

# Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17



**Our Vision:**

All children in the Scottish Borders have the right to grow up safe from abuse and neglect

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# Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee

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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 2016 to 31st July 2017 which provides a summary of the key work of the Committee over the year. In November 2016 the CPC examined its structure and the relationship to its sub groups and from January 2017 the Practice Development Sub Group ceased and its tasks were referred to the Review Sub Group and the Training Sub Group. In June 2017 it was agreed that the Review Sub Group would be known as the Quality Assurance and Improvement Group and the Training Sub Group would become the Training & Communications Sub group.

Following the Inspection of the services for children and young people in the Scottish Borders which took place earlier in 2016, a focussed Business Plan was progressed and we continue to further improve self-evaluation processes and outcomes for children. Surveys took place, a new information leaflet was produced and a new working tool was implemented. The Training and Development team's updated training programme in conjunction with other agencies has been received well.

I believe effective partnership working and strong leadership are key strengths in the protection of Scottish Borders children and young people. Having Chaired the CPC since October 2013, I now resign from the post and 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. I wish Michael Batty all the best in his appointment as new Independent Chair.



**Duncan MacAulay**  
Independent Chair  
Scottish Borders Child Protection  
Committee



**Michael Batty**  
Independent Chair from September 2017  
Scottish Borders Child Protection  
Committee

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# 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 work in partnership with their respective Chief Officers' Groups and the Scottish Government to take forward child protection policy and practice across Scotland.

Effective links are in place between SBCPC and wider partnership planning groups such as Children and Young People's Leadership Group and Violence Against Women Partnership. There are also strong links with the Adult Protection Committee, the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Offender Management and the Safer Communities Team who all meet as the Joint Child Protection/Adult Protection/Offender Management Committee.

The SBCPC Chair and the Child Protection Lead Officer attend the National CPC Chairs, Child Protection Lead Officers and various 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 Child Protection Trainers Group.

**Scottish Borders CPC vision for its children and young people:**

**ALL CHILDREN IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS HAVE THE  
RIGHT TO GROW UP SAFE FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT**



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# POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS

SBCPC oversees the development and updating of all multi-agency child protection policies and procedures. They are continually being reviewed to ensure good practice and seek areas for improvement. The following identified actions for improvement have been implemented:

- The Neglect Toolkit use is underway with over 150 practitioners having been trained to use the toolkit. Training is ongoing.
- The Protocol for informing 3rd Sector agencies working with young people who do not have Social Work involvement should further risks be identified was implemented.
- The way information from the CPC is disseminated to frontline staff and views are sought by CPC was further improved.
- A return to school discussion for a child who has been found after being reported as missing procedure was developed and implemented in October 2016.
- A protocol on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was produced and disseminated.
- We now require all agencies to provide a report to Case Conferences. A group of senior managers are made aware where CPCCs are cancelled because this has not happened.
- A Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy is now in place.



The Scottish Borders online child protection procedures are available at: [www.sb-cpc-procedures.org.uk](http://www.sb-cpc-procedures.org.uk) or through the SBCPC website: [www.onlineborders.org.uk/community/cpc](http://www.onlineborders.org.uk/community/cpc).



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# THE JOINT INSPECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES WITHIN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

Following a disappointing Inspection of the Integrated C&YP Services in January 2016 an extensive review was undertaken resulting in an action plan of learning and training being implemented across all partner agencies. As a means of measuring if progress has been made and sustained, it was agreed to undertake a Pilot Inter-agency Audit of Child Protection cases using the Care Inspectorate audit tools. The findings from these Reviews are discussed by the SBCP Quality Assurance & Improvement Group to ensure learning and improvement.

The Child Protection Committee took action following the Inspection by focussing on some key objectives:

- A new Quality Assurance & Improvement Group was created to review practice from a range of activity and ensure the learning leads to change.
- Improvements were made to two-way communication, dissemination of learning and change by use of newsletters and meetings.
- A "things you may have missed" newsletter was produced and managers ensured it was distributed.
- Improvements were made to Chronologies and Risk Assessments and these are regularly reviewed on a single and multi-agency basis.
- Focus has been made on "neglect" through an extensive training programme.
- Reflective practice meetings have been introduced.
- Reports from all agencies to Child Protection Case Conferences are required and periodically audited.
- Independent reviews have been commissioned and actions are in place to ensure this learning makes a difference for the future.

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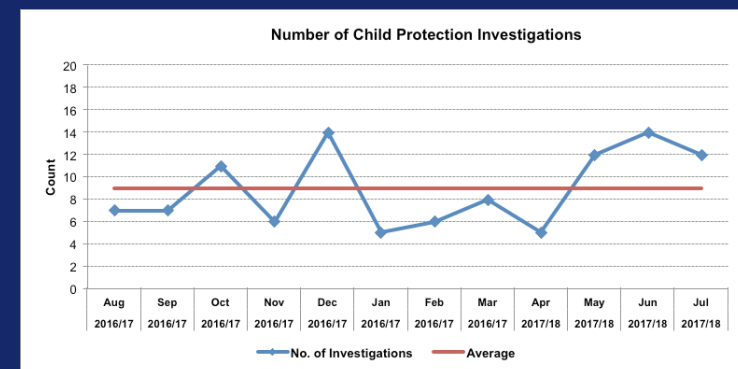
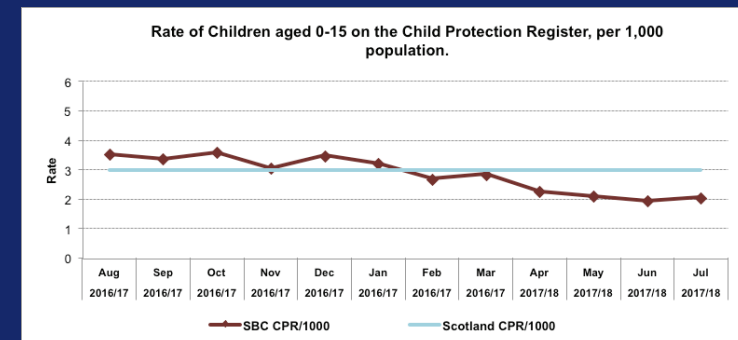
## PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICE AND DATA

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.

SBCPC continues 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 includes sign posting to GIRFEC.

The number of children on our Child Protection Register and Investigations is expected to vary. Variation between national and local figures is monitored and in this period the numbers are within the range we expect. Reviews are made of children who are on the Register to ensure children get the best service we can provide.



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## ENGAGING WITH STAFF AND FAMILIES AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

- We continue to make significant effort to ensure the views of parents and children are listened to.
- A strategy has been developed to promote awareness to staff and to the public of the risks from Child Sexual Exploitation.
- Links and shared learning have been improved with Adult Protection, Criminal Justice and Community Safety by holding regular joint meetings.
- Public awareness of child protection and what to do if they have concerns has been improved by use of newsletters, intranets, CPC website, training and leaflets.
- A Communication Strategy has been produced.
- The visibility of the CPC is improved by raising awareness through meetings and sub group meetings which involve multi-agency staff to support the focus on the importance of protecting children from all forms of abuse.

### 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, SBC intranet and Health intranet.





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### ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Work has started locally to integrate CP and CSE into a Wellbeing pathway for Scottish Borders children attending Education from the Early Years until the end of Secondary school. This will ensure a co-ordinated, equitable and accessible delivery of CP/CSE messages to all children within mainstream schooling in an age appropriate manner.

Early in 2017 a number of events were held to engage with young people to gain their views on how best to tackle CSE in the Scottish Borders. This happened via World Cafes in Secondary Schools.

Pupil Council representatives will receive Child Protection training and will support the promotion of Child Protection Training for Senior Pupils who will be 'buddies' for younger pupils. A group of young people will disseminate key CPC messages through their social media channels.

A Communications plan is being developed with the young people to improve communication between young people and the Child Protection Committee. Pupil representatives from all 9 High Schools and other organisations will receive Child Protection training and the plan will

provide a shared understanding with parents and children and young people. Pupil representatives are invited to attend SBCPC meetings for specific discussion.



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# LEARNING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

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

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. Work has also been undertaken to develop a Child Protection training matrix for Live Borders employees.

Courses are advertised through various means of communication including via CPC and Sub-Group members, newsletters, flyers and social media. We work with our colleagues in Communications to develop further the ongoing use SBC Facebook page and Twitter account.

As of August 2016 teaching and non-teaching staff as well as Early Years practitioners and CLD workers attend 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 the forefront of their thinking and that this arrangement is more conducive to their working practices.

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# LEARNING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Promoted staff and senior management continue to attend the multi-agency Child Protection courses.

**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)
- A Child's Journey through Child Protection (Intensive Workforce - full day)
- Child Sexual Exploitation (3 hours)



# LEARNING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Available Training Statistics for the period August 2016 - July 2017:

## CHILD PROTECTION E-LEARNING

(Mandatory for NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council staff)

- Completed by **83%** of SBC employees (July 2017)



## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN CHILD PROTECTION

(Specific contact workforce)

- 6 sessions **79** attended (59 % increase from last year).



## CP ANNUAL UPDATES 2016-17

(Teaching/non-teaching staff, CLD, Early Years practitioners)

- **33** sessions 1832 attended (exempt for staff who had attended CP training in last year)



## A CHILD'S JOURNEY THROUGH CHILD PROTECTION

(Specific contact workforce)

- 4 sessions **81** attended (41% increase from last year).



## ESSENTIAL ISSUES IN CHILD PROTECTION PRACTICE

(General contact workforce)

- **13** sessions with 290 attended (reduction of 34% - expected due to annual updates)



## REVIEWING OUR COURSES

All participants are asked to tell us if the course improved their understanding. This information is used to constantly update our courses. Our courses generally receive positive evaluation.



# LEARNING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

## CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

(CSE) Training

- 6 sessions **104** attended (a 36% increase from last year).

## FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

In collaboration with Safer Communities (Health Practitioners targeted)

- 4 sessions **30** attended

## JOINT INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEW TRAINING

(Intensive workforce) (JIIT)/Video Recording Interviewing (VRI):

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



## BESPOKE CP TRAINING

- SBC Passenger transport drivers have all had training 26 over 3 sessions.
- Housing and Housing Associations - 2 sessions 16 attended
- Live Borders - 6 sessions 95 attended – numbers of attendees has increased to 178 over 5 sessions – increase of 53%.



## NEGLECT TOOLKIT TRAINING

(Targeted mainly for Children and Families Social Workers, Health Visitors, School Nurses, Pastoral teachers, Head and Deputy Head Teachers and Locality Integration Police Officers)

- 8 sessions **165** trained



## BESPOKE CP TRAINING

- Borders College – 1 session 36 attended - 1 session on 15 February 2017 with 19 attending.
- NHS volunteers – 3 sessions 30 attended
- Citizens Advice Bureau – 3 sessions

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### 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. Surveys also contribute to feedback and recent surveys include a survey on Child Sexual Exploitation and a children’s survey, parental survey and CPRO survey following on from Case Conferences.

Parents have a right to appeal a Case Conference decision. During the year we have had 4 appeals, 2 of which have been upheld.

A Significant Case Review is a multi-agency process for establishing the facts of a situation where a child has died or been significantly harmed, within a child protection context, in order to learn lessons with and make improvements to services. The CPC completed 2 Significant Case Reviews and these have been reported to CSOG. All recommendations are either complete or have been

allocated to more appropriate groups to be completed and all relevant actions have been passed to the relevant groups to be taken forward. CPC will ensure all actions are completed.

A Quality and Improvement Calendar has been implemented for multi-agency planning and data collection. CPC will respond to the findings of the key self-evaluation activities around the child protection process to improve child protection services.





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# BUSINESS PLAN

Some of SBCPC's priorities for the forthcoming years 2016-2019 are:

- CPC and CSOG will work closely together to collate and consider information on best practice and use this information to govern effectively including directing resources effectively.
- We will improve outcomes for children associated with safety and neglect by improving our self-evaluation methods
- We will improve quality of risk assessments and care plans.
- We will increase the effective contribution of children, young people, carers and families to decision making on safety and well-being.
- We will establish a system which will ensure that practice changes/developments are embedded and implemented by each agency and CPC representatives are accountable for service actions and can be evidenced.

- We will improve governance through better communication between groups and by sharing robust information on CP issues.
- We will implement 'Neglect' Assessment Model
- We will ensure learning from ICRs, SCR's and Practice Reviews are appropriately shared with staff



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## CONCLUSION

The SBCPC continues to make improvements as recommended following Inspection. Services are self-evaluated to enable updates and outcomes to be fed back to the SBCPC in order to 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.



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### LIST OF ACRONYMS



CP	-	Child Protection	ICR	-	Initial Case Review
CPC	-	Child Protection Committee	JIT	-	Joint Investigative Interview Training
CPRO	-	Child Protection Reviewing Officer	MAC	-	Meeting Around the Child
CLD	-	Community Learning and Development	NHS	-	National Health Service
CSE	-	Child Sexual Exploitation	SBC	-	Scottish Borders Council
C&FSW	-	Children and Families Social Work Team	SBCPC	-	Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee
C&YP	-	Children & Young People	VRI	-	Video Recording Interviewing
FGM	-	Female Genital Mutilation	SCR	-	Significant Case Review
GIRFEC	-	Getting it Right for Every Child	CSOG	-	Critical Services Oversight Group

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## WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN

### Child Protection is everyone's responsibility!

#### DUTY TEAM

Any concerns about the Safety of Children. All new referrals for a C&F Social Work Service should be directed to the duty team, if you are unsure and want to discuss concerns you have about a child please contact:

C & F Social Work Duty Team  
Unit 8 Langlee Complex  
Marigold Drive  
Galashiels  
TD1 2LP  
**(Tel – 01896 662787)**

#### LONG TERM TEAMS

If the child is open to one of the Long Term Teams please contact the relevant team as follows:

LONG TERM TEAM WEST	LONG TERM TEAM EAST
Galashiels: 01896 664158	Duns: 01361 886115
Peebles: 01721 726310	Hawick: 01450 364777

**Emergency Duty Team (EDT) out-with office hours: 01896 752111 (ask for Social Work)**





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

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Scottish Borders Council | Council Headquarters | Newtown St Boswells | MELROSE | TD6 0SA  
tel: 01835 824000 | email: [customerservices@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@scotborders.gov.uk)  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk)

