

Perth & Kinross Child Protection Newsletter



ChildProtection
Perth & Kinross



Issue 2 - July 2008

The Child Protection Annual Report and Business Plan is a summary of the Child Protection Committee's (CPC) actions, progress and achievements over the last year and a set of improvements identified in the Business Plan for the coming year. These are organised around the national set of functions for CPC including strategic planning, continuous improvement and public information.

The new Business Plan will also be informed by the CPC Self-Evaluation currently being undertaken and it is hoped will be completed by the end of August 2008 and available from then.

There is still an opportunity for anyone to contribute to the process by forwarding comments or views about any issues you feel that the CPC should be addressing in the next year.

It is not possible to include here all the details of the Annual Report and Business Plan but some of the key areas identified in the Annual Plan include:

- ◆ Over 100 staff have undertaken training on the new procedure to address children affected by parental substance misuse and further training planned.
- ◆ Multi-agency audit has been completed and an action plan implemented.

- ◆ *Joint Police/Social Work interview facilities for children and vulnerable people to be part of the Almondbank building due for completion in January 2009.*
- ◆ *Progress on sharing information and in particular child protection messaging.*
- ◆ *Evaluation of inter-agency guidelines which has shown that these are valued and useful to staff.*

Some of the key issues for this year's Business Plan will include:

- ◆ *The completion of the protocol's for under-age sexual activity and significant case reviews.*
- ◆ *The implementation locally of the actions identified in relation to child protection from the national drugs strategy and alcohol strategy.*
- ◆ *The implementation of a range of services identified by a sub-group looking at the young people who self harm.*
- ◆ *Need to refresh and develop public information through posters, the website and local press.*
- ◆ *Effective engagement with migrant communities on child protection matters.*

Bill Atkinson
Chair
Child Protection Committee

In This Issue

- Keeping Yourself Safe
- Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP)
- Scottish Government Launches New National Drugs Strategy
- It's Everybody's Job
- Conferences and Training
- Child Protection Officers Network
- Resources & Useful Websites

Perth & Kinross Child Protection Committee would like this newsletter to be as representative of Services, Practitioners, children and young people as possible. If you have any news or views to share, or would like to suggest a topic for future issues, then please contact us at the Editorial Team. Similarly if you would like further copies of this newsletter sent via email, please contact the Editorial Team via Gordon McKay tel 01738 476880 or email GRMcKay@pkc.gov.uk

Stop Press . . .

- *Margaret Muir, Improvement Officer ECS, has been seconded as Lead Officer to support on going Child Protection Development work and will be taking up her new role in early July 2008.*

Keeping Yourself Safe

A great deal of work is going on in schools in Perth and Kinross to promote the safety and protection of children. Children in all age groups are benefitting from input in schools about their rights to be safe and protected and how they can be involved in keeping themselves safe from abuse and exploitation. As part of this drive to raise awareness of child protection amongst children and young people, a poster and Z card have been produced for distribution in all schools and leisure facilities such as libraries and youth clubs. The poster and card contain simple information

about who they should contact if children/young people are worried about themselves or another child/young person. They reinforce the message given by parents and schools that it is important to speak to a trusted adult if worried about something because there are people available who can help.



Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP)



The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre is a division of the UK police force which is dedicated to the protection of children from sexual abuse. They work with technology to identify and trace individuals who use the internet to groom children for abuse, and to view and exchange images of child abuse. The CEOP website contains helpful guides for parents and those working with families on how to help keep children safe. It also contains colourful and interactive age appropriate pages to help children of all ages to keep themselves safe whilst using the internet. There is even a virtual police station which families can use if need to report concerns.

You can view the website at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Training on thinkuknow is already on-going in the schools throughout Perth and Kinross and evaluation on its impact is to follow.

Scottish Government Launches New National Drugs Strategy

Scotland, along with many other regions, has a long standing and serious drug problem. An estimated 52,000 people are problem drug users and an estimated 40-60,000 children are affected by the drug problems of one or more parents. There were 421 drug related deaths in Scotland in 2006. Problem substance use is clearly having a significant impact on individuals, families and society.

Research suggests that a new approach is needed to tackle the problem and help people with substance misuse problems to recover and rebuild their lives. In response to this the Government has launched a new drug strategy based on the concept of recovery. As well as addressing the issue of adult users, the strategy highlights the

significant vulnerability of children who live with parents who have drug and alcohol problems and indicates that there is now a need for a change in emphasis in order to strengthen the focus on prevention and early intervention to reduce the impact on children. The strategy includes a number of actions which the Government has committed to in order to ensure that the strategy leads to improvements on the ground. These include more training and guidance for staff in a range of services to ensure that vulnerable children are identified and assessed, and that there is appropriate recording, information sharing and planning for children. The strategy aims to build on good practice that is already taking place with families by sharing good practice and facilitating the consistent provision across Scotland of services for children affected by parental substance misuse.

You can read the strategy on the Scottish Government Website www.scotland.gov.uk or contact Ian Smillie DAAT Co-ordinator
Tel 01738 476962

It's Everybody's Job

Our names are Marissa McIntosh, Lesley Smith and Helen Learmonth. We are Detective Constables working within the Family Protection Unit, Divisional Police Headquarters, Barrack Street, Perth. We have all worked in the Police for a number of years and have carried out uniformed duties in Kinross, Pitlochry and Perth. The operational management of the Family Protection Unit (FPU) is aligned with the Criminal Investigation Department.

The FPU covers a large geographical area including Perth, Pitlochry, Aberfeldy, Blairgowrie, Crieff Auchterarder and Kinross. At present the FPU comprises of one Detective Sergeant, 3 Detective Constables for child protection and adult abuse investigations, two Detective Constables who are involved in the management of registered and unregistered Sex Offenders and one Domestic Abuse Officer.

The Police role is one of prevention, protection and detection of crime. When an offence has been committed all lawful measures must be taken and reports submitted to the appropriate prosecutor for the purpose of bringing the offender to justice. Under Scots Law a person cannot normally be convicted on evidence from only one source. There must be sufficient admissible evidence to prove beyond all reasonable doubt that the person committed the crime labelled against them.

Our role is to undertake enquiries into allegations of physical or sexual abuse against children or sexual offences committed against adult victims which are referred to the Family Protection Unit. We attend Case Conferences to discuss matters relating to an enquiry in which we were principally involved and on occasion we may be required to attend such conferences in place of another officer. We work

closely with other members of staff from statutory and voluntary agencies and in particular Education & Children's Services, the Health Board and Medical Profession. We provide advice, assistance and guidance on the investigation of child abuse to other officers. We also assist in the support of adult victims of rape and sexual assault.

Child Concern reports are created when a Police Officer attends an incident where a child is present or involved. This covers a variety of situations and the report is submitted for the attention of the FPU. We collate the information submitted and discuss the content with the Social Work Child Protection Duty Team and this will determine what further

action should be taken such as a referral to the Reporter or if a joint investigation is required.

A joint interview of the child will be carried out where necessary with one Detective Constable and a member of the Child Protection Duty Team. However, if the child has involvement with another Social Worker then they will be requested to assist

in the interview. If a disclosure is made by the child further enquiries will be carried out by the FPU in an effort to obtain the best evidence prior to interviewing the suspect. The suspect will be informed of the allegation and interview will be carried out within an interview room at Divisional Headquarters, Perth. The interview will be both audio and digitally recorded. If there is sufficient evidence charges will be preferred against the accused and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal for consideration of prosecution.



Conferences and Training

Tayside Domestic Abuse & Substance Misuse Project, No Boundaries - Domestic Abuse and Substance Misuse

Examining the links and sharing learning

Perth Concert Hall - Thursday 17 July 2008,

9.30 am - 4.00 pm

Tel 01382 434569

Email irina.pelc@dundeecity.gov.uk

The next self harm network is at McDiarmid Park from 4.00 pm - 5.30 pm on September 2. All welcome, just turn up.

Drug and Alcohol Action Team

Brief Interventions

Perth Concert Hall - Thursday 24 July 2008

Free to relevant staff

Lunch Provided

Contact: Liam McLaughlin, Whitefriars

Tel 01738 476966

Introduction to Safeguarding Children Training

26 August 2008 (half day)

Inter-Agency Introduction to Child Protection

16 September 2008 (1 day)

Contact training development unit at pullar house.

Child Protection Officers Network

The Child Protection Officers Network takes place four times per year from 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm (with refreshments at 4.00 pm). It brings together CP Officers from schools across Perth and Kinross for the opportunity to discuss prominent Child Protection issues and receive 'peer' support.

Recently we have looked at Domestic Abuse, Resources for Helping Children and Young People Keep Safe, Data Protection, making referrals to the Duty/CP Team, amongst other topics.

The next meeting is on 10 September 2008 and all are welcome, so please join us and help to ensure we are offering children and young people the best possible support when they are vulnerable.

The Systems Sub-Group

The Systems Sub-Group of the Child Protection Committee was formed in part to address concerns where agencies may have not worked together as well as they should. It has also undertaken to look more widely at how our Child Protection Systems work in Perth and Kinross.

Currently, the group are developing proposals to ensure greater participation by children and young people at Child Protection Case Conferences, completing a protocol for significant Case Reviews and planning an Inter-agency Audit in late August.

If you have any concerns about how our systems are working either on an individual or agency basis, please make a referral to the Systems Sub-Group through your agency representative on the Child Protection Committee.

Resources and Useful Websites

Interagency Child Protection Guidelines

pkc.gov.uk/childprotection/downloads

Child Protection Web Pages

pkc.gov.uk/childprotection/webpages

Child Protection Committee

Membership/Minutes/Messages

Protecting Young People Useful Information

Inter-agency Protocols, Procedures, Guidelines and Assessment, Working with Substance Misusing Parents, Carers and their children

www.pkc.gov.uk/ChildProtection/downloads

Domestic Abuse

www.domesticabuse.co.uk

Useful Telephone Numbers

Children and Young People

Child Protection Duty Team 01738 476768

Childline 0800 11 11

National Child Protection Line 0800 022 3222

Police

Police 01738 621141

Family Protection Unit 01738 892911

Emergency Services 999

Social Work

Social Work Out of Hours 01382 432270

Education & Children's Services 01738 476200

Substance Misuse

Social Work Drug & Alcohol Team 01382 444433

NHS 24 08454 24 24 24

GUM Clinic 01738 623311

(Sexually Transmitted Infection)

Useful Websites

www.scottishwomensaid.co.uk

www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk

www.pkdomesticabuse.co.uk

www.pkc.gov.uk



Council Text Phone Number 01738 442573

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility

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