



ChildProtection
Perth & Kinross

Standards and Quality Report 2019/2020

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

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Preface by the Children, Young People and Families Partnership

The Chief Officers of the public sector organisations in Perth and Kinross, Elected Members of Perth and Kinross Council, Tayside NHS Board and the Command Team of Police Scotland's Tayside Division, are pleased to support the Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee (CPC) Standards and Quality Report 2019/2020.

The [Children, Young People and Families Partnership \(CYFPF\)](#) 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**.

We acknowledge the strong partnership work of the CPC; its Working Groups; the wider child protection community and all staff working in the public, private, third and independent sectors across Perth and Kinross; whose commitment, dedication and hard work continues to provide better outcomes for vulnerable children and young people at risk of harm, abuse and exploitation.

We particularly acknowledge the significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent containment measures have had on the lives of children and families and on practitioners living and/or working across Perth and Kinross. As leaders, through the CYFPF 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 2019/2020.

Karen Reid
Chief Executive
Perth and Kinross Council

Grant Archibald
Chief Executive
NHS Tayside

Andrew Todd
Chief Superintendent
Police Scotland – Tayside Division

Katie Pacholek
Locality Reporter Manager
Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

Date: 18 September 2020

Introduction by the Independent Chair of Perth and Kinross CPC

Welcome to our CPC Standards and Quality Report 2019/2020. This report covers the period 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020.

This is the second CPC Standards and Quality Report I have presented since my appointment as the Independent Chair of the CPC in May 2018. 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.

2019/2020 has been a very challenging year for the CPC and all partners. In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent containment measures impacted very heavily 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 identify, 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 blended approaches to increased learning and development opportunities and with the support of new practice guidance technologies.

We have successfully implemented and delivered significant practice improvements in terms of the [CPC Improvement Plan 2018 – 2020](#), and have done so, and will continue to do so, in partnership with the [CPC Practice Improvement Working Group](#) and the [Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative \(TRIC\)](#), in particular with [Priority Group 5 \(PG5\) \(Safeguarding and Child Protection\)](#).

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.

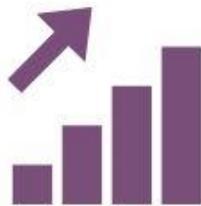
Bill Atkinson

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

Date: 27 August 2020

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

CPC Standards & Quality Report 2019/20 Summary



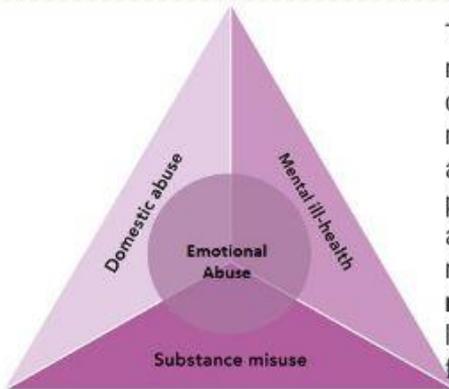
Numbers Increasing:

- Child Concern Reports (7% increase in children subject to CCRs)
- Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (7% increase in children subject to IRDs)
- Child Protection Investigations (26% increase in children subject to CPIs)
- Child Protection Register (23% increase in children on CPR)



97
79 in 2019

Children on Child Protection Register (at 31st July 2020)

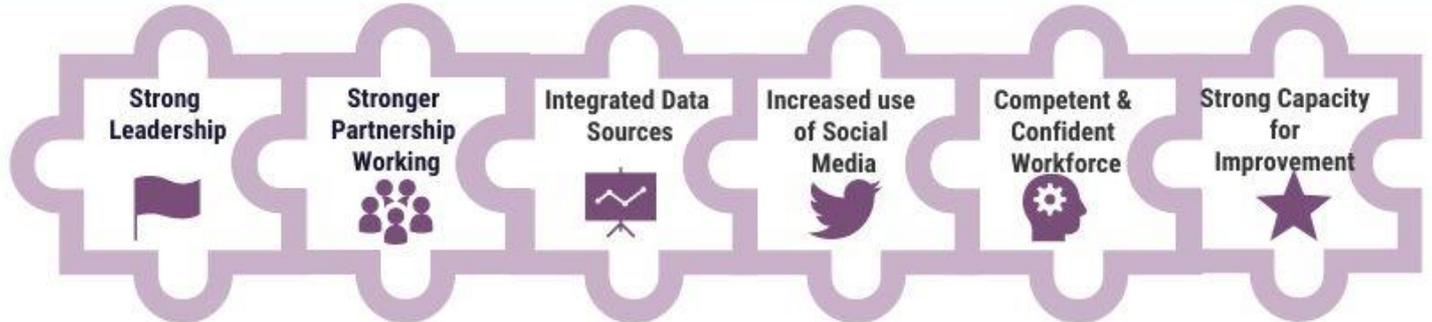


The areas for concern being recorded most frequently continue to be parental mental ill-health; domestic abuse and problematic parental drug and / or alcohol use, commonly referred to as the **trio of risk**. Also seeing increasing levels of non-engagement from families



Improvements seen in:

- Engagement with young people
- Use of new technologies
- Additional support for Young Carers
- Independent Advocacy
- Support for Young People's Mental Health
- Increased monitoring during COVID



Staff Learning and Development

Increased engagement with Online training modules
 3175 (2018/19) → 5782 (2019/20)

New Practitioner Guides developed:

- Code of Practice: Information Sharing, Confidentiality and Consent
- Chronologies
- Professional Curiosity
- Resolution and Escalation Arrangements
- Inter-Agency Referral Discussions
- Concern For Unborn Babies
- Participation in Child Protection Meetings

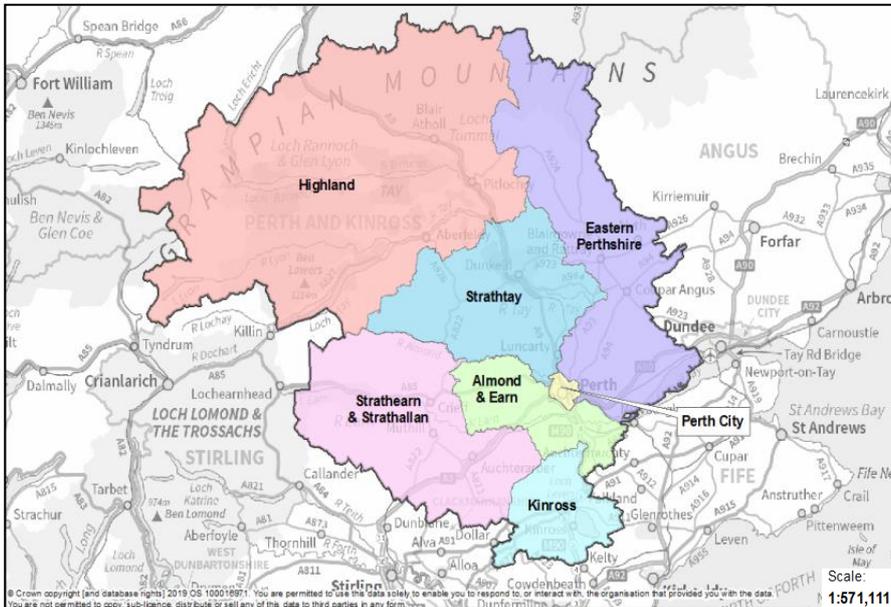
Listening to and Seeking Views from Children and Young People

- 179%** Increase in the number of children and young people supported by Independent Advocacy (IAPK)
- 38%** Increase in statements received from children and young people or workers (My Own)
- 338** Number of Young Carers supported - provision of education, counselling and respite support (PKAVS)
- 1748** Number of responses to YP Advisory Group survey on CSE (compared with 574 responses in 2017) (see beyond)
- 480** Young people supported to provide their views in key meetings (IRGFT)
- 2657** Number of pupils participating in the Speak Out Stay Safe Programme (NSPCC)

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



Perth and Kinross covers an area of 5,286 square kilometres and is the fifth largest area by land mass in Scotland. The past decade has seen above average growth in population, which now stands at 151,290. Children aged 0-17 make up 18% of the population with numbers expected to remain stable. The geographical distribution of the population across urban, rural and remote areas poses challenges for the planning and delivery of services.

In Perth and Kinross, there are seven community planning local action partnership areas: Perth City; Kinross-shire; Almond and Earn; Strathearn and Strathallan; Highland; Strathtay and Eastern Perthshire. These localities each have a local action partnership made up of elected members, communities, and public services.

Through the local action partnerships, the community planning partnership identifies their particular needs and challenges. Perth & Kinross council has 40 councillors in 12 electoral wards.

NHS Tayside is responsible for commissioning health care services for residents across Tayside and had a combined population of 417,470 based on mid-year 2019 population estimates published by National Records of Scotland. NHS Tayside's governance includes three major hospitals; a number of community hospitals and also includes over 60 GP surgeries and a variety of health centres staffed by thousands of employees.

The Tayside Division of Police Scotland's command area covers 2000 square miles. The Council's Education and Children's Services deliver integrated services for children, young people and families.

Our Vision

Our shared, ambitious and compelling Vision, articulated in the [Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2017 - 2020](#) 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”

Our Five Priorities:

1. Our children and young people will have the best start in life, they will be cared for and supported to learn in nurturing environments
2. Our children, young people and their families will be meaningfully engaged with learning and combined with high quality learning experiences, all children and young people will extend their potential
3. Our children and young people will be physically, mentally and emotionally healthy
4. Our children and young people who experience particular inequalities and disadvantage will achieve health, wellbeing and educational outcomes comparable with all other children and young people
5. **Our children and young people will be safe and protected from harm at home, school and in the community.**

National Context

The protection of children and young people in Scotland is set within the wider policy and practice context of [Getting it right for every child](#) (GIRFEC). Fundamentally child protection sits within, and is an integral part of, the wider GIRFEC approach. Both are inextricably linked and prerequisites in improving outcomes for children and young people, keeping them safe and protecting them from harm, abuse and exploitation.

The [Scottish Government's Child Protection Improvement Programme \(CPIP\)](#) remains the current national improvement programme for child protection across Scotland.

Local Context

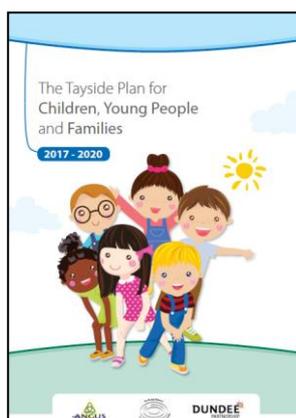


Within Perth and Kinross, **safeguarding, supporting** and **promoting** the wellbeing of all children and young people and protecting them from harm, abuse and exploitation is **everyone's job and everyone's responsibility**. We consider this to be a shared responsibility for all practitioners and managers working across the public, private and third sectors.

Child Protection Committee (CPC)

The work of the [CPC](#) and partner agencies is fundamental to ensuring better outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people who are in need of protection from harm, abuse and exploitation.

The work of the CPC is articulated by the [CPC Improvement Plan](#); which is aligned with, and continues to support the [Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2017 - 2020](#).



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 2019/2020.

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 that we are 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"

"In most of the partnerships which we evaluated as better performing, we saw systematic and joint collection and analysis of outcomes-focussed performance data, used to identify good practice, areas for improvement and gaps in local service provision. In the partnerships which we evaluated as better performing, we saw clear CPC priorities which were reported on regularly and publicly. Further, in the partnership we evaluated as 'Excellent' against this quality indicator, we saw partners at the forefront of developments in the complex arena of child protection practice"

[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

We continue 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 autumn 2019, the Scottish Government and the [Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland \(CELCIS\)](#) published a [National Minimum Dataset for CPCs in Scotland](#).

Following a Tayside Data Orientation Session and Workshop held on 23 September 2019, the CPC adopted the national minimum dataset and was instrumental in leading the development of a more comprehensive Tayside CPC Shared Dataset, which comprises key child protection performance output indicators (quantitative indicators showing frequency and volume) and proxy outcome indicators (qualitative indicators showing improved outcomes).

Implemented retrospectively since 1 August 2019, these data reports are being provided to the CPC quarterly and allow the CPC to effectively monitor key child protection processes and practices and to seek and provide reassurance to the CYPFP.

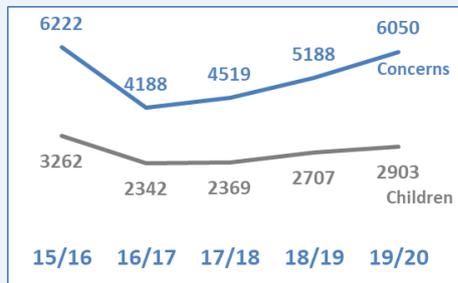
In addition, since March 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CPC has been receiving more frequent data, in a more integrated way. The CPC quickly developed a dataset, which included all the data being collected nationally via Scottish Government and through CoSLA and SOLACE, as well as some local key performance indicators. These were 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 during lockdown; at a time when services and agencies were not always available, and schools were closed.

Going forward, the CPC plans on developing its analytical capacity even further to ensure that it continues to make sophisticated and intelligent use of rich data sources to inform and improve frontline practice.

Headline Messages 2019/2020

For the purposes of this report, we will present the **headline messages** from our Tayside CPC Shared Dataset and from the other previously mentioned data sources. These are presented for the academic year 1 August 2019 – 31 July 2020 and, where possible, compared with previous years.

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



The total number of Child Concern Reports (CCRs) has risen for the third year in a row, while the number of children and young people subject to a CCR has risen more slowly. However the longer trend over the last five years is more steady. CCRs can relate to the same child or young person, particularly where there are multiple or repeated concerns.

Figure 2: Child Concern Reports by age of child

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.

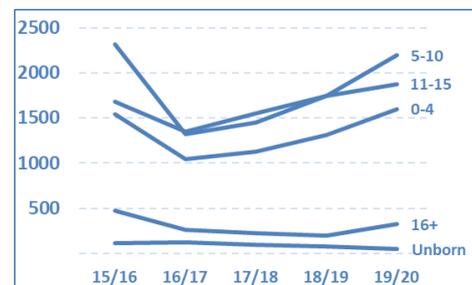
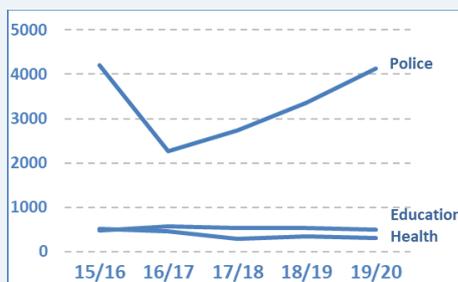


Figure 3: Child Concern Reports by source



The main source of CCRs continues to be Police Scotland, followed by Education Services and Health Services. Overall, these three source groups account for 80% of all CCRs submitted.

The number of CCRs submitted by Police Scotland has been increasing over the last 4 years.

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

² Note: Figures are accurate as at 31 July 2020, however, they may be updated in subsequent reporting periods due to retrospective data validation and quality assurance processes.

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

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

IRDs are recognised as good multi-agency working practice and may be repeated a number of times for the same child or young person.

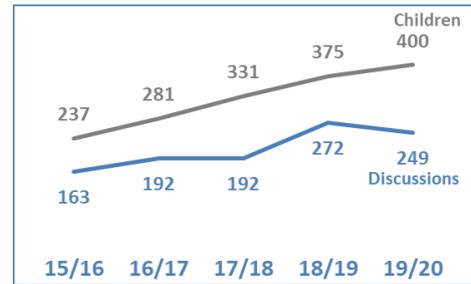
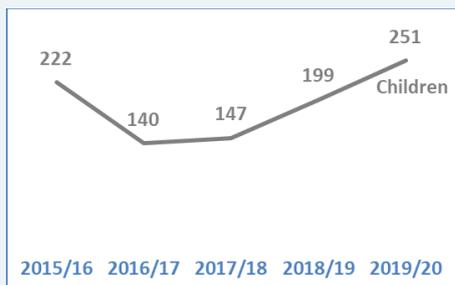


Figure 5: Child Protection Investigations ⁴



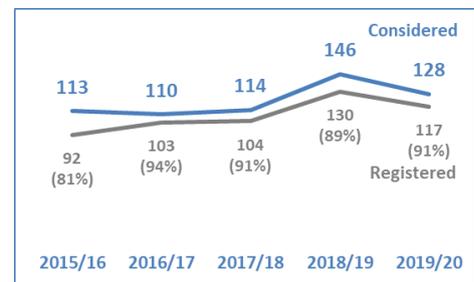
The number of children and young people subject to a Child Protection Investigation has been consistently rising over the last three years, although the longer-term trend is more level.

Figure 6: Children considered at Initial Child Protection Case Conferences

The number of children and young people considered at Initial Child Protection Case Conferences (ICPCC) shows a general slight increase over the last five years, with a slight reduction this year.

The proportion of ICPCCs that result in a child or young person's name being placed on the Child Protection Register (CPR) remains high at 91%, demonstrating that the right children and young people are being considered at ICPCCs.

Of the 128 considered at an ICPCC, 18 related to Unborn Babies (Pre-Birth CPCCs), with the remaining 110 being children and young people.



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

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

Figure 7: New Registrations on The Child Protection Register



The number of children and young people placed (new registrations) on the Child Protection Register (CPR) during the last year has been generally increasing over the last 5 years. This includes sibling groups.

Registrations include 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).

Figure 8: Children on The Child Protection Register as at 31 July 2020

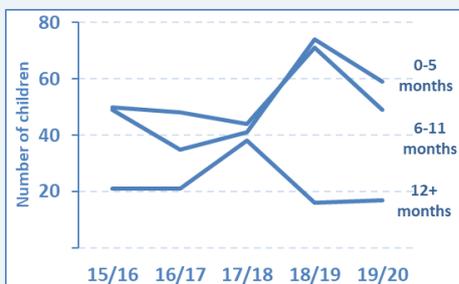
The number of children and young people on the CPR at 31 July 2020 has remained relatively steady over the last 4 years, with 2020 showing the first significant increase for some time. These figures include sibling groups.

Without doubt, this is a direct consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures, which temporarily interrupted well-established multi-agency review arrangements for all registrations.

At the end of March 2020, the number of children and young people on the CPR was 81; by the end of July 2020 it had risen to 97; representing a 20% increase, which evidences the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the registration rate.



Figure 9: Length of registration

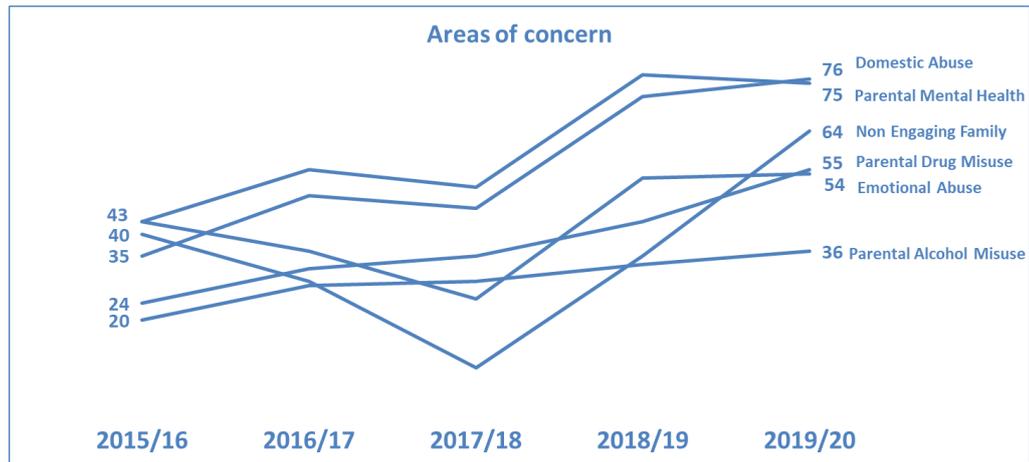


Most registrations normally last less than a year, and the number of children and young people who remain on the CPR for 12 months or more is normally relatively steady. The CPC closely monitors registration rates and in particular de-registrations, re-registrations and length of time children and young people remain on the CPR as part of its quality assurance work.

However, this year, it is clearly evident that the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent containment measures have had a significant impact both on CPR registration rates and the length of time children and young people have remained on the CPR, as illustrated above.

There has clearly been a slower de-registration rate than normal, partly due to the fact that schools and early years services were not operational and able to contribute towards child protection plans in the same way. New ways of working are now in place to address this issue, for example, with key multi-agency child protection meetings taking place on a virtual basis.

Figure 10: Areas of Concern ⁵

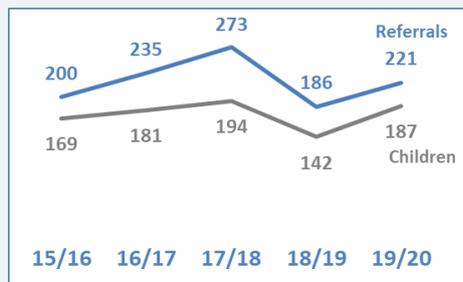


The number of children and young people whose names are included on the CPR who are affected by domestic abuse, parental mental ill-health, problematic parental drug and / or alcohol misuse (sometimes referred to as the trio of risk) remains significant, and in many such cases there is always an element of non-engagement. We continue to recognise that in the majority, if not all of these cases, there will be an element of emotional abuse.

Area of concern	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Domestic Abuse	35	49	46	72	76
Parental Mental Health	43	55	51	77	75
Non-engaging family	40	29	9	35	64
Parental Drug Misuse	24	32	35	43	55
Emotional Abuse	43	36	25	53	54
Neglect	26	24	20	37	46
Parental Alcohol Misuse	20	28	29	33	36
Physical Abuse	24	21	12	11	37
Poverty/Financial Difficulties	12	10	12	*	17
Parental Learning Difficulties	*	*	*	*	11
Sexual Abuse	7	14	15	14	*

Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA)
(figures based on Financial Years (01 Apr – 31 Mar))

Figure 11: 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 shows some variation over the last five years. Sibling groups are included within these figures.

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

⁵ 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 and the category classified as other is undefined to cover any and all other issues. Totals of less than 5 have been suppressed.

Figure 12: Compulsory Supervision Orders (CSOs) (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 on a CSO at the end of year the show a general downward trend over the last four years.

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

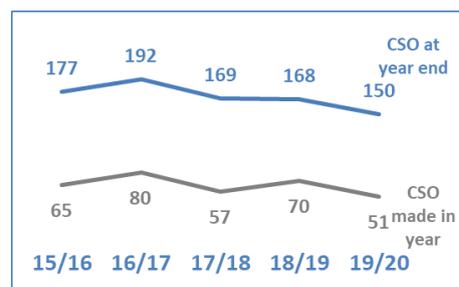


Figure 13: Children placed on Child Protection Orders during the year (figures based on Financial Years (01 Apr – 31 Mar))



The number of children and young people placed on Child Protection Orders (CPOs) has been generally increasing over the last five years. These figures, which include large sibling groups as being closely monitored.

Figure 14: Unborn Baby Referrals ⁶

The number of Unborn Baby Referrals continues a downward trend. The partnership continues to work with the [Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland \(CELCIS\)](#) to develop support pathways for vulnerable pregnant women, aimed at *Addressing Neglect and Enhancing Wellbeing (ANEW): Getting it Right in Perth and Kinross; Pre-Birth and into the First Year of Life*.

This work has included the redesign of key processes through which Midwives and Health Visitors now connect with other services, agencies and community resources to access support for vulnerable families, thus avoiding the need for an Unborn Baby Referral.

The areas of vulnerability continue to be similar to the areas of concern for registration mentioned above.



Monitoring during COVID-19

As part of the managed response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Child Protection Committee has been receiving additional data reports and implemented weekly monitoring of key areas of service delivery. The following are additional key performance indicators that have been monitored.

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

Figure 15: Child Concern Reports (CCRs) – Domestic Abuse



The total number of Child Concern Reports (CCRs) where Domestic Abuse was a feature showed quite a lot of variation from week to week, but has remained relatively steady since March 2020 and continues to be monitored on a weekly basis by the CPC and partners.

Figure 16: Children with child protection plan seen face-to-face

The number of children and young people with a child protection plan, who were physically seen, face-to-face, by their social worker (lead professional), on at least a fortnightly basis, has remained very high; has showed a consistently upward trend over the period of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent containment measures and this trend has been continued.

This has been monitored at a national and local level and social workers quickly responded and engaged in home visits, which were supported by risk assessments and the correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE).



Figure 17: Children with multi-agency plans contacted



The number of children and young people with a multi-agency who were contacted (includes visited / seen face-to-face/online/ telephone) by a key worker, primarily a social worker and/or other professionals, on at least a weekly basis, has remained very high and showed a consistently upward trend over the period of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent containment measures, when schools were closed.

This number comprises all cases open to Service for Children Young People and Families, including all cases open to the Child Protection and Duty Team for follow up and initial investigations.

This has been monitored at a national and local level and social workers and others quickly responded and engaged in these contacts, which, where necessary, were supported by risk assessments and the correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Figure 18: Children attending childcare (activity centres, childminders etc.)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, closure of schools and the subsequent containment measures, the number of children and young people attending one of the childcare provisions provided across Perth and Kinross on a daily basis, increased to a peak at the end of June 2020.



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.

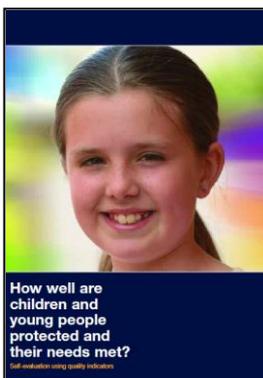
They provide a framework of quality indicators to support quality assurance and self-evaluation which leads to improvement across services for children, young people and families. They place the child at the centre and are applicable to the full range of services which contribute to the wellbeing of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



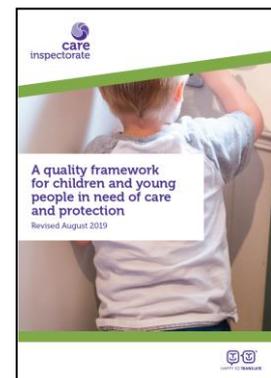
[2005](#)



[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

2019/2020 has been another busy 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.

In terms of advocacy and seeking views, and the service level agreement between Perth and Kinross Council's Education and Children's Services and Independent Advocacy Perth & Kinross has continued to grow, resulting in the advocacy improvements, implemented last year, in relation to the allocation of workers for three key groups of young people being

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.

These arrangements, in addition to the continued use of the Mind of My Own App and the All About Me Form within Services for Children, Young People and Families have provided children and young people with a variety of ways to exercise their right to be listened to, understood, respected and taken seriously during key meetings.

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent containment measures, significantly restricted upon our advocacy arrangements; resulting in face-to-face work with children and young people being temporarily paused. Risk assessments ensured that children and young people were being kept safe; were being seen by a worker or via virtual meetings and that their views have continued to be captured and presented.

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 2019, either by workers or advocates via the submission of an All About Me Form:

- 147 children and young people's views presented at a Child Protection Case Conference (CPC) by their social worker, carer, advocate or other professional
- 233 looked-after children and young people's views presented at a Looked-After Conference (LAC) by their social worker, carer, advocate or other professional
- 100 children and young people helped to submit an All About Me Form to CPCs and LAC

Children's Rights

The CYRO continues to carry out a wide range of other duties in relation to children and young people's rights, including continuing to be the strategic lead for the Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA).

RRSA is an award delivered by 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 financially supported to register for the award and access assessments free-of-charge. Currently 63% of schools in PKC are registered and at various stages of the accreditation process.

The CYRO continues to:

- contribute to the quarterly RRSA strategic lead's meetings
- provides RRSA guidance to school and processes school action plans
- coordinates RRSA training and carries out RRSA accreditation visits
- coordinates responses to Scottish Government consultations regarding rights related issues
- supports the Corporate Parenting Worker with the Individual Grants process
- represents P&K at the Scottish Children's Rights Officer's Network (SCRON)
- serves as a member of the CPC

The work of the Children and Youth Rights Officer (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.



Mind Of My Own

Perth and Kinross is now into the third year of using Mind Of My Own as a means of gathering children and young people's views to inform their plans and the support being offered and provided to them.

The expansion of the Mind Of My Own App, to include Express, which has been developed specifically for children under 8 years of age and those with disabilities, has ensured that the Mind Of My Own App is available to a much larger group of children and young people; thereby ensuring that we can gain the views of children who are often described as far harder to reach.

Nationally, there is now a dedicated Mind Of My Own Scottish Account Manager based in Glasgow, who keeps all of the Scottish Local Authorities, who have invested in the Mind Of My Own App, updated regarding developments and staff training opportunities. Further training sessions have taken place over the last academic year to ensure that new workers in our Social Work Teams are aware of the Mind Of My Own App and the advantages in using this with children and young people.

Locally, many of the Social Work Teams in Perth and Kinross are appointing Mind Of My Own Champions, to ensure that Team members are being encouraged to use the Mind Of My Own App with the children and young people they work with and support.

More recently, COVID-19 and the subsequent containment measures, presented workers with significant challenges in terms of their ability to meet up with, and see vulnerable children and young people, as they would normally have done; particularly as they were also out of nursery/school and therefore not being seen by adults who they trust and could normally talk to if they were worried or concerned about something.

The use of Mind Of My Own App has offered an additional means by which children and young people can still ensure that their voices are heard and listened to. As an additional safety feature, the Mind Of My Own App Team has adapted the Mind Of My Own App to immediately highlight to Mind Of My Own staff if a child or young person states anywhere within their statement that they feel unsafe. This new alert feature ensures that the information is passed on to the relevant worker as quickly as possible, for immediate follow-up with the child or young person.

In terms of impact, a snapshot taken @31 July 2020 shows:

- Total number of children and young people with their own Mind Of My Own App accounts – 93 (previously 48 @31 July 2019)
- Total number of workers with their own Mind Of My Own App accounts – 165 (previously 152 @31 July 2019)
- Total number of statements received from children and young people with Mind Of My Own App accounts – 192 (previously 148 @31 July 2019)
- Total number of statements received from worker's with Mind Of My Own App accounts – 163 (previously 110 @31 July 2019)
- Total number of Mind Of My Own App Express statement sent between children and young people and workers – 102 (new measure for 2020)

In terms of the statements being sent between children and young people (totalling 355), the following Table illustrates the types and nature of the statements and how they relate to the provision of service and support being provided to children and young people:

STATEMENT TYPE	SENT BY YOUNG PEOPLE	SENT BY WORKERS	TOTAL
Totals	192	163	355
Case Conference	8	7	15
Change	11	5	16
Conference	3	18	21
Foster Care Review	3	41	44
My Education	1	0	1
My Life	15	1	16
My Wellbeing	8	9	17
Pathway	1	0	1
Post Meeting	1	0	1
Preparation	56	50	106
Problem	17	3	20
Share Good News	29	3	32
Worker Visit	39	26	65



REACH

REACH in Perth and Kinross originated from the Transformation Project on the Review and Remodelling of Residential Care.

REACH was created to provide a 'one stop' multi-disciplinary response to address the needs of young people aged 12 – 18 years of age and to their families across Perth and Kinross.

The primary focus for REACH is to offer intensive and flexible support and help improve outcomes for young people who are looked-after or who are at risk of becoming accommodated and are therefore "on the edge of care".

REACH provides individualised support and employs the skills of a dedicated multi-disciplinary team to help young people to remain in their families, schools and communities and prevent the need to move to alternative residential care.

The long term aim is to enable young people to flourish within their community and to become healthy, resilient and resourceful adults.

In terms of impact, REACH continues to provide a 24/7/365 service provision and the following provides an updated snapshot of its work:

2019/20 in review...

From 01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020 REACH have been busy working directly with young people on the edge of care. We have shared our process and practice nationally and welcomed visits from other local authorities. We have also provided training and support to help parents, kinship carers, foster carers and school staff better understand the young people and the best approaches to help repair and strengthen relationships.

2019/20 Highlights

Quarter 1
During the first quarter we...

- shared our experiences at the Fairer Futures event
- development day
- updated our working practices to reflect demand
- communicated our aims and objectives to all Headteachers at their development day

April
May
June

Quarter 3
During the third quarter we...

- participated in the Whole Service Development Day
- welcomed stakeholders to an open morning
- developed and delivered the Better Communication for Better Outcomes event on behalf of the Scottish Government

October
November
December

Quarter 2
During the second quarter we...

- welcomed a visit by the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government
- organised coaching sessions with Live Active for our young people
- delivered Speech, Language and Communication Needs - Common Difficulties and Useful Strategies training to social work staff and Foster Carers

July
August
September

Quarter 4
During the fourth quarter we...

- delivered Speech, Language and Communication Needs Training for Police Scotland
- delivered training at The Community School of Auchterarder's in-service day
- completed several self-evaluation sessions and created an audit tool
- supported our young people at the start of COVID-19 pandemic

January
February
March

Pictures from REACH Open Day and Better Communication for Better Outcomes Event

2019/20 in review...

Clinical Psychologist

Outreach Teacher

Speech & Language Therapist

13% of young people working with REACH are solely working with social work. The diagram above shows the breakdown of the specialisms that young people are working with.

Social Work

- From 01/04/2019 – 31/03/2020 the REACH team has worked with 59 young people.
- Within this time frame 22 young people have finished working with REACH and 20 young people have started working with REACH.
- REACH has also supported four sibling groups of eight individuals.

Outreach Teacher

- From 01/04/2019 – 31/03/2020 the Outreach Teacher has finished working with 16 young people; 11 of whom achieved positive outcomes including qualifications, awards and starting college.
- School attendance for the REACH cohort increased from 69% in 2018/19 to 76% in 2019/20 and exclusions reduced.

Clinical Psychologist

- During the reporting period 34 young people have been supported by the Clinical Psychologist.
- 14 young people supported by the Clinical Psychologist were previously accepted by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services but then discharged e.g. did not meet criteria for neuro-developmental diagnosis (such as ADHD, ASD) or due to non-engagement/attendance.

Speech & Language Therapist

- During the reporting period 41 young people have undertaken a communication screen to identify any Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).
- There were 21 young people identified as having SLCN.
- Outcomes are available for 15 young people who have completed work with their SLT. 75% of outcomes have been either fully or partially achieved.



Independent Advocacy Perth & Kinross (IAPK)

IAPK are now the primary providers of Children’s Hearing Advocacy in Perth and Kinross and also provide independent advocacy support to children, young people and their parents;

who are subject to child protection processes and systems, are Looked-After At Home or are experiencing Mental Health issues.

IAPK ensures that the rights and views of children and young people who come into contact with the Children’s Hearing system are taken into account within the decision making processes there. IAPK Independent Advocacy Workers are trained and knowledgeable about the Children’s Hearing systems procedures and have skills to support children and young people to participate in decisions that affect their lives, by providing them with relevant information regarding their rights within the Children’s Hearing system.

Additionally, IAPK now support children, young people and their parents at child protection case conferences; core groups; looked-after reviews; permanency planning meetings and through child protection registration and deregistration.

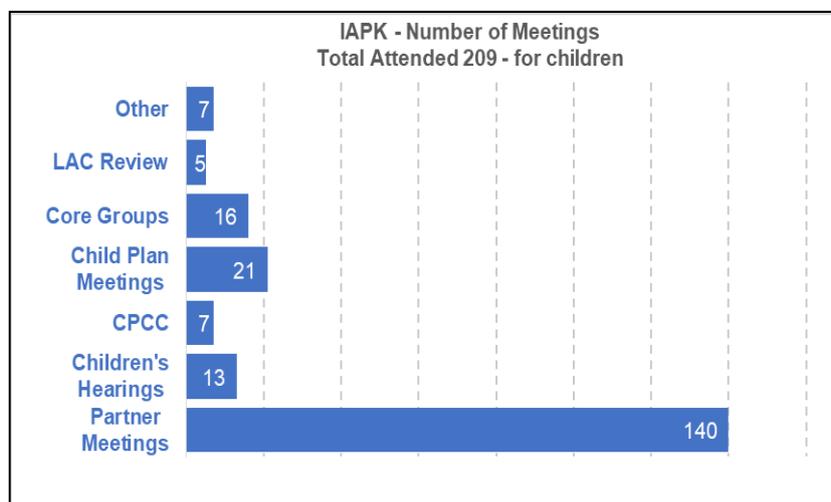
IAPK also supports people to access information with the intention of increasing their confidence and control over their own situation. IAPK believe that when people have more presence and involvement in processes, they are more likely to be able to influence change in themselves and/or their position.

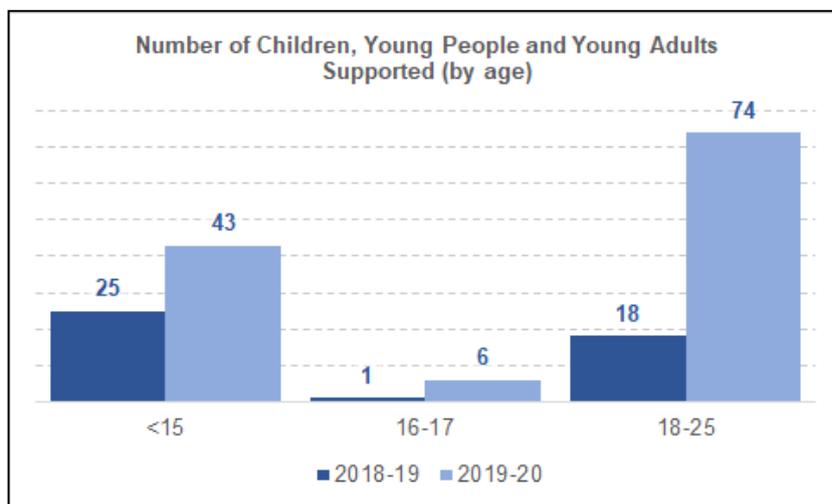
Independent Advocates speak on behalf of people who are unable to speak for themselves or choose not to do so. IAPK safeguard people who are vulnerable or discriminated against, or whom services/agencies find difficult to support and engage with and offer these opportunities without any conflicts of interest.

Having secured the Children’s Hearing Advocacy post, IAPK now have a full time Advocate working exclusively with children and young people. A second Independent Advocate, with further expertise, has taken on a part-time role to work within the Children’s Hearing System also. This appointment brings a richness of experience from years of practice, providing independent advocacy in prisons, working with people with learning disabilities and extensive experience of working with Adults With Incapacity legislation.

IAPK is now able to provide specific communication skills across the team of Independent Advocates, ensuring practice that strives for excellence and seeks to empower children and young people who need a stronger voice. The work of IAPK remains a key strand in the improvement framework for the provision of advocacy and in listening to and seeking the views of children and young people.

In terms of impact, the following diagrams provide a visual summary of IAPKs increasing advocacy support work this academic year within Perth and Kinross:





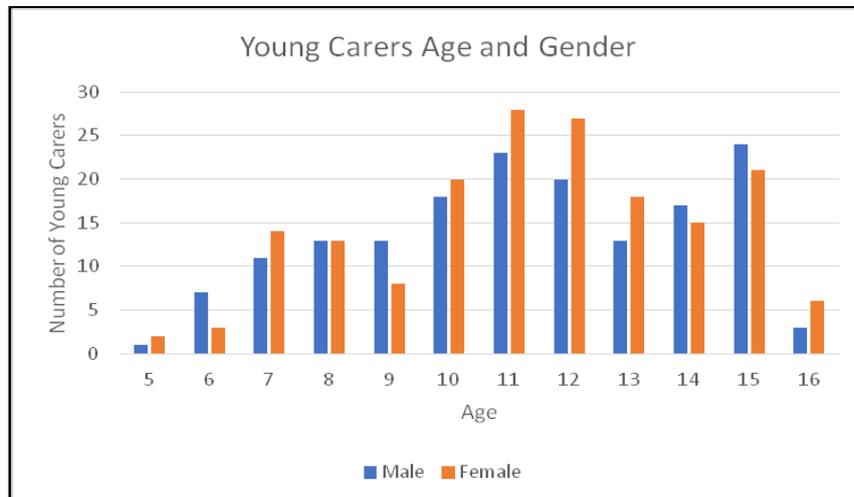
Young Carers

[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.

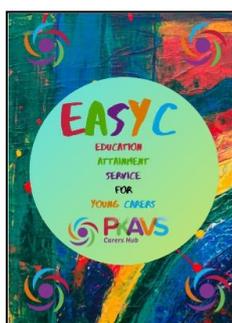
A Young Carer is anyone under the age of 18 or over 18 and still at school, whose life, is in some way, restricted because of the need to take responsibility for the care of a person who is ill; has a disability; is experiencing mental distress or is affected by substance misuse.

Currently PKAVS supports 338 Young Carers and receive on average 10 new referrals each month.

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



New and exciting developments in the last 12 months include:



Educational Attainment Service for Young Carers (EASYc)

[EASYc](#) began in May 2019, as part of the legacy for the late Councillor Barbara Vaughan. The aim of EASYc is to support Young Carers who are disengaging with education. The service is flexible and adapts to the needs and levels of the individuals using it. Support is available via homework clubs; time-limited private tuition and remote access to study supports.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, most private tuition lessons were being held face-to-face at PKAVS Carers Centre, but since lockdown, these lessons have been

delivered virtually, with 85 Young Carers having accessed the service either face-to-face or more recently virtually since first launched.

Referrals can come from support workers, schools, social work, parents or the Young Carer themselves, if they are aged 12 years or above. Qualifying criteria specifies that the young person must be identified as a Young Carer (although not necessarily receiving support from PKAVS) and can demonstrate the impact their caring role has on them socially, emotionally or academically.



Working Together to Support Young Carer – Learning Pack for Professionals

Working together in partnership, PKAVS Young Carers & Perth & Kinross Council have now developed a Learning Pack. Launched on 31 July 2020, it aims to help multi-agency professionals identify Young Carers as early as possible and to understand how best to support them.

Partnership working between statutory and third sector organisations ensures that a young person's caring role is sustainable and does not impact negatively on their childhood experiences. With the right help, at the right time and from the right people, Young Carers can gain the recognition and support for the incredible role they undertake. [Learning Pack](#).

Young Carers Voice

The Young Carers Voice is made up of a team of 8 Young Carers. The Group meets once a month to discuss issues which affect the services and approaches put in place to support Young Carers. To date this Group has been involved in making an awareness raising podcast and have provided feedback on documents and strategies locally and nationally. The Group also provides advice and feedback to those developing services for Young Carers. [Podcast](#).

Counselling

Working in partnership with [Relationships Scotland](#), PKAVS Young Carers are now able to offer all registered Young Carers 1:1 counselling in support of their emotional and mental wellbeing.

The Children and Young Persons Counselling Service is offered to enable Young Carers time and space to explore their thoughts and feelings about changes in their lives.

For Young Carers it could be about the impact of their caring role on their wellbeing and school; relationships with family members; separation and /or divorce; step families and so on. The Counsellor offers individual sessions designed/tailored to allow Young Carers aged 8 years and over to develop insight and coping strategies and become more resilient.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures, these sessions were delivered at the Carers Hub in Perth, to ensure the young person had privacy away from their home setting and able to have open conversations. However, at the start of lockdown, these Counselling sessions were paused, but in July 2020, they were reinstated by video call sessions for those young people 12 years and over, who had been having sessions prior to lockdown. Again, a private space has been arranged at the Carers Centre for the Young Carer to make the call away from home, if they so wish to.

In this reporting period, 13 Young Carers have received 1:1 Counselling and a total of 72 Counselling sessions have been held to date.

Short-Break Funding

A range of small grants have been made available to Young Carers to support them to have respite away from their caring responsibilities, in a way that meet their individual needs. The funding gives

flexibility to support access to opportunities out with PKAVS Young Carers Service, such as sports club memberships; leisure access; sporting equipment and much more besides.

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.

The impact of this additional support on Young Carers has been very positive and clearly visible, with some excellent outcomes reported, showing the significant value of the fund.



In addition to the Perth and Kinross Council award for Alternative Respite, PKAVS Young Carers Service successfully secured additional funding from the Carers Trust to increase the offer during lockdown. During this reporting period, 162 Young Carers have received grant awards, totaling £23,000.

*'Aimie would like to say a massive thank-you to you and the team for her bike and helmet...she loves them...she's even talked me into a bike ride!! Thanks again'
(Young Carers Mum)*



NSPCC Schools Service – Perth and Kinross

The [NSPCC's Schools Service: "Speak Out Stay Safe" Programme](#) continues to be delivered, free-of-charge to Primary Schools across Scotland, and the rest of UK to ensure that children and young people:

- understand abuse in all its forms and recognise the signs of abuse
- know how to protect themselves from all forms of abuse
- know how to get help and the sources of help available to them including the [ChildLine](#) service

Since 2011, the NSPCC's "Speak Out Stay Safe" programme has been visiting primary schools across the UK and Channel Islands to give children the knowledge they need to stay safe from harm and to speak out if they're worried.

The programme delivers safeguarding messages to primary school children across all 32 local authority areas in Scotland and has visited 96% of schools in Scotland at least once. Between April 2019 and March 2020, the service spoke to 145,587 primary school pupils in 833 primary schools across Scotland.

Within Perth and Kinross, this programme is 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.

In terms of impact, this academic year the programme was well underway and had been delivered in 22 Perth and Kinross primary schools to 2,657 pupils (compared with 37 Perth and Kinross primary schools to almost 5,500 pupils in the last academic year). This significant drop from last year was a direct consequence of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in school closures, which began in mid March 2020. This resulted in the programme being paused.

During our visits to schools, all staff are invited to share their thoughts on our visit, via an online survey. Feedback from completed visits and returned Evaluations include the following:

School Staff – Key Comments / Feedback	
We recommend that you reinforce the messages from the assembly after our visit as this can help the children with their learning and development. Is this something you have or will be doing?	<p><i>“We will continue to revisit through the activities provided”</i></p> <p><i>“Discussion of our learning on the day, revisiting key messages”</i></p> <p><i>“Also written in class newsletter for parents and we tweeted on the day”</i></p> <p><i>“Headteacher is going to hold an assembly”</i></p> <p><i>“Incorporate into Health & Wellbeing planning and make use of the interactive website”</i></p> <p><i>“Going over the key elements of speaking to an adult”</i></p>
Following our visit please rate the impact of the sessions on your pupils’ understanding of child abuse.	<p><i>“They know a lot more about forms of abuse and what’s not OK”</i></p> <p><i>“They have a proper definition of neglect”</i></p> <p><i>“Privates are private and will work more on this using the Pants resource”</i></p> <p><i>“They know how to access help”</i></p> <p><i>“This would have been the first time most of the class would have heard about sexual abuse from the school”</i></p>
We would like to capture any comments that children made following the assembly and / or workshop presentations. Could you please detail any quotes or observations from children that would be helpful for us to know?	<p><i>“I found it really interesting to hear that ChildLine is available 24 hours a day”</i></p> <p><i>“This was really beneficial of my learning”</i></p> <p><i>“This was good to hear for if I ever need to use ChildLine”</i></p> <p><i>“The Sack of worries was really good”</i></p> <p><i>“The children were really engaged throughout the assembly and workshop”</i></p> <p><i>“They were keen to know that ChildLine wouldn’t dismiss you but could act on it”</i></p>

In terms of the COVID-19 pandemic and school closures, the NSPCC responded by providing support to professionals and to parents through a range of online resources and information. Being acutely aware of the particular risks to children and young people while schools are closed, the first priority has been to ensure that children and young people continue to have the support and protection they need.

Since March 2020, the NSPCC’s “Speak Out Stay Safe” programme assemblies and workshops have not been available. Work is currently focussed on the development of virtual assemblies and associated resource packs for schools to enable them to continue to deliver the workshops themselves. We expect this resource to be available in the coming months.

Meantime, Primary School children across the UK can watch a [Special NSPCC’s “Speak Out Stay Safe” Assembly](#) with Ant and Dec and David Walliams. Featuring highlights from the hugely popular programme, the assembly helps children understand what’s happening currently, why they may be feeling anxious or worried, and where to get help, if they need it.

To ensure that every child hears the important message of NSPCC’s “Speak Out Stay Safe” programme, the NSPCC has continued to offer materials for children with Additional Support Needs (mild to moderate learning difficulties). During this academic year, this programme was introduced to around 50 ASN staff from across the Perth and Kinross area at a twilight session hosted by an ECS Inclusion Quality Improvement Officer at Almondbank House in Perth and was well received.

Finally, the Adult Workshop “Keeping Children Safe OnLine” was offered to every primary school until February 2020 and was specifically delivered at Tulloch Primary School, where 6 parents attended. At present, these face-to-face sessions have now been withdrawn.



Getting it Right: Keeping Your Child Safe Event 2020

This year we held our 9th annual event on 5 March 2020 in the Playhouse Cinema, Perth. 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 on *resilience in the digital world; online grooming; cyber awareness and understanding the risks*. Three separate sessions took place in the morning, afternoon and evening with a minimum of 550 delegates attending this event.

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.

Of those who attended this year's event, a total of 272 (49%) took time to complete an exit evaluation form prior to leaving. All the inputs, presentations and speakers were evaluated very highly.

In terms of impact, 119 of 272 (44%) delegates reported that their understanding of online risks was *much improved*; 136 (50%) reported that their understanding was *improved* and only 12 (4%) reported *no change* in their understating. The following is a small representative snapshot of delegate comments/feedback in relation to their immediate learning:

“I need to improve my own home cyber security and start using dual authentication”

“Parent, present, participate, patient, promote pause – before sending. Family-time”

“Modern day parenting is more challenging than 70s and 80s parenting. More choice but more risk”

“Use two-factor authentication - always. Be an interested and involved parent / carer. Keep talking”

Impact on Staff

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

Staff Learning and Development

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

We continue to provide a range of flexible, refreshed, inter-agency staff learning and development opportunities to the general contact workforce; specific contact workforce and the intensive contact workforce; within our existing budget and free-of-charge at the point of delivery. We continue to collate evaluation reports which are consistently high.

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures, heavily impacted upon our ability to continue to provide face-to-face inter-agency training; resulting in all such training being paused temporarily. Going forward, the CPC intends to resume face-to-face inter-agency training courses when it is safe to do so.

In terms of impact, the following Table provide an analysis of the inter-agency child protection staff learning and development opportunities which was delivered throughout the year until it was paused in March 2020:

CPC Inter-Agency Staff Learning and Development Opportunities (01/08/2019 – 31/07/2020) – Paused March 2020		
Title of Course	No of Courses	No of Attendees
<i>Child Wellbeing and Protection Course (Introductory) (One-Day)</i>	2	41
<i>Designated Child Protection Officer Course (One-Day)</i>	2	44
<i>Working with Non Engaging Families (One-Day)</i>	2	35
<i>Online Risks for Children and Young People (Half-Day)</i>	2	32
<i>Working with Children and Families Affected by Parental Substance Use (GOPR) (Half-Day)</i>	2	53
<i>Child Sexual Exploitation Course (CSE) (One-Day)</i>	2	21
Total	12	226

In addition, we have continued to promote and develop our OnLine staff learning and development opportunities and as a direct consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant increase in the take-up rate.

However, 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 limits our ability to provide accurate data.

In terms of impact, the following Table provides an analysis of the OnLine Module activity throughout 2019/2020:

OnLine Staff Learning and Development Opportunities – OnLine Modules (01/08/2019 – 31/07/2020) – Ongoing		
Title of Course	Activity (Internal and External)	
	2019 / 2020	2018 / 2019
<i>Child Protection OnLine Module</i>	2,166	1,303
<i>Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) OnLine Module</i>	1,941	1,206
<i>Adult Support and Protection OnLine Module</i>	1,675	666
Total	5,782	3,175

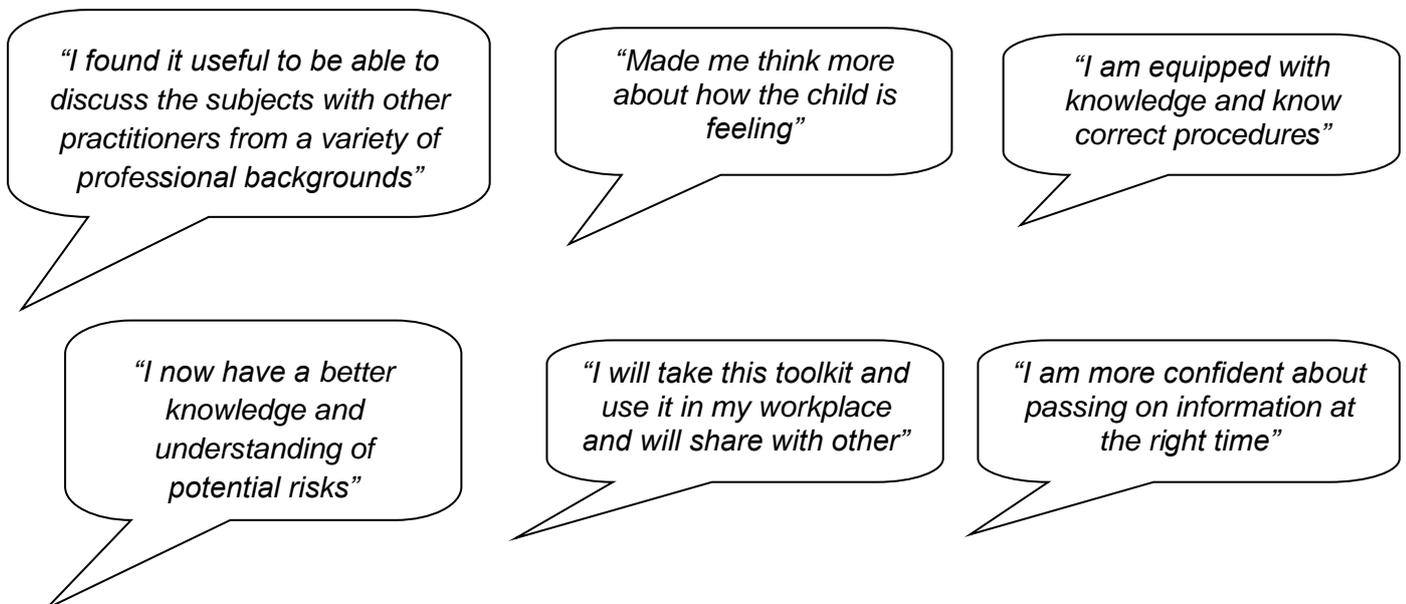
New Developments:

In response to the ongoing learning and development needs of both new and existing staff, and additional challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures, the CPC refreshed its existing [Keeping Children and Young People Safe – Child Protection OnLine Module](#).

In July 2020, the CPC also developed three new Online Modules – Professional Curiosity; Chronologies; Information Sharing, Confidentiality and Consent and at the time of publication, these new Modules are being rolled-out to partner agencies and further Modules are being planned.

The CPC also plans to continue its partnership work with RASAC PK to provide Trauma Informed Practice training opportunities, as we continue to develop a critical mass of trauma informed and aware practitioners across Perth and Kinross. The CPC also plans to recommence its face-to-face inter-agency GOPR and CSE training courses, when it is safe to do so.

In terms of measuring the impact of this training, the following is a small sample of practitioner feedback from various face-to-face inter-agency training courses held before March 2020:



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.

Throughout 2019 / 2020, the website has been continuously refreshed and increasingly being seen as a one-stop local hub for child protection information. However, 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 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 user activity, page activity and a general impact analysis between last year and this year:

CPC Website Single User and Page Activity 1 August 2019 – 31 July 2020		
Key Webpage Activity	Impact (Minimum) 2019 / 2020	Impact (Minimum) 2018 / 2019
<i>Child Protection – Total Hits</i>	<i>9,000 users – 18,402 page views</i>	<i>13,051 users – 29,200 page views</i>
<i>Child Protection – Main Page</i>	<i>1,547 users – 3,045 page views</i>	<i>2,190 users – 5,761 page views</i>
<i>What's New in Child Protection – News</i>	<i>847 users – 2,510 page views</i>	<i>1,058 users – 3,125 page views</i>
<i>Child Protection Committee</i>	<i>601 users – 1,010 page views</i>	<i>601 users – 1,010 page views</i>
<i>What to do if you are worried about child / young person</i>	<i>546 users – 782 page views</i>	<i>1,263 users – 2,506 page views</i>
<i>Information for Practitioners</i>	<i>420 users – 852 page views</i>	<i>649 users – 1,496 page views</i>
<i>Child Protection Publications – All Pages</i>	<i>331 users – 618 page views</i>	<i>608 users – 1,189 page views</i>
<i>P&K Practitioner's Guide and OnLine Toolkit: CSE</i>	<i>175 users – 304 page views</i>	<i>178 users – 330 page views</i>
<i>P&K Practitioner's Guide and OnLine Toolkit: Information Sharing</i>	<i>146 users – 339 page views</i>	<i>274 users – 623 page views</i>

Social Media

Working in partnership with staff from Perth and Kinross Council's Corporate Communications Team and the ECS Communications Officer, 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 work.

At 31 July 2020, the continually growing PKC Corporate Twitter Account had 20,518 followers and the Corporate Facebook page had 22,136 likes (compared with 18,634 Corporate Twitter followers and 18,746 Corporate Facebook page likes last year at 31 July 2019).

In terms of impact, this year our CPC specific social media posts have resulted in a significantly increased and combined reach of 110,867 on Facebook and a total of 176,350 impressions on Twitter, compared with 90,283 on Facebook and a total of 32,027 impressions on Twitter last year.

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



We're sharing useful information for young people about how to get help and support during the current [#COVID__19](#) lockdown. [#protectingpeople](#) [#childprotectionpk](#) [linked to Do You Need Help document for young people]
10, 497 reached; 39 shares
(Facebook 2 May 2020)



Physical distancing and isolation can put some children & young people at increased risk of harm. If you're concerned about a youngster in your community, call us on 01738 476768, any time of day or night [#childprotectionpk](#)
6,742 impressions; 19 likes; 21 profile clicks; 19 retweets
(Twitter 22 May 2020)

Recognising the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CPC and partners have increasingly focussed on sharing key messages around child protection and support for children, young people and families on social media platforms and on their public-facing website.

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 evidence-based policy, practice and planning improvements.

Practice Developments in 2019/2020

In compliance with our ongoing commitment to enabling and empowering a competent, confident and professionally curious workforce, throughout 2019/2020 we have continued to develop, publish and where necessary, refresh the following practice guidance:

- [Tayside Practitioners Guidance: Chronologies](#) (March 2019)
- [P&K CPC Practitioner's Guidance: Resolution and Escalation Arrangements](#) (August 2019)
- [P&K CPC Practitioner's Guidance: Professional Curiosity](#) (August 2019)
- Tayside Joint Protocol: Medical Examinations of Children and Young People (October 2019)
- [P&K Code of Practice: Information Sharing, Confidentiality and Consent](#) (January 2020)

And in July 2020, in partnership with the Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (TRIC) Priority Group 5 (PG5): Safeguarding and Child Protection, we have developed and published:

- Tayside Practitioner's Guidance: Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) (July 2020)
- Tayside Practitioner's Guidance: Concern for Unborn Babies (UBB) (July 2020)
- Tayside Practitioner's Guidance: Participation in Key Child Protection Meetings: Information for all Practitioners (July 2020)
- Participation in Key Child Protection Meetings: Information for Children and Families (July 2020)



Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is Child Sexual Abuse (CSA).

Elected Members, Chief Officers and Community Planning Partnership (CPP) partners continue to provide strong strategic leadership, direction and scrutiny of our partnership approach of *zero-tolerance to abuse and exploitation and to ensuring a hostile environment across Perth and Kinross* and they have publicly recorded that *“there is no place for abuse and exploitation in our communities”*.

Whilst the risks and dangers of abuse and exploitation, both in the community and online, are ever present and we remain vigilant in our partnership approach, recent information and intelligence provided by Police Scotland shows that between April and August 2020, within Perth and Kinross a total 51 cases of online crime were recorded against child victims, compared with 73 for the same period in 2019.

Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures have had a significant impact in terms of face-to-face work, the CPC and the Young People's Advisory Group (via Youth Voice) has continued to consolidate its work; adopted a more intelligence-led approach and continues to take forward key aspects of CSE work.

In terms of impact, the following provides a summary of our ongoing activities throughout 2019/2020:

- continued to develop and promote the public-facing P&K [CSE Webpages](#)
- continued to promote awareness and understanding of CSE on the PKC/CPC Social Media Platforms (Facebook and Twitter)
- continued to develop and distribute a wide range of existing and new, bespoke/specific [CSE information and advice leaflets](#)
- continued to promote and roll-out the NSPCC "[Speak Out Stay Safe Schools Programme](#)" to all PKC Primary Schools
- continued to support the annual GIRFEC - Keeping Your Child Safe events in Perth; with this year's event having taken place on 5 March 2020
- continued to support our multi-agency CSE Training Champions to deliver inter-agency CSE training sessions to staff
- developed and currently testing a P&K CSA/CSE Screening Tool for use by frontline staff
- developed a more pro-active/intelligence-led approach to return interviews and missing children

Going forward, the partnership will continue to consolidate its work on tackling CSE, and whilst focussed on prevention and awareness raising, it plans to support staff further with additional CSE practitioner toolkits and staff learning and development opportunities.

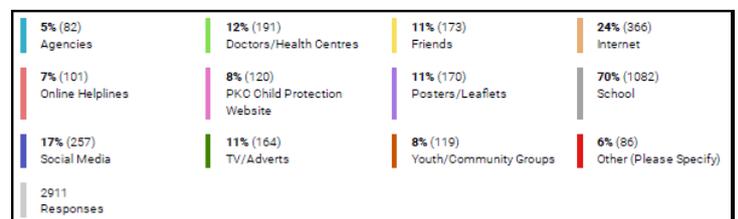
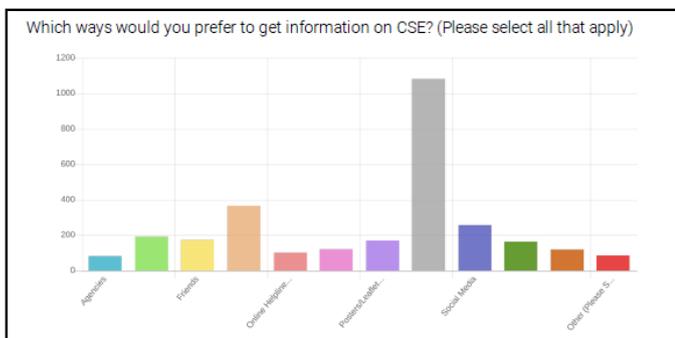


Young People's Advisory Group

The CPC continues to support the creative and innovative work of the Young People's Advisory Group; albeit the COVID-19 pandemic has seriously impacted upon its ability to meet, both physically and virtually.

However, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, throughout October to December 2019, the Advisory Group developed and distributed their second Young People's CSE OnLine Survey to all Secondary Schools in Perth & Kinross, which was last distributed in 2017.

In terms of impact, this year a total of 1,748 young people responded to the survey, compared with 574 in 2017. The survey confirmed that young people had a very good awareness and understanding of what constituted CSE; knew where to get information on CSE; knew what to do and who to speak to if they were worried about CSE; knew what constituted grooming and where grooming can take place. In terms of where young people would prefer to get information about CSE, the following responses were noted:



Going forward, the work of the Young People's Advisory Group will continue to be informed by the survey responses and a number of young people intimated they would like to be a part of the Group in the future. This is being followed up.



Youth Voice Gathering 2019

Last year, we reported upon the commitment of CPC members to actively communicate, engage and involve children, young people and families in its work, by working in partnership with colleagues at Services for Young People Team; @scott street and in particular, via Youth Voice.

We also reported on our intention to participate in the Youth Voice Gathering, being held on Saturday 21 September 2019 at the North Inch Community Campus in Perth.

This was a one-stop-shop type event, planned by young people, for young people. The event aimed to showcase their work and to share and discuss with representatives from key local services, agencies and partnerships, what was significant and important to them in terms of

keeping themselves safe; improving their health and wellbeing and to improving the quality of their lives. On the day, 13 separate services, agencies and partnerships, including CPC members, attended the event and engaged with 9 individual youth groups and their representatives.

CPC members met with a number of young people/youth groups and in terms of keeping safe and child protection, comments and feedback from the young people included concerns about the impact of social media platforms / apps; peer pressure; bullying (physical and virtual); the need to promote a better awareness and understanding of young people's mental health; the need to continue to promote contacts numbers of where to seek and obtain help and the need to continue to promote the message that *it's everyone's job*.

Immediately following the event, the CPC embarked upon a further public information and communication campaign, supported by a wide distribution of eye catching child protection posters (previously designed by young people) and by posting key messages on social media platforms on how to stay safe and where to seek and obtain help where necessary. Additional work was also undertaken, particularly via ECS and the Inclusion Service to provide information and advice on children and young people's health and wellbeing, including mental health and this has been distributed and made available widely across Perth and Kinross.

Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures have undoubtedly impacted on this direct engagement work with children and young people, engagement has continued virtually online, as evidenced throughout this report and the CPC remains committed to doing so going forward.



How good is our leadership?

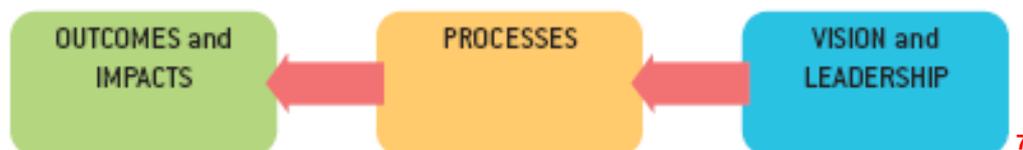
This section describes our collective approach to leadership, direction, support, challenge and scrutiny. It describes how we are promoting effective and collaborative partnership working to deliver the best possible outcomes for children and young people. It also describes our commitment to continuous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

Evaluation: We are confident that our individual and collective approach to leadership, direction, support, challenge, scrutiny and joint partnership working is effective and robust and that 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.

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

During this academic year, the work of the CYPFP and the CPC has been further strengthened by the added support and scrutiny from 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.

⁷ Source: Extracted from [How well do we protect children and meet their needs?](#) (HMIE: 2009)

Before and particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic, the COG has met more frequently and provided leadership and direction across the public protection partnerships. Recent meetings of the COG have been virtual meetings.

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

A carefully managed 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 Child Protection Committee (CPC)

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

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

[Membership of the CPC](#) remains intentionally 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.⁸

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

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure business continuity and delivery of frontline services, the above Virtual Executive Group was established on 24 March 2020.

Initially, meetings were held twice weekly, then weekly and currently fortnightly and up to the 31 July 2020, a total of 19 meetings have been held. Membership of the Group has been extended 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 has been focussed on ensuring the delivery of frontline services and has been informed by rich national and local datasets and managed by way the previously mentioned Risk Register.

Reporting to the COG, this Group has continued to meet until the CPC's Business Recovery and Re-Instatement Plan is fully implemented/embedded.

⁸ The Child Protection Committees of Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Clackmannanshire & Stirling, Dundee City, Highland, Falkirk, Fife, Moray, Orkney Islands, Perth and Kinross, Shetland Islands and Western Isles.



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 2017 - 2020](#)

Perth and Kinross CPC and partner agencies continue to support the work of TRIC PG5 and the abovementioned Plan. TRIC PG5 is led by the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) at PKC.

Throughout 2019/2020, the improvement work of PG5 has been significantly progressed and the current focus is on working together to change and improve the culture, ethos and day-to-day frontline practice in multi-agency child protection work across the Collaborative.

In terms of impact, the following is a synopsis of the progress made:

- **Chronologies** – Multi-Agency Practice Guidance, refreshed and published in February 2019, has been widely distributed and embedded into practice and there is emerging evidence of improvement across the Collaborative
- **Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRDs)** – Multi-Agency IRD Practice Guidance and an IRD Template published in July 2020 and is currently being cascaded and distributed across the Collaborative
- **Concern for Unborn Babies** – Multi-Agency Concern for Unborn Babies Practice Guidance and a Concern for Unborn Baby Referral Form published in July 2020 and is currently being cascaded and distributed across the Collaborative
- **Participation in Key Child Protection Meetings: Information for all Practitioners** – Multi-Agency Practice Guidance published in July 2020 and is currently being cascaded and distributed across the Collaborative
- **Participation in Key Child Protection Meetings: Information for Children and Families** – Multi-Agency Practice Guidance published in July 2020 and is currently being cascaded and distributed across the Collaborative
- **Developing Key Measures in Child Protection Tayside CPC Shared Dataset** – Key child protection indicators and measures (qualitative and quantitative) agreed and implemented retrospectively from 1 August 2019 across the Collaborative
- **Learning from ICRs and SCRs** – In the context of child protection, a Significant Case Review (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.⁹

Last year, TRIC PG5 commissioned Dr Sharon Vincent, Northumbria University to carry out an analysis of recently conducted Initial Case Reviews (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.

At 31 July 2020, the research report has been completed; it identifies and profiles all of the above, and in particular, our need to focus on two key strands going forward – Relationship Building with Families and Working Together which will underpin our improvement programme here in Perth and Kinross. Final Report expected September 2020.

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

What is our capacity for improvement?

Perth and Kinross CPC is committed to continuous improvement through quality assurance 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 2019/2020, the CPC, in partnership with the [CPC Practice Improvement Working Group](#) and the [Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative \(TRIC\)](#), in particular with [Priority Group 5 \(PG5\) \(Safeguarding and Child Protection\)](#), has made significant progress in implementing, and delivering on, our two-year [CPC Improvement Plan 2018 – 2020](#); which has been evidenced throughout this report and a final update shown at Appendix 1.

<i>In Summary / Next Steps: CPC Priority Actions / Tasks 2020 and Beyond</i>	
<i>continue</i> to build open and trusting relationships with children and families which challenges and supports the need for change and improvement	
<i>continue</i> to address neglect, tackle poverty and enhance wellbeing from pre-birth by further developing early and effective multi-agency intervention and support pathways	
<i>continue</i> to enhance the provision of and the consistency of advocacy arrangements, which ensures children and young people are listened to, understood, respected, their views are heard and inform practice	
<i>continue</i> to make sophisticated use of qualitative and quantitative key performance measures to improve key multi-agency child protection processes and practice	
<i>continue</i> to develop, publish and disseminate multi-agency child protection practice guidance on key themes to support and empower consistently improving frontline practice	
<i>continue</i> to work together to change and improve the culture, ethos, day-to-day practice and new ways of working in frontline multi-agency child protection work	
<i>continue</i> to develop a competent, confident and professionally curious multi-agency workforce, empowered and enabled by learning and development opportunities	
<i>continue</i> to strive for excellence by embedding a culture of quality assurance, self-evaluation and continuous improvement in multi-agency child protection work	

At the time of publication, the CPC is developing a new SMART Improvement Plan for 2020 and beyond, which will be informed by research, quality assurance and self-evaluation and it will continue to support the existing and developing [Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2017 - 2020](#).

Key Abbreviations & Acronyms Used

APC	Adult Protection Committee
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
CPIP	Child Protection Improvement Programme (Scottish Government)
CPO	Child Protection Order
CPR	Child Protection Register
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
ECS	Education and Children's Services
EFQM	European Foundation for Quality Management
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulations
GIRFEC	Getting it Right for Every Child
GOPR	Getting Our Priorities Right
IAPK	Independent Advocacy Perth & Kinross
ICPCC	Initial Child Protection Case Conference
ICR	Initial Case Review
IRDs	Inter-Agency Referral Discussion (IRDs)
NHS	National Health Service (Tayside)
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
P&K	Perth and Kinross
PG5	Priority Group 5
PKAVS	Perth and Kinross Association of Voluntary Service
PKC	Perth and Kinross Council
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
RASAC PK	Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Perth and Kinross
REACH	Resilient; Engaged; Achieving; Confident; Healthy
RRSA	Rights Respecting School Award
SCRA	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
SCR	Significant Case Review
SCRON	Scottish Children's Rights Officer's Network
SMARTer	Specific; Measurable; Achievable; Realistic and Time-Limited
TRIC	Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative
UBB	Unborn Baby