
SCOTTISH BORDERS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Report by Chief Social Work Officer

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

31 March 2016

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the activities of the Child Protection Committee during the period 1st August 2014–31st July 2015 aimed at protecting children and young people in the Scottish Borders from abuse and neglect.**
- 1.2 The Annual Report (in 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 **It is recommended that the Council:-**
 - (a) Endorse the content of the Child Protection Committee Annual Report.**
 - (b) Agree that the report be published on the Council's website and distributed to interested parties.**

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, 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 of 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 1st August 2014 to 31st July 2015, CPC was chaired by Duncan MacAulay, previously an experienced Social Work Senior Manager.
- 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 Groups through its inter-agency agenda and effective partnership work which is detailed in the report.

4 ANNUAL REPORT

The work of the Committee is detailed in the Annual Report and a summary of the key issues are highlighted below.

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 There was a change to the Scottish Borders online child protection procedures. They are no longer hosted by the Reconstruct website, as of 1st November 2015. A new host website was set up via Scottish Borders Council IT department.
- 4.3 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 408 child protection referrals were made with 71 child protection investigations completed.

- 4.4 Lessons learned and good practice examples from National and local child protection case reviews were brought to CPC through the Practice Development and Review Sub Committees. Where required, updates were made to the child protection procedures.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 The CPC Independent Chair has actively promoted the role and remit of the CPC and given numerous presentations to various parties about the Committee. These include the Scottish Borders Locality Teams, the Borders General Hospital to meet Paediatricians and the Early Years Team in Selkirk.
- 4.7 CPC continued its commitment to raising awareness of child protection through the delivery of child protection training events, the CPC website and CPC newsletters.
- 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. These are detailed in the report and over 1,000 people attended training courses.
- 4.9 Child Sexual Exploitation has been a key focus and a new course was introduced during this period with 84 professionals attending this.
- 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 and a planning group was formed to help to further the aims of the Scottish Borders Youth Voice (The Child Rights Group). An extensive questionnaire on what, how and when child protection is taught to pupils was completed by all Scottish Borders schools including the 2 private schools.
- 4.12 CPCs priorities for the forthcoming year (2015/2016), which are the basis of the CPC business plan, are included in the annual report.

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 impact 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, and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Name Elaine Torrance **Signature**

Title Chief Social Work Officer

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Gillian Nicol	Child Protection Lead Officer – 01835 825080

Background Papers: Nil

Previous Minute Reference: Nil

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

Contact us at Ginny Ferguson/Susan Cannon, People Department, Scottish Borders Council, Council HQ, Newtown St. Boswells, Melrose, TD6 OSA. Tel: 01835 825080