

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 15 December 2020

Edinburgh Child Protection Committee – Annual Report 2019-20

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Note the content of the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2019-20.
 - 1.1.2 Note the positive contribution made by services across the City in keeping children safe.
 - 1.1.3 Note that this report will also go to Full Council for information on 4 February 2021.

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

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Edinburgh Child Protection Committee – Annual Report 2019-20

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report accompanies the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2019-20 (see Appendix 1), which summarises the work of this multi-agency strategic partnership within the past year. It highlights the core business of the Child Protection Committee as well as areas of strength and good practice, alongside identified priority areas for the coming year.

3. Background

- 3.1 Following the motion put forward by Councillor Dickie at Full Council on 15 October 2020.

“Council therefore requests

- That the Council, as a whole, reaffirms its commitment to the protection of children in our city, and elected members to actively seeking assurance about their protection.*
- That the Annual Child Protection Committee Report be submitted to Full Council, in one cycle, to ensure the widest commitment to open dialogue and the protection of children – and every year thereafter.”*

- 3.2 It has been agreed that this report would be submitted to the Education, Children and Families Committee annually with a referral to Full Council thereafter.

- 3.3 The Scottish Government guidance “Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committee and Chief Officer Responsibilities” (2018) sets out the functions of child protection committees:

3.3.1 Continuous improvement

3.3.2 Public information, engagement and participation

3.3.3 Strategic planning and connections

3.3.4 Annual reporting

- 3.4 Following endorsement by the Chief Officers Group (Public Protection) on 29 July 2020, the Annual Report is presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee for information and to comment as necessary.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee is a multi-agency strategic partnership, including membership from the City of Edinburgh Council, Police Scotland, NHS Lothian as well as partners including the Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC), Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS) and Scottish Children's Reporter's Administration (SCRA). The Child Protection Committee's shared vision and commitment to continuous improvement was explicitly noted in June 2019 by the Care Inspectorate, in their report of a joint inspection of services for children and young people in need of care and protection.
- 4.2 Several key achievements are highlighted within the Annual Report, including:
- 4.2.1 Production of interim guidance for child protection in response to COVID 19 restrictions, covering issues such as the operation of key meetings and arrangements for direct contact with families.
 - 4.2.2 Embedding of the National Minimum Dataset for Child Protection Committees in Scotland. This has enabled the Committee to identify key trends and target assurance and scrutiny activity appropriately.
 - 4.2.3 Considered the findings and agreed improvement actions of audits around domestic abuse practice, specifically the pathway from initial referral to child protection investigation, and the operation of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process in terms of its' impact on children.
 - 4.2.4 Implementation of staff briefings for the sharing of learning from Case Reviews with frontline staff.
 - 4.2.5 The development of an online interagency training calendar, both as e-modules and interactive sessions. This has allowed staff across the City to continue to access necessary learning opportunities around child protection despite all face-to-face training being suspended.
 - 4.2.6 Launch of the "All Of Us" campaign in partnership with NSPCC Scotland. Since March 2020, the campaign has moved primarily online, but has continued to deliver a range of events and input for families.
 - 4.2.7 Developed practice for engaging with families more directly, for example through the use of a survey and in-depth interviews gathering views on child protection processes during COVID 19 restrictions.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The Child Protection Committee Annual Report highlights several areas of work to be taken forward over the coming year across the range of strategic functions. These will be incorporated into the Child Protection Committee improvement plan, the next version of which will be considered by the Child Protection Committee in January 2021 and thereafter presented to the Chief Officers' Group.
- 5.2 Areas for development include:
 - 5.2.1 Review of local interagency protocols following publication of the revised National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (expected May 2021).
 - 5.2.2 Gathering qualitative feedback from service users to inform ongoing delivery of key processes.
 - 5.2.3 Continuing to improve our analysis of key trends within the National Minimum Dataset for Child Protection Committees in Scotland.
 - 5.2.4 Further development of the Knowledge Hub as a key forum for sharing information and promoting ongoing learning.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The Child Protection Committee is funded by an inter-agency tripartite budget, with contributions from City of Edinburgh Council, Police Scotland and NHS Lothian. All work referred to above and in the Appendix is resourced from within this budget. As such there is no additional financial impact identified.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 As noted in Appendix 1, the work of the Child Protection Committee is closely aligned with the Edinburgh Children's Partnership via the priorities within the Children's Services Plan. This ensures there is connectivity between the aspirations for children, young people and their families across these strategic forums.
- 7.2 The views of children, young people and their families are central to the continuous improvement of child protection services. Participation and Engagement, including with stakeholders, is one of the themes within the Child Protection Improvement Plan. The Child Protection Committee will continue to actively consult with stakeholders going forward.
- 7.3 The Annual Report is a publicly available document, published online via the City of Edinburgh Council website at the following link: [Edinburgh Child Protection Annual Report](#).
- 7.4 There are no health and safety, governance, compliance or regulatory implications.

7.5 There are no carbon impacts or impacts on climate change and sustainable development.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 None.

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix one - Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2019-20.



Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2019-20

Table of contents

1. Introduction	Page 1
2. Demographics	Page 2
3. Child Protection Committee Structure and Functions – overview	Pages 3-4
4. Continuous Improvement	
i. Policies, Procedures and Guidance	Page 5
ii. Data and Evidence	Page 6
iii. Quality Assurance and Self-Evaluation	Page 7 -8
iv. Conducting Initial and Significant Case Reviews	Page 8
5. Learning and Development	Page 9
6. Public Information, Engagement and Participation	Pages 10 - 11
7. Strategic Planning and Connections	Pages 12 - 13
8. Conclusions and next steps – Chief Officers	Page 14
Appendix A - Remit and Membership of Committee Sub Group structure	Pages 15 - 17
Appendix B – Child Protection Register Statistics	Page 18

1. Introduction

Colleagues,

I am delighted to present the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report for 2019 - 20. In my second year as Chair, I have had the continued privilege of working with colleagues across the multi-agency partnership to keep children safe.

This report outlines the work we have done in the last year to continually improve our services.

The Care Inspectorate (2019) recognised that “the child protection committee demonstrated a commitment to continuous improvement and was overseeing a range of self-evaluation activity”, as well as noting our strong learning culture in Edinburgh. We hope that this ethos and approach will be familiar to you all, and this report demonstrates how we have continued in this spirit despite the obvious challenges which have been presented to us all in recent months.

Of course, the impact of COVID 19 has been widespread; this pandemic has reshaped how we deliver services and its’ impact will be felt for some time to come. Over this time, the Child Protection Committee has continued to meet, albeit virtually, on a regular basis, to respond to necessary changes in society and consider how children may be impacted.

This annual report is structured around the functions of the Child Protection Committee, as laid out in Scottish Government guidance. It highlights our achievements to date, and what we intend to do in the coming year. I hope you find it an informative document reflecting the good work being done to keep children safe. We know that this requires collaboration and cooperation, qualities which I have seen throughout the multi-agency partnership and which provide strong foundations going forward.

Jackie Irvine

Chair – Edinburgh Child Protection Committee

Chief Social Work Officer

Head of Safer and Stronger Communities

2. Demographics

Between 1998 and 2019, the population of Edinburgh has increased by 17.6%. This is the 3rd highest percentage change out of the 32 council areas in Scotland and more than double the national figure. Edinburgh's population in 2019 is estimated at 524,930.

The population is projected to increase to 552,585 by 2028. This is an increase of 6.6% on the 2018 figure and is the 3rd highest of the council areas and compares to a projected increase of 1.8% for Scotland as a whole. Net migration (i.e. net migration within Scotland, from overseas and from the rest of the UK) is expected to account for most of this increase (5.4% compared to 1.2% due to natural change (more births than deaths)). The secondary school aged population is projected to increase by almost 24% by 2028 whilst over the same period the primary school aged population is projected to decrease by 10%.

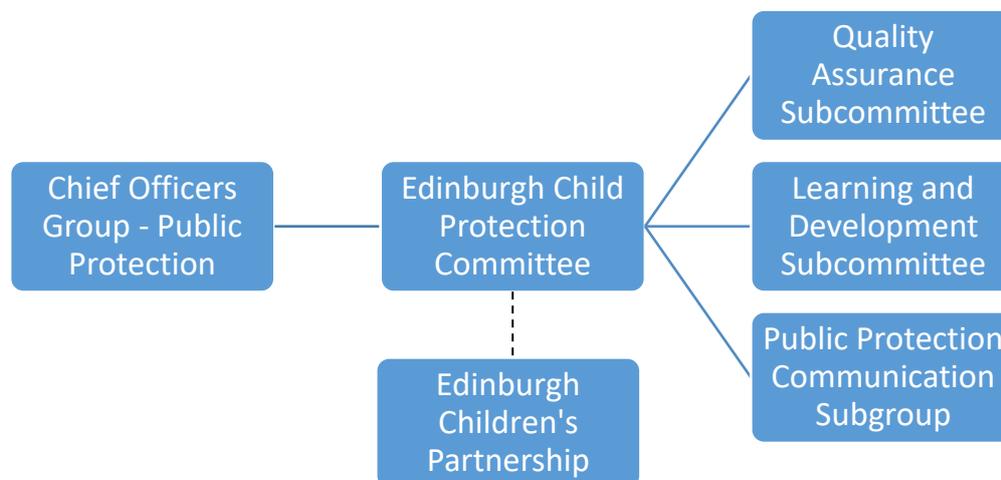
In 2019 of the 51,000 children and young people attending Edinburgh's local authority schools, 30% were Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) pupils with this being an increase from 23% in 2014. One in five pupils do not have English as their main language and just under 40% of pupils are assessed as having an additional support need with 1,700 assessed as having a disability. One in ten children had a least one developmental concern recorded at their 27-30 month review with one in five children in Primary 1, around 900 pupils, at risk of being overweight or obese.

Whilst around a fifth of secondary school aged pupils attend independent schools, there was an estimated 22% of all children in Edinburgh living in poverty in 2019. This rate varies widely, with some areas recording child poverty rates as high as 35% and these rates rank among the highest levels of child poverty recorded in any local authority in Scotland.

The number of child welfare concern contacts in 2019/20, at 10,139, was 6% lower than the levels seen in the previous two years and the 1,205 inter-agency child protection discussions was in line with 2018/19. The number of children on the Child Protection Register has decreased over the last four years to historic low levels throughout 2019/20 with a monthly average of 120 and a figure of 115 in March 2020. Correspondingly there has been a decrease in the number of Child Protection Case Conferences with a total of 598 child/conference instances in 2019/20, a 24% decrease on the previous year.

The number of Looked After Children also continued the five year decreasing trend throughout 2019/20 with 1,189 children looked after in March 2020.

3. Child Protection Committee Structure and Functions - overview



The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee is a locally-based, inter-agency strategic partnership, responsible for the design, development, publication, distribution, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of child protection policy and practice across the public, private and wider third sectors in the City of Edinburgh area. Through our local structures and membership, we provide individual and collective leadership and direction for the management of child protection services.

The Committee is made up of senior representatives from across all key areas and partners concerned with the care and protection of children. Guidance issued by the Scottish Government requires every local authority area to have a Child Protection Committee.

Strong links exist between the Committee and the Edinburgh Children’s Partnership (the Partnership) through the Edinburgh Children’s Services Plan (2017-2020).

The vision for both the Committee and the Partnership is to ensure that all Edinburgh’s children and young people enjoy their childhood and achieve their potential. To support us in achieving our vision, 5 strategic outcomes have been identified.

- Every child will have the best start in life.
- Children and young people’s attendance, engagement and achievement will be improved and the poverty related attainment gap will be reduced.
- Every child and young person will have good wellbeing and achieve the best possible health.
- Equity amongst children and young people and their families will be advanced.

- Children and young people, their families and their communities will be empowered to improve their wellbeing.

In line with the GIRFEC well-being indicators, we aim to ensure children and young people are safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, responsible, respected, and included. The Committee has a key role in achieving these aims along with the Children’s Partnership, recognising that the environment for some children in Edinburgh is more challenging, requiring additional measures to ensure children are protected from harm.

The governance of the Committee is the responsibility of the Edinburgh Public Protection Chief Officers’ Group. This group consists of high-level representation from City of Edinburgh Council, Police Scotland and NHS Lothian, meeting on a regular basis to provide scrutiny and oversight.

In 2019, the Scottish Government published the document “Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committee and Chief Officer Responsibilities”. This sets out the functions of the child protection committee, which are:

- continuous improvement
- public information, engagement and participation
- strategic planning and connections
- annual reporting on the work of the CPC

4. Continuous improvement

The Committee has a pivotal role in ensuring that services to protect children and young people are effective and continue to improve. This covers several areas:

i. Policies, Procedures and Guidance

The Committee:

- supports all agencies to have their own up to date policies and procedures in place
- regularly develops, disseminates, and reviews inter-agency policies and procedures
- ensures protocols are developed for key issues where agreement is required.

What we have done:

Throughout the last year, we have continued to support the operation of key inter-agency protocols such as those covering child sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation. Where relevant, multi-agency strategy meetings have taken place to share information, plan jointly and reduce risk.

We have ensured that all relevant multi-agency protocols are available to partner agencies as required.

Committee members are represented on the steering group to review the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland. This will include the facilitation of consultation on a local basis regarding proposed changes to this key national document.

Produced interim guidance for child protection in response to COVID 19 restrictions, covering issues such as the operation of key meetings and arrangements for direct contact with families.

What we will do next:

We will review our local inter-agency procedures to ensure these are in accordance with the revised National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (scheduled for 2020).

Carry out horizon scanning to identify emerging priorities within the field.

ii. Data and Evidence

The Committee retains an overview of management information from all key agencies relating to the protection of children and young people. The Committee:

- has an overview of information relating to children and young people with their names listed on the Child Protection Register
- receives regular management information reports, which include analysis of trends
- identifies and address the implications of these management reports
- ensures that management information informs the inter-agency child protection strategy and provides an oversight for the Public Protection Chief Officers Group (PPCOG).

What we have done:

This year, the Committee has embedded the National Minimum Dataset for Child Protection Committees in Scotland. This new framework supports benchmarking between local authority areas and ensures there is consistency of data gathered across the country.

Quarterly reporting using this dataset, supplemented by additional local performance information, is considered in detail by the Quality Assurance Subcommittee. This includes analysis and identification of trends, supported by the “prompt questions” contained within the dataset framework.

We have continued to analyse data in relation to children whose names are on the child protection register for over 18 months and have been reassured by the very low numbers of children requiring child protection plans for this length of time.

Submitted weekly data to the Scottish Government in response to COVID 19, allowing us to keep abreast of any emerging trends.

What we will do next:

We will continue to refine and improve our analysis of the data we collect, supported by the format of the National Minimum Dataset.

We will gather qualitative evidence on the impact of child protection practice upon families, through increased engagement with those who use our services.

We will continue to collate the weekly data as developed by the Scottish Government for the purposes of Covid 19, beyond lockdown as supported by the PPCOG, in order to note trends and demands arising as a result of Covid 19.

iii. Quality Assurance and Self-Evaluation

Whilst individual agencies have responsibility for the quality assurance of their own service, the Committee has responsibility for the development and implementation of inter-agency quality assurance mechanisms. The Committee:

- agrees, implements, and reviews multi-agency quality assurance mechanisms for inter-agency work, including auditing against the framework for standards
- ensures that the quality assurance mechanisms contribute directly to the continuous improvement of services to protect children and young people
- contributes to the preparation for the integrated system of inspection of children's services
- considers the findings and lessons from inspection on a national basis, in relation to practice in Edinburgh
- co-ordinates initial and significant case reviews as necessary
- reports on the outcome of the quality assurance processes and make recommendations to the Committee and the Chief Officers' Group.

The Quality Assurance Subcommittee is the central coordination point for this work in Edinburgh.

What we have done:

Commissioned and considered the findings of a further round of Multi-Agency Practice Evaluations, following their inclusion in the previous years' improvement plan. Several areas of positive practice were identified, which further demonstrated the strong working relationships which exist within the City. For example, in several cases the core group meeting process was found to be working well, enabling information to be shared and jointly assess on a regular basis to support the protection of children. This process also supported positive relationships with parents' as key partners to the child protection plan.

Considered the findings and agreed improvement actions of audits around domestic abuse practice, specifically the pathway from initial referral to child protection investigation, and the operation of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process in terms of its' impact on children.

Initiated and maintained a rolling actions log, including all actions resulting from case reviews, quality assurance and evaluation activity which are overseen by the Committee. This enables more efficient tracking and reporting on the wide range of activity undertaken.

What we will do next:

In connection with work around data and evidence, we will continue to strengthen the analysis of information within the Quality Assurance Subcommittee and ensure this contributes to service improvement.

We will specifically be looking at the prevalence rates for unborn children being placed on the Child Protection Register and the conversion rate in respect of the Children's Hearing.

iv. Conducting Initial and Significant Case Reviews

Child Protection Committees, on behalf of the Chief Officers, are responsible for undertaking Initial Care Reviews (ICRs) and reporting / recommending a Significant Case Review (SCR) when the agreed criteria are met.

The Committee uses the learning from ICRs/SCRs to promote good practice, improve practice and contribute to improved outcomes for children and young people.

What we have done:

Introduced a combined, streamlined process for tracking and reporting ICR and SCR action plans.

Worked with partners in the Care Inspectorate to host a learning event around local and national learning from SCRs to multi-agency staff across Edinburgh.

Continued to liaise with and considered feedback from the Care Inspectorate, in their role as the central repository for SCR reports.

Implemented staff briefings for the sharing of learning from Case Reviews with frontline staff.

What we will do next:

Further develop the Child Protection Knowledge Hub to be more informative and effective.

Gather feedback on the use of staff briefings to further inform staff engagement and learning.

Continue to monitor the progress of the national Case Review Oversight Group and consider any local implications of this work.

5. Learning and Development

Child protection training and staff development must be undertaken at both single agency and inter-agency level, for those working with children and families. This is underpinned by the promotion of children's rights and GIRFEC principles.

Through the Learning and Development Sub Committee, the Child Protection Committee is responsible for promoting, commissioning, and assuring the quality and delivery of inter-agency training. The Committee:

- retains an overview of single agency child protection training and considers the implications of inter-agency training
- plans, reviews, and quality assure inter-agency training and learning and development activities
- implements and reviews annually, a programme for inter-agency child protection training
- ensures relevant and consistent inter-agency training is provided for practitioners, managers, non-statutory agencies, and Child Protection Committee members.

What we have done:

Responded to COVID 19 restrictions by moving a significant portion of our interagency training calendar online, both as e-modules and interactive sessions.

Hosted bespoke sessions to support the implementation of the Neglect Toolkit, including a session tailored for managers and supervisors.

Considered the learning from an independent evaluation of our training courses carried out by Dr Duncan Helm (University of Stirling).

What we will do next:

Continue to improve our processes for systematically evaluating the impact of our training programme.

Develop links across the public protection landscape to jointly plan and commission training with cross cutting relevance.

6. Public Information, Engagement and Participation

The Scottish Government guidance for child protection committees states that:

Keeping children and young people safe is everyone's job and the CPC must be able to demonstrate that its work is informed by the perspectives of children, young people and their families. CPCs will maintain an overview of levels of knowledge and confidence in child protection systems within their area and address issues as required within their Improvement / Business Plans. Each CPC will develop, implement and regularly review a communications strategy that includes:

- *raising awareness so that members of the public, including children and young people, know what child protection means and what to do if they have a concern for a child or young person*
- *explaining and promoting the role of services in protecting children and young people*
- *engaging with local communities to raise awareness of indicators of concern*
- *increasing understanding of the role that communities and all adults have in protecting children and young people*
- *involving children, young people and families in its design and delivery*
- *taking account of new and emerging risks*

(Protecting Children and Young People, Scottish Government, 2019)

Within Edinburgh, successful public protection campaigns - such as Speak Up, Speak Out – have been run on a joint basis to ensure that members of the community are alert to risks and know what to do about them.

A Public Protection Communication Subgroup, now meeting to develop campaigns as a working group, is the vehicle for ensuring there is a clear connection between the strategic priorities of the Committee and members of the wider community.

A priority for the Committee in 2019-20 has been to maximise visibility and connectivity with frontline staff and the community, which closely aligns with the functions described above.

What we have done:

Continued the promotion of key public protection messages, particularly throughout the period of COVID 19 restrictions. This has included the use of targeted online advertisements to reach our target audience.

Rolled out the “All Of Us” campaign in partnership with NSPCC Scotland. This campaign launched in January 2020 with four community events attended by hundreds of families. Since March, the campaign has moved primarily online, but has continued to link closely

with those supporting families directly to ensure key messages around support are available to all.

Begun engaging with families more directly, for example through the use of a survey gathering views on child protection processes and individual interviews under the remit of the child protection improvement plan.

What we will do next:

Present structured feedback from engagement with families to the Committee, to inform service development.

Evaluate the impact of the “All Of Us” campaign.

7. Strategic Planning and Connections¹

The Committee links into several multi-agency structures and ensures relationships are robust and productive. The Committee:

- identifies the key links with other bodies and ensure such links are strong and productive
- in conjunction with other bodies, identifies issues where joint working would be beneficial or duplication could be avoided and ensure that action is taken to address these issues
- implements and reviews the effectiveness of joint protocols linked to child protection.

Within Edinburgh, the Chief Officers Group for Public Protection is the key forum for collaboration at a strategic level, with close links to the Edinburgh Children's Partnership. This ensures there is a culture of collaboration threaded throughout the work of the Committee.

What we have done:

Engaged in national forums such as CPC Scotland, National Learning and Development Network and the Chief Officers leadership event.

Collaboration and dialogue with the Care Inspectorate and CELCIS, through membership and championing of the Learning Review Knowledge Hub.

Continued to promote interagency collaboration, including across local authority boundaries, for example through the continued investment in the eIRD system which has benefits across the public protection landscape on a Lothian-wide basis.

Committed funding, via the Public Protection budget, to support strategic objectives, such as the continued implementation of Safe and Together training to address domestic abuse.

¹ Scottish Government guidance states that:

CPCs must ensure strong and robust strategic planning links to wider integrated children's services planning arrangements in their local area in order to ensure that the need for support and protection of children and young people can be comprehensively met in well designed, effective and sustainable local services, programmes and initiatives.

CPCs must link effectively with other multi-agency partnerships and structures locally, regionally and nationally, including Chair and Lead officer participation in Child Protection Committees Scotland.

(Protecting Children and Young People, Scottish Government, 2019)

What we will do next:

Ongoing liaison with the Care Inspectorate via the link inspector, including collaboration on learning events and post-inspection planning.

Continue to contribute to key strategic forums such as CPC Scotland.

Work with colleagues across the Lothians to ensure our practice develops in line with the revised National Guidance.

8. Conclusion and next steps – Chief Officers

The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report for 2019 – 20 is designed to demonstrate the key role of the Committee in ensuring the inter-agency response to the protection of Edinburgh’s children is cohesive, structured, and working towards continuous improvement. The report summarises some of our key achievements throughout the period under review.

We are clear, however, that we are on a journey of continuous learning and improvement and we still have work to do. We maintain close working relationships with agencies in the statutory, voluntary, and independent sectors and are determined to ensure we retain an outcome-focused approach to child protection matters.

As Chief Officers, we fully appreciate the challenge of ensuring Edinburgh’s children are safe as well as providing a platform from which all children in Edinburgh can reach their full potential. We have continued to make progress towards achieving our aims since the publication of the 2018 - 19 annual report. This annual report reflects on the successes and identifies our areas of further improvement. We extend our appreciation for the continuing efforts of all agencies in Edinburgh working together to protect children and young people. This work is challenging and complex, however, it is an area in which we are committed to achieving excellence.

We endorse the contents of the Child Protection Committee annual report for 2019 - 20.



Appendix A – Remits and Membership list of Committee Sub Group structure

Appendix B – Child Protection Register Statistics

Appendix A – Remit and Membership of Committee Sub Group structure

Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Quality Assurance Sub-Committee

Purpose

1. To operate a quality assurance framework that allows the Child Protection Committee to monitor the effectiveness of local child protection services.
2. To operate a performance reporting framework and a system for self-evaluation in support of the above.
3. To implement a system of regular multi-agency case file reviews.
4. To oversee significant case reviews, commissioned by the Child Protection Committee; and to consider appropriate recommendations to the Child Protection Committee.
5. To monitor the implementation of any recommendations arising from reviews agreed by the Child Protection Committee.
6. To develop multi-agency improvement plans in response to external inspection reports or internal assessment processes.
7. To monitor the progress of member agencies' implementation of agreed improvement plans

Membership

Membership will include representation from the following agencies/ services:

- NHS Lothian
- Police Scotland
- City of Edinburgh Council (Communities and Families)
- City of Edinburgh Council (Health and Social Care)
- City of Edinburgh Council (Safer and Stronger Communities)
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council

Input from the voluntary sector representative on the Child Protection Committee will be sought as appropriate. Officers from other services/agencies may be co-opted onto the sub-group as required, subject to the approval of the relevant agency.

Meetings

The sub-group will meet at a frequency determined by the requirements of the agreed tasks, but not normally less frequently than the Child Protection Committee.

Meetings will be minuted and will be reported to the Child Protection Committee.

Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Learning and Development Sub-Committee

Purpose

1. To develop a learning and development strategy that allows the Child Protection Committee to monitor the effectiveness of child protection training across the agencies.
2. To coordinate the training strategy within member agencies.
3. To develop a system for delivering multi-agency training and evaluating its effectiveness.
4. To oversee the training needs of the voluntary sector.
5. To develop multi-agency improvement plans in response to external inspection reports or internal assessment processes.
6. To monitor the progress of member agencies' implementation of agreed improvement plans.
7. To liaise with the other subgroups of the Child Protection Committee to avoid duplication of work.

Membership

Membership will include representation from the following agencies/services:

- NHS Lothian
- Police Scotland
- City of Edinburgh Council (Communities and Families)
- City of Edinburgh Council (Health and Social Care)
- City of Edinburgh Council (Safer and Stronger Communities)
- Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council

Meetings

The sub-group will meet at a frequency determined by the requirements of the agreed tasks, but not normally less frequently than the Child Protection Committee. Meetings will be minuted and will be reported to the Child Protection Committee.

Edinburgh Public Protection Committees Communications Sub-Group

Purpose

A planned and co-coordinated communications strategy is needed to:

1. raise public awareness of child protection issues and services
2. establish a system to share information and communicate effectively with and between agencies and staff at all levels to raise awareness of child protection
3. share best practice examples

Membership

Membership will include representation from the following agencies/ services:

- NHS Lothian
- Police Scotland
- City of Edinburgh Council (Communities and Families)
- City of Edinburgh Council (Health and Social Care)
- City of Edinburgh Council (Safer and Stronger Communities)
- Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council

Officers from other services/agencies may be co-opted onto the sub-group as required, subject to the approval of the relevant agency.

Meetings

The sub-group will meet at a frequency determined by the requirements of the agreed tasks. This will normally consist of monthly meetings.

Meetings will be minuted and will be reported to the Child Protection Committee.

Appendix B – Child Protection Register Statistics

	2019		2018		2017	2016
	Number	Rate Per 1,000 population	Number	Rate Per 1,000 population	Rate Per 1,000 population	Rate Per 1,000 population
Edinburgh	122	1.6	190	2.4	3.0	3.2
East Lothian	55	2.8	36	1.9	2.4	2.5
Midlothian	49	2.8	45	2.6	3.7	3.1
West Lothian	104	2.9	82	2.3	2.0	2.2
Scottish Borders	46	2.4	50	2.6	2.0	3.4
Aberdeen	119	3.4	68	1.9	2.3	3.5
Dundee	91	3.8	73	3.0	2.9	3.4
Scotland	2,599	2.8	2,668	2.9	2.8	3.0

Source:

Scottish Government

<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/sourcesandsuitability/LAlevelCP>

Statistics at 31 July each year.