

## PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Council Meeting – 4 October 2017  
Scrutiny Committee – 29 November 2017

**PERTH AND KINROSS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE (CPC)  
STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2016 – 2017**

**Joint Report by Chief Executive and Executive Director (Education and  
Children's Services)**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee (CPC), in compliance with the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014, publishes an annual Standards and Quality Report. This Standards and Quality Report for the academic year 2016 - 2017 provides an overview of the key activities of the work of the CPC to protect children and young people from abuse and neglect and presents the findings from a wide range of CPC-led single agency and multi-agency self-evaluation activities. It sets out the progress made against a three year improvement plan, identifies key strengths and areas for further development.

**1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 All Child Protection Committees in Scotland are encouraged to publish an Annual Report. This Standards and Quality Report covers work of the Child Protection Committee for the academic year from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017.
- 1.2 The Standards and Quality Report takes account of the Care Inspectorate's Quality Indicator Framework for Services for Children *How well are we improving the lives of children and young people?* It presents an overview of performance in services to protect children and young people and is based on sound evidence obtained through a wide range of self-evaluation activities. The conclusions and evaluations provide the CPC with robust confirmation of areas of strengths and will assist the CPC to focus its improvement actions upon key areas for development. These have been incorporated, as far as possible, into the report of the joint self-evaluation carried out by partners in August 2017 and submitted to the Care Inspectorate for the forthcoming Joint Inspection of Services for Children.
- 1.3 Overall, the CPC has made very good progress in the second year of implementing a three-year Improvement Plan for 2015 - 2018. A significant amount of work has been taken forward and progress is reported in the supplementary CPC Improvement Plan 2015 – 2018 Progress Report as at 31 July 2017.

- 1.4 The headlines set out in the Executive Summary reflect the extensive range of activity in Perth and Kinross to achieve a shared vision to keep children and young people safe and enable them to be the best they can be. The findings demonstrate that we have maintained and improved some very effective multi-agency practices to protect and support children, young people and vulnerable families and we can be confident of ongoing improvement in many areas. The findings also highlight the positive partnership working and concerted efforts of staff to intervene when necessary to keep children safe, and to strive to give children the best start in life and to achieve positive outcomes.
- 1.5 Key areas for further development over the next year include the need to continue to:
  - 1.5.1 Review our CPC multi-agency arrangements in keeping with the Scottish Government's emerging Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP);
  - 1.5.2 Align the CPC Improvement Plan with the Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2017 – 2020;
  - 1.5.3 Update the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Work Plan and Stop to Listen (STL) Pathfinder Project Plan;
  - 1.5.4 Refine the CPC management information and performance outcome framework to further enhance the scrutiny and governance of performance;
  - 1.5.5 Adapt the programme of quality assurance and self-evaluation using the analysis of data to focus on priority areas including early intervention; multi-agency screening; assessment; decision making and planning, and continue to have a greater emphasis on impact and outcomes;
  - 1.5.6 Further develop our public information, communication and engagement strategy and communications plan and increase our use of social media platforms to promote further participation and engagement and increase our reach;
  - 1.5.7 Continue to support a competent, confident and skilful workforce through a variety of approaches to multi-agency staff learning and development opportunities aimed at empowering and supporting frontline practice; and
  - 1.5.8 Embed GIRFEC; The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and once enacted, the provisions of The Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill to safeguard, support and promote wellbeing.

- 1.6 The statistical data in this report shows that, as predicted, ***the number of child concern reports has significantly reduced***. This is as a result of changes within Police Scotland in relation to the quality assurance and screening out of reports which do not merit multi-agency discussion. Whilst ***the number of child protection investigations has reduced to previous levels, the number of inter-agency referral discussions (IRDs) between partners continues to increase***. This is positive evidence of the use of the IRD process as an important proportionate exchange of information and joint decision-making in relation to children and young people who may be at risk of abuse or significant harm.
- 1.7 The report also shows that ***the number of children and young people being considered at case conference and subsequently placed on the child protection register remains fairly steady***, indicating that the right children and young people are being protected through multi-agency child protection plans.
- 1.8 However, we are not complacent and remain vigilant as there has been ***an increase in the number of children referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) and a significant increase in the number of unborn baby referrals reported*** in 2016 / 2017 which the CPC is examining.
- 1.9 This presents us with a constant challenge to ensure that our early and effective interventions are helping to ***safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing*** of children and young people and to prevent their difficulties from getting worse. We also note that many of the issues affecting children and young people are both complex and multiple and that the challenges presented by families affected by parental mental ill-health, substance misuse and domestic abuse continue.
- 1.10 The findings from the Multi-Agency Case Review 2017 indicate that we are continuing to provide a wide range of effective, tailored, multi-agency supports to meet the needs of children and young people and to improve parenting capacity. It also confirmed that we have in place very effective information sharing arrangements; robust evidence-based assessments frameworks and that creative planning and staff persistence is improving the wellbeing of children and young people.
- 1.11 However, we are not complacent; we recognise the need to remain alert; to continue to improve the pace of change and improvement and to ensure this is sustained. We will continue to ensure the CPC remains an outward facing, forward looking effective partnership and we will continue to learn from research, national publications, inquiry reports and reviews of practice.

## 2. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) Notes the wide range of work carried out by Perth and Kinross Council, and partners through the Child Protection Committee, to provide high quality services to protect children and young people, in particular the high level commitment to continuous improvement through self-evaluation;
- (ii) Endorses the contents of this report and the Child Protection Committee Standards and Quality Report 2016 - 2017 (Appendix I) and the contents of the CPC Improvement Plan 2015 – 2018: Progress Report as at 31 July 2017 (Appendix II); and
- (iii) Notes that this report will be presented to the Perth and Kinross Integration Joint Board in due course.

2.2 It is recommended that Scrutiny Committee:

- (i) Scrutinises and comments as appropriate on the Child Protection Committee Standards and Quality Report 2016 - 2017 (Appendix I) and the contents of the CPC Improvement Plan 2015 – 2018: Progress Report as at 31 July 2017 (Appendix II).

### Author

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### Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Sheena Devlin	Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)	5 September 2017

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	n/a
Workforce	n/a
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	n/a
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	n/a
Strategic Environmental Assessment	n/a
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	n/a
Legal and Governance	n/a
Risk	n/a
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>Yes</b>
External	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	n/a

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 This report relates to Strategic Objective No (i) Giving every child the best start in life.

#### Corporate Plan

- 1.2 This report relates to Strategic Objective No (i) Giving every child the best start in life.

#### Education & Children's Services Policy Framework

- 1.3 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area – Integrated Working.

### 2. Resource Implications

#### Financial

- 2.1 There are no known resource implications at this time.

### Workforce

- 2.2 There are no known workforce implications at this time.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no asset management implications at this time.

## **3. Assessments**

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

### Sustainability

- 3.3 Not Applicable.

### Legal and Governance

- 3.4 There are no legal implications at this time.

### Risk

- 3.5 There are no associated risks at this time.

## **4. Consultation**

### Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Democratic Services, Head of Finance, Head of Legal and Governance Services, Corporate Human Resources Manager, the Children, Young People and Families Partnership, Education and Children's Services SMT and the Child Protection Committee and partners have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

### External

- 4.2 The Child Protection Committee and partners has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**5. Communication**

5.1 There are no Communication issues at this time.

**2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**3. APPENDICES**

Appendix I: Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee Standards and Quality Report 2016 - 2017.

Appendix II: Perth and Kinross CPC Improvement Plan 2015 – 2018 Progress Report as at 31 July 2017.