



**ChildProtection**  
Perth & Kinross

# Standards and Quality Report 2020/2021

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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or  
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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? .....	19
How good is the delivery of our services for children, young people and families and our operational management? .....	37
How good is our leadership?.....	40
<i>Perth and Kinross Protecting People (Public Protection) Arrangements</i> .....	41
<i>Perth and Kinross Chief Officers' Group (COG)</i> .....	41
<i>Perth and Kinross CPC and APC (Adult Protection Committee) Virtual Executive Group</i> .	41
<i>Perth and Kinross Protecting People Coordination Group (PPCG)</i> .....	42
<i>Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee (CPC)</i> .....	42
<i>Central and North Scotland CPC Consortium</i> .....	42
What is our capacity for improvement? .....	43
<b>Key Abbreviations &amp; Acronyms Used</b> .....	44

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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 (PKC), 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 2020/2021.

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 on the lives of children and families and we reported on the way our services were continuously adapting to ensure children and young people across Perth and Kinross were kept safe and protected from further harm and abuse.

This flexible approach continues and as leaders, through the CYPFP and the Perth and Kinross Public Protection Chief Officers' Group (COG), we continue to work collectively together to ensure key child protection services and processes remain properly resourced and in many areas of practice, enhanced and enabled by new ways of working and/or new technologies, to ensure children, young people and families are kept safe and continue to get the help they need, when they need it.

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

We commend and endorse this CPC Standards and Quality Report for 2020/2021.

**Barbara Renton**  
Interim 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: **TBC**

## Introduction by the Independent Chair of Perth and Kinross CPC

Welcome to our CPC Standards and Quality Report 2020/2021. This report covers the period 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021.

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.

Without doubt, 2020/2021 has been a very challenging year for the CPC and all partners. From March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions significantly impacted on the way our partnership has traditionally operated and in the way child protection services were delivered. Nevertheless, 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.

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 continues to work in partnership with the [CPC Practice Improvement Working Group](#); the [CPC Case Review Working Group](#); the [Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative \(TRIC\)](#), in particular with [Priority Group 5 \(PG5\) \(Safeguarding and Child Protection\)](#) and with the recently established Perth and Kinross Protecting People Coordination Group, which brings together all the local public protection partnerships and key agency partners.

The CPC's ongoing and planned improvement work is now evidenced and articulated in our new CPC Improvement Plan 2021 – 2023; which bring together all our learning from self-evaluation and quality assurance and evidences our commitment to continuous improvement.

We remain clearly focused on practice change and improvement, which empowers and supports a competent, confident and professionally curious workforce. We have made, and we are continuing to make, sustained improvement in our key child protection processes and practices and our capacity to do so remains very strong.

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 families across Perth and Kinross and keeping them safe.

**Bill Atkinson**

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

**Date: TBC**

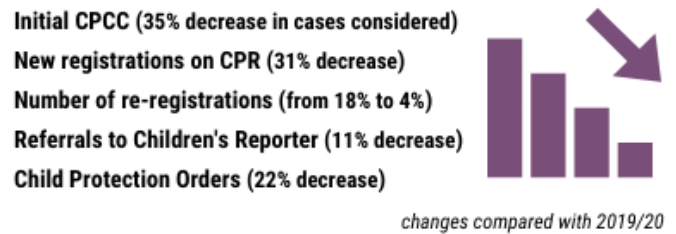
**Pictorial Summary – What key outcomes have we achieved and how are we improving?**

# CPC Standards & Quality Report 2020/21 Summary

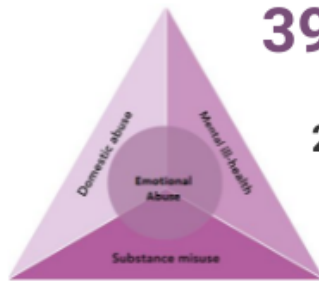
## Numbers Increasing:



## Numbers Decreasing:



## Nature of concerns



**39%** of child concern reports raised involve the **trio of risk**.

- 24%** domestic abuse
- 9%** parental mental ill-health
- 6%** problematic parental drug and/or alcohol use



## Improvements seen in:



Enhanced data analysis

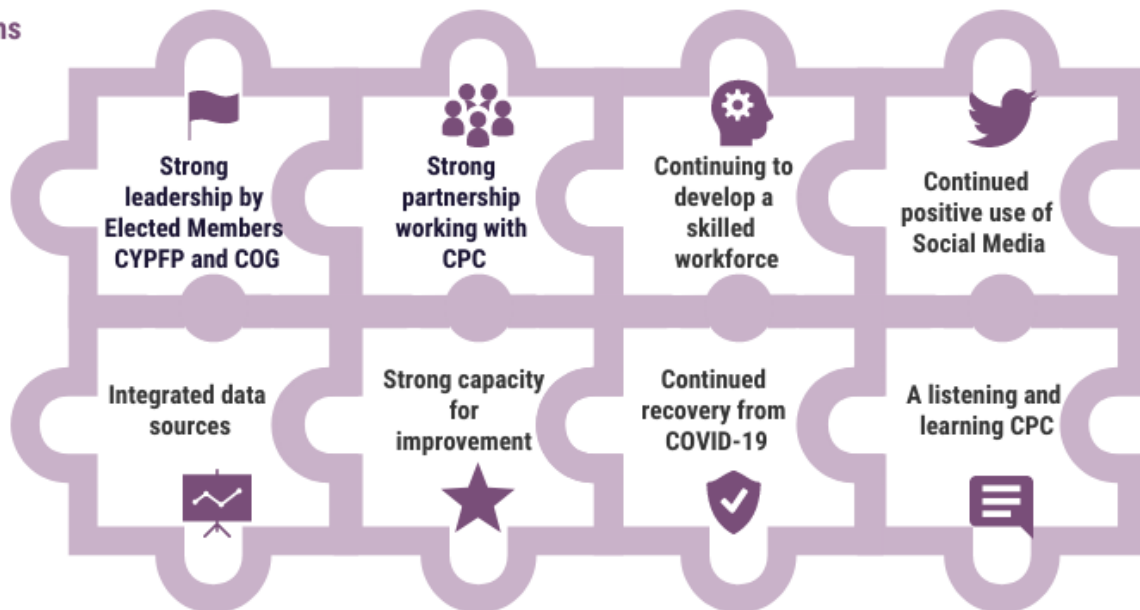
Increased frequency of monitoring during COVID-19 pandemic



Seeking and listening to views of children and families

Development and adaptation of staff training to online delivery model

## Strengths



**Listening to and Seeking Views from Children and Young People**



**>100%** increase in capacity in 2020/21

**452** meetings attended where young people's views were represented



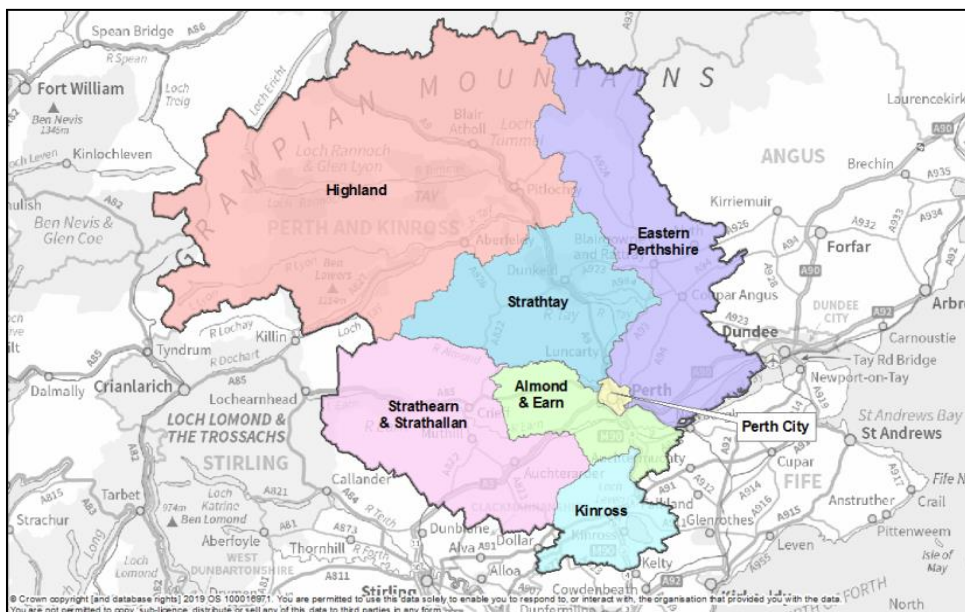
**323** number of Young Carers supported in 2020/21



## 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



#### Area



**5286 km<sup>2</sup>**

5th largest area by land mass in Scotland

#### Population



**151,109**

mid-year population estimate, NRS, 2020



**18% 0-17 years old**



**12** Electoral wards

**40** Councillors

Community planning local action partnership areas

Perth City      East Perthshire  
Kinross-shire      Strathtay  
Almond and Earn      Highland  
Strathearn and Strathallan



**NHS Tayside**

commissions health care for residents across Tayside

- 3 major hospitals
- community hospitals
- >60 GP surgeries
- local health centres



**Police Scotland**

Tayside division

**7500 km<sup>2</sup>**

area covered by Tayside command

### 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 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

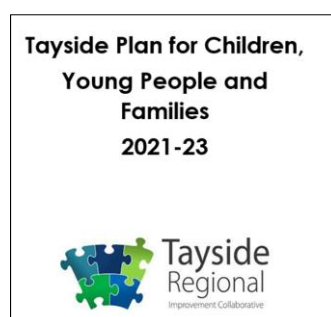


Within Perth and Kinross, **safeguarding, supporting** and **promoting** the wellbeing of all children and young people and protecting them from harm, abuse and exploitation is **everyone's job and everyone's responsibility.**

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 2020/2021.

**Evaluation: We are confident 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**

*"Chief officers groups require strong oversight of children's service planning, child protection committees and approaches to emerging needs in order to be assured in the robustness of processes, procedures and practice to keep children and young people safe. To do so effectively, analysis of outcome-focussed data must be coupled with keen questioning and constructive challenge"*

[The Joint Strategic Inspection of Services for Children and Young People: Review of Findings from the Inspection Programme 2012-2017 \(Care Inspectorate: 2019\)](#)

### **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.

In September 2019, the CPC adopted the [National Minimum Dataset for CPCs in Scotland](#) and was instrumental in leading the development and implementation of a more comprehensive Tayside Shared Dataset for CPCs, which comprises additional key child protection performance output indicators (quantitative indicators showing frequency and volume) and proxy outcome indicators (qualitative indicators showing improved outcomes).

Since March 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CPC has been receiving more frequent data, in a more integrated way. The CPC has developed a monthly, multi-agency dataset report, which includes key data being collected nationally via Scottish Government, CoSLA and SOLACE, as well as some local key performance indicators. These have been selected for their significance, in identifying the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and young people at risk and the effectiveness of our responses.

The CPC now provides monthly dataset reports to the Perth and Kinross Chief Officers' Group (COG), and going forward, the CPC is planning to extend their dataset further, with additional key performance indicators being provided by partners.

The CPC also plans on participating in the planned development and expansion work of the existing [National Minimum Dataset for CPCs in Scotland](#), which will include additional key performance indicators, in keeping with new and emerging national child protection policy developments.

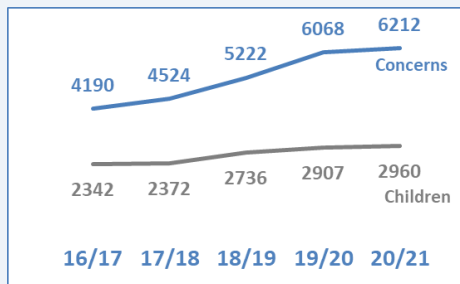
The CPC continues to benefit from significant analytical help and support from staff within the Education & Children's Services (ECS) Research Analysis & Performance Team.

### **Headline Messages 2020/2021**

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 2020 – 31 July 2021 and, where possible, compared with previous years.



**Figure 1: Child Concern Reports (CCRs)<sup>1 2</sup>**



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

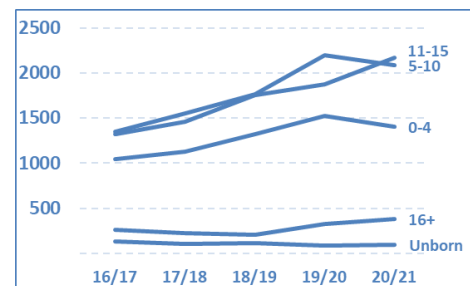
CCRs can relate to the same child or young person, particularly where there are multiple or repeated concerns about the same child or young person. CCRs are all subject to multi-agency screening arrangements and shared proportionately with partners.

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.

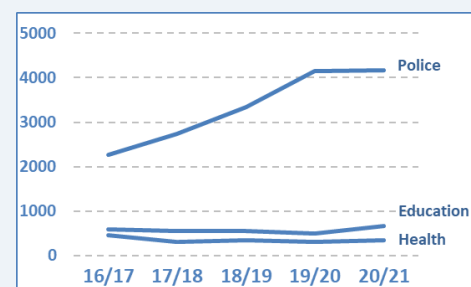
CCRs which are clearly of a child protection nature and / or which after multi-agency screening indicate the need for a child protection investigation are immediately fast-tracked, without delay, for an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion (IRD).

**Figure 2: Child Concern Reports by Age**

The number of children and young people with a CCR in each age group has remained relatively steady; with the number in the 5-10 and 11-15 age groups again being the largest groups. Whilst some of the age groups are either levelling out or in fact reducing, of particular note is the children and young people in the 11-15 age group, which continues to increase and feature more prominently.



**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 80% of all CCRs submitted.

The number of CCRs submitted by Police Scotland has been continually increasing over the last 5 years; although this increase has now slowed in the last year.

This is potentially an unintended, but natural consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown measures, which resulted in a reduced visibility of children and young people and to some extent reduced opportunities for parents and carers to report concerns, in person, directly to the Police.

However, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, CCRs have continued to be submitted and of particular note is the increasing numbers of CCRs being submitted from Education.

Monthly analysis has shown that after the COVID-19 related lockdown periods and schools having closed (resulting in home-learning) and then re-opened, there has been identifiable surges noted in the numbers of CCRs being submitted during some months.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

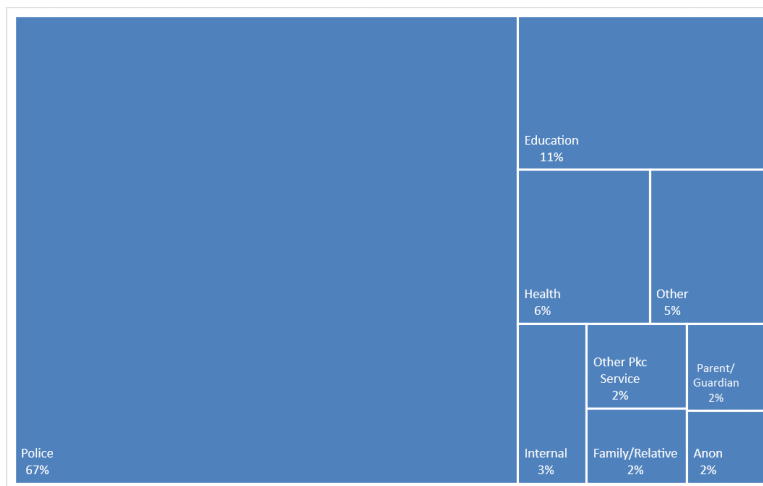
<sup>2</sup> Note: Figures are accurate as at 31 July 2021, however, they may be updated in subsequent reporting periods due to retrospective data validation and quality assurance processes.

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 80% 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 and decision-making arrangements.

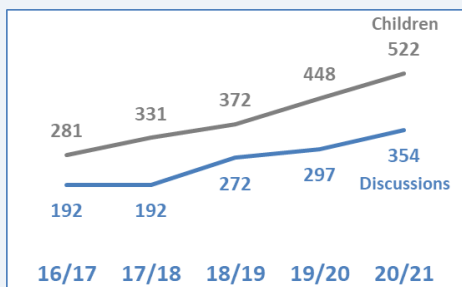
Overall, 39% of all CCRs relate to the Trio of Risks (Domestic Abuse 24%; Parental Mental Ill-Health 9%; Problematic Alcohol and Drug Use 6%).

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



**Figure 4: Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) <sup>3</sup>**

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



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 agency intervention and support.

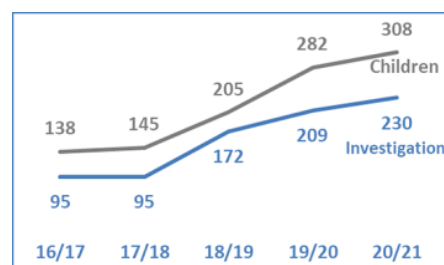
IRDs are recognised as good multi-agency working practice and may be repeated a number of times for the same child or young person. Locally, a significant amount of improvement work has taken place in relation to IRDs and will continue to take place, to ensure our IRDs are robust and our safety planning is effective.

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

**Figure 5: Child Protection Investigations <sup>4</sup>**

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 last year, albeit there has been a 10% increase in the number of child protection investigations carried out over the last year 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 interviewers and trauma aware staff.



<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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

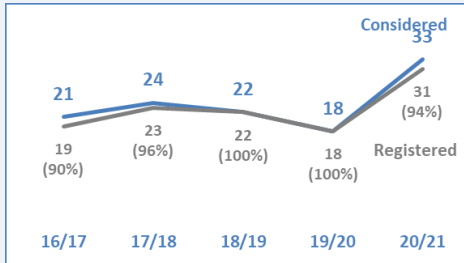
Of the 134 unborn baby referrals (see Figure 16) received this year, after multi-agency screening and assessment, 33 unborn babies were the subject of a multi-agency Pre-Birth CPCC.

At the Pre-Birth CPCC, 31 (94%) out of the 33 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 increase would suggest that despite the COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns, frontline staff have remained alert and vigilant; and with appropriate protections and supports, have continued to meet with, visit and engage with vulnerable pregnant mothers and families and in keeping with our practice guidance, made the necessary interventions for vulnerable and at-risk unborn babies.

This has also significantly changed the age profile of those placed on the CPR. This year, for the first time, the largest group is now unborn babies. Whilst the 0-4 group has decreased, overall, unborn babies and young children now make up the majority of those currently registered on the CPR.

The remaining 101 other unborn baby referrals, which did not proceed to a Pre-Birth CPCC, all received a variety of other supportive interventions and responses, i.e. single 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.

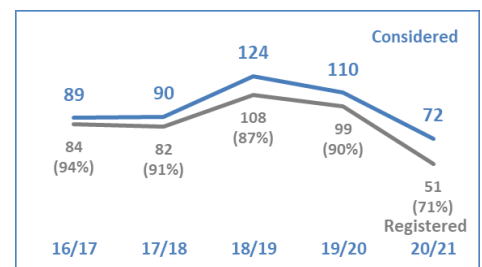


**Figure 6b: Initial Child Protection Case Conferences (Initial CPCCs)**

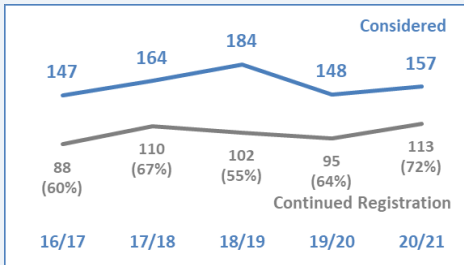
Despite the increasing numbers of CCRs, IRDs, child protection investigations and joint investigative interviews in the last year there has been a 35% reduction in the number of children and young people being considered at a multi-agency Initial CPCCs.

This indicates that alternative single and multi-agency support had effectively been put in place at an earlier stage in the child protection process. Multi-agency Child's Plans, coordinated by a Lead Professional Social Worker are negating the need for an Initial CPCC by effectively reducing risks.

Of the 72 children and young people being considered at an Initial CPCC, 51 (71%) 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 coordinated by a Lead Professional Social Worker.



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



Multi-agency Review CPCCs review 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 has remained relatively steady. The proportion of continued registrations shows a slight increase from last year showing that it has taken longer to be assured of sustained progress.

The long-term trend is more steady and the data this year shows that it has been more difficult to take a decision to remove names from the CPR and this is likely to have been due to the changes to universal and support services due to COVID-19. Help and support for these children and young people continues after de-registration.

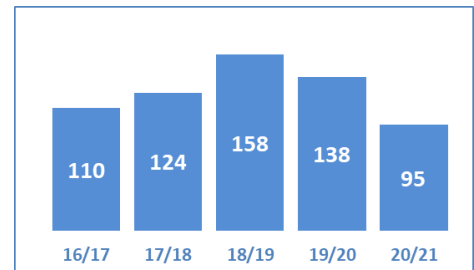
**Figure 8: New Registrations on the Child Protection Register**

There has been a reduction in the number of new registrations on the CPR. This is closely related to the reduction in the number of Initial CPCCs taking place in 2020/21.

The number of children and young people placed (new registrations) on the CPR has been decreasing for the last two years, following a sharp increase in 2018/2019.

New registrations include unborn babies, registrations following an ICPC 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.

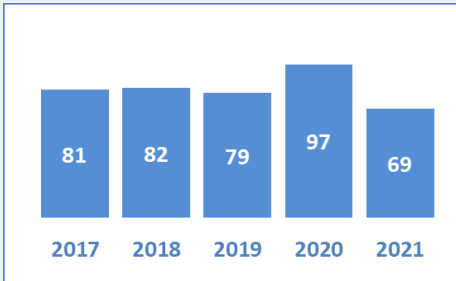
As previously described, this year the age profile of those placed on the CPR has significantly changed. For the first time, the largest group is now unborn babies. Whilst the 0-4 group has decreased, overall, unborn babies and young children currently make up the majority of those now placed (registered) on the CPR.



**Figure 9: Children on the Child Protection Register as at 31 July 2021**

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 2021.

The number of children and young people, whose names were on the CPR at 31 July 2021, has decreased to the lowest level since 2014, from a relatively high figure of 97 in 2020.



Last year, we reported that the significant increase was without doubt, a direct consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent containment measures (lockdown, home working, limited home visits and no face-to-face partnership meetings), which temporarily interrupted well-established multi-agency review arrangements for all registrations.

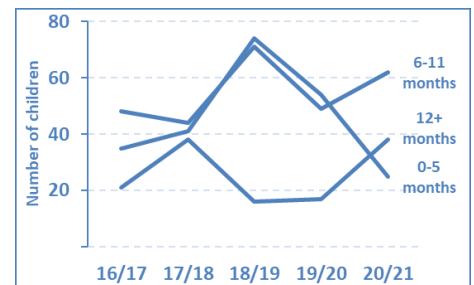
As we learned to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, new ways of partnership working, in terms of the assessment or risk and needs and safety planning, has now ensured that children and young people do not remain on the CPR unnecessarily and only do so whilst there remains a significant risk of harm.

As previously described, this year the age profile of those on the CPR has significantly changed. For the first time, the largest group is now unborn babies. Whilst the 0-4 group has decreased, overall, unborn babies and young children currently make up the majority of those now placed (registered) on the CPR.

**Figure 10: Length of Registration**

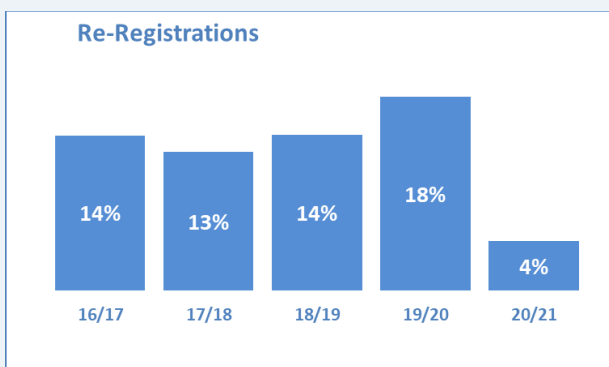
Most CPR registrations last less than a year, although there has been a slight increase in the number of children and young people who remain on the CPR for 12 months or more. This should not necessarily be seen as problematic, as many of these children and young people have multiple and/or complex needs which need coordinated support.

The sharp 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 demonstrates that decisions are being made with evidence of sustained progress and a greater likelihood that the changes made will lead to positive longer-term outcomes. This is also linked to a reduced likelihood of re-referral and further periods of registration (see Figure 11).



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**

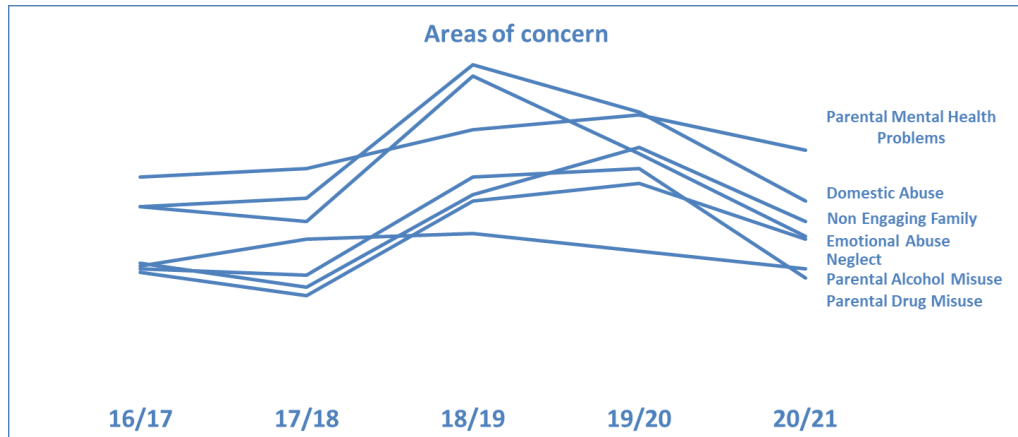


The number of children and young people that are re-registered (placed) on the CPR, having been previously removed from the CPR, has fallen significantly; with only 4% of children and young people having been previously registered (placed) on the CPR.

All 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.



**Figure 12: Areas of Concern <sup>5</sup>**



Whilst recognising that the number of new registrations on the CPR has continued to decrease sharply 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 quite 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. The CPC also continues to monitor closely, concerns relating to neglect and poverty.

**Figure 12a: Areas of Concern (CPR)**

Area of concern	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Parental Mental Health	70	73	86	91	79
Domestic Abuse	60	63	108	92	62
Non-engaging Family	41	33	64	80	55
Emotional Abuse	60	55	104	78	50
Neglect	38	30	62	68	49
Parental Alcohol Misuse	40	49	51	45	39
Parental Drug Misuse	39	37	70	73	36
Physical Abuse	25	19	17	46	23
Poverty/Financial Difficulties	15	15	23	24	19
Parental Learning Difficulties	*	*	*	12	15

<sup>5</sup> 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. Totals of less than 10 have been suppressed.

## Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)

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

### SCRA's Response to COVID-19

During the last financial year, rates of referral to SCRA, as well as Hearing business has been negatively impacted upon as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the 27 March 2020, a position statement was published jointly by SCRA, Children's Hearings Scotland and Social Work Scotland about the ability of the Hearing System to respond to referrals and the arranging of Hearings. Within that statement, it was noted that only those Hearings that were required for the urgent and immediate protection of a child or young person would take place. All non-essential Hearings were cancelled, but those Hearings that required to protect an existing Order, or for reasons of urgency to protect the welfare of a child or young person would go ahead.

The initial stages of the pandemic saw a dramatic reduction in the amount of Hearings that could take place. SCRA sought to develop existing technology to support Hearings as well as remain compliant with data sharing and confidentiality issues.

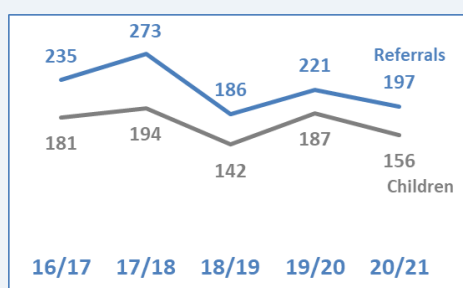
From the 23 March 2020, SCRA moved to a fully virtual Hearing model. This model took until the 6 April 2020 before Hearing participants, including social workers and families, could start to be invited and participate. Nationally, however, issues around bandwidth capacity resulted in a national limit being set for each locality in how much Hearing business could be processed. Perth & Kinross, prior to the pandemic, had a Hearing capacity of 12 Hearings per week. Tayside as a whole had a Hearing capacity of 51. By the 6 April 2020, Hearing capacity for all of Tayside was reduced to 10 Hearings; with Hearings being arranged on a needs only basis for a significant period of 2020.

During July 2020, face-to-face Hearings on a restricted basis were recommenced in Perth and Kinross. It was not, however, until October 2020 that Hearing Centres re-opened for limited face-to-face, hybrid and fully virtual Hearings. Perth and Kinross reopened with a capacity of 7 Hearings per week. This limited Hearing capacity continued until July 2021, where the current model sees Perth and Kinross once again having 10 Hearings per week, with additional capacity for emergencies due to learning gained from virtual Hearings.

Throughout the pandemic, the limited availability of Hearings had a negative impact on referrals to the SCRA. SCRA actively requested that only referrals for the most needy children and young people be made. The drafting of grounds of referral was largely restricted for those children and young people where the recommendation was that they no longer stay within the family home.

As recently as April/May of 2021, referral rates have largely returned to normal.

**Figure 13: Referrals to SCRA (figures based on Financial Years (01 Apr – 31 Mar))**



The number of referrals to SCRA and the number of children and young people referred to SCRA continues to show some variation over the last five years.

This year, the number of referrals and number of children and young people referred to SCRA from Perth and Kinross, has fallen by 11% and 17% respectively. Sibling groups are included within these figures. The latter figure of 17% is less than the national average reduction rate, which stood at 25%. Despite this overall decrease in referrals this year, Perth and Kinross ECS for Children, Young People and Families specific referrals increased by 7% over the reporting period.

Ongoing training has ensured that all staff are acutely aware when making referrals to SCRA that they describe the reasons why compulsory measures of care are required, particularly when alternative support measures are not deemed appropriate.

**Figure 14: Compulsory Supervision Orders**  
(figures based on Financial Years (01 Apr – 31 Mar))

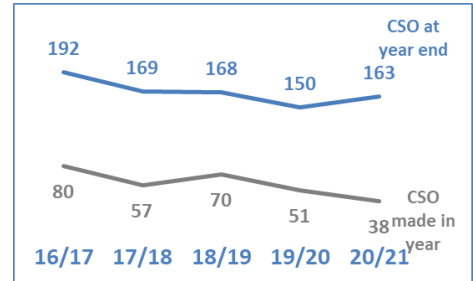
The number of children and young people placed on Compulsory Supervision Orders (CSOs) and the number of children and young people who remained on a CSO at the end of the year (31 March) have been previously showing a general downward trend over the last five years. However, this year, those who remained on a CSO at 31 March 2021, had risen to 163.

This increase in CSO's is not replicated in the number of new CSO's issued during the reporting period which saw a local increase of just 3%. The increase in the number of CSOs at the year-end would appear to be directly linked to SCRA's inability to arrange review Hearings to terminate Orders, as a direct consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and emergency legislation and guidance.

However, it should also be noted that Perth and Kinross continues to have comparatively high conversion rate of referrals to CSOs.

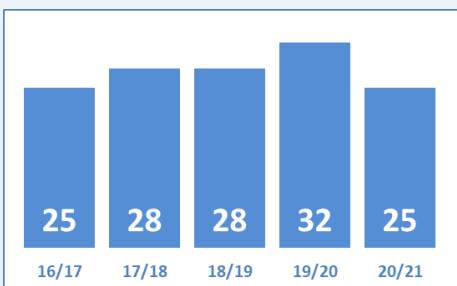
The national conversion rates fluctuates around 22% of all referrals converting to a CSO. Perth and Kinross currently enjoy a conversion rate of 42%, strongly suggesting that the right children and young people are being referred appropriately.

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 15: 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 upward trend over the previous four years. These figures, which regularly include large sibling groups, are being closely monitored by SCRA and the CPC.



Nationally, CPO rates rose by 4%, whilst Perth and Kinross saw a reduction of 22%; keeping in mind the actual numbers of children and young people involved are relatively small. Nevertheless, whilst somewhat surprising, it continues to show that despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, front line staff have continued to carry out contacts and home visits and respond to possible emergency situations as necessary.

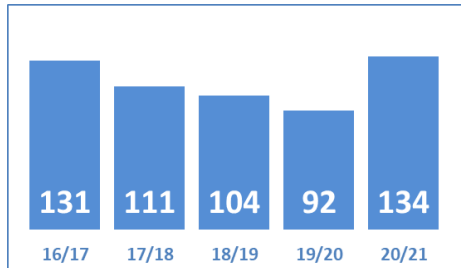
From The Reporter's perspective, the reduced SCRA referral rates (down 11% and 17% respectively); the slowing number of new CSOs (increased by only 3% during the year) and the reduction in CPOs (down 22% in Perth and Kinross), are indicators that vulnerable children and young people in Perth and Kinross are benefiting from early and effective local interventions and support and that only the most vulnerable children and young people and those in need of compulsory measures of care, continue to be referred to SCRA.

Whilst the pandemic has had, on the face of it, significant changes across Scotland in terms of referral rates and the numbers of children and young people who have been called to Hearings during 2020/2021, the current picture demonstrates a rapid return to what could be described as business as usual. Hearing capacity has increased to a level slightly higher than pre-pandemic times. Referral rates are consistent with historical patterns and conversion rates remain proportionally high.

What has changed, and is likely to reap positive outcomes, is the new levels of business continuity as a result of investment of technology. What we have as yet to assess is how this will impact on children and young people and their participation and engagement in the Hearing system.

## Unborn Baby Referrals

Figure 16: Unborn Baby Referrals <sup>6</sup>



The number of Unborn Baby referrals received this year has increased significantly; following further awareness raising within Midwifery and Health Visiting Services along with multi-agency practice guidance being published last year. 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.

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.

As previously mentioned, this increase would suggest that despite the COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns, our frontline staff have remained alert and vigilant; and with appropriate protections and supports, have continued to meet with, visit and engage with vulnerable pregnant mothers and families and in keeping with our practice guidance, made the necessary referrals.

Nevertheless, 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 is a key area of growth (see Figure 6a).

Figure 17: 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 just below 2018/19 levels, following a drop in 2019/2020. 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.

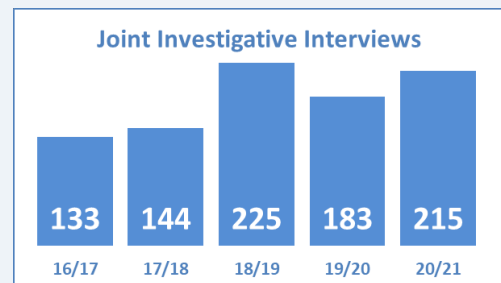
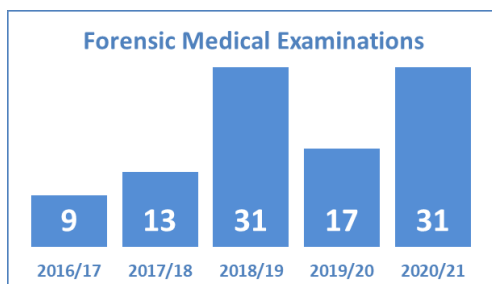


Figure 18: Joint Paediatric/Forensic Medical Examinations (JPFME)



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 has risen to 2018/19 levels, following a drop in 2019/20. This is in keeping with the increasing numbers of CCRs, IRDs and joint police and social work child protection investigations and this remains a key component part of our child protection services.

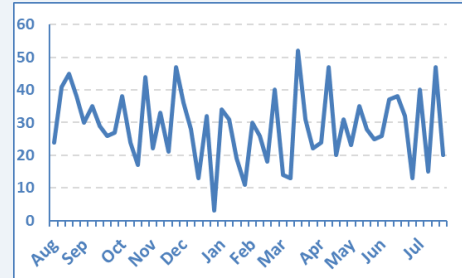
<sup>6</sup> Note: Currently an Unborn Baby Referral is a mechanism by which any practitioner or manager across the public, private or third sectors, can raise any worry or concern they may have about an unborn baby's health and/or wellbeing; or in relation to whether or not that baby will be safe and/or in need of care and protection, pre-birth and/or after birth.

## Monitoring During COVID-19

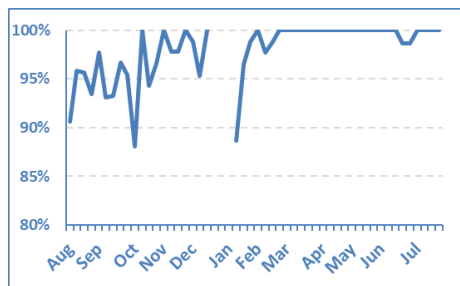
As part of the managed response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CPC has continued to receive additional data reports and implemented more frequent monitoring of a number of key areas of service delivery. The following are additional key performance indicators that have been monitored.

**Figure 19: Child Concern Reports (CCRs) – Domestic Abuse**

The total number of Child Concern Reports (CCRs) where Domestic Abuse was an initial feature, has continued to show quite a lot of variation from week to week, but overall has remained relatively steady. Local services and agencies have been alert to this level of demand, which has been monitored by local partnership working arrangements.



**Figure 20: Children With Child Protection Plan Seen Face-to-Face**



Last year, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we reported on the number of children and young people with a Child Protection Plan, who were being physically seen, face-to-face, by their Social Worker (Lead Professional), on at least a fortnightly basis, if not more frequently. Throughout the year, this has remained very high and this trend has been continued to pre COVID-19 pandemic levels.

This continues to be monitored at a national and local level. COVID-19 aware social workers continue to make home visits and meet face-to-face with these children and young people; with home visits being supported by risk assessments and the correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE) as necessary.



## 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 keeping 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** has been strengthened. It describes the **impact** on staff and recognises the extent of their motivation, involvement and contribution. It also considers the **impact** on the community and the extent of their participation, engagement and confidence across Perth and Kinross.

### 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.

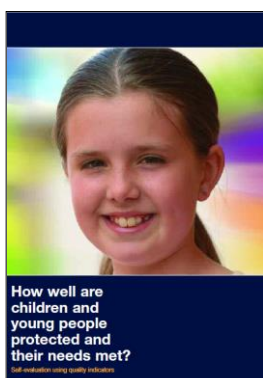
They continue to provide a framework of quality indicators to support quality assurance and self-evaluation which leads to improvement across services for children, young people and families. They place the child at the centre and are applicable to the full range of services which contribute to the wellbeing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



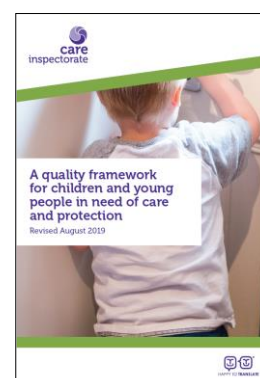
[2005](#)



[2009](#)



[2014](#)



[2019](#)

## Impact on Children, Young People and Families

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



### ***Children and Youth Rights Work – Listening and Seeking Views***

2020/2021 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.

### ***Impact of COVID-19***

As the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to pose significant challenges in terms of how face-to-face work is carried out, additional risk assessment has remained a priority. This has ensured that children and young people are still having their views captured; in many cases virtually; while limiting the number of staff entering homes or schools for in person visits.

In terms of advocacy and seeking views, and the service level agreement between Perth and Kinross Council's Education and Children's Services and PKC partners is embedded; ensuring the advocacy provision for children and young people across three 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 increasing number of children and young people who have had their views advocated/presented at key meetings since July 2020, either virtually or by workers/advocates via the submission of an All About Me Form:

- 155 (147 in 2019/2020) children and young people's views presented at a Child Protection Case Conference (CPCC) by their social worker, carer, advocate or other professional
- 265 (233 in 2019/2020) looked-after children and young people's views presented at a Looked-After Conference (LAC) by their social worker, carer, advocate or other professional
- 92 (100 in 2019/2020) 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**

*A 10-year-old child who lives in Kinship Care with the grandparent was referred to the children and youth rights officer last year. The referral came from a reviewing officer and was in relation to the safety of the child's residence. For some time, the child had shared that they did not feel safe in this residence (property) due to anti-social behaviour in the community that directly impacted the home. This was seen by the reviewing officer as an 'unmet need'. Following the referral, the children and youth rights officer visited the child and gauged the views about the residence. The content of the meeting was shared with the senior social care officer supporting the family and together they liaised with the housing association. As a result of the meeting, it became apparent to housing colleagues that there was information about the family that had not been brought to their attention previously which affected their application. The child and the grandparent were soon placed on the strategic housing list and have since moved into a new property which better suits the child's needs.*

### **Children's Rights**

#### **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Incorporation**

The CYRO has taken an active role in preparing for UNCRC Incorporation, alongside other local authority officers. In order to promote incorporation across ECS, the CYRO has produced a short animation with the Rights, Engagement, Advocacy, Participation (REAP) Strategy Group, which gives an overview of the UNCRC, core principles and the fundamental message that everyone has a role to ensure children are accessing their rights. Additionally, the CYRO has undertaken training with Education Scotland in order to cascade more detailed information to ECS staff.

The CYRO has provided an input to the developing Inclusion Guidance, the Learner Participation Strategy and the Vision for Youth Justice. Additionally, the CYRO was the lead contact for the **Activate your Rights** Consultation, during which local children and young people were consulted with regarding UNCRC resources for schools and informal education settings. The CYRO also worked with partners from the TRIC to write the initial children's rights report in line with [Part 1 of the Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#).

## ***Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)***

The CYRO continues to carry out the strategic lead role for the Rights Respecting School's Award (RRSA).

RRSA is an award delivered by 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.

In order to further their commitment to promote children's rights universally, the Council has a service level agreement with UNICEF UK, with schools being able to access assessments free-of-charge.

The CYRO continues to:

- be members of the Kinship Care Collaborative
- contribute to the quarterly RRSA Strategic Lead's meetings
- provides RRSA guidance to schools and processes school action plans
- co-ordinates RRSA training and carries out RRSA accreditation visits
- co-ordinates responses to Scottish Government consultations regarding rights related issues
- represents Perth & Kinross at the Scottish Children's Rights Officer's Network (SCRON)
- be a member of the CPC
- be a member of the PKC Advocacy Working Group
- provide input to the Scottish Institute of Residential Child Care (SIRCC) Conference Working Group

The work of the CYRO and the Who Cares? Scotland Worker remain key strands in our improving framework for the provision of advocacy and in listening to and seeking the views of children and young people.



### ***Independent Advocacy Perth & Kinross (IAPK)***

*(Children's Advocacy Summary April 2020 – March 2021)*

### ***Impact of COVID-19***

[Independent Advocacy Perth and Kinross \(IAPK\)](#) has continued to provide advocacy support virtually throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions 2020/2021; with the staff team working from home since March 2020. Independent Advocates have, and continue to, liaise with advocacy partners (client group) via phone, video conference and with WhatsApp, when advocacy partners only had this app available.

For children and young people who did not have access to technology, IAPK staff wrote letters and cards and included a pre-addressed envelope, so that the children and young people could write back for free. This ensured that contact between the child and Independent Advocate was sustained throughout lockdown. Independent Advocates have utilised opportunities with services who provide devices and IT skills to individuals and families who have experienced the 'digital divide' during the pandemic.

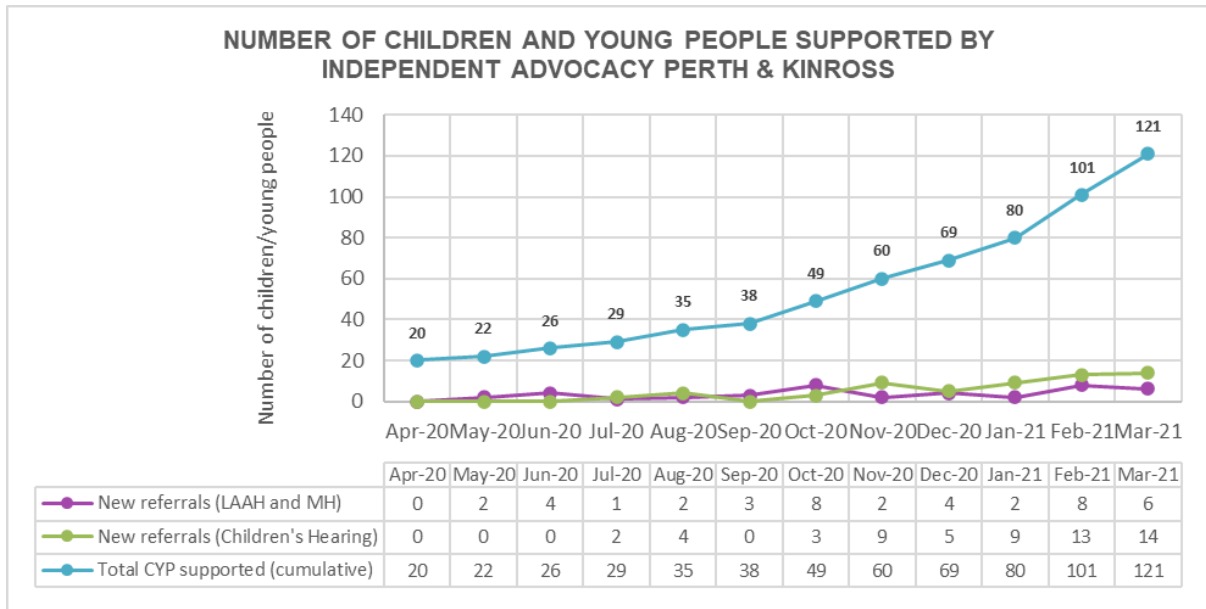
Meetings with children and young people advocacy partners continued to be held throughout the year. Initially these were all via telephone conference; however, whenever it has been permitted and safe to do so, Independent Advocates have met with children and young people in schools and outside; in accordance with Scottish Government guidance. The implementation of Microsoft Teams has also led to an increase in the number of virtual meetings IAPK attended to share the views of children and young people.

In November 2020, [Section 122 of the Children's Hearings \(Scotland\) Act 2011](#) came into force. The Act states that children and young people, subject to Children's Hearings, must have an offer of Independent Advocacy support to uphold their rights.

Given the obligation to refer children and young people to Independent Advocacy through the Act, and with IAPK being the primary providers of Children's Hearings Advocacy in Perth & Kinross, there has been a significant increase in referrals for children and young people overall since November 2020. Despite children and young people's right to be referred, it is not mandatory to accept advocacy.

**However, in terms of impact,** from the referrals received in 2020 – 2021 there has been a **96% uptake of the advocacy service offered.** Those children and young people who have/are declining advocacy are either sharing their views themselves, or they do not wish to share their views.

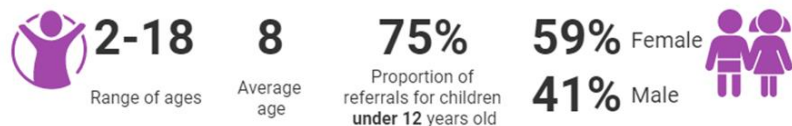
The following tables presents some statistical information in relation to advocacy over the year; along with some feedback received and a case study:



### Demographics:



#### Characteristics of children and young people supported



### Feedback:

*"Where was children's advocacy years ago?" – Kinship Carer*

*"You have a calming influence in meetings" – Head Teacher*

*"I think you going to meetings for me is perfect" – 9 Year Old*

*"I'm impressed you (Independent Advocate) thought to ask these questions to the children, their answers are really helpful" – Panel Member at Children's Hearing*

*"With advocacy there, I feel the children are now being listened to" – Parent*



## Number of Meetings for Children and Young People's Advocacy:

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

IAPK's capacity to work with children and young people has increased 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, 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:

	Advocacy Partner Meetings and Calls	Hearings	LAC Reviews	Case Conferences	Core Groups	Other	Total
2020	308	51	28	12	14	39	452
2019	140	13	7	7	16	7	209

### Case Study

*"I have been Sam's Independent Advocate for 2 years. This year Sam moved to his Dad's home so there was a meeting, as there will now be different Social Worker as he lives in a different area of Perth and Kinross. I attended the hand over meeting with family and education.*

*As Sam is in first year of high school, the school had not known him long. I realised in the meeting that out of all professionals attending the meeting, I was the one consistent person throughout this time. The Social Worker had known the family as long, but their involvement was ending.*

*Together, Sam and I attended school meetings, social work meetings, such as LAC reviews and hearings. Over this time, I have had many one-to-one meetings with Sam to find out how he is, what he thinks, and how he feels. I have then been able to share these views at decision-making meetings, have got to know Sam and knowing his views, reduces the need for Sam to share repeatedly his story with new professionals he has to work with.*

*Reducing this barrier to Sam's engagement has increased the rapport and trust allowing for easier conversation and understanding of his views"*



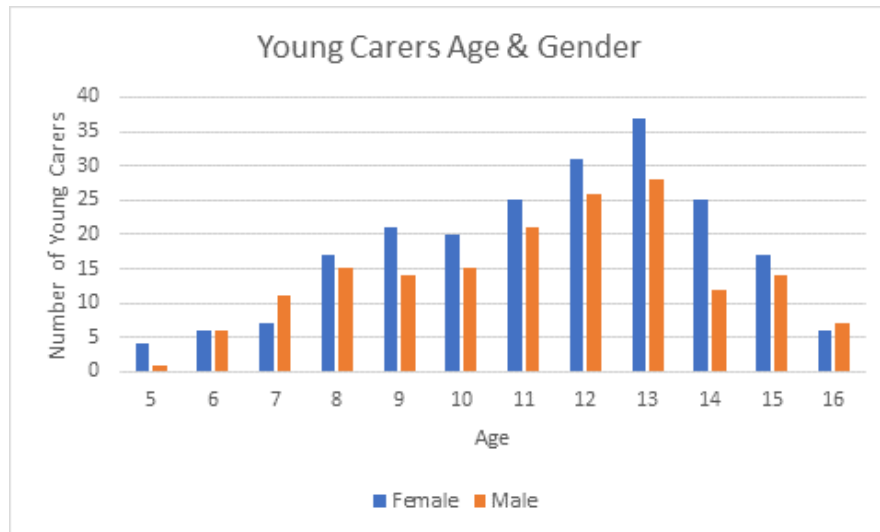
### Young Carers

[PKAVS Young Carers Hub](#) continues to support increasing numbers of children and young people, aged between 5 and 18 years old, to cope with what can often be an all-encompassing caring role.

A Young Carer is anyone under the age of 18, or over 18 and still at school, whose life, is in some way, restricted because of the need to take responsibility for the care of a person who is ill; has a disability; is experiencing mental distress or is affected by substance misuse.

Currently, PKAVS supports 323 Young Carers, has 69 on a waiting list and received a total of 149 new referrals during the timeframe for this report.

The age and gender breakdown of those Young Carers currently being supported by PKAVS is:



### **Impact of COVID-19**

The past 15 months have been extremely difficult for everyone. However, for Young Carers, they have seen many of the arrangements/mechanisms they had in place, to give them support and a regular short break from their caring role, close almost overnight. This has meant that the past 15 months have seen Young Carers become ever more immersed in their caring roles, with little to no access to a break. Many families cancelled care packages because of the uncertainty of letting other people into their homes, especially at the first lockdown in March 2020.

Other supports were also cancelled by providers as staff were re-deployed elsewhere or because of staff shortages. All this undoubtedly added to the caring responsibilities faced by Young Carers as they were left having to do more. The biggest worry/concern Young Carers told us they had, was how COVID-19 could impact on the health of the person they care for. This added another level of anxiety, on top of everything else, and in some cases, resulted in the Young Carers own health and wellbeing being adversely affected.

School and continued learning was also a real issue for many Young Carers, as the workload was difficult to manage alongside the additional caring responsibilities they had taken on during this time. The feedback we received was many Young Carers felt this only added to the additional stress they were already under.

However, we have been able to support Young Carers during this time and some of the ways we did this are highlighted below. As restrictions ease and youth work guidance allows, it is our hope that our offer of short breaks and other supports Young Carers can access will continue to increase over the weeks and months ahead.



### **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.

Clearly, this past year has seen us increase the reach of this service and direct it towards any Young Carer who was struggling with the 'new way of schooling'

adopted by schools as a result of COVID-19 and the Scottish Government guidance.

Within the timeframe of this report, 148 Young Carers have accessed this service with 1,418 private tuition lessons having been delivered and 76 homework-based groups. Referrals for the service have come from schools, social work, self-referrals and from PKAVS Young Carers Support Workers.

Below are some examples of the impact this service has made in the past 12 months:

<p><i>“Both my tutors have helped me to understand areas in their specialty, which my parents couldn’t. I feel I am able to ask questions I couldn’t ask in class” (Young Carer)</i></p>	<p><i>“It helps to fill the gaps in learning that Young Carers may have missed. I also think it gives Young Carers the opportunity to be able to learn and catch up with their work in a less stressful or busy environment” (Teacher)</i></p>
<p><i>“Being disabled, I can’t give my son the help &amp; support he needs when it comes to his school work. This service has relieved the guilt that I feel. He has a tutor (who is fantastic with my son) who can help and support him and has shown him he is capable of raising his attainment to a ‘higher’ level” (Young Carer’s Parent)</i></p>	

## **Young Carers Voice**

This forum continues to meet regularly and now has representation on the Young Carers Strategy Monitoring Group. The consultation we did with Young Carers around their mental health and wellbeing for the National Young Carers Action Day in March 2021, came through input from the Young Carers Voice to the Strategy Monitoring Group. The Group are also working together with Columba 1400 on a Leadership Academy that Columba approached us to facilitate. The Leadership Academy has obviously had to be changed from what would normally be delivered, but still gives Young Carers a chance to get a break from caring, as well as creating a real feeling of teamwork amongst the Young Carers Voice participants.



## **Additional Respite Short Break Awards**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, funders have been extremely flexible in supporting Young Carers to get respite in new and innovative ways, with a significant shift to the purchase of technology equipment; garden play equipment; bikes and games.

During the timeframe for this report, PKAVS made 155 additional short break small grant awards to Young Carers, totaling £22,344.00.

## **Case Study**

*James cares for both his older sisters and does not often get the attention of his parents just focused on him. He wanted to have a day out dedicated to him and getting respite from his caring role.*

*Mum arranged to take James and a pal to Edinburgh for a night away. They spent the day out at the skate park and trampoline park with time for a meal out. James is big into scootering.*

*James is a secondary carer for his two older sisters. They both have extremely high needs and their Mum, being the primary carer, is often tied up making sure they are alright. James spends a lot of time alone and making his own fun. At his review, James mentioned that he gets enough time for himself, but rarely is able to spend time with his Mum.*

*This really was a rare opportunity for them both to get away and spend time with each other. The trip to Edinburgh was very special, because it gave James time away with Mum and a pal, where the focus was on him and what he likes to do for fun. James and his Mum really appreciated the bonding time and break from their caring roles together.*

**James said, “he had so much fun!” and “really enjoyed the skate park and trampolines”.**

## **NSPCC Speak out Stay safe – Perth and Kinross**



### [Short Film – Speak out Stay safe](#)

The [NSPCC's Speak out Stay safe Programme](#) is a safeguarding programme available to all primary schools in the UK and Channel Islands. The programme includes child friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops, delivered by

specially trained staff and volunteers who help children:

- 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

### **National Impact of COVID-19**

Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NSPCC changed the way the *Speak out Stay safe* programme was delivered in 2020. With the amazing support of Ant and Dec, the NSPCC launched a virtual version of their safeguarding programme – *Speak out Stay safe* online. This offer, available for children aged 5 to 11, includes access to video assemblies and supporting resources for use by school staff in the classroom.

The *Speak out Stay safe* virtual programme is 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 their specially adapted ASN version of *Speak out Stay safe* remains available as usual.

### **How does Speak out Stay safe OnLine work?**

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

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

### **Stay safe Speak out 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 primary schools in Perth & Kinross since November 2013; and from August 2016; has been offered to every primary school, every two years.

During the terms from October 2020 to December 2020, and from April 2021 to June 2021, the information about the virtual assembly was shared with all primary schools in Perth & Kinross; school agreements were received from 5 primary schools; links provided to 21 primary schools and 14 virtual assemblies were delivered in 14 primary schools, including Craigclowan Independent School.

### **What next for the Speak out Stay safe Programme?**

Currently, the NSPCC is moving into a new 10-year strategy and realigning to a Regional Operating Model. The ambition over the next 10 years is to work with more people, reach more children 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 they intend to have staff nominated to offer support for every secondary and primary school in Scotland; ensuring that all schools have the opportunity to access services, learning tools and advice.

Operationally, in the short term, the NSPCC will continue to offer the *Speak out Stay safe* virtual programme, with a view to re-engaging the volunteer teams to deliver face-to-face workshops into primary schools, when this becomes appropriate and when current COVID-19 restrictions allow.

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

<b>School Staff – Key Comments / Feedback</b>	
<i>How helpful was the supporting material?</i>	<p><i>“Very straight forward and relevant”</i></p> <p><i>“Useful reference materials pre and post watching power point and online assembly”</i></p> <p><i>“Very clear”</i></p>
<i>How helpful were the materials in this time of change?</i>	<p><i>“Discussed lockdown advantages and disadvantages and things that helped them cope”</i></p> <p><i>“Liked the addition of Covid related worries”</i></p>
<i>How was the assembly presentation beneficial to your pupils?</i>	<p><i>“Very helpful”</i></p> <p><i>“Easy to understand”</i></p> <p><i>“Lots of discussion around trusted adults”</i></p> <p><i>“They were very attentive and asked lots of relevant questions”</i></p>
<i>What do you feel the children learned more about?</i>	<p><i>“No means no and their right to say no”</i></p> <p><i>“Using Childline as trusted adult resources”</i></p> <p><i>“Who to turn to if they need help”</i></p> <p><i>“They learnt a lot more about the different kinds of abuse and their definitions”</i></p>
<i>“We finished it last week. All pupils took part (368). Resources were used by class teachers and some displays have been made. Feedback from teachers was positive”</i>	<i>“I have delivered the assembly to P6 this afternoon, 21 children in today. It was quite hard hitting but the opportunities to pause and discuss were welcome”</i>



### **Getting it Right: Keeping Your Child Safe Event 2021**

This year, we held our 10<sup>th</sup> annual event on 4 March 2021; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was held virtually via a Microsoft Teams Live Event, facilitated by the PKC Digital Skills Team. This popular event continues to be targeted at inter-agency practitioners, managers, parents and carers in Perth and Kinross.

This annual event aims to raise further awareness and a better understanding about *keeping children and young people safe from harm, abuse and exploitation, specifically whilst online*; with a continuing focus on new technologies and emerging risks.

This year, guest speakers provided inputs and presentations relating to online gaming; the links and similarities to gambling; a personal account of child sexual exploitation and an update on safeguarding in a digital world. The event was delivered as a single live online virtual seminar; with opportunities to access the recorded presentations across an additional two scheduled sessions in the afternoon and evening:





**876** registrations  
**570** delegates



**Winner of Outstanding Cyber Community Event**

(Scottish Business Resilience Centre's Cyber Community Awards)

Once again, this award winning, annual event attracted a large audience and has been evaluated very highly. Following this event, key messages and learning for children, young people, families and practitioners was extracted and shared by the CPC via social media platforms and with Schools.

**In terms of impact**, of those who joined this year's event, a total of **169** took time to complete an online post event evaluation form:



**59%** Practitioner  
**40%** Parent/Carer  
**1%** Young Person (<16)



*Delegates stated that their understanding of online risks was;*

**Much improved** 37%  
**Improved** 59%  
**Unchanged** 8%

The following is a small representative snapshot of delegate comments/feedback in relation to their immediate learning taken from the event:

<p><i>"I think my main take away from this session has been that the best way to protect our children is actually through honest and regular conversation and engagement with them"</i></p>	<p><i>"Thank you, this is one of the best online seminars I have attended this year. Real situations, with examples of how to help and what to look out for with young people was very enlightening"</i></p>	<p><i>"Hugely educational for my role in school nursing, showing case studies and real, current topics was very interesting and helpful"</i></p>
<p><i>"Importance of contextual safeguarding"</i></p>	<p><i>"I think the training reiterated for me when dealing with CSE it is vital to look at risk behaviours and not gender"</i></p>	<p><i>"Imperative for practitioners to keep learning on this subject as times change, technologies advance etc"</i></p>

## 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 takes 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 – [National Framework for Child Protection learning and development in Scotland 2012](#), which we have translated into our robust and dynamic [CPC Inter-Agency Child Protection Learning and Development Framework](#).

### **Impact of COVID-19**

Over the last year, the COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures prevented us from delivering face-to-face inter-agency training, resulting in all such training being paused since March 2020. The CPC rapidly responded, taking an innovative approach by updating and adapting learning and development opportunities to ensure they remained relevant and accessible to the changing needs of the inter-agency child protection workforce.

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 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.

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 evaluate our training opportunities very highly. The CPC fully intends to recommence its face-to-face inter-agency training when safe to do so.

**In terms of impact**, the following tables shows changes to the CPC inter-agency child protection staff learning and development opportunities delivered from March 2020; by way of Webinars and Online Learning Resources:

<b>CPC Inter-Agency Child Protection Learning and Development Webinars (March 2020 – 31 July 2021)</b>			
<b>Title of Learning Opportunity/Resource</b>	<b>Learning Method</b>	<b>Total Opportunities</b>	<b>Total Attending</b>
<i>Trauma Informed Practice 1 (RASAC PK)</i>	Adapted to Webinar	8	203
<i>Trauma Informed Practice 2 (RASAC PK)</i>	Adapted to Webinar	5	79
<i>CLICK Path to Protection Training (Marie Collins Foundation)</i>	Adapted to Webinar	Think Courses 4 Act Courses 2 Manage Course 1	157
<i>Child Protection Officers Training</i>	Adapted to Self-Study OnLine Learning with follow up 2-hour Workshop	3	86

<i>Safe and Together Model Overview Training (Safe and Together Institute)</i>	Adapted to Webinar	1	100
<b>ECS Child Protection Learning and Development Webinars</b>			
<i>Child Sexual Exploitation (Family Based Care Team)</i>	Webinar	2	23
<i>Child Protection (Family Based Care Team)</i>	Webinar	2	27
<i>Safe and Together (Blended Virtual Core Training)</i>	Adapted to Self-Study and Webinar	2	91

<b>CPC Inter-Agency Child Protection OnLine Learning Resources (New and Adapted) (March 2020 – 31 July 2021)</b>	
<b>Title of Learning Opportunity/Resource</b>	<b>Status</b>
<i>Keeping Children and Young People Safe (Essential E-Learning Module)</i>	Updated and Refreshed
<i>Getting it right for every child (Essential E-Learning Module)</i>	Updated and Refreshed
<i>Child Sexual Exploitation Training</i>	Adapted for OnLine Learning
<i>Chronologies Training</i>	Adapted for OnLine Learning
<i>Professional Curiosity &amp; Challenge</i>	New OnLine Learning Resource
<i>Recognising and Responding to Child Neglect</i>	New OnLine Learning Resource
<i>Information Sharing, Confidentiality and Consent</i>	New OnLine Learning Resource
<i>Ten Minute Briefing: The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019</i>	New OnLine Learning Resource

As a direct consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant increase in the take-up rate of our OnLine Learning approach/programme; however, 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 terms of impact**, the following table provides an analysis of the minimum Protecting People Online Module activity throughout 2020/2021:

<b>Online Staff Learning and Development Opportunities – Online Modules (1 August 2020 – 31 July 2021)</b>		
<b>Title of Course</b>	<b>Activity (Internal and External)</b>	
	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>
<i>Child Protection OnLine Module</i>	1,414	2,166
<i>Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) OnLine Module</i>	1,030	1,941
<i>Adult Support and Protection OnLine Module</i>	784	1,675
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,228</b>	<b>5,782</b>

The CPC acknowledges there has been a reduction in the take-up rate of these specific modules; albeit a significant uptake on the other modular course. Nevertheless, even allowing for the impact of the privacy regulations, the CPC recognises the need to continue to promote these modules and will do so throughout 2021/2022.



### **Trauma Informed Practice**

Since 2018, the CPC and the APC have continued their partnership work with RASAC PK 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.

As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, this face-to-face training was adapted to be delivered online. The lengths of the various workshops were reduced; but the core learning maintained to provide more manageable online sessions for practitioners and managers.

During this reporting period, a total of 282 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.

### **Safe and Together Training**

In addition to enhanced single-agency training on the Safe & Together Practice Model for Domestic Abuse, ECS for Children, Young People and Families commissioned inter-agency Safe & Together Model Overview Training in May 2021 for 100 inter-agency staff across Perth and Kinross.

This virtual training aimed at supporting a greater awareness of this practice model, as a means to partner with the non-abusive survivors of Domestic Abuse; keep children and the survivor parent together wherever possible and intervene with the abuse perpetrator to reduce risk of harm to children. Again, this training was evaluated very highly and plans are in place to extend the reach of this training going forward.

### **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 Learning Module – Child Neglect: Assessment of Care Toolkit was made available in March 2021, with 91 staff attending the 2 online networking/discussion workshops, facilitated in small groups by Improvement Officers, Team Leaders and Senior Practitioners from Services for Children Young People and Families using MS Teams. Again, this training was evaluated very highly and it is planned to extend this reach of this training going forward.

### **Newsletters**

A new development in 2020, aimed at keeping all practitioners, service and agencies informed of our learning and development opportunities, has been the publication of our new CPC Newsletters, which have been widely circulated and positively welcomed:

[First Newsletter](#) issued December 2020 and viewed by 371 individuals.

[Second Newsletter](#) issued in August 2021.

**In terms of measuring the impact of training**, the following is a small sample of practitioner feedback from various inter-agency training courses, webinar and online, held since August 2020:

*"A positive learning experience virtually. I'm open to further training in this way"*

*"This has helped reiterate the importance of using trauma informed approaches in my work and helped remind me of what this looks and feels like for our young people"*

*"The facilitator was excellent! Really engaging and very informative. Lots of links to real life scenarios and different contexts which was really helpful"*

*"I thought this was an excellent introductory session to the content being explored"*

*"I found the break-out rooms to be very helpful. Good discussions with other workers from different areas, different knowledge and skills"*

*"Excellent training. Would be particularly helpful for new employees. Course was the right mix of interaction / reading / listening"*

## 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 2020/2021, the website has been continuously refreshed and updated.

However, as reported last year, it should 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 significantly 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:

<b>CPC Website Single User and Page Activity 1 August 2020 – 31 July 2021</b>	
<b>Key Webpage Activity</b>	<b>Impact (Minimum) 2020 – 2021</b>
<i>Child Protection – Total Hits</i>	<i>2,476 users – 4,503 page views</i>
<i>Child Protection – Main Page</i>	<i>374 users – 675 page views</i>
<i>What to do if you are worried about child/young person</i>	<i>279 users – 382 page views</i>
<i>What's New in Child Protection – News</i>	<i>203 users – 414 page views</i>
<i>Information for Practitioners</i>	<i>180 users – 291 page views</i>
<i>Child Protection Publications – All Pages</i>	<i>170 users – 301 page views</i>
<i>P&amp;K Practitioner's Guide and Toolkits – All Pages</i>	<i>129 users – 200 page views</i>

Whilst the CPC acknowledges the impact of the privacy requirements, which have significantly impacted our ability to retrieve accurate data in relation to website usage, the CPC also recognises the need to continue to promote this valuable web-based resource to all stakeholders.

#### **Social Media**

Working in partnership with staff from PKC'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 2021, the continually growing PKC Corporate Twitter Account had 21,625 followers and the Corporate Facebook page had 24,700 likes (compared with 20,518 Corporate Twitter followers and 22,136 Corporate Facebook page likes at the same date in 2020).



Throughout the year, the CPC has been actively supporting various [Child Protection Committees Scotland's \(CPCScotland\)](#) virtual public information and communication campaigns; linked to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the initial return to schools (September 2020), the return to schools after the Christmas lockdown (January-February 2021), the Easter holidays (March 2021) and the summer school holidays (June 2021).

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

**Back to School – a digital child protection campaign September 2020**



**Keep Kids Safe During Lockdown – January 2021**



**Keeping Kids Safe Online – an online abuse awareness campaign March 2021**



**FOR KIDS' SAKE... – a school summer holiday child protection campaign June 2021**



***In terms of impact***, this year our CPC specific social media posts have achieved a total reach of 146,991 on Facebook and a total of 69,362 impressions on Twitter (compared with total reach of 110,867 on Facebook and 176,350 impressions on Twitter in the year 2019-2020).

The reduction in Twitter impressions, is thought to be possibly down to the fact that there was an overall spike in impressions on Twitter, particularly between March and July 2020, which coincided with the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic when more people were at home/working at home/off work and the increased amount of Facebook messaging we were doing more generally around COVID-19.

During this reporting period, the most popular post on each social media channel was:



*“As we continue to deal with being in lockdown, if you're concerned about the wellbeing of a child or young person, say something. #KeepingKidsSafe #childprotectionpk @childprotectsco*

*Call us at any time on 01738 476768, or contact Police Scotland on 101, or 999 if the child or young person is at immediate risk of danger.”*

*12,874 reached; 35 shares; 24 likes*



*“Worried about a child’s wellbeing? It’s important to act on your concerns: report these to our child protection helpline - call 01738 476768 or email childprotection@pkc.gov.uk; or call @policescotland on 101 or dial 999 if a child is in immediate danger. @childprotectsco”*

*8,090 impressions; 18 likes; 18 retweets*

*(Twitter 20 January 2021)*

## 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 practice. This work aims to support 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, evidence-based policy, practice and planning improvements.**



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

[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 above-mentioned Plan. TRIC PG5 is led by the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) of PKC.

### ***Practice Guidance***

Throughout 2020/2021, work continued with the development, cascading and distribution of various multi-agency practice guidance, including: Chronologies; Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRDs – including a new IRD Template); Concern for Unborn Babies Practice Guidance (including an associated Referral Form), two sets of practice guidance around Participation in Key Child Protection Meetings (one for Practitioners and one for Children and Families) – all aimed at improving day-to-day culture, ethos and practice.

We also continued to develop our comprehensive Tayside Shared Dataset for CPCs, which now comprises key child protection performance output indicators (quantitative indicators showing frequency and volume) and proxy outcome indicators (qualitative indicators showing improved outcomes). As a result, the CPC now receives monthly data reports, in a more integrated way.

### ***Learning from Initial Case Reviews (ICRs) and Significant Case Reviews (SCRs)***

In the context of child protection, an ICR is the first stage in determining whether a case referred to the CPC should proceed onto a SCR. An SCR is a multi-agency process for establishing the facts of, and learning lessons from, a situation where a child has died or been significantly harmed.

Significant Case Reviews are seen in the context of a culture of continuous improvement and should focus on learning and reflection on day-to-day practices, and the systems within which those practices operate.<sup>7</sup>

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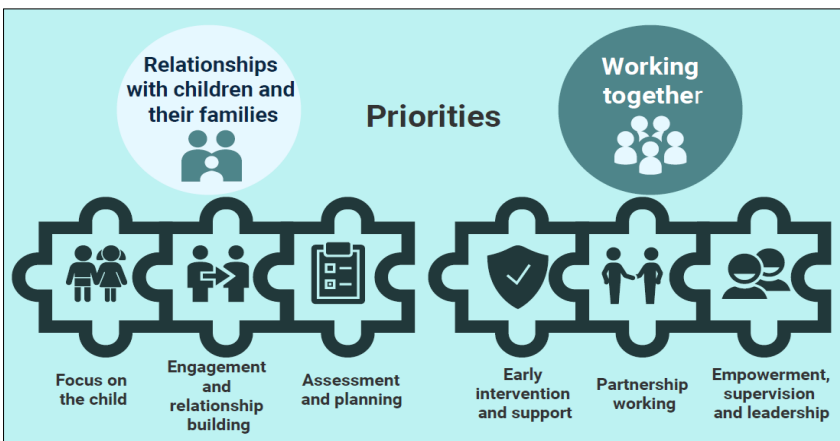
<sup>7</sup> [National Guidance for Child Protection Committees: Conducting Significant Case Reviews](#) (Scottish Government: 2015).

Last year, we reported that TRIC PG5 had commissioned Dr Sharon Vincent, Northumbria University to carry out an analysis of recently conducted ICRs and SCRs across Tayside, aimed at providing evidence-based research in relation to recurring themes and trends; a profile of the children and families involved; perspectives of children, families, communities, services, agencies and strategic risk factors; how that impacts on strategic planning and improvement and how the lessons learned can inform future workforce learning and development plans across Tayside.

In October 2020, TRIC PG5, organised a virtual Tayside Chief Officers Group Leadership Event to share Dr Vincent’s research findings; to provide a forum for considering how this research informs our agenda for continuous improvement, shared leadership and vision for protecting children over the next three years and to consider the shared approach to workforce development for staff working across children’s services.

35 agency leaders and senior managers from across Tayside attended this event, which was evaluated very highly. Following a presentation from Dr Sharon Vincent and a question-and-answer session, delegates were able to discuss the research findings and the two key practice themes identified from this work, which has now led to the development of two main areas for practice improvement (Priorities for Practice):

**Priorities for Practice LINK to Short Animated Film**

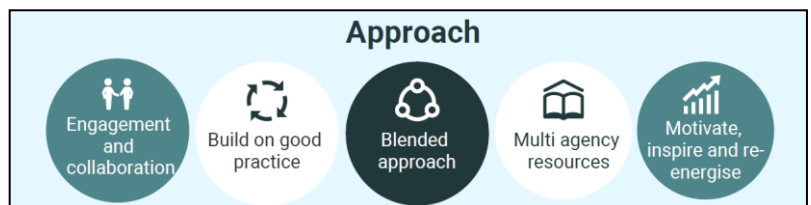


**Priority 1: Relationships with Children and Families**

**Priority 2: Working Together**

all supported by a co-production workforce learning and development programme

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

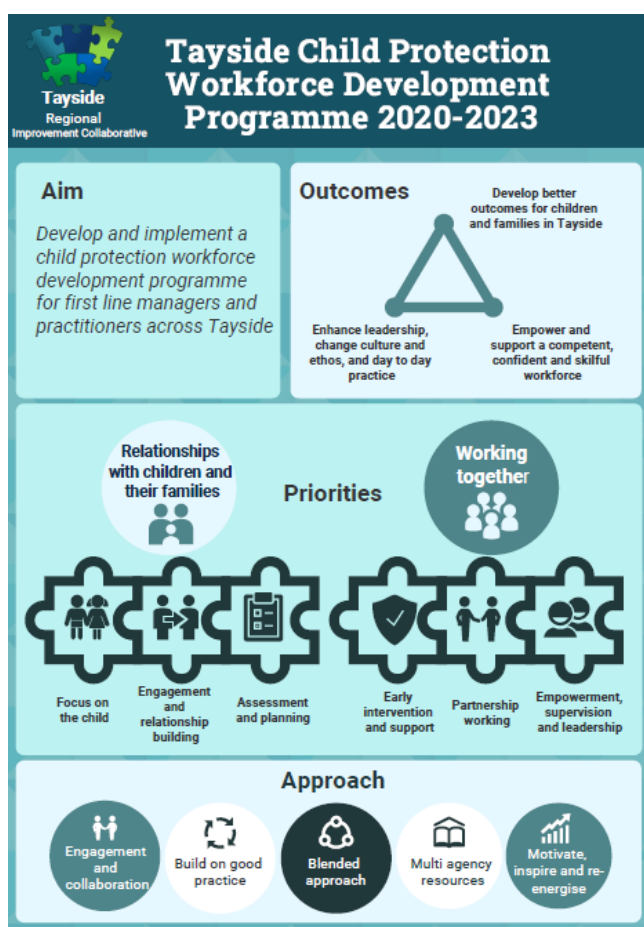


To take this work forward, TRIC PG5 has now appointed a full-time (seconded) Child Protection and Learning and Development Lead Officer, who has since developed a co-production approach in establishing a multi-agency child protection workforce learning and development programme.

Targeted at first-line managers and frontline practitioners, this programme aims to enhance leadership, change culture, ethos and day-to-day working practices; which will empower and support a competent, confident and skilful workforce to deliver better outcomes for unborn babies, babies, children, young people and their families.

In May 2021, TRIC PG5 held another virtual Tayside Priorities for Practice Conference and in total, 96 agency leaders, senior managers and first-line managers attended this event, which once again was evaluated very highly. This was an opportunity to share and promote the learning further and to start to implement the child protection workforce learning and development programme and to recruit first-line manager and practitioner co-producers.

This has since been followed by a series of ongoing, lunchtime, Priorities for Practice Open Information Sessions, aimed again at recruiting 50 first-line managers and frontline practitioners and at the time of publication, is well on track to recruit the 50 multi-agency staff members required to take forward a number of the co-production groups.



### **Going Forward 2021 and Beyond**

The CPC will continue to support the work of TRIC PG5. Building on the last three years, our ongoing improvement work will be focussed on:

- supporting our people by creating the culture and ethos that enables and supports frontline practitioners in the highly complex field of multi-agency child protection practice
- supporting a skilled and confident workforce by doing more of the right things to protect and support our children, young people and families to deliver better outcomes
- developing a shared approach to quality-assuring the implementation of the multi-agency guidance materials, gathering feedback and evaluation from practitioners
- developing a co-production multi-agency approach to workforce learning and development
- continuing to implement the Tayside Shared Dataset for CPCs across the collaborative and include within this qualitative performance measures linked to our six priorities for practice.



## 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 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 as we emerge from and recover from the pandemic. Our partnership working remains effective and robust and our commitment to continuous improvement through self-evaluation is providing better outcomes for children and families across Perth and Kinross.**

*“Chief officers groups require strong oversight of children’s service planning, child protection committees and approaches to emerging needs in order to be assured in the robustness of processes, procedures and practice to keep children and young people safe. We saw that the support and understanding, particularly of social work and social care, by chief officers groups and elected members was pivotal to leading a challenging and changing delivery environment. The partnerships which we evaluated as performing well had chief officers and elected members who understood the service environment, actively engaged in strategic activity and were well-sighted on national issues and current and emerging local needs”*

*“A well functioning child protection committee is critical in leading services to support children and young people at the times in their lives when they are most vulnerable. In the partnerships which we evaluated as better performing, we saw clear CPC priorities which were reported on regularly and publicly”*

[The Joint Strategic Inspection of Services for Children and Young People: Review of Findings from the Inspection Programme 2012-2017 \(Care Inspectorate: 2019\)](#)



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

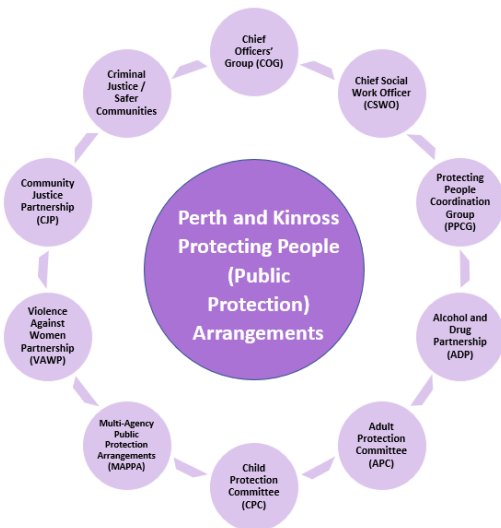
[Elected Members and Chief Officers](#) of the public, private and third sectors in Perth and Kinross continue to discharge their individual and collective responsibility for children’s services, in particular, child protection services, through the Perth and Kinross Children, Young People and Families 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.

In February 2021, under the auspices the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), the partnership hosted a co-production virtual workshop event, aimed at setting the priorities of our joint work across children’s services over the next 2-3 years; in line with [GIRFEC](#); [The Promise](#); [UNCRC](#); [TRIC PG5](#) and Child Protection. A total of 30 multi-agency leaders and managers attended this event, which was evaluated very highly.

Following a number of short presentations and facilitated workshop/discussion groups, delegates were able to discuss and identify areas for improvement and our key priorities; all of which has informed our shared improvement plans over the next 2-3 years.





## **Perth and Kinross Protecting People (Public Protection) Arrangements**

### **Perth and Kinross Chief Officers' Group (COG)**

Last year, we reported that the work of the CYPFP and the CPC had been further strengthened by the added support and scrutiny being provided by the Perth and Kinross Public Protection Chief Officers' Group (COG), which 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; the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) for Perth and Kinross Council and other key Officers.

In March 2021, the COG developed and approved specific terms of reference, which describes and articulates its partnership working arrangements.

Before and particularly since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the COG has met more frequently and continues to provide leadership and direction across the public protection partnerships. Recent meetings of the COG continue to be virtual meetings.

Informed by rich, evidence-based datasets, the COG has galvanised our approach to protecting people and to the coordinated, identification and management of known and emerging risks.

A carefully managed and continually updated Risk Register has ensured that since March 2020:

- well-established public protection partnership working arrangements have not been disrupted – in many areas they have been further strengthened
- communication between and across services and agencies has not been compromised – in many ways this has been significantly improved
- key child protection processes have continued to function well – increasing demands have been met by committed and hard-working staff groups
- staff who have been shielding, self-isolating, providing a caring provision at home and / or absent from the workplace have been protected, kept safe and enabled to work virtually where necessary

### **Perth and Kinross CPC and APC (Adult Protection Committee) Virtual Executive Group**

Last year, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure business continuity and the delivery of key frontline services, we reported on the establishment of the above Virtual Executive Group from 24 March 2020.

Initially, meetings were held twice weekly, then weekly and latterly on a fortnightly basis. In total, 25 separate meetings were held. During this time, membership of the Virtual Executive Group expanded to include representatives from all the public protection partnerships and key representatives from education, health, police, social work, children's services and adult services.

Much of the work was focussed on ensuring the delivery of frontline services and was informed by rich national and local datasets and managed by way the previously mentioned Risk Register.

Reporting to the COG, this Group continued to meet until 16 December 2020, at which time our new Protecting People (Public Protection) Arrangements were implemented. This model was informed by the learning and success from this Virtual Executive Group, which was both a test-of-change and proof of concept, and which has now completed its work.

## **Perth and Kinross Protecting People Co-ordination Group (PPCG)**

Building on the success of the above Virtual Executive Group, in January 2021, the above Co-ordination Group was established to support the COG and now brings together all the public protection partnerships and key others – education, health and police within Perth and Kinross.

Chaired by the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) and with specific terms of reference, the Group meets every 4-6 weeks and ensures strong partnership working and synergy between and across the various public protection partnerships.

At present, the Group has started to scope out a Work Plan for 2021 - 2022 and has identified the following cross-cutting themes, which are likely to be key aspects of our shared partnership work to aid long-term recovery from COVID-19:

- build on the research undertaken during COVID-19 and embed new ways of working and the use of technology in public protection
- share the findings from the Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative research and take forward the shared Priorities for Practice improvement work
- focus on domestic abuse, parental drug and alcohol misuse and parental mental ill-health
- strengthen approaches to managing new risks emerging for children and young people
- implement a shared workforce development plan
- develop a joined up protecting people communications plan.



## **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 – [Protecting Children and Young People](#); 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 broad and inclusive of all relevant organisations and sectors which have a role to play; which 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 and participation; openness and transparency and support and challenge.

The CPC meets six times per annum; all meetings are [minuted](#) and published on the public-facing [Website](#). Recent meetings of the CPC have been virtual meetings. The Chair of the CPC also chairs the Central and North Scotland CPC Consortium.



## **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; and more recently Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands and Western Isles Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) areas. The Consortium continues to meet 4 times per annum and attendance at recent virtual meetings has been exceptionally high and going forward, Consortium meetings will continue to be held virtually, to accommodate all geographical partners.

At present, the Consortium is actively involved in hosting learning events into recent ICRs/SCRs/ Learning Review practice findings and continues to promote shared learning and improvement.

## What is our capacity for improvement?

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

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

Throughout 2020/2021, the CPC, in partnership with the [CPC Practice Improvement Working Group](#); the [CPC Case Review Working Group](#); the [Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative \(TRIC\)](#), in particular with [Priority Group 5 \(PG5\) \(Safeguarding and Child Protection\)](#) and with the recently established Perth and Kinross Protecting People Coordination Group, has continued to make progress in implementing practice improvements and change.

The CPC has developed a new CPC Improvement Plan 2021 – 2023. It is our individual and collective continuous improvement programme for services to protect children and young people in Perth and Kinross. It describes and sets out our planned programme of improvements for 2021 – 2023. It is a dynamic resource and further areas for development and/or improvement will be added as and when required.

We also recognise that the CPC Improvement Plan 2021 – 2023, is only a part of a wider 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:



## CPC Improvement Plan 2021 – 2023

Two-year plan	Ambitious and comprehensive
Agreed statement of intent	Outcome-focussed/ KPIs/ evidence of impact
Joint commitment to delivering	Schedule of ongoing CPC Actions/Tasks

In developing this Plan, we have taken cognisance of:

- various national and local drivers (including existing and emerging legislative and policy changes)
- previous and existing improvement planning frameworks; existing and emerging scrutiny inspection frameworks
- recent local self-evaluation and review activities; learning identified from Initial Case Reviews (ICRs) and Significant Case Reviews (SCRs)

The plan has been structured in alignment with recent research work carried out within Tayside by Dr Sharon Vincent, Northumbria University, which identified key areas for practice improvement, which have been translated into 6 Priorities for Practice. This Plan contains a number of actions/tasks; some of which are a priority and others which are ongoing and/or maintenance. These are presented in a way which is intended to be SMART: *specific; measurable; achievable; realistic and time-limited*.



#### Actions are designed to:-

- keep children and young people safe
- protect them from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation
- deliver better outcomes for children, young people and their families



#### Plan includes:-

- Strategic Lead for each Action/Task
- Partnership working (Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative)
- Staff learning and development opportunities
- Quality assurance processes

A copy of the Plan can be found at Appendix 1.



## ***Key Abbreviations & Acronyms Used***

APC	Adult Protection Committee
ASN	Additional Support Needs
CCR	Child Concern Report
CELCIS	Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection
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
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
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 (IRDs)
LAC	Looked-After Children
NHS	National Health Service (Tayside)
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
P&K	Perth and Kinross
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
SCR	Significant Case Review
SCRON	Scottish Children's Rights Officer's Network
SIRCC	Scottish Institute of Residential Child Care (SIRCC)
SMARTer	Specific; Measurable; Achievable; Realistic and Time-Limited
TRIC	Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative
UBB	Unborn Baby
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child