

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 15 November 2022

Edinburgh Child Protection Committee – Annual Report 2021-22

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 2021-22.
 - 1.1.2 Note the positive contribution made by services across the City in keeping children safe.

Amanda Hatton

Executive Director – Education and Children’s Services

Contact: Euan Currie, Lead Officer – Edinburgh Child Protection Committee

E-mail: euan.currie@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 6159

Edinburgh Child Protection Committee – Annual Report 2021-22

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report accompanies the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2021-22 (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 Since 2020, the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report has been submitted to the Education, Children and Families Committee for information and comment.
- 3.2 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:
- 3.2.1 Continuous improvement
 - 3.2.2 Public information, engagement and participation
 - 3.2.3 Strategic planning and connections
 - 3.2.4 Annual reporting
- 3.3 Following endorsement by the Chief Officers Group (Public Protection) in July 2022, 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).

- 4.2 Several key achievements are highlighted within the Annual Report, including:
- 4.2.1 Approval of new Care and Risk Management (CaRM) Guidance which supports work with young people whose behaviour is a concern.
 - 4.2.2 Approval of a revised toolkit to support the assessment of neglect.
 - 4.2.3 Piloting and subsequent embedding into practice of the National Minimum Dataset for Child Protection Committees in Scotland v2, which helps the Committee to understand the operation of key processes as well as emerging trends.
 - 4.2.4 Taken forward learning from Initial Case Reviews, ensuring that relevant learning is communicated to all staff via staff briefings.
 - 4.2.5 Contribution to the improvement plan for Edinburgh's residential services.
 - 4.2.6 Conclusion of the successful All Of Us campaign in partnership with NSPCC Scotland.

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.
- 5.2 These include:
- 5.2.1 Publication of updated Child Protection Procedures, in collaboration with partners in East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian and the Scottish Borders, which will align our local procedures to current National Guidance.
 - 5.2.2 Carrying out a review of previously completed actions which resulted from Initial and Significant Case Reviews, ensuring improvements have been embedded in practice.
 - 5.2.3 Publication of a revised Learning Review Protocol in conjunction with the Adult Support and Protection Committee, again bringing our local practice in line with recently published National Guidance.

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 2021-22



Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2021-22

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
iv. Conducting Initial and Significant Case Reviews	Page 8
5. Learning and Development	Page 9
6. Public Information, Engagement and Participation	Pages 10
7. Strategic Planning and Connections	Pages 11 - 12
8. Conclusions and next steps – Chief Officers	Page 13
Appendix A - Remit and Membership of Committee Sub Group structure	Pages 14 - 16
Appendix B – Child Protection Register Statistics	Page 18

1. Introduction

Colleagues,

I am delighted to present the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report for 2021-22. Over the last year 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.

Of course, our services and the families we work with have continued to feel the impact of COVID 19 during this time. The Child Protection Committee and associated Subcommittees have continued to meet throughout the pandemic – albeit virtually – in order to ensure protection of Edinburgh’s children.

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 continues to provide strong foundations going forward.

Jackie Irvine

Chair – Edinburgh Child Protection Committee

Chief Social Work Officer

Service Director, Criminal Justice and Children's Services

2. Demographics

Between 1998 and 2019, the population of Edinburgh had 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 was 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%.

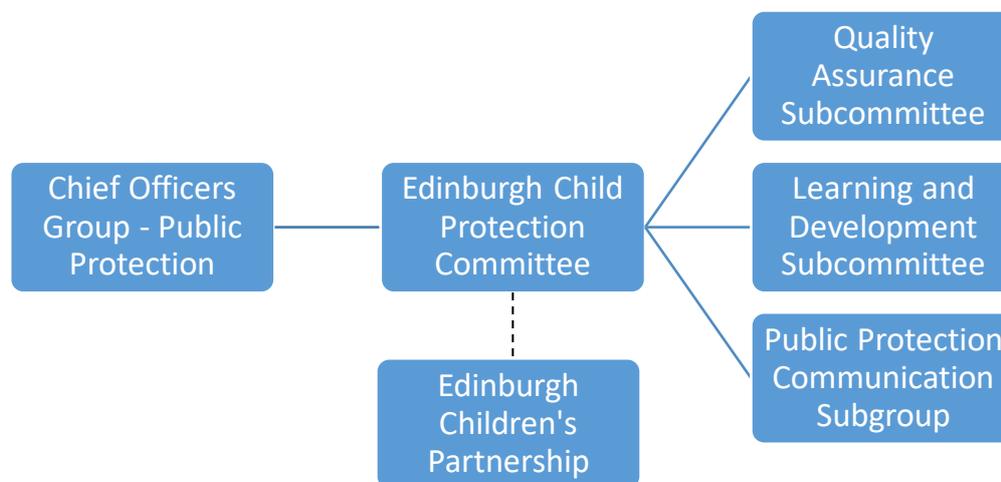
In 2020 of the 52,000 children and young people attending Edinburgh's local authority schools, 31% were Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) pupils with this being an increase from 23% in 2014. One in five pupils do not have English as their main language and 43% of pupils are assessed as having an additional support need with 1,900 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 2021/22, at 10,129, was almost 8% lower than the level seen in the previous year, but broadly similar to 2019/20 figures. There were 1143 inter-agency child protection discussions in 21/22, 5% higher than 20/21 and 5% less than 19/20. The number of children on the Child Protection Register has been sustained at around 100 children at any one time, although in some months has been as low as 87. As noted last year, there has continued to be a decrease in the number of Child Protection Case Conferences with a total of 466 child/conference instances in 2022/22, a reduction of 18% on the previous year.

The number of Looked After Children also continued the six-year decreasing trend throughout 2020/21 with 1,028 children looked after at March 2022.

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 (2020 - 23).

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. The Children's Services Plan was developed following consultation with children, young people, parents, carers and staff, whose collective feedback assisted the formation of the Plan's three main aims – the 3Bs:

- Best Start
- Bridging The Gap
- Being Everything You Can Be

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:

Contributed to ongoing review of relevant policies and procedures, including the Dispute Resolution Protocol for Child Protection Case Conferences, as well as those with relevance across the public protection landscape, relating to topics such as forced marriage and honour based abuse.

Approved Care and Risk Management (CaRM) guidance which supports work with young people whose behaviour is a concern.

Commenced revision of the Edinburgh and Lothians Interagency Child Protection Procedures, following publication of new National Guidance in 2021. This work is well underway, with a planned completion date of September 2022, and will be expanded in scope to include Scottish Borders.

Approved a thoroughly revised toolkit to support the assessment of neglect.

What we will do next:

Publish the revised Edinburgh, Lothians and Scottish Borders Child Protection Procedures, following approval by all involved local areas.

Carry out a subsequent review of any additional local policies, procedures and guidance to ensure these are congruent with the overarching procedures.

Launch a communication and training programme to ensure staff are aware of the updated procedures and these are incorporated into operational practice.

Launch the revised neglect assessment toolkit on a multi-agency basis and the CaRM guidance across the multiagency partnership.

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:

We have piloted and subsequently embedded version 2 of the National Minimum Dataset for Child Protection Committees in Scotland into our programme of work. This provides three-year trend data which helps us understand the operation of key processes as well as any emerging issues in the protection of children. The updated version includes a range of new indicators which help us understand both our child protection processes but also the impact on children and families.

Working closely with Edinburgh's Promise, we have gathered additional data and evidence of the impact of having named Looked After Children's Nurses aligned to our children's residential houses. This piece of work resulted from a child protection Significant Case Review, and demonstrates the strong collaborative working at the heart of the partnership.

Continued to work closely with colleagues in universal services to support and further understand the interaction between children who are supported through GIRFEC processes and those who become subject to formal child protection measures.

What we will do next:

Through close partnership working with Edinburgh's Promise, we will strengthen the data we collect to ensure that this enables greater understanding of the experience of children and families involved in child protection processes.

In tandem with our Multi-Agency Practice Evaluation process, carry out analysis of cases which have been on the threshold of formal child protection processes.

Continue to develop and embed the practice of engagement with families at all points.

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 and from initial and significant case reviews.
- 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:

Overseen the progress of the Child Protection Improvement Plan, ensuring multi-agency activity is completed within agreed timescales. This includes key multi-agency work to tackle neglect through the introduction of a revised toolkit to support early assessment and identification.

Monitored progress of actions resulting from case reviews, audit and evaluation activity, to ensure that these are progressed to completion in a timely manner.

Reviewed the scope and structure of the Multi-Agency Practice Evaluation process in order to ensure its focus on areas identified as priorities by the Committee.

What we will do next:

Carry out a review of our combined actions log, to ensure that those marked as completed are backed up by evidence and that improvements have been embedded into practice.

Carry out a further round of Multi-Agency Practice Evaluations focussing on those children who have been on the threshold of formal child protection processes, in tandem with a data analysis and review, and report the findings and actions to the Committee.

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:

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

Taken forward learning from Initial Case Reviews completed throughout the year, including the development of staff briefings to share learning widely across the multi-agency partnership. These are now hosted on the Knowledge Hub and accessible for use in supervision and team meetings.

We have also considered learning from Significant Case Reviews carried out elsewhere in the country and reflected on their applicability to an Edinburgh context.

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

Contributed to the development of the Learning Review Hub – an online resource run by the Care Inspectorate with the aim of sharing learning from case reviews across the country.

Contributed to a combined improvement plan across Edinburgh's residential and secure services, following a review of whistleblowing reports.

What we will do next:

We will finalise a new Learning Review protocol, in conjunction with the Adult Support and Protection Committee, which will bring our local processes into line with the recently published National Guidance for Child Protection Committees Undertaking Learning Reviews (2021).

Continue to support the progress of the residential and secure services improvement plan, which will include reporting to the Chief Officers' Group and the Council's Education, Children and Families Committee.

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:

Continued to develop and deliver a varied programme of interagency training, both as self-directed e-learning and virtual training sessions.

Reviewed our course calendar on an ongoing basis and commenced development of new courses to meet unmet needs – for example, the gap in training specifically focussed on adolescents.

Reviewed and updated the Terms Of Reference for the Child Protection Learning and Development Subcommittee.

Launched the Public Protection Learning and Development Subcommittee, which brings together representation from across the public protection landscape to address training and learning needs which cut across the remit of the Committees.

What we will do next:

Further develop our capacity to utilise course feedback, both in order to ensure the continued quality of training but also to understand the impact of training upon the workforce.

Develop a combined Public Protection Learning and Development Strategy.

Begin the move back to face-to-face learning events from late 2022.

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)

A priority for the Committee in recent years 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.

Planned a further period of activity through the All Of Us campaign – a collaboration with NSPCC Scotland which ran during 2020 and aimed to reduce child neglect by highlighting early help and support. This has included ongoing “lunchtime learning” sessions for staff, spotlighting particular services or areas of practice.

What we will do next:

We will deliver a further family event under the All Of Us campaign in July 2022.

Continue to work collaboratively with colleagues across public protection to ensure key messages are communicated to staff and the public.

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 and the National Learning and Development Network.

Members of the Committee are represented on the National Child Protection Implementation Group and associated subgroups, ensuring we are closely connected to key strategic forums relating to the implementation of child protection guidance.

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)

Consolidated previous improvements to the link between the Committee and the voluntary sector through the continuation of a bi-monthly liaison meeting as well as regular input from Lead Officer and other colleagues at the wider EVOC Network meeting.

What we will do next:

Continue to ensure that the Child Protection Committee is closely linked to Edinburgh's Promise.

Continue to contribute to key strategic forums and link with the Scottish Government on implementation of the National Guidance for Child Protection In Scotland 2021.

8. Conclusion and next steps – Chief Officers

The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report for 2021-22 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 last year’s 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 2021-22.



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 interagency child protection training
2. To plan and coordinate an ongoing programme of interagency child protection learning and development opportunities for staff and volunteers working in Edinburgh.
3. To develop methods of reviewing the efficacy and impact of interagency training upon staff confidence and competence.
4. To contribute to multi-agency plans (such as the Child Protection Improvement Plan or those resulting from Learning Reviews) from a learning and development perspective.
5. To maintain an overview of developments in child protection matters both locally and nationally, in terms of the impact upon the learning and development needs of the interagency workforce, and to develop coordinated responses to address identified needs.
6. 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
- Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC)
- Scottish Children's Reporter's Administration (SCRA)

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

	2021		2020		2010	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate Per 1,000 population	Number	Rate Per 1,000 population
Edinburgh	97	1.2	95	1.2	256	3.6
East Lothian	29	1.5	45	2.3	70	3.8
Midlothian	38	2.1	49	2.7	96	6.2
West Lothian	103	2.9	92	2.6	119	3.4
Scottish Borders	34	1.8	34	1.8	32	1.6
Aberdeen	83	2.3	142	4.0	119	3.7
Dundee	84	3.5	102	4.2	70	2.9
Scotland	2104	2.3	2564	2.9	2,518	2.7

Source:

Scottish Government

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

Statistics at 31 July each year.