



Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee

Annual Report 2015-2016

Our Vision: All children in the Scottish Borders have the right to grow up safe from abuse

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Message from the Chair

I am delighted to present to you the Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee (SBCPC) Annual Report from 1st August 2015 to 31st July 2016 which provides a summary of the key work of the Committee over the year.

From October 2015 the agencies were occupied with preparing for the inspection of the services for children and young people in the Scottish Borders which took place from 18th January to 26th February 2016. During this reporting period I continued to chair the Child Protection Committee (CPC), the Review and Practice Development Sub Groups.

SBCPC key strategic planning for the year continues to focus around its comprehensive Business Plan. Priorities for this reporting period were largely centred on the Inspection Process and the Review of the Child Protection Process. We continue improving self-evaluation processes and outcomes for children. We are working on packages to be used in schools centred on children keeping themselves safe from harm. We continue incorporating the GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) principles, reviewing the Scottish Borders Child Protection Procedures. The Training and Development team’s updated training programme has been received well with high numbers attending our courses.

I believe effective partnership working and strong leadership are key strengths in the protection of Scottish Borders children and young people. I would like to thank the Chief Officers Group, SBCPC Members and the Sub Group Members for their ongoing contribution and support to the protection of children and young people in the Scottish Borders.

Duncan MacAulay
Independent Chair
Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee



Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee Membership

Child Protection Committees were established across Scotland in 1991. Their role is to provide individual and collective leadership and direction for the management of child protection services across Scotland. They continue to work in partnership with their respective Chief Officers' Groups and the Scottish Government to take forward child protection policy and practice across Scotland.

Members:



Duncan MacAulay
Independent Chair



John Peaston
Vice Chair, DCI Police
Scotland



Elaine Torrance
Chief Social Work
Officer, Council



Donna Manson Service
Director, Children &
Young People, Council



Michelle Strong
Chief Officer for
Schools, Council



Ann Blackie
Chief Officer, Children
& Young People
Support, Council



Cathie Fancy
Housing Sector
Representation, Council



Evelyn Rodger Director of
Nursing and Midwifery,
NHS Borders



Clare Ketteridge
Consultant
Paediatrician, NHS
Borders



Anna O'Reilly
Assistant Director,
Children 1st



Graham Fraser
Procurator Fiscal



Lesley Siewert
Locality Reporter
Manager, Scottish
Children's Reporter

Policies, procedures and protocols

SBCPC oversees the development of all multi-agency child protection policies and procedures in the Scottish Borders and at the very forefront of this work are the online multi-agency child protection procedures. The Scottish Borders online child protection procedures moved to a new web address on the 1st November 2015 and are available at: www.sb-cpc-procedures.org.uk or through the SBCPC Website www.onlineborders.org.uk/community/cpc

During the year a number of updates were made to the child protection procedures which have arisen from Initial Case Reviews (ICRs) and Practice Reviews, as well as changes in legislation, for example:-

- **NEW Guidance on Mothers in Prison** – guidance on responding to such concerns about unborn children or very young children when they emerge in circumstances that include the mother being in prison. It is intended to support local child protection procedures and local GIRFEC processes. It is also intended to clarify roles and responsibilities, organisational processes and set practice standards in these circumstances.
- **NEW Protocol in Bruising in Non Mobile Children**– recent serious case reviews and individual child protection cases across the UK have indicated that clinical staff have sometimes underestimated or ignored the highly predictive value, for child abuse, of the presence of bruising in children who are not independently mobile and includes children not yet crawling, cruising or walking independently. The aim of this protocol is to provide frontline staff with a knowledge base and action strategy for the assessment, management and referral of children who are Not Independently Mobile who present with bruising or otherwise suspicious marks.
- **CHANGE to Reports for Review Case Conference** – following recent Initial Case Reviews (ICRs), in order to encourage all staff to assess risk, it was agreed that individual agencies are now required to provide a report for a Review Child Protection Case Conference. Previously, the Lead Professional (who will usually be a Social Worker), had responsibility for collating information provided by partner/involved agencies.
- **CHANGE to the Removal of a child's name from the Child Protection Register (section 2)** – recent Child Protection meetings and practice reviews have highlighted that on occasions children's names are being removed from the Child Protection Register after 3 months. In most situations this is not considered to be enough time for the Protection Plan to be effective or show that changes can be sustained. To ensure sustained improvements in the agreed outcomes for the child, the Child's Plan will always state that only in exceptional circumstances will deregistration be considered at the first Review Case Conference (3 months) or 6 months for Pre-birth Case Conferences.

Review of the Child Protection Process

The purpose of this review was to report on and provide information about the operation and management of the Child Protection Unit (CPU) including good practice and areas for improvement. It principally looked at Social Work but it did involve feedback from other agencies. The following identified actions have all been completed:

- The role of the Business Meeting held every Monday and Initial Referral Discussion Review Group were reviewed and improvement was made by reverting to the meeting being chaired by either the Social Work Team Leader or the Public Protection Unit (PPU) Detective Sergeant.

- A written clarification was provided on the role of the (Child Protection Reviewing Officer) CPRO and Locality Team Leader in the Initial Referral Discussion (IRD) process providing clarity about whom the responsible manager is and when the responsibility of the CPRO begins and ends.
- The Emergency Duty Team (EDT) Alerts processes were addressed and clarified.
- Communication and support within GP practices with Health and Social Work were reviewed.
- The Protocol for informing 3rd Sector agencies working with young people who do not have Social Work involvement should further risks be identified was reviewed.
- An Audit of referral to Social Work which did not reach IRD was conducted to establish that thresholds were reasonable and equitable across localities.
- The way information from the CPC is disseminated and views are sought by CPC was improved.
- The procedures were reviewed to provide guidance to staff on how to clearly define 'risk' to ensure that when they pass on information to Social Work there is a shared language and understanding around thresholds for Child Protection (CP) referrals.
- An IRD flow chart has been produced to ensure *significant harm* is reflected as the threshold for an IRD.

The Joint Inspection of Children and Young People's Services within the Scottish Borders

The Care Inspectorate visited between 18th January to 26th February 2016 to inspect our Services for children and young people. They reviewed a wide range of documents. They spoke to staff with leadership and management responsibilities. They carried out a survey of named persons and lead professionals and talked to large numbers of staff who work directly with children, young people and families and observed some meetings. Practice was reviewed through reading records held by services for a sample of 90 of the most vulnerable children and young people. 98 children and young people and 62 parents and carers were interviewed in order to hear from them about their experiences of services. The Inspectorate and Managers are very grateful to everyone who talked to them as part of this inspection.

- **Preparation for the inspection** – this was carried out by the Inspection Co-ordination Group from October 2015 and a significant part of pre-inspection preparation was to undertake an extensive self-evaluation exercise from which a self-evaluation report was produced and presented to the Inspection Team on the first day of the inspection.
- **Case file audits** - the Inspection Team conducted an audit of a significant number of inter-agency case files to evaluate the services provided by health, police, social work, the Children's Reporter and the voluntary / independent organisations.

- **Meetings** - following the case file reading the Inspection Team undertook a range of meetings with parents, carers and children to hear their views on the services they had received plus meetings with practitioners, senior managers and Chief Executives.
- **Inspection findings** – the Care Inspectorate Report (“Services for children and young people in Scottish Borders “) was published at 10am on Tuesday 28th June 2016 and is available on the Care Inspectorate website: Click [Here for the full report](#).
- **Staff Participation** - A large number of staff participated in the process which ranged from completing the staff questionnaire through to being involved in a focus group with the Inspection Team. Below is a brief overview of the highlights and key strengths which would not have been made possible without the hard work of teams across services.

‘It has been recognised that the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership is committed to improving the wellbeing of all children and young people.’

Key Strengths:

- Improving trends for children and young people in terms of health, educational attainment and achievement with positive destinations and outcomes for most children and young people steadily improving across the area.
- Universal services are working well together with a positive impact for children, young people and their families.
- Help and support is provided at an early stage and there is an immediate response to child protection concerns. Families welcomed the support they received to overcome adversity.
- There is strong partnership working across services and through collaboration with third sector services and there is a culture of meaningful engagement across services with children and families and with other stakeholders.
- Leadership were committed to the implementation of GIRFEC and Corporate Parenting and were proactively striving to drive the pace of change, enabling improvement in some key areas.

Areas for Improvement:

As with any inspection there are areas where we can learn and develop our key services. The Children and Young People’s Leadership group have identified a number of priority areas; developing a quality assurance framework, reviewing some child protection processes, further developing our performance management information and progressing Self-directed Support. The findings have been reviewed and an action plan has been developed and is being progressed.

Performance Management

The multi-agency child protection performance / self-evaluation framework, which provides a clear and measurable data set, is used to understand the activity and outcomes of the current child protection practices. This highlights questions that need to be asked and answered about the effectiveness of that practice. There are a range of auditing tools and processes which are utilised to gather information (data set) on different areas of child protection practice.

A performance management report is reviewed by SBCPC on a regular basis.



Promoting Good Practice

SBCPC continued to promote the principles and implementation of the GIRFEC approach which ensures the child or young person is always at the centre of every process and decision. All child protection training now includes sign posting to GIRFEC.

Communication and planning



Effective links are in place between SBCPC and wider partnership planning groups such as Children and Families Social Work Team, Children and Young People Planning Partnership and Violence Against Women. There are also strong links with Adult Protection, the alcohol and drugs partnerships and community safety groups.

The SBCPC Chair and the Child Protection Lead Officer attend the National CPC Chairs, Child Protection Lead Officers and Scottish Government meetings. They also attend a variety of seminars and conferences on behalf of the SBCPC.

The SBCPC Training and Development Officers participate in the National Trainers Group.

Engaging with Young People

Schools Strategy for Child Protection (CP)/ Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) input for Pupils

A short-life educational working group has been established to progress the development of a CP/CSE strategy for schools. This is being led by the Senior Lead Officer for Education and the CPC Training and Development Officer. The working group includes representatives from an Early Years setting as well as teachers from Primary and Secondary schools.

This strategy aims to produce a comprehensive plan that will stipulate the minimum expectation of delivery of CP/CSE input for nursery aged children through to sixth year pupils. Additional resources and materials will also be included that can be used at the discretion of the teaching staff.

This will ensure a well-co-ordinated, equitable and accessible delivery of CP/CSE messages to all children within mainstream schooling in an age appropriate manner.

It is expected that the working group will progress this work over the coming months.

Learning and Staff Development

During 2016 some new training pathways have been developed and multi-agency courses have been reviewed, updated and held up to scrutiny against a National benchmarking tool. Opportunity to complete our updated Child Protection E-Learning module is now available to our colleagues in the 3rd Sector courtesy of the Improvement Service hosting the module on their national learning platform Access2Learning (A2L).

The Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee Training Strategy 2016 – 2017 has been developed, alongside an action plan, to provide clear direction for training opportunities over the coming year.

The training calendar continues to be produced twice a year to advise workers on multi-agency Child Protection Training and learning opportunities. Specific training matrices have been developed for NHS, Social Work, Education, Early Years and Community Learning and Development (CLD) staff.

Courses are advertised through various means of communication including via CPC and Sub-Group members, newsletters, flyers and social media. We have also had a good response when using the SBC Facebook page and Twitter account.

As of August 2016 teaching and non-teaching staff as well as Early Years practitioners and CLD workers are attending an annual Child Protection update instead of them attending the Essential Issues in Child Protection practice every three years. The rationale is that child protection will be kept at their forefront, and that this arrangement is more conducive to their working practices. Promoted staff and senior management continue to attend the other multi-agency Child Protection courses.

Training is currently delivered by the Learning and Development officers as well as Child Protection professionals from Social Work, Health and Police whose primary roles are in Public Protection. Delegates benefit from having credible input from a range of professionals who are actively involved in child protection. We also use the skills of external training providers as required.

Current Workforce Child Protection Training (multi-agency) courses include:

- E-Learning Introduction (General Workforce - 40 minutes)
- Essential Issues in Child Protection Practice (General Workforce - 3 hours)
- Roles and Responsibilities in Child Protection (Specific Workforce - 2½ hours)

Available Training Statistics for this period August 2015 - July 2016:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (Optional 3 hours)
- E-Learning (Mandatory for NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council staff) full day
 - 64% (3813) completion by SBC staff (August 2016)

Future collaborative training developments include:

- Essential Issues in Child Protection Practice (Numbers will now reduce because of the new training pathway for Education, Early Years and Community, Learning and Development workers)
- Chairing Meetings training
 - 25 sessions 843 attended
- Court Skills

Roles and Responsibilities in Child Protection (Revised to have focus on risk process and risk assessment tools)

- 3 sessions 47 attended

A Child's Journey through Child Protection

- 2 sessions 33 attended

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Training (Initial uptake in 2015 was high, numbers have now started to reduce. Links now established with the Licensing Department and Public Transport Section to raise awareness of CSE)

- 2 sessions 38 attended

Working with Difficult, Dangerous and Evasive Families (Currently exploring demand and the option of developing this course in-house)

- 2 full day training sessions delivered by an external trainer, 45 attended

Joint Investigative Interview Training (JIIT)/Video Recording Interviewing (VRI):

- 4 trained to monitor for quality assurance/consistency purposes
- 16 trained in giving Joint Investigative Interviews/VRI evidence in court

Bespoke Child Protection Training which is continually being offered:

1. Scottish Ambulance Service - refresher programme scheduled for early 2017
2. Drivers - 4 sessions 28 attended
3. Housing and Housing Associations - 2 sessions 16 attended
4. Live Borders - 6 sessions 95 attended
5. Borders College – 1 session 36 attended

Public Protection Training

(2 hour overview of Child Protection, Adult Protection, Children Affected by Parental Substance Abuse, Gender Based Violence and Violence Against Women, and the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements)

1. NHS volunteers – 3 sessions 30 attended
2. Citizens Advice Bureau – 3 sessions
3. Community Councils – 3 sessions, uptake has been very low

Child and Adult Protection inputs

A short input on child protection continues to form part of all Adult Support and Protection Training events and vice versa for Child Protection. Joint child and adult protection briefings continue to be made available.

NHS Borders Staff Training

The NHS Borders Child Protection Training Strategy provides information about the levels and provision of child protection training for staff. 'Child Protection Basic Knowledge and Understanding' training is available to all staff at induction and an e-learning module is mandatory for all staff to complete every 2 years. Staff who work with children and young people are encouraged to attend the whole range of public protection training provided on a multi-agency basis based on their personal development plan and identified learning need.

Police Scotland Training

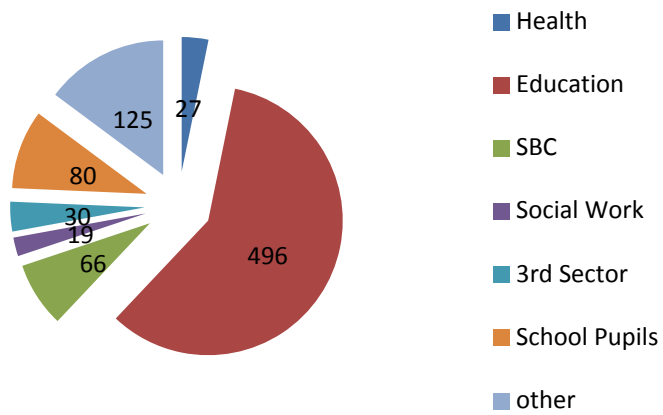
All probationary officers within Police Scotland complete an 11-week course at the Scottish Police College, which includes various modules relating to child protection and public vulnerability. On returning to Police Scotland, irrespective of divisional postings, all probationer officers receive further child protection input during their operational service. Officers out with their probation receive updated inputs in respect of legislative change and operating procedure. Officers with supervisory responsibility are provided with further training in respect of child protection, domestic abuse and vulnerability, which includes the IRD process.

CAPSM (Children affected by Parental Substance Misuse)

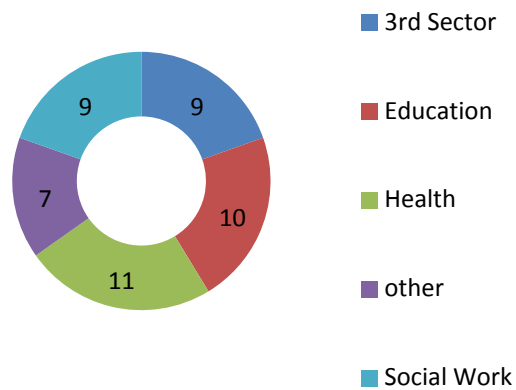
Along with Addaction and Action for Children our Training and Development officer is involved in the delivery of the joint briefing sessions arranged by the CAPSM team.

Who attended Child Protection Training?

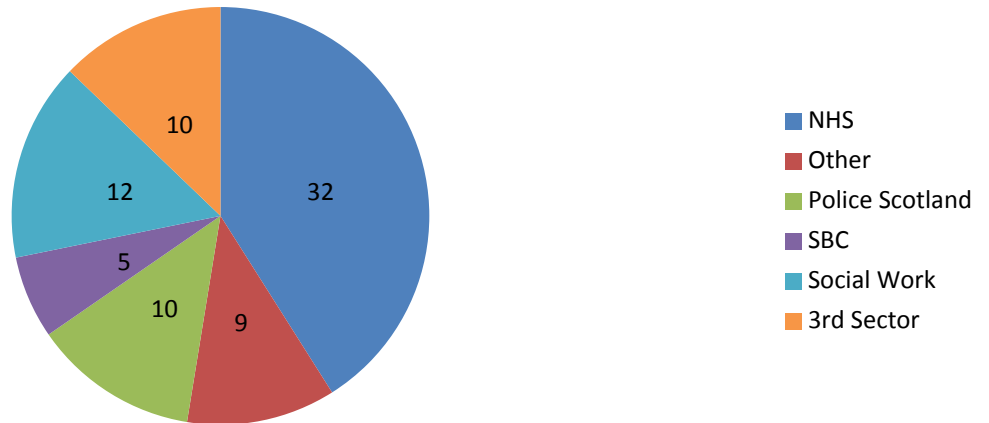
Essential Issues in Child Protection Practice



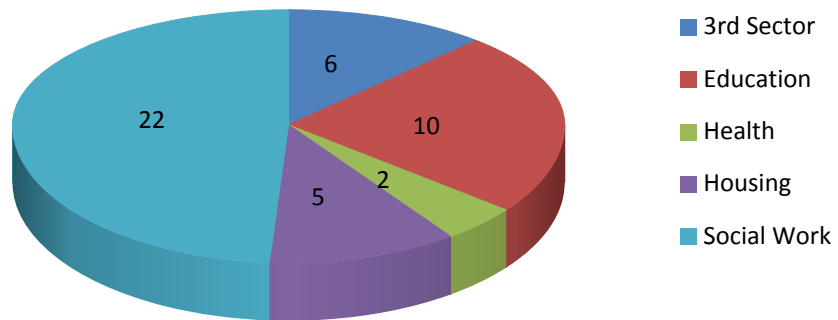
Roles and Responsibilities in Child Protection



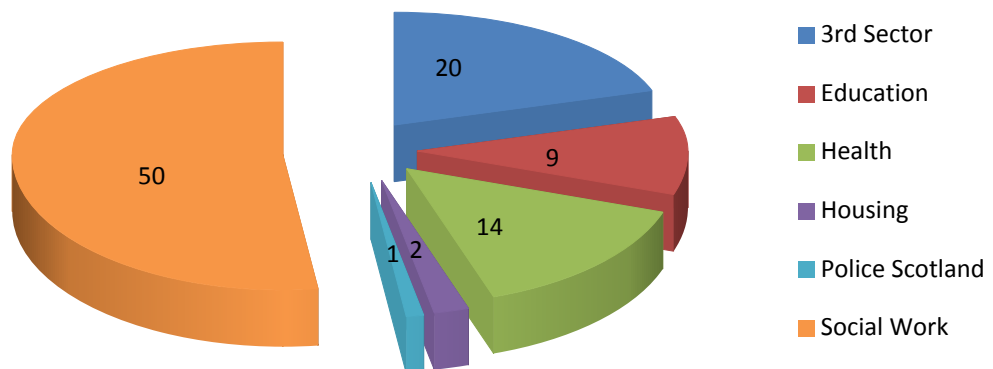
A Child's Journey Through Child Protection



Working with Difficult, Dangerous and Evasive Families



Child Sexual Exploitation



Self-Evaluation

SBCPC recognises the responsibility of all partner agencies who work with children and their families, to offer services which meet national standards for child protection, and where possible, to exceed them.

SBCPC are committed to creating a positive and transparent culture of continuous learning based upon feedback from those who use and experience our services – children and young people, their families, local communities, staff and volunteers from front line practitioners to senior strategic managers. Some results were discussed earlier.



Promoting the rights of Children and Young People

The CP team actively encourage children to attend Child Protection Case Conference (CPCC). A CPCC leaflet, (see below), specifically designed for children, is given to them which gives them all the information they need, in easy language to explain the CPCC process and what may or may not be asked of them. Children are encouraged to write down their thoughts and feelings, especially if they do not wish to attend a CPCC, and these will be taken into account by the Chair of the CPCC.

More opportunities for engaging with young people are being actively pursued.

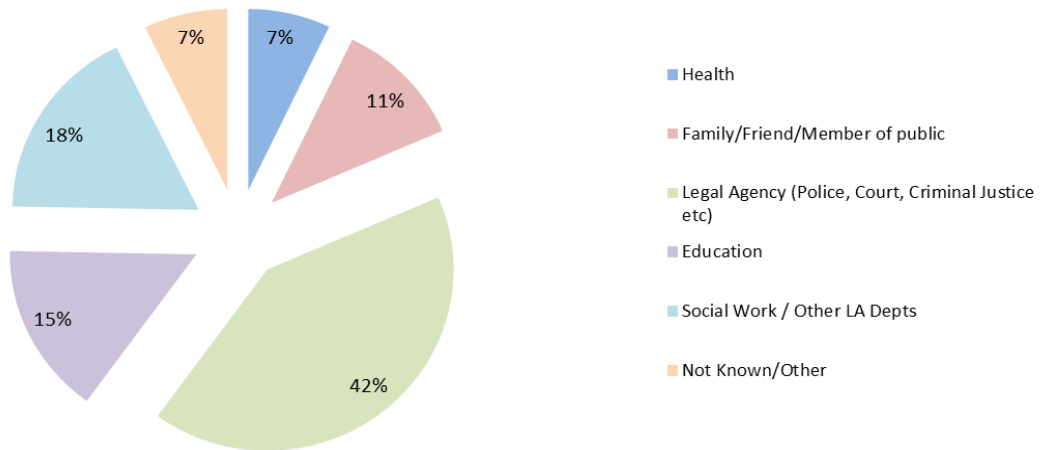
Local Child Protection Data

(Source of data from Social Work Frameworki as of 1st November 2016)

Referrals

There were 662 Child Protection Referrals made in the year. This is an increase from last year's 408. The breakdown of the sources are as follows:

% of Referrals from July 15 – August 16

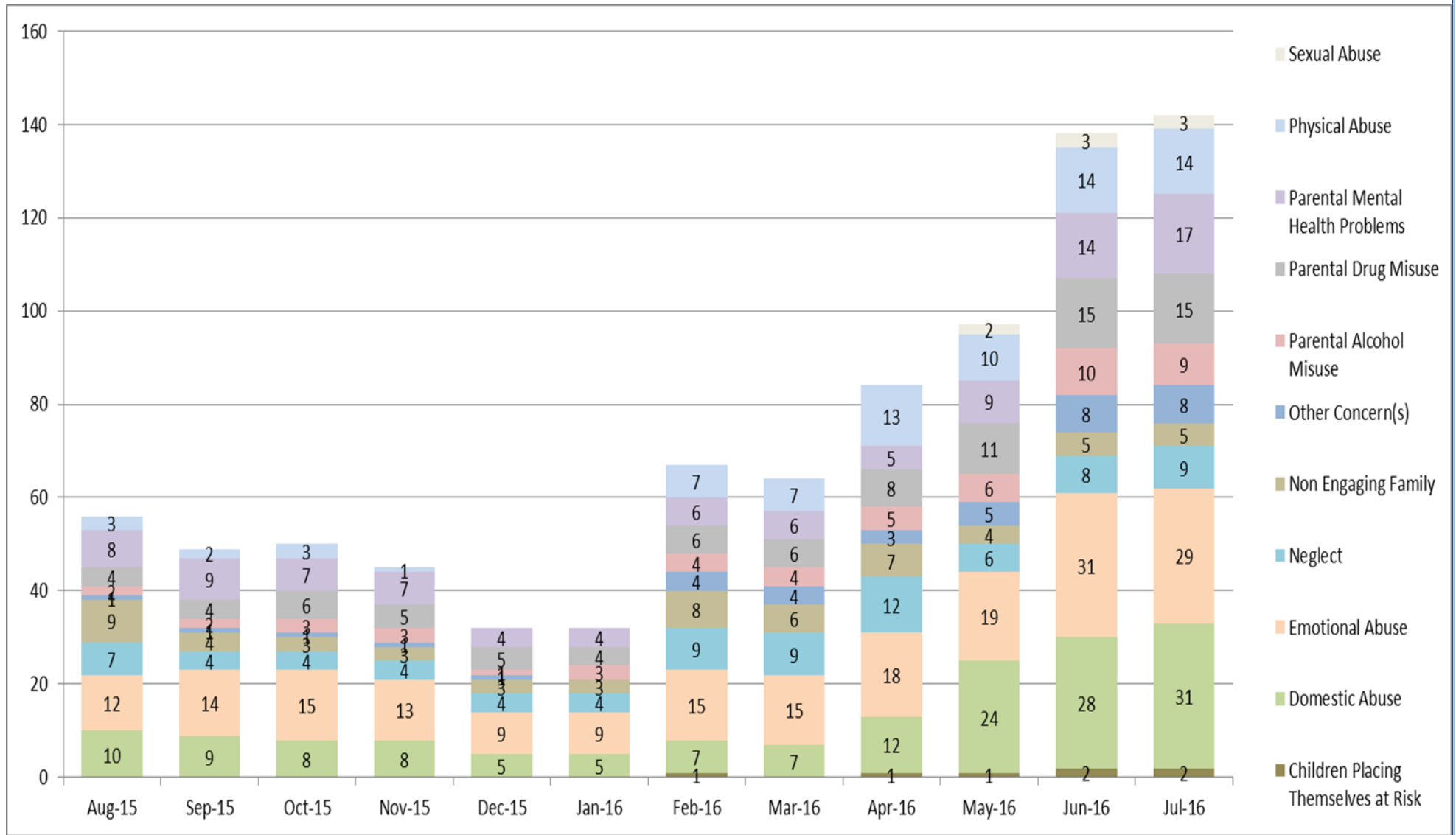


Police/Legal Agency remains the most prominent referral agent at (42%) with Social Work/other LA departments referring (18%). Members of the public referred (11%) which is a large increase since last year and evidences that our advertising campaigns, posters and general public awareness raising training over the full range of age groups has made an impact. The ‘other’ source (7%) encompasses other Local Authorities or council departments. These statistics are therefore encouraging as referrals are now coming from most sectors.

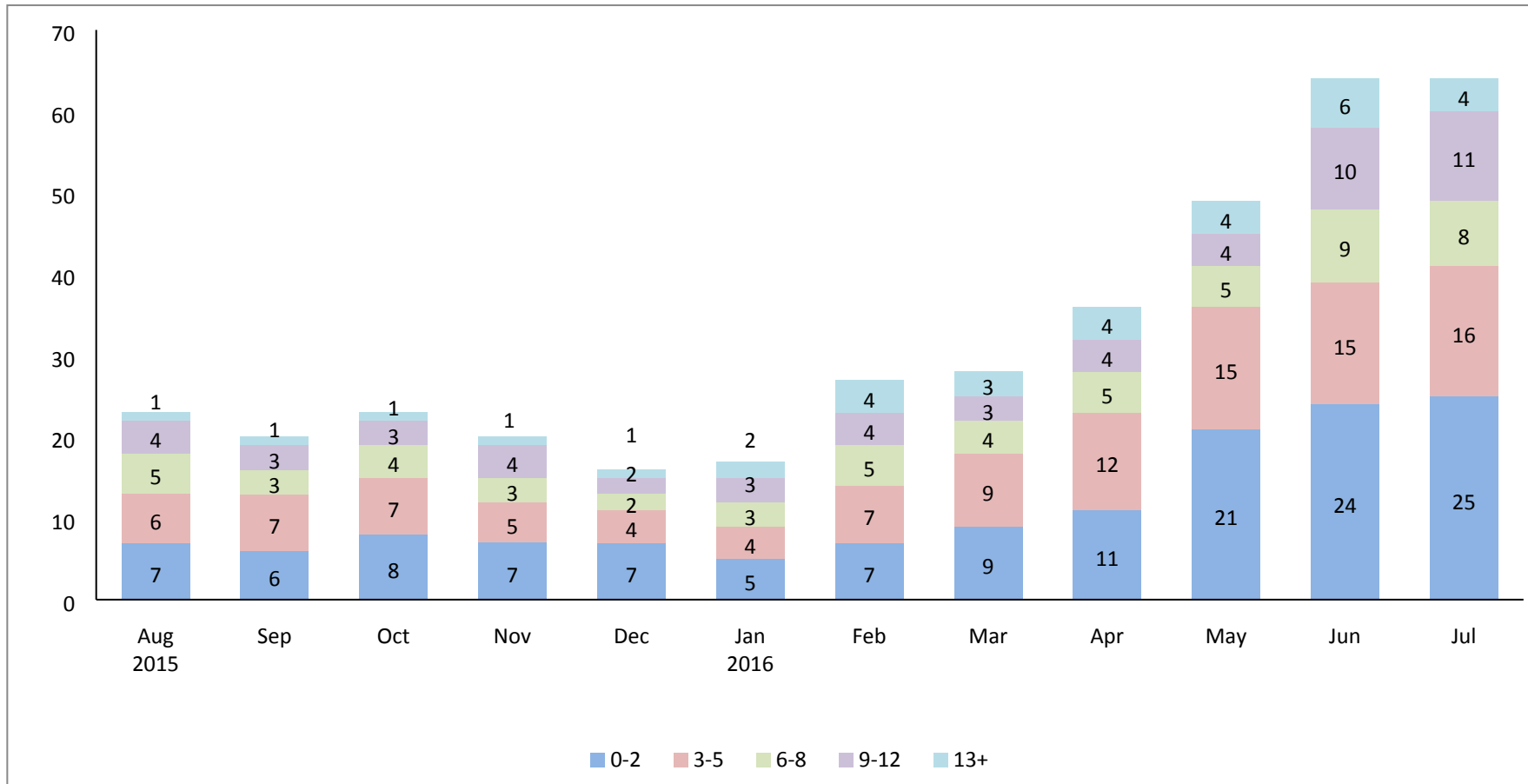
Child Protection Case Conferences (graph below)

A total of 87 Initial/Pre-birth and Transfer-in Child Protection Case Conferences took place in the year and 5 of these did not end up on the Child Protection Register. The main concerns identified at the Case Conferences are displayed on the graph on page 14. Taking the figures for July 2016 and comparing them to July 2015 figures:- Domestic abuse and emotional abuse have remained the same at (21%) and (20%) respectively. Parental alcohol misuse has fallen from (8.5%-6%) and parental drugs misuse has remained the same at (10%). Parental Mental Health problems have risen slightly (10%-11%) and physical abuse has also risen from (6%-10%). Neglect issues have fallen slightly (7%-6%). In many cases children have more than one concern identified. There were no children registered as at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation.

Concerns Identified at Case Conference



A total of 79 children were placed on the Scottish Borders Child Protection Register between 1st August 2015 and 31st July 2016. The number of children on the Register as of 31st July 2016 was 64, a lower figure to last year.



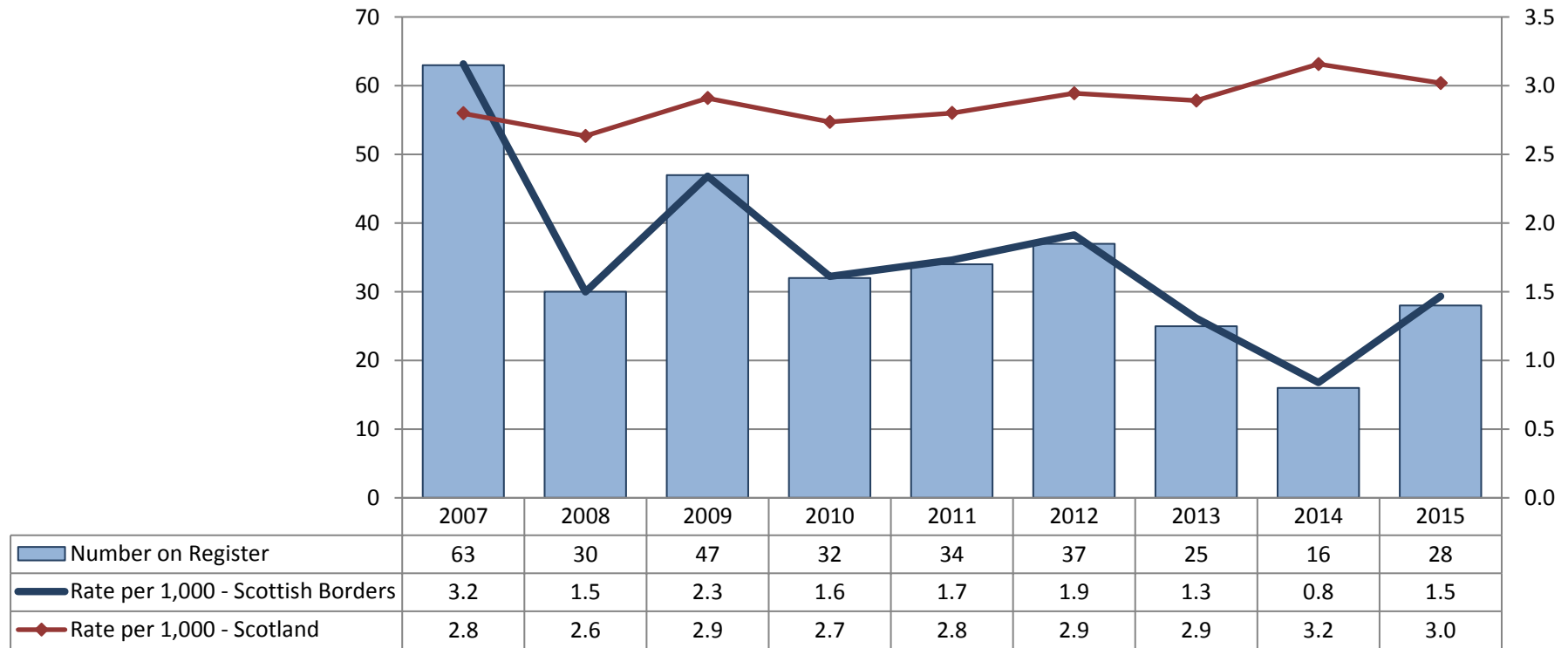
The trend shows a gradual increase in all age groups (except 13+ which remains the same) from January to July 2016.

National Child Protection & Comparator Data

National Comparator Figures taken from the Scottish Children’s Social Work Statistics 2014-2015

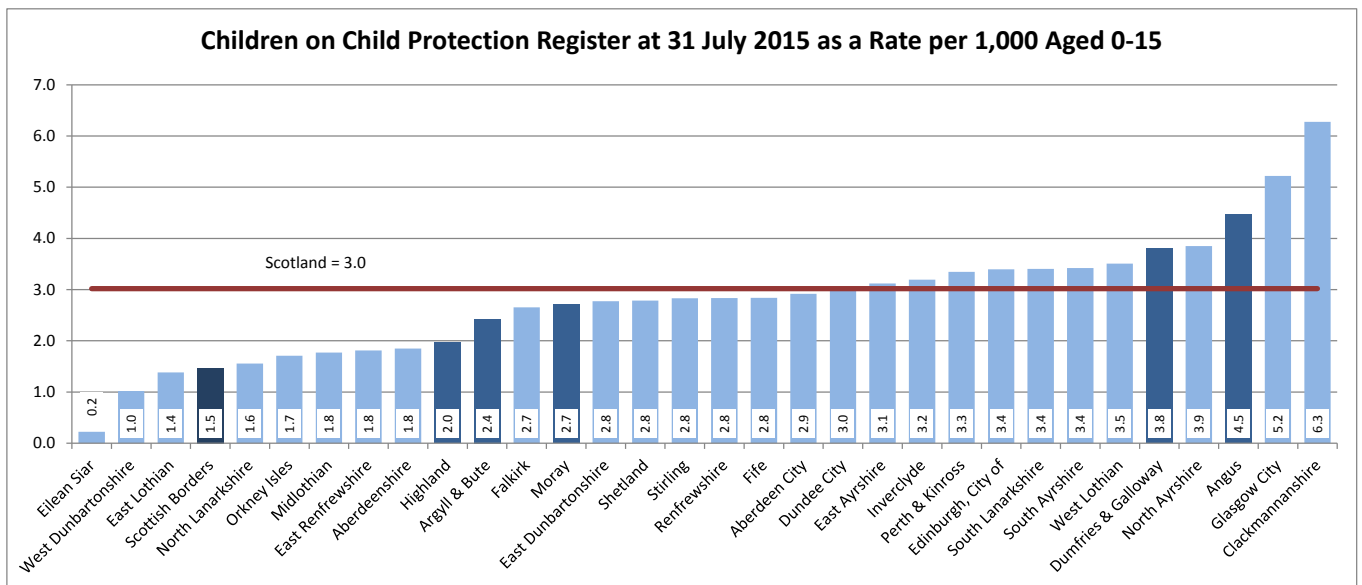
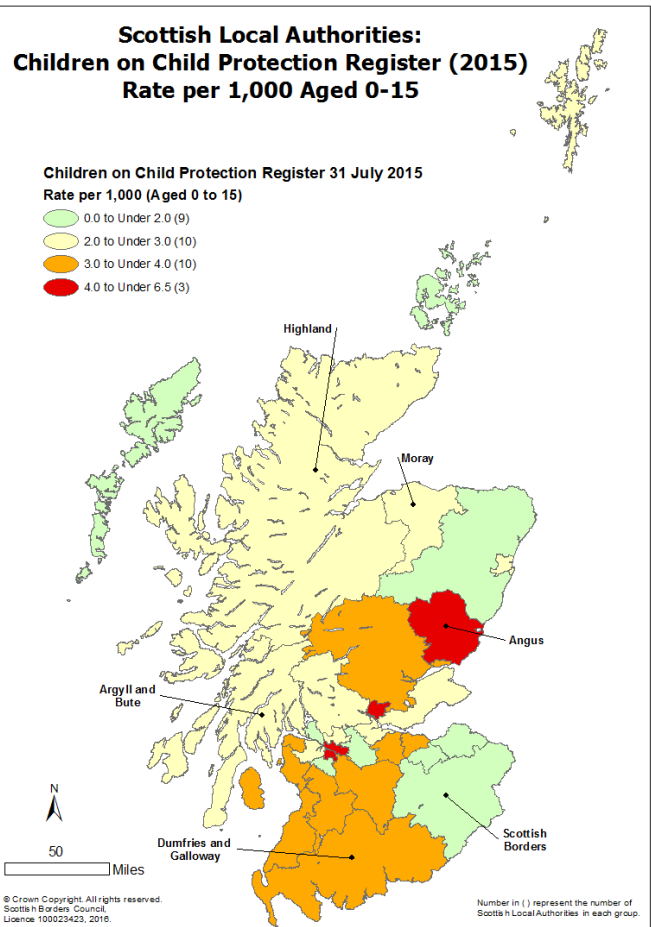
The graph below shows the number of children on the Child Protection Register in the Scottish Borders between 2007 and 2015 and expressed as a rate per 1,000. From 2008 the Scottish Borders has consistently had a lower rate of children on the Child Protection Register compared to Scotland.

Number of children on the child protection register and rate per 1,000 population aged 0-15 for the Scottish Borders compared to Scotland (2007 to 2015)



Number of Children on the Child Protection Register as at 31st July 2015

In 2015, the Scottish Borders had 1.5 children per 1,000 on the Child Protection Register. Below the Scottish level and the rate of the other comparator authorities, Angus, Moray, Highland, Argyll & Bute, and Dumfries & Galloway are shown in more detail.



Public Information

Practitioners and members of the public continue to be sign posted to the SBCPC [website](#) for information on local and national child protection news as well as information on training, the child protection procedures and what to do if they have concerns about a child or young person.

A biannual SBCPC newsletter is disseminated widely to staff across all agencies.

The newsletter is available on the SBCPC [website](#).

Business Plan

SBCPC's priorities for the forthcoming year 2016-2017 are:

- CPC considers the results of all feedback from stakeholders and messages from Audit by discussing all relevant statistics, self-evaluation/audit reports from joint CPC lead and single agency audits and reports. To fully undertake this leadership function by ensuring staff understand the value of and contribute to self-evaluation and the audit processes and to implement any required improvements.
- Involve and consult children, young people and their families ensuring the CP message is reaching them and that they know how to get help if needed by taking full account of stakeholder views.
- increase public awareness of child protection and what to do should people have concerns, in order to keep children safe by using local communication networks, to raise awareness e.g. newsletters, intranets, CPC website, training, CP Procedures.
- Increase the visibility of the CPC by raising awareness through meetings which involve staff to support the focus on the importance of protecting children from all forms of abuse.
- Maintain, evaluate and update inter-agency CP training by analysing training evaluation reports and adapt or introduce courses as required.
- Improve CP Training by ensuring training reflects new national practice including focus on Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation.
- CPC is aware and responsive to changes in individual agencies regarding legislation and organisational process changes and members will bring changes to CPC meetings; The CPC will respond to consultations, developments will be changed which compromise the quality of CP service and CPC will ensure appropriate membership of planning groups relating to GIRFEC and early intervention. Members attending will ensure planning fully considers Child Protection.
- Review CPC Procedures to ensure they provide a helpful guide to staff in respect of Child Protection's position in the GIRFEC process.
- Chronologies and Risk Assessments are completed for all children on the Child Protection Register.
- Ensure the CP Procedures are transferred to a new platform.
- Continue to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation to ensure children are safer by being fully informed about the risks of CSE.
- Respond to the findings of the key self-evaluation activities around the child protection process to improve child protection services.

Conclusion

The past year has presented many challenges for the SBCPC in respect to the Inspection, the current economic climate and the ever increasing requirement to evaluate services in order to continually develop and improve outcomes for children and their families involved in the child protection system.

SBCPC acknowledges the work of all concerned in protecting children in the Scottish Borders and is committed through its Business Plan to building on the progress that has been made.



List of Acronyms

SBCPC	-	Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee
CYPLG	-	Children and Young People's Leadership Group
CPC	-	Child Protection Committee
GIRFEC	-	Getting it Right for Every Child
ICR	-	Initial Case Review
MAPPA	-	Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements
VAWP	-	Violence Against Women Partnership
CLD	-	Community Learning and Development
IRD	-	Inter-agency Referral Discussion
CSE	-	Child Sexual Exploitation
C&FSW	-	Children and Families Social Work Team
CPRO	-	Child Protection Reviewing Officer
PPU	-	Public Protection Unit
CPC	-	Child Protection Case Conference
SCR	-	Significant Case Review

What to do if you have a concern

Child Protection is everyone's responsibility!

If people suspect a child or young person is at risk of harm they should act without delay. For advice, information or to report a concern they should contact the **Children & Families Social Work Team** in which the child lives:-

C&FSW Berwickshire
Tel 01361 886115

C&FSW Eildon
Tel: 01896 664158

C&FSW Cheviot
Tel: 01573 227421

C&FSW Tweeddale
Tel: 01721 726310

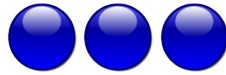
C&FSW Teviot & Liddesdale
Tel: 01450 364777

OUT OF OFFICE HOURS
Social Work Emergency Duty Team
01896 752111 or the Police



If there is no answer, don't give up, try another Locality office.

If you consider the child / young person is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999 without delay.



Child Protection is Everyone's Responsibility!



Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee website
<http://onlineborders.org.uk/community/cpc>
