
**SCOTTISH BORDERS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019**

Report by Chief Social Work & Public Protection Officer
SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

26 SEPTEMBER 2019

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report informs Members of the activities of the Child Protection Committee during the period 1 August 2018 – 31 July 2019 aimed at protecting children and young people in the Scottish Borders from abuse and neglect.**
- 1.2 The Annual Report (Appendix 1) covers the main activities of the multi-agency Child Protection Committee (CPC) and its Sub Committees. The report highlights the continuing work being undertaken in the Scottish Borders to meet the Council's statutory duties to protect children and young people at risk of harm. This includes information on the work of the Child Protection Committee, the statistical information collated and the significant training and development that has been provided in this area.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **I recommend that Scottish Borders Council notes the content of the Child Protection Committee Annual Report, attached as Appendix 1 to this report.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee (SBCPC) is an inter-agency group of senior staff which provides leadership in promoting the continual improvement of services in this area of work. This entails ensuring that there is an efficient and effective multi-agency response to reports of abuse through, for instance, reviewing and revising practice guidelines, providing joint training and reviewing of individual cases – all conducted within a culture of continuous learning. In addition, the Committee has a role to promote the safety of children through raising awareness in communities across the Scottish Borders to support the key role which members of the public play.
- 3.2 The Child Protection Committee reports directly to the Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG) consisting of Chief Executive (SBC), Chief Executive (NHS Borders) and Divisional Commander Police Scotland (Police).
- 3.3 During the reporting period 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019, CPC was chaired by Independent Chair, Michael Batty.
- 3.4 Members of CPC remain committed to the protection of children as the focus of the Committee's work and the group has met regularly during the year. Much has been achieved by CPC and its Sub Group through its inter-agency agenda and effective partnership work which is detailed in the report. Communication continues to be greatly improved by the implementation of regular joint meetings of CPC with Adult Protection Committee, Offender Management and Safer Communities.

4 ANNUAL REPORT

- 4.1 The work of the Committee is detailed in the Annual Report and a summary of the key issues are highlighted below.
- 4.2 The Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee (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. During this period a number of new sections and protocols were added or updated to ensure best practice and that they are in line with national guidance and legislation.
- 4.3 The SBCPC continues to self-evaluate, to ensure good practice and reflective review, and also to seek areas for improvement and the latest Business Plan for 2019/20 reflects these aims.
- 4.4 The management of child protection performance and practice is overseen by CPC. Performance information and self-evaluation reports continued to be routinely reviewed by CPC and on a single agency basis to identify trends and inform practice as required. The report details that 475 child protection referrals were followed up resulting in 66 children being placed on the Scottish Borders Child Protection Register between 1 August 2018 and 31 July 2019. We protect the rights of the child by ensuring that all child protection conferences record the views of the child and by asking a member of staff who is known to the child to speak regularly to them about how safe they feel.

- 4.5 Lessons learned for Case Reviews and good practice examples from National and local child protection case reviews were brought to CPC through the Quality Assurance & Improvement Sub Committee. Where required, updates were made to the child protection procedures and learning was shared. There continues to be two-way communication with front line workers as CPC has representation at the Child Protection Operational Managers Meeting (CPOMM) which is now held every three months.
- 4.6 CPC continued to maintain and develop strong working links with local and national strategic groups. The CPC Chair, Lead Officer and CPC Training Officer attended a number of National Child protection meetings during the period.
- 4.7 CPC continued its commitment to raising awareness of child protection through the delivery of multi-agency child protection training events, the CPC website and CPC newsletters. Posters and leaflets were developed to raise awareness and display at partner organisations.
- 4.8 Child Protection Training remains a key responsibility of CPC with a range of multi-agency and single agency events being held throughout the year which at least 3,088 people attended. Specific Neglect Toolkit training was provided and over 330 practitioners have been trained in using the Toolkit.
- 4.9 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and the Neglect Toolkit were key focusses of the 2018-2019 annual update for Education, CLD and Early Years practitioners with over 2,500 staff attending these updates.
- 4.10 CPC continued its commitment to creating a positive and transparent culture of continuous learning based upon feedback from those who use and experience our services.
- 4.11 Work has continued to promote Child Protection in schools. One of the highlights of the year was the Committee's engagement with young people from Galashiels Academy to develop resources for young people around awareness of Child Protection and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), using the campaign #AlwaysBeWary.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

The Annual Report is an important document for monitoring activity and for identifying areas of improvement. The risk of not collating information in this way would be a reduction in the quality of strategic work relating to Child Protection.

5.3 Equalities

It is anticipated that there are no adverse impacts due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from the proposals in this report.

5.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no significant impacts on the economy, community or environment arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.6 Rural Proofing

This Report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

5.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, the Clerk to the Council and Communications have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Stuart Easingwood **Signature**
Chief Social Work & Public Protection Officer

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Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: None

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Linsey McGillivray can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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