are closely monitored by SCRA and the CPC.

Nationally CPO numbers fell by 16%, whilst Perth and Kinross saw a reduction of 48%; although the actual numbers of children and young people involved are relatively small at only 13.

As previously stated, figures for the past 12 months raise some interesting questions that will continue to be explored in the coming months. Referral rates directly from Education and Children's Services have reduced. CPO rates have fallen. These are all, on the face of it, positive trends, but will continue to require monitoring by the CPC.

Unborn Baby Referrals

Figure 15: Unborn Baby Referrals⁷

The number of Unborn Baby referrals received this year has remained relatively steady following a significant increase in 2020/21. By far the majority of Unborn Baby referrals continue to come from NHS Tayside; albeit any practitioner, service or agency can raise such a referral.

Whilst there appears to have been a decrease in the number of Unborn Baby referrals received this year, this has to be considered in the context of a falling birth rate across Tayside. The number of Unborn Baby referrals, when measured against the number of woman booking for pregnancy care, equates to around 11.5%, which remains similar to previous years.

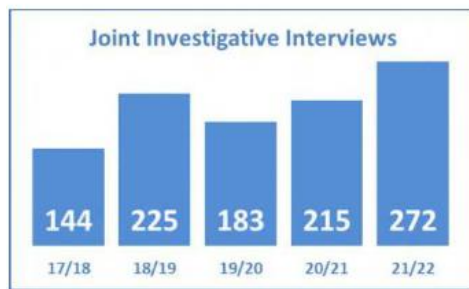


The areas of Unborn Baby vulnerability continue to be similar to the areas of concern for registration on the CPR, in particular those relating to the trio of risk.

The impact on our multi-agency screening and assessment processes for these referrals remains very challenging and resource intensive and the level of child protection activity in relation to vulnerable pregnant women and unborn babies remains high (see Figure 6a).

⁷ Note: Currently an Unborn Baby Referral is a mechanism by which any practitioner or manager across the public, private or third sectors, can raise any worry or concern they may have about an unborn baby's health and / or wellbeing; or in relation to whether or not that baby will be safe and / or in need of care and protection, pre-birth and / or after birth.

Figure 16: Joint Investigative Interviews (JIIs)



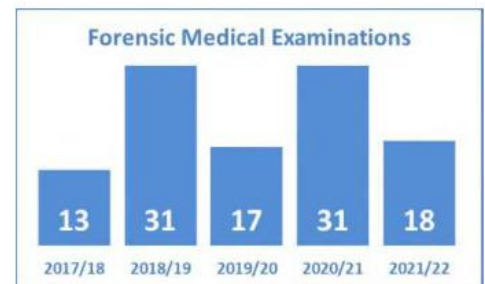
Following an IRD and the decision that a joint police and social work child protection investigation is necessary, consideration will be given to the need for a Joint Investigative Interview (JII); carried out jointly by fully trained, trauma informed police and social work interviewers.

The number of children and young people who have had a JII carried out has risen to its highest level in recent years. This is in keeping with the increasing numbers of CCRs, IRDs and child protection investigations and this remains a key component part of our child protection services.

Figure 17: Joint Paediatric / Forensic Medical Examinations (JPFME)

Following an IRD and the decision that a joint police and social work child protection investigation is necessary, depending on the nature of the concern, consideration may also be given to the need for a JPFME.

The number of children and young people who have had a JPFME carried out shows considerable variation from year to year.



How well do we meet the needs of our stakeholders?

This section describes the **impact** we are having on the **wellbeing** of children and young people; how we are striving to keep them safe from harm, abuse and exploitation and the extent to which their lives and life chances have been enhanced. It describes the **impact** on families and the extent to which family **wellbeing** is being strengthened. It describes the **impact** on staff and recognises the extent of their motivation, involvement and contribution. It also considers the **impact** on the wider community.

Quality Improvement Framework

Quality Assurance and Self-Evaluation are central to continuous improvement and based on a model developed by the [European Foundation for Quality Management \(EFQM\)](#). The EFQM model is widely used across local authorities, other bodies and by CPCs.

Quality Assurance and Self-Evaluation are neither bureaucratic nor mechanical processes; they are ongoing reflective processes to measure performance, improvement and outcomes.

Underpinning the quality assurance and self-evaluation work of the CPC and its partners, are recognised quality improvement frameworks.

Collectively, they continue to provide a framework of quality indicators to support quality assurance and self-evaluation which leads to improvement across services for children, young people and families. They place the child at the centre and are applicable to the full range of services which contribute to the wellbeing of all children, young people and their families.

These frameworks are designed to provide a complementary approach to robust quality assurance, self-evaluation and independent scrutiny.

Using the same set of quality indicators reinforces the partnership between internal and external evaluation of services.

These frameworks continue to provide the CPC and its partners with a toolkit to help with evaluating and improving the quality of services children, young people and families. These frameworks do not replace existing approaches to quality assurance and self-evaluation; they complement them.

These frameworks are:



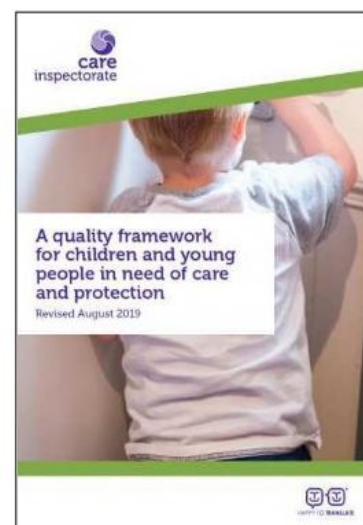
2005



2009



2014



2019 (Current)

Impact on Children, Young People and Families

Evaluation: We are listening carefully to, understand and respect children, young people and their families and we are helping them to keep themselves safe. A range of early intervention and family support services are improving children and family wellbeing.

Quality Assurance of Child Protection 2022

Joint (Police and Social Work) Child Protection Investigations (CPIs) that did not result in a Child Protection Case Conference (CPCC)

Since 2014, the CPC has taken a broader, more systematic, multi-agency approach to evaluating key child protection processes and practices and committed itself to a *whole-system approach* and a *more refined methodology*, using recognised quality improvement frameworks.

Following feedback from Elected Members, on last year's CPC Standards and Quality Report 2020 – 2021, the CPC agreed to quality assure a small representative sample size of the 80 children and young people who were the subject of child protection investigation, that *did not* proceed to a child protection case conference, and this involved a review of the multi-agency decision-making processes, assessment and planning processes and would identify the relevant outcomes for each child or young person.

This year's review took place between May and June 2022 and involved a multi-agency team of reviewers from education, health, police and social work. They examined 13 (16% of the 80) children and young people; which included 8 children or young people from a random sample of the sibling groups and the remaining 5 single children and young people were similarly selected at random. The period of interest was the academic year 1 August 2022 – 31 July 2021.

This was the first CPC led multi-agency review since the COVID-19 pandemic, as the 2020 and 2021 reviews were postponed. Whilst there were a number of limitations to this year's review; there was still a significant amount of learning; including unintended learning in relation to IRDs.

In terms of impact, the high-level findings from this exercise have identified the following key practice strengths and areas for improvement. These are presented here using Care Inspectorate evaluative language and terminology⁸:

Key Strengths

- *all staff* recognise and respond to children and young people in need of help and support timeously; and are clearly focussed on both the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- *all staff* share and report their concerns appropriately, promptly and without unnecessary delay; they respond quickly and there is evidence of strong partnership working, including with the Out of Hours Services
- *almost all* staff work hard to build positive working relationships with children and families and are alert to, and actively challenge, parental disguised compliance
- *almost all* staff share and exchange information quickly; before and during IRDs and at other key meetings
- *all staff* intervene early and are very focussed on interim safety planning to meet both needs and risk; before, during and after IRDs; IRDs focus on the protective factors and the immediate needs and risks of children, young people and their siblings

⁸ Note: For the purposes of this report, Care Inspectorate evaluative terminology is being used – *All* meaning 100%; *Almost All* meaning 90% - 99%; *Most* meaning 75% - 89%; *Majority* meaning 50% - 74%; *Less than half* meaning 16% - 49% and a *Few (or Some)* meaning less than 15%.

- *almost all* IRDs take place relatively quickly; IRDs are well-attended by key partners and are focussed on needs, risks and on immediate safety planning
- *almost all* IRDs outcomes – including Child Protection Investigations; Joint Investigative Interviews; Medical Examinations are planned and take place relatively quickly
- *almost all* IRDs consider the need for legal measures, e.g. considering the need for a Child Protection Order (CPO); Referral to the Children's Reporter (SCRA); an Initial Child Protection Case Conference (CPCC); and / or further discussions with PKC Legal Services
- *in almost all* cases there is strong evidence to suggest that parenting capacity is being quickly assessed; protective factors identified and there is good use of family supports and early kinship care arrangements being identified
- *in the majority* of cases there is strong evidence to suggest child protection investigations are clearly focussed on assessing the risk to children, young people and their siblings; which informs interim safety planning
- *in the majority* of cases interim safety planning is robust and firmly focussed on needs and risk
- *in all* of the 13 cases reviewed, legal measures were appropriately considered and rightly assessed as not necessary. Legal measures considered included the need for a Child Protection Order (CPO); Referral to the Children's Reporter (SCRA); an Initial Child Protection Case Conference (CPCC); and / or further discussions with PKC Legal Services and
- *in most* of the 13 cases reviewed, in 11 (85%) of them, it was the right decision not to proceed to a CPCC (albeit 2 of them did proceed to a CPCC sometime later); with suitable alternative other outcomes and supports provided

Areas for Improvement

- *in most* cases, IRD documentation did not appear to be consistently recorded in all case files across services and agencies; IRDs appear to be interpreted as a single event, as opposed to an ongoing dynamic process
- *in some* cases, assessments and plans are also being seen as single events relating to risk and / or removing risk; there was also evidence that some longer term support plans were not being documented appropriately or widely shared with partners; there was room to improve the consistency of evidencing, monitoring and reviewing of longer term plans as well as sharing outcomes and
- *in a few* cases, it appeared that some children and young people were not seen; it also appeared that in some cases there were no home visits or face-to-face contacts; and there was a lack of evidence to confirm that the views of children and young people were routinely and consistently being captured. However, this may have been directly related to the COVID-19 restrictions; albeit alternative local risk assessments arrangements were in place at that time

Miscellaneous Others

This review also identified the following aspects of child protection practice as being important and that there is an ongoing need to ensure that we continue to:

- proactively engage with, and involve fathers and partners, in key decision-making processes
- ensure that chronologies across services are used effectively to inform holistic assessments and planning processes
- ensure that children and young people are seen; that we ensure their views are captured, heard and documented and that they have access to Independent Advocacy
- ensure that key roles and responsibilities in child protection practice are understood and
- ensure there is no evidence of drift in our key child protection processes and practice and that this is supported through robust supervision

Conclusion

Overall, this review has been very positive in terms of our well-established child protection processes and practices; which were undoubtedly adversely affected by the impact of COVID-19. Despite the limitations and constraints, this review has identified a number of key strengths, which are consistent with previous quality assurance and self-evaluation activities.

In addition, it has also identified some areas for improvement; which predominantly relate to the need for consistent sharing and recording practices; also the need to ensure that IRDs, assessments and planning are seen as ongoing / dynamic processes.

Finally, this review has identified a number of additional areas of practice where there is further opportunities to improve. An audit of IRDs is being planned for October 2022.



Children and Youth Rights Work – Listening and Seeking Views

2021 / 2022 has been another busy and challenging year for the Children and Youth Rights Officer (CYRO) and the partner providers of advocacy in Perth and Kinross.

Over this past year, we have continued to review the arrangements for advocacy and for seeking the views of

children and young people at key child protection meetings, Looked-After Reviews and Children's Hearings.

Advocacy and Seeking Views

In terms of advocacy and seeking views, the service level agreement between Perth and Kinross Council's Education and Children's Services and PKC partners is now well embedded; ensuring the advocacy provision for children and young people, across three agreed priority groups, is consistently sustained.

These three groups include those who are looked-after and accommodated; those who are looked-after at home and those who are open to child protection services. In addition, the Council's CYRO has continued to support children and young people with advocacy who are not open to social work.

In terms of impact, the following information illustrates the number of children and young people who have had their views advocated / presented at key meetings since July 2021 by workers / advocates or via the submission of a report:

- 136 (155 in 2020 / 2021) children and young people's views presented at a Child Protection Case Conference (CPCC) by their social worker, carer, advocate or other professional
- 263 (265 in 2020 / 2021) looked-after children and young people's views presented at a Looked-After Conference (LAC) by their social worker, carer, advocate or other professional
- 96 (92 in 2020 / 2021) children and young people helped to submit an All About Me Form to CPCCs and LAC

The following illustration indicates the key themes which have been highlighted by children and young people in discussions with the CYRO:



Case Study

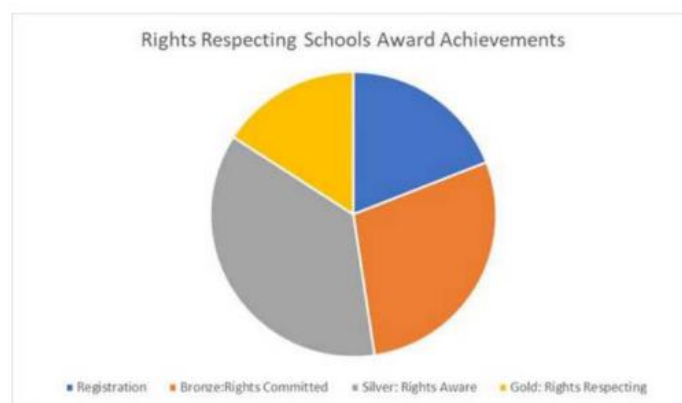
An 11 year old child was referred to the children's rights officer (CRO) by a local solicitor, on the basis that the child felt uncomfortable about the contact arrangements that were in place with her father. When the CRO visited the child in school, the child shared that she did not want to see her father and made certain disclosures to the CRO. Prior to CRO involvement, the mother had shared that her child had never made these disclosures to her or anyone else before and expressed that she was grateful that her daughter had been able to talk with someone independent. As a result of the meeting between the child and CRO, the Child Protection Duty Team became involved and a joint investigative interview was carried out with the police. The young person has been listened to about the concerns regarding contact and an arrangement is now in place that she feels more comfortable with.

Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)

RRSA is an award, delivered by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), which recognises schools who can evidence that the [UNCRC](#) is placed at the heart of their policy, planning and service delivery. While schools can provide written evidence of their work, the focus of the assessment is on the impact on the child.

The CYRO continues to carry out the Strategic Lead role for the Rights Respecting School's Award (RRSA). Perth and Kinross Council Schools have made considerable progress in their rights respecting journey from 2021 – 2022, as schools and learning settings have achieved at all three award levels of the programme.

At present, 63 schools are actively working towards Rights Respecting Schools status. The following diagram shows the breakdown of schools and their award levels:



Funding has now been secured by the Scottish Government to enable schools in Scotland to participate in RRSA free of charge and it is envisaged that this offer will generate an increase in schools progressing with the accreditation. In light of this, the CYRO has been carrying out *Collaborative Conversations* for schools online, where advice and support leading up to assessments can be accessed. Furthermore, the CYRO has trained two headteachers as Silver Assessors to help accommodate for the increased demand accreditation visits.

The CYRO continues to:

- contribute to the quarterly RRSA Strategic Lead's meetings
- provides RRSA guidance to schools and processes school action plans
- coordinates RRSA training and carries out RRSA accreditation visits
- coordinates responses to Scottish Government consultations regarding rights related issues
- represents Perth and Kinross at the Scottish Children's Rights Officer's Network (SCRON)
- be a member of the Perth and Kinross Council Advocacy Working Group
- support ECS with their work about Learner Participation

UNCRC Incorporation

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

It is still the intention for [UNCRC](#) to be incorporated into Scottish law, although that has taken longer than anticipated because of a legal challenge by the UK Government. Although the final legislation has yet to be passed, incorporation is likely to mean that public bodies will have a legal obligation to act in a way which is compatible with UNCRC rights. While children, young people and the Children's Commissioner will be able to enforce those rights through the legal process, if they feel they have not been complied with, the hope is that the main impact of the legislation will be to bring about a shift in how public bodies take account of the needs and rights of children in everything that they do.

Youth Voice – How are we listening to children and young people?

Currently, there are a number of existing groups across Perth and Kinross, that work to promote the health, wellbeing and inclusion of children and young people within their respective communities. These include local authority led groups, such as Fun Young Individuals (FYI) and groups delivered by our Third Sector partners.

Further links are being made with youth and community participation groups, working alongside colleagues in Children's Services. Work is also currently underway to develop a P&K Youth Strategy (following consultation with and in partnership with Young People); aimed at strengthening the Youth Voice in policy and practice developments. This strategy will focus on five areas – emotional health and wellbeing; voice; community; participation and safe; with improvement actions attached to each of them.

It is also envisaged that an overarching Youth Forum will be developed and include representation from key geographical groups; MSYPs; CYRO and key professionals involved in supporting children and young people.

Decision-making groups in schools also provide a means for children and young people to inform and influence planning and development in learning settings and work in communities. A recent survey undertaken by 50 Perth and Kinross Council schools, illustrates the variety of groups currently running in schools. These groups include, but are not limited to Rights Respecting School's Award (RRSA); Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT); Digital Participation; Pupil Council; Health and Wellbeing; Play Committees and Eco Groups.

A Learner Participation Strategy for Education Services is also being developed; which will support participation and the voice of children and young people at school and at local authority level.



Independent Advocacy Perth & Kinross (IAPK) (Summary of Independent Advocacy Provision April 2021 – March 2022)

During 2021 – 2022 [Independent Advocacy Perth and Kinross \(IAPK\)](#), received 151 new children and young people referrals and supported a total of 162 children and young people to hear their views and promote their voices at meetings about them.

In addition to the provision of independent advocacy for children and young people identified as Looked-After at Home, IAPK are the primary provider of Children's Hearing Advocacy in Perth & Kinross, funded nationally by the Scottish Government, and under [The Mental Health Care & Treatment Act \(Scotland\) Act 2003](#), IAPK advocate for children and young people on an ongoing basis. Collectively the independent advocacy provision goes some way to follow the child or young person through the various key decision-making processes which affects their lives and this is seen as a strength.

Due to the nature of child protection processes, systems and practices, children and young people frequently have Care Plans and Placements changed, affecting where they live and their access to education; e.g. 16 children and young people children and young people were moved out of the Perth and Kinross area at some point during 2021-2022.

IAPK were able to follow these children and young people out-of-area and were able remotely to maintain communication with them, meaning independent advocates helped the advocacy partner to have the support best suited to them. In some cases, IAPK tried to refer onwards to an independent advocacy organisation in the new area, however other independent advocacy organisations were not always able to support the child or young person out with their locality, so in these cases, IAPK continued to advocate for them.

The conversion from the referrals received, to advocacy take-up, in 2021 – 2022 indicate that there has been an 86% uptake of the advocacy service offered. Those children and young people who have, or are declining advocacy, are either sharing their views themselves, or they do not wish to share their views.



Meetings for Children and Young People's Advocacy:

The following figures are for the distinct and different types of meetings, where the views of children and young people were gathered by IAPK. Thereafter, the Independent Advocate shared these views at professional multi-agency meetings (both virtual and face-to-face).

IAPK's capacity to work with children and young people has increased again by 100% in the last year. This has enabled IAPK to increase the provision of Independent Advocacy to children and young people.

Evidence of the impact of the commissioned services by the local authority, Perth & Kinross Council, and changes in legislation are reflected in the referral numbers and the number of meetings recorded in the last year.

These figures do not include staff meetings, training courses, meetings held to promote and discuss advocacy with other agencies; it also does not include letters written to children during lockdown when phone calls were not possible:

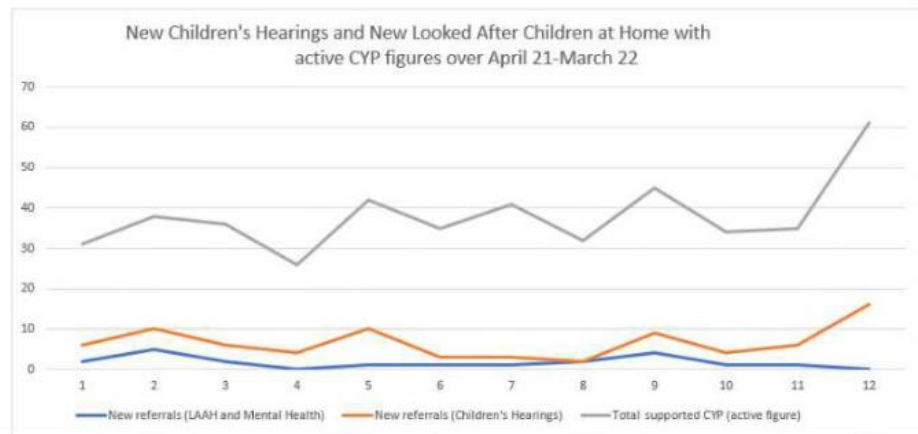
Year	Partner Meetings and Calls	Hearings	LAC Reviews	Case Conferences	Core Groups	Others
Apr-Dec 2021	376	60	35	23	23	52
Jan-Mar 2022	308	51	28	12	14	39

During the period 2021 – 2022, when the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions fluctuated, Independent Advocates continued to meet with children and young people children regularly, and as permitted, in schools, at home, virtually or at the IAPK office.

The virtual experience expanded our capacity to engage with children and young people in some ways, and advocates found that because IAPK was not the only service children and young people were expected to access, or who were supporting them remotely, that the majority of children and young people were more proficient and familiar with virtual meetings.

This however did not convert to more children and young people wishing to attend meetings about their lives, even with their Independent Advocate.

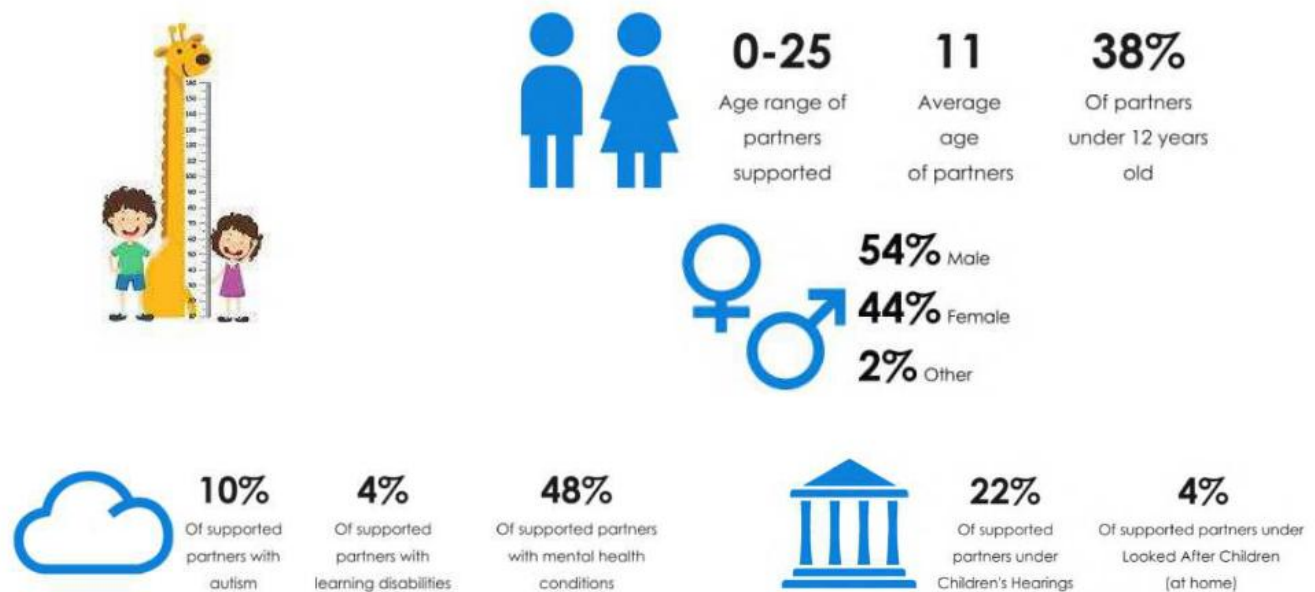
IAPK views this as an area to develop, through our attendance and participation in strategic meetings around the delivery of The Independent Care Review and The Promise and UNCRC and we will continue to promote and work in collaboration with education, social work, Children's Rights Officers and health providers, to increase children and young people awareness of their rights to participation.



Some of these referrals could be attributed to the concerns around aspects of COVID-19, with a trend noticed in S1-S3 female pupils experiencing problematic anxiety levels. Child and Young Person's Planning Meetings were held accordingly, interestingly this theme was seen across Perth and Kinross and was not specific to one school or area.

The following graphics illustrate some key statistical information in relation to advocacy over the past year:

Demographics:



In terms of impact, the following is a snapshot of this year's feedback from Advocacy Partners:

IAPK – Key Comments / Feedback 2021 / 2022	
"you are approachable, and I feel I can talk to you, and I'm always heard" - advocacy partner	"it made me feel more at ease and you said the stuff that I couldn't at meetings" - advocacy partner
"I was only 17 going through this and it was quite hard to speak up and you helped me do that" - advocacy partner	"thanks so much for all your help I really appreciate everything that you have done for me and my son" - Parent of an advocacy partner

Case Study

Last week, I attended a children's hearing and provided the panel members with the views of a brother and sister. This would be their 9th annual review hearing. Social work was keen that each of them attend, as they had not attended any meetings in years.

When I spoke to them on the phone, they explained that they had each given the same views for the last 9 years and they had no desire to reiterate the same views again, feeling that sharing what they thought was irrelevant.

"Nothing has changed, ever."

Though the fact was nothing had changed, what they really wanted was to continue to live with the family that cared for them; they just wanted to live their lives without social work or involvement from other services or agencies.

This is what was advocated.

I had discussed with them the care leavers rights and explained, due to their ages, the eldest was entitled to this, but not the younger. Aware of their rights and the purpose of the hearing, the panel members terminated the supervision order on the siblings, meaning they would no longer have, nor required social work involvement.

Feedback from the family at the Hearing:

"This (termination) allowed them to live normal lives, tomorrow will be the start of our lives."

Feedback on the Advocacy:

"Where was children's advocacy all these years."

Young Carers

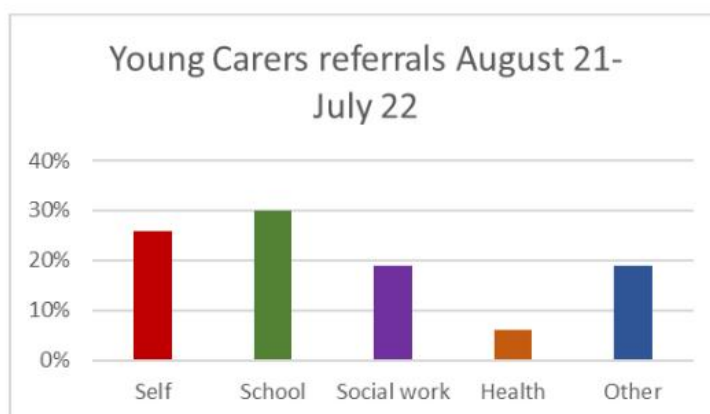


A Young Carer is anyone under the age of 18, or over 18 and still at school, who provides care or assistance to a family member, of any age, who has a disability, physical or mental long term health condition, or is affected by drug or alcohol misuse.

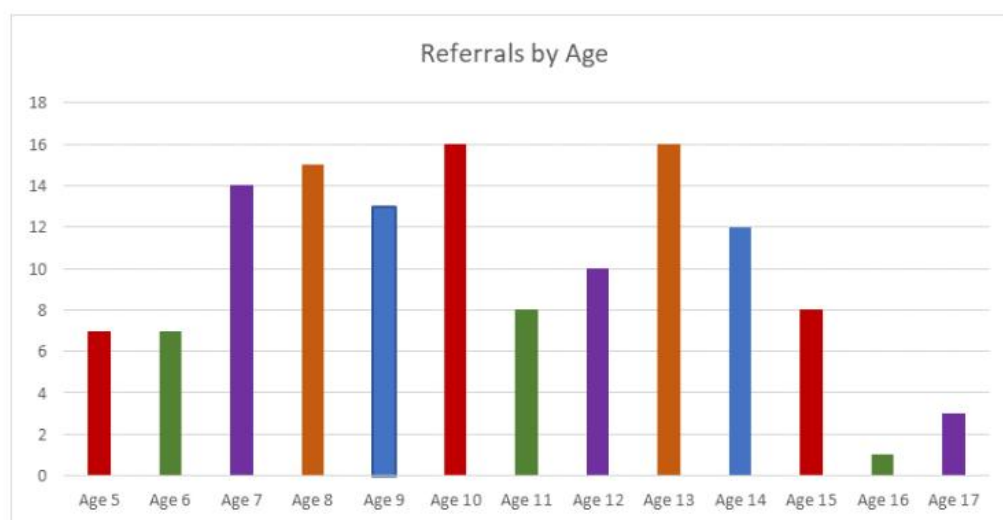
[PKAVS Young Carers](#) service currently has 497 young people aged between 5-18 years registered with them.

The primary aim is to help these Young Carers access the support they need to cope with what can often be an all-encompassing caring role. During this reporting period, a further 133 new referrals were received, and the following tables provide some key demographic information:

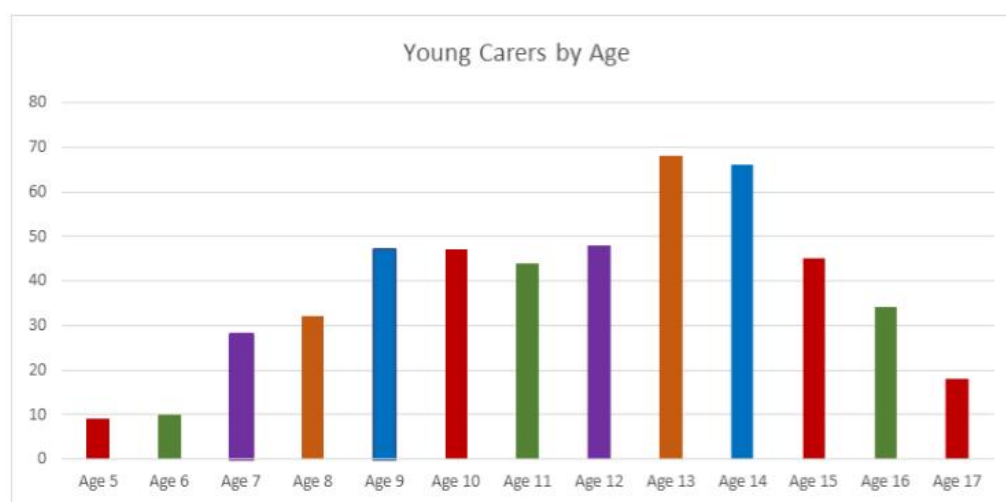
Referral Sources:



Referrals by Age:



Young Carers Age Profile:



It is of particular note that 21% of the referrals received this year, are for those aged 7 and under. This is a large increase compared to last year, where this figure was at 9%. It is difficult to say with any certainty why this is, but it is potentially down to the awareness raising activities carried out by the Young Carers service, within schools and social work teams.

As a result, the Young Carers service has made operational changes in the way they work, to ensure they can continue to meet this change in profile and need. This includes stronger working relationships with key partners in the community, including Mindspace, All Strong Scotland, YMCA etc who bring additional specialist knowledge in key areas of support. This stronger partnership working is especially invaluable in rural localities and ensures that those in need are being signposted to established services within their community.

As the Young Carers service has continued to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdown restrictions, there has been a recognised change in the types of issues affecting the young people being supported.

In particular, they have noted an increase in relation to young people's mental ill-health; self-harming and / or those reporting they have experienced suicidal ideation. A Counsellor from Relationship Scotland is now deployed and working one day a week in the Young Carers centre, who is now offering 1-1 counselling with Young Carers.

Further support is also being provided by The Lighthouse and Mindspace who offer similar specialist support.

Short Breaks for Young Carers

During the last year, PKAVS Young Carers have also delivered:

- 4 residential trips away, benefiting 43 young carers
- 15 day trips away, benefiting 188 young carers
- 8 drop-in activities, benefiting 82 young carers
- 101 respite grants, totalling £11,483 have awarded to young carers, allowing Young Carers to access person-centred, regular short breaks of their choosing.
- numerous, well attended and evaluated outcome-focused groups throughout the year, focusing on building skills and resilience such as life skills, worry workshops, fitness & wellbeing etc.



Educational Attainment Service for Young Carers (EASYc)

[EASYc](#) began in May 2019, as part of the legacy for the late Councillor Barbara Vaughan, this service was initially set up to support Young Carers who were dis-engaging with education and did so through access to private tuition lessons, homework clubs and by having access to educational hardware and software.

The service continues to be very popular amongst young carers. Throughout the last year, the service has delivered 1,265 private tuition lessons, from which 176 young carers benefited. Despite not being able to deliver Primary Tutor Groups for a period of 4 months, nevertheless, the service did still manage to deliver 82 Groups during the year.

Young Carers Champions

Over 30 Young Carers Champions (YCCs) are now in place, in various schools across Perth and Kinross; to promote service delivery and support to young people. Meetings with the YCCs are held quarterly and provides them with updates on any changes in terms of policy and practice and to offer training and support to those undertaking Young Carers Support Plans. It has also proved to be a great platform for sharing best practice ideas and many schools are now facilitating lunchtime or after twilight school drop-in sessions

Young Carers Voice

The Young Carers Voice continues to meet on a regular basis and has been providing input and fed back on the actions set out in the current P&K Carers Strategy 2019-2022. They are currently working on an agenda for the year ahead, ensuring Young Carers also have the opportunity to give a voice in other areas that affect them, out with their caring role such as LGBT issues, identity, anxiety, education etc.

In terms of impact, the following is a snapshot of this year's feedback from Young Carers:

Young Carers – Key Comments / Feedback 2021 / 2022	
<i>"staff are always amazing at PKAVS, thanks"</i>	<i>"I love the staff they are kind and helpful to one and other thanks for being here for us"</i>
<i>"red hair bob is so funny lol and Sammy is so so funny lol"</i>	<i>"we have never been a team before - we work well as a team"</i>
<i>"having tuition helps with my role as a young carer, because it gives me time away from looking after my brother"</i>	<i>"it helps me go over things that I may not understand from teachers. It's also nice to have help"</i>

Case Study

Eric (name changed), who is 14, has been part of Young Carers for 7 years now. He is a carer for Mum, who has a range of long term physical and mental health problems and also carer to a little sister, who has Epilepsy. Eric has received all levels of support from the service, including one to ones, day trips, residentials, funding and much more. Recently, Eric has moved from a high-level impact caring role to a lower-level role as we have been able to establish (alongside other partners) a consistent and supportive environment for him to thrive in. Things at home had got to the extreme, with Mum relapsing with alcohol misuse issues, which had created a hostile home environment for Eric and his siblings.

Social work input highlighted the need for the Young Carer service to increase support, to allow Eric respite opportunities, away from home, whilst intensive work was completed with Mum. Eric had one to ones with one of our support workers, to allow a space to talk about his thoughts and feelings and work on coping strategies to help ground him when his anxiety levels were heightened. The offer of respite groups, signposting to other partner agencies and getting him on board with the summer programme, all moved towards a more balanced caring role. Eric recently completed a review with one of our support workers and identified that one to ones were no longer needed, as his caring role had become more manageable and he felt more confident to come forward, if circumstances changed at home.



NSPCC Speak out Stay safe – Perth and Kinross

The [NSPCC's Speak out Stay safe Programme](#) is a safeguarding programme, available free-of-charge, to all primary schools in the UK and Channel Islands.

The aim of the programme is to:

- understand abuse in all its forms and recognise the signs of abuse
- understand that abuse is never a child's fault, and they have the right to be safe
- know how to get help, and the sources of help available to them, including the [ChildLine](#) service

View the [Short Film - Speak out Stay safe](#)

In 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic and with the amazing support of Ant and Dec, the NSPCC launched a virtual version of their safeguarding programme – [Speak out. Stay safe. Virtual Assembly](#). This offer, available for children aged 5 to 11, includes access to pre-recorded presentations and supporting resources for use by school staff in the classroom or assembly time.

The *Speak out Stay safe* virtual programme is now an effective way to support a school's safeguarding duties and links directly to the curriculum. It also helps reinforce key messages about abuse and neglect, as part of a school's teaching on relationships. It will support children to feel empowered, knowing how they can speak out and stay safe. A BSL version is also available for deaf children and the specially adapted [ASN version of Speak out Stay safe](#) remains available on request.

How does Speak out Stay safe online work?

Schools have access to pre-recorded *Speak out Stay safe* online presentations, for school staff to use with pupils. The *Speak out Stay safe* messages are delivered in a fun and interactive way. The virtual presentations include pause points, to allow for teacher-pupil interaction. *Speak out Stay safe* online has presentations for pupils in Primary 1-3 and Primary 4-7.

The NSPCC has also developed supporting resources to go alongside the virtual presentations. These consist of a Pre-Online Presentation Pack (P4-7), to use *before* and a Lesson Plan (P1-3 and P4-7) to use *after* the virtual presentation. These provide fun and engaging classroom based activities that prepare children prior to watching the presentation and help reinforce learning after.

What about Speak Out Stay Safe in Perth and Kinross?

Within Perth and Kinross, this programme has traditionally been delivered as part of the wider sexual health and wellbeing programme and has been offered to all primary schools in Perth & Kinross since November 2013. From August 2016, it has been offered to every primary school, every two years.

During the academic year 2021 – 2022, the information about Speak out Stay safe online was shared with all primary schools in Perth & Kinross; the service was requested by 18 primary schools and virtual presentations were confirmed as having been delivered in 12 primary schools.

What next for the Speak out Stay safe Programme?

The NSPCC is currently embedding a 10 year strategy and realigning this with a Regional Operating Model. Their ambition continues to be to work with more people, reach more children and young people and do more to prevent abuse before it happens – thus making the biggest impact with the funding available.

Their work with schools is a priority over the next strategy and staff roles have been identified as nominated contacts for every primary and secondary school in Scotland; ensuring that all schools have the opportunity to access services, learning resources and advice.

The NSPCC will continue to offer the *Speak out Stay safe* virtual programme to every primary school every three years, with a view to re-engaging volunteer teams to deliver face-to-face workshops during the coming academic year.

Additionally, they will continue to offer Speak out Stay safe for pupils with Additional Support Needs. The ongoing support of the local authority will help in extending the reach of all of these resources. Speak out Stay safe also continues to be made available to all schools in the independent schools sector also.

The NSPCC continues to offer a range of learning resources via [NSPCC Learning](#).

Learning can be virtual or online; via the NSPCC podcast and via the NSPCC newsletter. Topics include Child Protection, Child Abuse & Neglect, Child Health & Development and Safer Recruitment.

The [NSPCC Adult Helpline](#) is also available to support anyone concerned about the safety of a child 0808 800 5000 or by e mail via the website.



The NSPCC [PANTS](#) resource, also allow parents, carers and professionals to have early conversations with younger children around the topic of sexual abuse.

View the [Short Film - PANTS](#)

In terms of impact, the following is a snapshot of this year's feedback from Perth and Kinross Schools:

School Staff – Key Comments / Feedback 2021 / 2022	
<i>Do you have any general comments?</i>	<i>"it allowed us the opportunity to discuss who they could go to if needed"</i> <i>"gave pupils opportunity to explore what abuse is"</i> <i>"it explained the importance of speaking to a trusted adult and that it was not okay to suffer abuse"</i> <i>"everything was great" "I thought what was given was great."</i> <i>"it was very supportive, considering it is not always easy to get the message across online"</i>
<i>What do you feel the children learned more about?</i>	<i>"who to trust and what to look out for"</i> <i>"they found out about Childline and the number for them to use"</i> <i>"about Childline and contact number"</i>

Impact on Staff

Evaluation: We are continuing to support and develop a professionally curious, competent, confident and skilful multi-agency workforce. Our staff are highly motivated and committed to their own continuous professional development. We are empowering and supporting our staff with a wide range of evidenced-based multi-agency learning and development opportunities, which are evaluated highly and having a positive impact on practice. The content of these learning and development opportunities take account of changing legislative, policy and practice developments and local challenges.

Staff Learning and Development

All CPC inter-agency child protection staff learning and development opportunities continue to be compliant with [National Guidance](#), which we have translated into our robust and dynamic [CPC Inter-Agency Child Protection Learning and Development Framework](#).

Throughout the last year, we have continued to embrace new technologies to create a more flexible, blended approach to our inter-agency learning and development programme.

We have delivered live webinars, created short learning films and further invested in new software to expand our range of interactive OnLine Learning Resources; allowing busy practitioners to learn at a time, pace and place convenient to them; whilst ensuring relevance to the general contact workforce; specific contact workforce and the intensive contact workforce and in compliance with [National Guidance](#).

During 2021 / 2022, Services for Children, Young People and Families seconded a very experienced Social Worker (Senior Practitioner) into the CPC Support Team; which greatly enhanced our capacity to both develop and deliver new ways of training, using new technologies; including multi-agency child protection webinars.

CPC inter-agency child protection learning and development opportunities and resources continue to be delivered within the existing budget and free-of-charge at the point of delivery. We continue to collate evaluation reports which continue to evaluate our training opportunities very highly.

The CPC intends to recommence its face-to-face inter-agency child protection training from October 2022.

In terms of impact, the following three Tables show the wide range of child protection staff learning and development opportunities delivered from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022; by way of Webinars and Online Learning Resources:

Staff Learning and Development Opportunities – OnLine E-Learning Modules (1 August 2021 – 31 July 2022)		
Title of Course	Activity (Internal and External)	
	2021 / 2022	2020 / 2021
<i>Child Protection OnLine Module</i>	2,154	1,414
<i>Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) OnLine Module</i>	1,221	1,030
<i>Adult Support and Protection OnLine Module</i>	509	784
Total	3,884	3,228

CPC Inter-Agency Child Protection OnLine E-Learning Resources (New and Adapted) (1 August 2021 – 31 July 2022)	
Title of Learning Opportunity / Resource	Completions
<i>Child Protection Module (Essential)</i>	2,154
<i>Getting it Right for Every Child (Essential)</i>	1,221
<i>Information Sharing, Confidentiality and Consent</i>	377
<i>Recognising and Responding to Child Neglect</i>	372
<i>Ten Minute Briefing: The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019</i>	347
<i>Professional Curiosity & Challenge</i>	335
<i>Chronologies</i>	230
<i>Child Sexual Exploitation: Recognition and Response</i>	229

CPC and other CPC supported Inter-Agency Child Protection Learning and Development Events (1 August 2021 – 31 July 2022)			
Title of Learning Opportunity / Resource	Learning Method	Total Opportunities	Total Attending
<i>Basic Awareness Inter-Agency Child Protection (via CPC)</i>	Webinars	8	124
<i>Trauma Informed Practice Training Workshops (via RASAC PK)</i>	Webinars	6	150
<i>Trauma Informed Practice Resourcing Workshops (via RASAC PK)</i>	Webinars	6	110
<i>Safe and Together Model Overview Training – Core and Overview Training (via Services for Children, Young People and Families)</i>	Webinars	1	100
<i>Child Protection Officers (CPO) Training (via Education Services)</i>	Adapted to Self-Study OnLine E-Learning with follow Up 2-hour Workshop	3	42

Whilst there continues to be a very good take-up rate of our OnLine E-Learning Resources, the CPC recognises there are further opportunities to promote these modules further and plans to do so throughout 2022 / 2023.

It should also be noted that the updated [Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations](#) (PECR), which came into effect in March 2019, to protect the privacy rights of website users, now limits our ability to provide accurate data in relation to online learning and development opportunities and therefore the above are the minimum numbers of take-ups and completions.

Neglect Training

To support the roll-out of the Perth and Kinross Action for Children Assessment of Care Toolkit across Services for Children Young People and Families, a blended learning approach was used to deliver enhanced Neglect training, along with practical learning on the use of the toolkit in practice with children and families.

A new OnLine E-Learning Module – Child Neglect: Assessment of Care Toolkit was made available in March 2021 and a new OnLine E-Learning Module 'Recognising and Responding to Child Neglect' was also developed and made available. To date, 372 practitioners have accessed this training.

Trauma Informed Practice

Since 2018, the CPC and the APC have continued their partnership work with RASAC PK and commissioned them annually to deliver multi-agency

Trauma Informed Practice learning and development opportunities; as we continue to develop a critical mass of trauma informed and aware practitioners across Perth and Kinross.

During 2021 / 2022, this training was adapted to be delivered OnLine (Webinars). The lengths of the various workshops was reduced; but the core learning maintained to provide more manageable OnLine sessions for practitioners and managers.

During this reporting period, the offer was extended and a total of 260 participants attended this virtual training. Participants came from various services / agencies; including education, health, social work, youth services, mental health services, housing services and criminal justice. The training continues to be evaluated very highly, with 96% of attendees agreeing or strongly agreeing that the training met their expectations, and they will be able to apply the learning and knowledge they have learnt in the workplace. Further Trauma Informed Practice Training has been commissioned for 2022 / 2023.

In terms of impact, the following feedback from staff who had attended these sessions illustrates the positive impact this had had on them and their improving practice:

"this course has been one of the more relevant courses I have attended in many years and I have reflected on the key themes on many occasions. The main benefit to my work practice is that it has made me more aware of possible underlying reasons for certain behaviours and this has impacted on the way I approach difficult situations and how I support the young people in distress. I feel this has made me more patient, compassionate and non-judgemental in any given situation. This has resulted in me giving the young people more time to explain their situation and certainly trying harder to offer the most appropriate support to help them deal with any given issue. It is hard to quantify, but I certainly feel that I now experience less confrontation with the young people I support and arguably achieve better outcomes with them. Having worked with disadvantaged young people in a homeless setting for over 20 years, the outcomes from this course have been a reminder of the importance of ongoing training and striving to offer the best service possible"

(Housing Support Worker)

"I used some of your practical input with a client just yesterday, with a good effect, (grounding exercises and challenging negative thoughts) she has extreme anxious following years of trauma, both in childhood and adulthood, has had numerous medications and hospital admissions with little effect, your training has allowed me to look at her symptoms and how to manage them in a very different way and try to arm her with strategies to increase her resilience, taking some responsibility for managing her anxiety and hopefully given her back some power and control of her feelings and in turn improve her confidence and self-esteem"

(SCN: Learning Disability)

"I have used the grounding techniques and my patient feedback was that it helped immediately and was easy to understand and also accessible when they needed to use it on their own. The training has added to my tool box of therapies and provided a greater understanding of behaviours and how to move a patient safely back to their own grounded space. The training has made me evaluate what approach and therapy will be the most effective and when for the individual"

(Clinical Support Worker)

"in the adoption team, we incorporated the trauma video you showed into our Prepare to Adopt group that we run with prospective adopters, as we felt it helped illustrate the impact of trauma on the brain and memory. We discuss how children's behaviour can be impacted by earlier experiences, specifically trauma and this was an ideal way to capture what we mean in a way that is easily understood"

(Senior Practitioner / Social Worker)



Safe and Together Training

In early 2021, initial roll-out and implementation of the Safe & Together Practice Model (aimed at tackling Domestic Abuse) began, with 40 staff from Services for Children, Young People and Families (SCYPF) completing the Core Module and a further 100 multi-agency colleagues completing the Safe & Together Overview Training. It was quickly apparent that the model was evaluated highly, well-received and could positively influence change in terms of domestic abuse-informed practice.

This training is aimed at supporting a greater awareness of this practice model, through partnering with the non-perpetrating parent to keep them safely with their children wherever possible and through intervention with the abusive parent to reduce risk of harm to the other parent, children and young people.

In summer 2021, SCYPF successfully applied for funding from the Delivering Equally Safe Fund to train a further 80 staff in the Core Module and to run another Overview Training for up to 200 multi-agency colleagues. 40 staff were trained in the Core Module in early 2022 and a further 40 will be trained in early 2023. The Overview Training will take place in November 2022 and will comprise representation from Education, Health, Police, HSCP colleagues, Housing, Reporters to the Children Hearing, Children's Panel members, Elected Members, Independent Advocacy Perth and Kinross, Perthshire Women's Aid and RASAC colleagues, alongside others from the VAWP and ADP.

A Multi-Agency Steering Group has been established to oversee the implementation of this Model and the Group is currently working with Improvement Scotland on an inter-agency audit with a view to producing an Improvement Plan towards delivering domestic abuse-informed services.

Representatives from SCYPF are part of the National Safe & Together Implementation forum and are also taking forward local initiatives in partnership with colleagues from Dundee and Angus.

Evaluation of the impact of the model is at an early stage within Perth and Kinross. The Improvement Plan will highlight areas for development and set out how progress will be achieved. In the interim, the chairs of Looked After Reviews and Child Protection Case Conferences are monitoring how Social Workers are writing and talking about domestic abuse within families and have noted positive improvements in terms of a stronger focus on perpetrator patterns of behaviour and increased recognition of the protective actions of the non-abusive parent.

Workers have expressed that the training supports them in addressing issues with the perpetrator of the abuse and has equipped them to better understand the protective actions that victims / survivors take to keep themselves and their children safe.

Impact on the Community

Evaluation: We are confident that the CPC remains transparent and public-facing; that we are providing highly evaluated public information that is accurate, relevant and useful in terms of helping to keep children and young people safe; that we are communicating, listening and actively engaging with the community, building capacity and helping to keep people safe in their communities.

Public Information, Communication and Engagement

Child Protection Website

The [CPC Child Protection Website](#), hosted on the PKC Website, remains fundamental to the CPC's approach to public information, communication and engagement. This public-facing website, ensures the work of the CPC remains open and transparent and throughout 2021 / 2022, the website has been continuously refreshed and updated.

As reported last year, it should be noted that the [Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations](#) (PECR), which protects the privacy rights of website users and controls our ability to collect data cookies, limits our ability to provide accurate data.

In terms of impact, the following Table provides some high-level information on key pages within the child protection website; showing minimum user activity and page activity:

CPC Website Single User and Page Activity 1 August 2021 – 31 July 2022		
Key Webpage Activity	Impact (Minimum) 2021 – 2022	Impact (Minimum) 2020 – 2021
<i>Child Protection Webpages – Total Hits</i>	<i>1,681 users – 6,449 page views</i>	<i>2,476 users – 4,503 page views</i>
<i>What to do if you are worried about child / young person</i>	<i>1,827 users – 5,611 page views</i>	<i>279 users – 382 page views</i>
<i>Child Protection Publications – All Pages</i>	<i>963 users – 3,507 page views</i>	<i>170 users – 301 page views</i>
<i>P&K Practitioner's Guide and Toolkits – All Pages</i>	<i>718 users – 2,779 page views</i>	<i>129 users – 200 page views</i>
<i>Information for Practitioners – All Pages</i>	<i>679 users – 2,374 page views</i>	<i>180 users – 291 page views</i>
<i>What's New in Child Protection – News Items</i>	<i>485 users – 1,749 page views</i>	<i>203 users – 414 page views</i>
<i>Child Protection – Main Landing Page</i>	<i>379 users – 1,106 page views</i>	<i>374 users – 675 page views</i>

Overall, the number of website users and page views has increased significantly over the last year, as we have continued to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, it not only shows increasing website traffic, but also shows the key webpages users have been looking at; on some occasions more than once.

The CPC acknowledges the importance of maintaining this valuable resource and also recognises the need to continue to promote it more widely.

Social Media

Working in partnership with staff from Perth and Kinross Council's Corporate Communications Team, we have continued to make use of the PKC social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) to extend the message reach of our key child protection partnership work.

At 31 July 2022, the continually growing PKC Corporate Twitter Account had 22,458 followers and the Corporate Facebook page had 28,895 likes (compared with 21,625 Corporate Twitter followers and 24,700 Corporate Facebook page likes at the same date in 2021).

Throughout the year, the CPC has been actively supporting a range of national public information and communication campaigns via [Child Protection Committees Scotland's \(CPCScotland\)](#) virtual public information and communication campaigns; linked to the return to school (August 2021) and support for parents / carers dealing with the ongoing impact of COVID-19 (January 2022); also the Act Early UK campaign in relation to radicalisation of young people (August 2021).

The following is a snapshot of some of the virtual national campaign materials we have supported and / or posted:

FOR KIDS' SAKE... – a CPC Scotland school summer holiday child protection campaign August 2021



ACT EARLY UK... – a UK-wide anti-radicalisation national campaign August / September 2021



IT'S OK TO ASK... – a CPCScotland campaign reminding parents / carers that support is available January 2022



In terms of impact, this year our CPC specific social media posts have achieved a total reach of 43,261 on Facebook and a total of 16,096 impressions on Twitter (compared with total reach of 146,991 on Facebook and 69,632 impressions on Twitter in the year 2020-2021), which is a significant reduction from last year.

The reduction in reach / impressions is difficult to evaluate with any accuracy; but may be as a result of there being fewer national media campaigns, beyond the first half of the year (beginning of August 2021 to end of January 2022), as well as the country moving away from the national COVID-19 restrictions (so people were starting to spend less time online) and a broader range of topics being covered through social media activity on the Council channels.

During this reporting period, the most popular posts on each social media channel were both related to the Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (TRIC) Priority Group 5's (PG5 child protection lunchtime briefings):



A reminder for anyone working with children, young people and families in Perth and Kinross - the [#TaysideRegionalImprovementCollaborative](#) is continuing its lunchtime briefings on multi-agency [#childprotection](#) arrangements locally later this month and during September 2021. The 45-minute sessions on Wednesdays are free to attend and you can register via Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../tayside-priorities-for...#childprotectionpk>

(11 August 2021) Reach: 5,449; 2 likes, 1 link click; 1 share



A reminder for anyone working with children, young people & families locally - [@TayCollab](#)'s lunchtime briefings on multi-agency [#childprotection](#) arrangements will continue from next week & into Sept 2021. All sessions free - register via Eventbrite at <https://bit.ly/3yXPxX2> pic.twitter.com/1d18Rfu0cr

(11 August 2021) Impressions: 3,928; 6 likes; 3 link clicks; 8 retweets

Looking Forward

Going forward this year, the CPC will continue its support for future national public information / communication campaigns as appropriate, alongside locally focussed messaging on key themes relating to keeping children and young people safe and protected from harm, abuse and exploitation.

This includes the CPC's commitment to supporting The Independent Care Review and The Promise, UNCRC, the Violence Against Women Partnership's planned 16 Days of Activism.

The CPC will also use social media to promote further learning and developing opportunities for staff and to raise a better awareness and understanding of the work of the CPC.

How good is the delivery of our services for children, young people and families and our operational management?

This section describes how we are delivering our services and providing help and support to protect children, young people and families. It also describes recent improvement work, led by the CPC, to support and empower frontline practice. This work aims to support a competent, confident and skilful multi-agency practitioners to make sound professional judgments when dealing with complex issues.

Evaluation: We are confident that our child protection services are robust, effective and focused on vulnerability, risk and need. We are working extremely hard to improve the life chances of children and young people. Practice is enabled by learning and by evidence-based policy, practice and planning improvements.



**Tayside
Regional**
Improvement Collaborative

**Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (TRIC)
Priority Group 5 (PG5): Safeguarding and Child Protection**

'We will continue to ensure that our children and young people are safe and protected from harm, at home, school and in the community.'

[Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative \(TRIC\)](#)

[Priority Group 5 \(PG5\): \(Safeguarding and Child Protection\)](#)

[Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2021 – 2023](#)

Perth and Kinross CPC and partner agencies continue to support the work of TRIC PG5 and the abovementioned Plan; which provides added value to the work of the CPC.

Practice Guidance

In 2020 and throughout 2021, we continued to implement various multi-agency practice guidance, including: Chronologies; Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRDs – including a new IRD Template); and Concern for Unborn Babies Practice Guidance (including an associated Referral Form) – aimed at improving day-to-day culture, ethos and practice consistency across Tayside.

Following publication of the refreshed [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021](#) (Scottish Government: 21 September 2021) an opportunity was taken to review and refresh these three pieces of key practice guidance; to ensure they reflected and were compliant with the refreshed national guidance.

That work has now been completed and the refreshed practice guidance will be widely shared and cascaded across Tayside and planning is underway to quality-assure and evaluate its impact on frontline practice.

Priorities for Practice

Last year we reported on TRIC PG5's Workforce Learning and Development Programme and the Co-Production Model, to develop learning and development resources in support of the Priorities for Practice.

This work is based on recent research evidence carried out by Dr Sharon Vincent, Northumbria University.



Priorities for Practice LINK to Short Animated Film

Priority 1: Relationships with Children and Families

Priority 2: Working Together



Co-Production Workforce Learning and Development Programme LINK to Short Animated Film



Throughout 2021 / 2022, this work has continued and is currently being taken forward by four multi-agency Co-Production Workstream Groups; tasked with developing additional resources for practice and learning and development resources and opportunities.

Whilst this remains a longer-term initiative and commitment, the following diagrams best illustrate our current approach to the Co-Production Model:





Next Steps / Going Forward

As we continue to move into the final year of the current Tayside Plan, TRIC PG5 will:

- continue to support the work of the Co-Production Multi-Agency Workstream Groups
- continue to support the development of further learning and development resources and opportunities
- continue to develop further quality assurance and self-evaluation that measures both impact and outcomes
- continue to share and use data which informs further improvement
- continue to strive for improvement in child protection day-to-day culture, ethos and practice consistency across Tayside

How good is our leadership?

This section describes our collective approach to leadership, direction, support, challenge and scrutiny. It describes how we are promoting effective and collaborative partnership working to deliver the best possible outcomes for children and young people. It also describes our commitment to continuous improvement through quality assurance, self-evaluation and our capacity for further improvement across Perth and Kinross.

Evaluation: We are continuing to strengthen our individual and collective approach to leadership, which is values-based and which aims to empower and support staff across all services and agencies. Our partnership working remains effective and robust and our commitment to continuous improvement through quality assurance and self-evaluation aims to provide better outcomes for children and families across Perth and Kinross.



Perth and Kinross Protecting People (Public Protection) Arrangements

Perth and Kinross Public Protection Chief Officers' Group (COG)

The Perth and Kinross Public Protection Chief Officers' Group (COG) brings together the Chief Officers of Perth and Kinross Council; NHS Tayside; Police Scotland – Tayside Division; the Chief Operating Officer of the Perth and Kinross Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP); the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) for Perth and Kinross Council and other Agency Chief Officers.

In March 2021, the COG developed and approved specific Terms of Reference (TOR), which described and articulated its partnership working arrangements. In June 2022, following a COG Development Day, an opportunity was taken to refresh the TOR in relation to its key working arrangements; with membership of the COG extended to include key others. The COG continues to meet quarterly and meetings are now themed; informed and empowered by the use of sophisticated data.

The COG continues to provide leadership, direction and scrutiny on the work of the Protecting People Coordinating Group (PPCG) which brings together the various public protection partnerships; which now includes Suicide Prevention.

Recently, the COG has explored a [Values-Based Reflective Practice \(VBRP\)](#) approach and is currently working to embed that approach, more widely, across the public protection partnership arrangements.

In terms of ongoing child protection learning and improvement scrutiny, the COG, which previously had a responsibility for overseeing CPC Initial Case Reviews (ICRs) and Significant Case Reviews (SCRs)⁹, now has a key responsibility for the recently introduced CPC Learning Reviews.¹⁰

Perth and Kinross Protecting People Coordination Group (PPCG)

Last year, we reported upon the establishment of the Perth and Kinross Protecting People Coordination Group (PPCG) in January 2021.

The PPCG continues to meet regularly and brings together representatives from the various public protection partnerships and key others; including education, health and police and more recently, key colleagues working in Suicide Prevention.

At present, the PPCG's TOR are being amended; to ensure closer alignment with the COG; to ensure there is continued strong partnership working and to ensure there is continued synergy between and across the various public protection partnerships. The PPCG is currently examining public protection cross-cutting themes and promoting shared learning.



Perth and Kinross Children, Young People and Families Partnership (CYPFP)

[Elected Members and Chief Officers](#) of the public, private and third sectors in Perth and Kinross continue to discharge their individual and collective responsibility for children's services, in

particular, child protection services, through the Perth and Kinross Children, Young People and Families Partnership (CYPFP).

The partnership continues to provide the CPC with strong leadership and direction. At its quarterly meetings, the partnership continues to scrutinise the work of the CPC and receives regular progress reports and updates on national and local child protection policy and practice developments. It also continues its thematic approach in relation to data; albeit key child protection performance indicators are included in all data reports.

At present, the partnership is refreshing its TOR and reviewing its Working Groups, which going forward will include the Child Protection (CPC); Corporate Parenting; The Independent Care Review and The Promise; GIRFEC and UNCRC and Young People's Mental Health.



Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee (CPC)

[Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee \(CPC\)](#) is the local multi-agency child protection partnership; compliant to [national standards](#); strongly committed to building an active child protection community and securing a culture where the care and protection of children and young people is at the heart of *everyone's job*.

The CPC drives forward a strong focus on *continuous improvement; public information and communication; strategic planning and connections* and *annual reporting on the work of the CPC*.

[Membership of the CPC](#) remains intentionally wide and kept under constant review; to ensure it accurately reflects the local children's services landscape across the public, private and third sectors. This allows the CPC to take a whole-community approach to raising awareness of the key risks to children and young people.

The CPC continues to nurture positive working relationships through a culture of mutual respect and understanding; involvement; participation; openness; transparency; support and challenge.

⁹ Note: [National Guidance for Child Protection Committees: Conducting Significant Case Reviews](#) (Scottish Government: 2015).

¹⁰ Note: [National Guidance for CPCs: Undertaking Learning Reviews](#) (Scottish Government: September 2021).

The CPC meets six times per annum; all meetings are [minuted](#) and published on the public-facing [Website](#). Much of the CPC's work is taken forward via the [CPC Practice Improvement Working Group \(PIWG\)](#) and the [CPC Case Review Working Group \(CRWG\)](#). At present, the CPC is working to establish a CPC Quality Assurance and Self-Evaluation Working Group.

Learning from Initial Case Reviews (ICRs); Significant Case Reviews (SCRs) and Learning Reviews

Previously, in the context of child protection, an Initial Case Review (ICR) was the first stage in determining whether a case referred to the CPC should proceed onto a Significant Case Review (SCR).

An SCR was a multi-agency process for establishing the facts of, and learning lessons from, a situation where a child or young person had died or been significantly harmed.

SCRs were seen in the context of a culture of continuous improvement and focussed on learning and reflection on day-to-day practices, and the systems within which those practices operated.¹¹

However, in September 2021, ICRs and SCR were replaced with Learning Reviews, following publication of the [National Guidance for CPCs: Undertaking Learning Reviews](#) (Scottish Government: September 2021).

Learning Reviews are **not** investigations.

Learning Reviews **are** an opportunity for an in-depth analysis and critical reflection, in order to gain a greater understanding of inevitably complex situations and to develop strategies to support practice and improve systems across all services and agencies.

Learning Reviews – Key Features and the Underlying Principles and Values can be found [HERE](#).

Learning from cases where children or young people have died, been significantly harmed or put at risk of significant harm, is a vital part of an effective and improving child protection system.

The CPC is committed to listening, learning and improvement. To demonstrate that commitment, in 2021, the CPC published a Significant Case Review: Child B and in 2022 a Learning Review: Young Person A.

Both Reports can be found [HERE](#). Both reports contained a number of recommendations for improvement and at present, the CPC continues to implement and monitor this work; reporting progress to the COG.



Central and North Scotland CPC Consortium

The Independent Chair of the CPC first established this Consortium back in 2009 and currently leads this Consortium, which has continued to expand.

Membership of the Consortium now includes the CPC Chairs and CPC Lead Officers of Aberdeen City; Aberdeenshire; Angus; Clackmannanshire and Stirling; Dundee City; Falkirk; Fife; Highland; Perth & Kinross; Moray; Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands and Western Isles Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) areas.

The Consortium continues to meet 4 times per annum with meetings being held virtually, to accommodate all geographical partners.

Throughout 2021 / 2022, members have continued to share and exchange learning and good practice in child protection and invited key speakers to provide inputs and presentations on developing child protection policy and practice developments.

¹¹ Note: [National Guidance for Child Protection Committees: Conducting Significant Case Reviews](#) (Scottish Government: 2015).

What is our capacity for improvement?

Perth and Kinross CPC is committed to continuous improvement through quality assurance, self-evaluation and continually strives for excellence. The CPC is a listening and learning CPC.

We know how good we are now; how good we can be and our capacity for improvement remains very strong.

Throughout 2021 / 2022, the CPC, in partnership with the [CPC Practice Improvement Working Group \(PIWG\)](#); the [CPC Case Review Working \(CRWG\)](#); the [Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative \(TRIC\)](#), in particular with [Priority Group 5 \(PG5\): \(Safeguarding and Child Protection\)](#) and with the Perth and Kinross Protecting People Coordination Group, has continued to make progress in implementing practice improvements and change.

Last year, the CPC developed a new and ambitious CPC Improvement Plan 2021 – 2023.

This Plan described and set out our planned programme of improvements for 2021 – 2023. This Plan contained a number of Actions / Tasks; some of which were a priority and others which were ongoing and / or maintenance. These were presented in a way which was intended to be SMART: *specific; measurable; achievable; realistic and time limited*.

However, over the last year, we have recognised the impact of the COVID-19 on key CPC partner services and agencies and in particular, on existing resources and the workforce. We have also responded to a changing child protection policy and practice landscape and to some extent, had to prioritise and review the pace of our improvement work. As a result, some Actions / Tasks have not been progressed as we had planned.

Nevertheless, this Plan remains our collective approach to continuous improvement; it is a dynamic resource and further areas for development and / or improvement will be added to it, as and when required. We are working to ensure, the Plan is fully delivered by 31 July 2023.

We also recognise that the CPC Improvement Plan 2021 – 2023, is only a part of a much wider service and agency improvement planning framework; with similar ambitious improvement plans being progressed within Education and Children's Services, partner agencies and other public protection partnerships – all aimed at providing better outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Our Plan:



The CPC Improvement Plan: First Progress Report @31 July 2022 can be found at Appendix 1.

Key Abbreviations & Acronyms Used

ADP	Alcohol and Drug Partnership
APC	Adult Protection Committee
ASN	Additional Support Needs
CCR	Child Concern Report
COG	Chief Officers' Group
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CPCC	Child Protection Case Conference
CPO	Child Protection Order
CPP	Community Planning Partnership
CPR	Child Protection Register
CRWG	Case Review Working Group
CSO	Compulsory Supervision Order
CSWO	Chief Social Work Officer
CYPFP	Children, Young People and Families Partnership
CYRO	Children and Youth Rights Officer
EASYc	Educational Attainment Service for Young Carers
ECS	Education and Children's Services
EFQM	European Foundation for Quality Management
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulations
GIRFEC	Getting it Right for Every Child
IAPK	Independent Advocacy Perth & Kinross
ICPPC	Initial Child Protection Case Conference
ICR	Initial Case Review
IRDs	Inter-Agency Referral Discussion
LAC	Looked-After Children
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
MAAPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MSYP	Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament
NHS	National Health Service (Tayside)
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
P&K	Perth and Kinross
PIWG	Practice Improvement Working Group
PECR	Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations
PG5	Priority Group 5
PKAVS	Perth and Kinross Association of Voluntary Service
PKC	Perth and Kinross Council
RASAC PK	Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Perth and Kinross
REAP	Rights, Engagement, Advocacy, Participation
RRSA	Rights Respecting School Award
SCRA	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
SCN	Senior Charge Nurse
SCR	Significant Case Review
SCRON	Scottish Children's Rights Officer's Network
SMARTer	Specific; Measurable; Achievable; Realistic and Time-Limited
TRIC	Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative
UBB	Unborn Baby
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child