

Public Document Pack



To: Councillor Jennifer Stewart, Convener; Councillor Lesley Dunbar, Vice Convener; and Councillors Alphonse, Cameron, Duncan, Greig, Houghton, Townson and Wheeler.

Town House,
ABERDEEN 27 November 2018

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

The Members of the **PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE** are requested to meet in **Committee Room 2 - Town House** on **WEDNESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2018 at 10.00 am.**

FRASER BELL
CHIEF OFFICER - GOVERNANCE

B U S I N E S S

DETERMINATION OF URGENT BUSINESS

- 1 There is no urgent business at this time

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

- 2 There is no exempt business

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3 Members are requested to intimate any declarations of interest

REQUESTS FOR DEPUTATION

- 4 There are no requests for deputation at this time.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 5 Minute of Previous Meeting of 10 October 2018 (Pages 5 - 10)

COMMITTEE PLANNER

- 6 Committee Planner (Pages 11 - 14)

NOTICES OF MOTION

- 7 There are no Notices of Motion

REFERRALS FROM COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES

- 8 There are no referrals

POLICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

- 9 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report (Pages 15 - 34)

CHILD AND ADULT PROTECTION

- 10 Findings from National Significant Case Reviews - OPE/18/282 (Pages 35 - 40)
- 11 Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee - National Child Protection Improvement Programme - OPE/18/283 (Pages 41 - 100)

LOCAL RESILIENCE

- 12 PREVENT Progress Report - CUS/18/284 (Pages 101 - 112)

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

- 13 Response in relation to enforcement elements of the Scottish Government Consultation on Reducing Health Harms of Foods High in Fat, Sugar or Salt - OPE/18/298 (Pages 113 - 120)

BUILDING STANDARDS

- 14 Building Standards Activity - PLA/18/160 (Pages 121 - 144)
- 15 Date of Next Meeting - 20 February 2019 at 10:00am

EHRIAs related to reports on this agenda can be viewed [here](#)

To access the Service Updates for this Committee please click [here](#)

Website Address: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Allison Swanson, 01224 522822 or aswanson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

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PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, 10 OCTOBER 2018. Minute of Meeting of the PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor Jennifer Stewart, Convener; Councillor Lesley Dunbar, Vice Convener; and Councillors Alphonse, Cameron, Duncan, Greig, Houghton, Lumsden (as substitute for Councillor Wheeler for items 10-13), Townson and Wheeler (for items 1-9 and items 14-16).

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be found [Here](#)

Please note that if any changes are made to this minute at the point of approval, these will be outlined in the subsequent minute and this document will not be retrospectively altered.

WELCOME FROM THE CONVENER

1. The Convener welcomed Cllr Alphonse onto the Committee and thanked Cllr McLellan for his previous contribution to the Committee. She also advised that this would be Iain Robertson's last meeting as Clerk before taking up a new role within the Council, and she thanked him for his support during the Committee's development and wished him well for the future.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to welcome Cllr Alphonse onto the Committee;
- (ii) to thank Cllr McLellan for his contribution to the Committee; and
- (iii) to thank Iain Robertson for his support during the Committee's development and to wish him well in his new role with the Council.

DETERMINATION OF URGENT BUSINESS

2. There was no urgent business.

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

3. There was no exempt business.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4. No declarations of interest were intimated.

REQUESTS FOR DEPUTATION

5. There were no deputation requests.

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10 OCTOBER 2018

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 4 JULY 2018

6. The Committee had before it the minute from its previous meeting of 4 July 2018 for approval.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to approve the minute as a correct record; and
- (ii) to thank Police Scotland for providing useful information on how it supports the Ask Angela Campaign as requested by Committee at its previous meeting.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS PLANNER

7. The Committee had before it the committee business planner as prepared by the Chief Officer Governance.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note that the Building Standards; PREVENT; and National Child Protection Improvement Review reports would be reported to the Committee's next meeting on 5 December 2018;
- (ii) to note that the Adult Protection Referrals would be incorporated within a broader report which would be presented to Committee on 20 February 2019, following the publication of the Care Inspectorate report on Adult Social Care;
- (iii) to note that the Self-Assessment Resilience Standards Performance report would be incorporated into an Annual Report which would be presented to Committee on 24 April 2019; and
- (iv) otherwise note the committee business planner.

NOTICE OF MOTION

8. There were no notices of motion.

REFERRALS FROM COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

9. There were no referrals from Council, Committees and Sub-Committees.

POLICE SCOTLAND HATE CRIME THEMATIC REPORT– GOV/18/175

10. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer Governance and Campbell Thomson (Chief Superintendent, North East Division, Police Scotland) which presented the Police Scotland thematic report on hate crime.

The report recommended:-

That the Committee note the report.

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The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to instruct the Clerk to identify a date for Members to receive an on-site briefing from Police Scotland on armed policing and police dogs;
- (ii) to request that an update be circulated to Members via email from the North East Division, on the recruitment of LGBT+ candidates; and the delivery of training programmes which aimed to increase awareness of LGBT+ issues for all serving police officers; and
- (iii) otherwise endorse the report.

POLICE SCOTLAND YOUTH VOLUNTEERS THEMATIC REPORT – GOV/18/177

11. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer Governance and Campbell Thomson (Chief Superintendent, North East Division, Police Scotland) which presented the Police Scotland thematic report on Police Scotland youth volunteers.

The report recommended:-

That the Committee note the report.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to endorse the report; and
- (ii) to commend Superintendent Innes Walker for his 30 years of service as a Police Officer, and to wish him well in his retirement.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE THEMATIC REPORT– GOV/18/176

12. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Officer Governance and Bruce Farquharson (Local Senior Officer Aberdeen City, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) which presented the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) thematic report on reducing accidental dwelling fires for the Committee's information.

The report recommended:-

That the Committee consider and note the information provided in **Appendix A** in relation to the reduction of accidental dwelling fires.

The Committee resolved:-

To endorse the report.

CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT– OPE/18/164

13. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Operating Officer which presented the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for the 2017/18 financial year. The purpose of the report was to inform Members of the role and responsibilities exercised by the Chief Social Work Officer; to provide information on statutory decision making in the period; and to give a progress report on key areas of social work provision within Aberdeen City.

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The report recommended:-

That the Committee note the content of the Annual Report, as attached at Appendix 1.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to endorse the content of the Annual Report, as attached at Appendix 1;
- (ii) to request the Chief Social Work Officer to circulate to Members via email, further information on the performance framework adapted from the Care Quality Commission; and
- (iii) to request the Chief Social Work Officer to circulate to Members via email, further information on lessons learned in terms of complaint handling.

APPOINTMENT OF A JOINT CHAIR TO ADULT AND CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES– OPE/18/166

14. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Operating Officer which advised of the intention to appoint a joint Independent Chair of Aberdeen City's Adult Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee.

The report recommended:-

That the Committee endorse the proposal to appoint a joint Independent Chair of Aberdeen City's Adult Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee.

Graeme Simpson (Chief Social Work Officer) updated the Committee that all three Grampian councils had agreed to appoint a single Chairperson who could chair all the Adult and Child Protection Committees throughout the Grampian region. He added that a recruitment advert would be published later this week, and following a competitive recruitment process, it was hoped that a preferred candidate would be identified before the end of 2018.

The Committee resolved:-

To note the proposal to appoint a joint Independent Chair of Aberdeen City's Adult Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee.

CORPORATE PARENTING- OPE/18/159

15. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Operating Officer which provided an update on how the Council have addressed and continued to meet its Corporate Parenting responsibilities under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Part 9.

The report recommended:-

That the Committee –

- (a) Agree that elected members who have not attended Corporate Parenting training commit to doing so within the next twelve months;

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10 OCTOBER 2018

- (b) Request an annual update on the Council's progress in meeting its Corporate Parenting responsibilities during the past year;
- (c) Agree to continue to promote the Corporate Parenting agenda within Council business, by raising awareness of the issues affecting Care Experienced Young People (CEYP) and promoting service improvements which will benefit our care experienced young people; and
- (d) Note the Life Changes Trust commitment to provide the Council with £50,000 per annum for the next two years subject to match funding.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to encourage elected members who had not attended Corporate Parenting training to commit to doing so within the next twelve months; and
- (ii) otherwise approve recommendations (b), (c) and (d).

JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION PLAN– OPE/18/158

16. The Committee had before it a report by the Chief Operating Officer which sought Committee approval of the draft Grampian Joint Health Protection Plan for the period 2018-2020.

The report recommended:-

That the Committee -

- (a) Approve the Grampian Joint Health Protection Plan appended to this report; and
- (b) Note that the plan will be reviewed in 2020.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) to instruct the Chief Operating Officer to report to Committee in October 2019 with a progress update on the implementation of the Plan.

- **COUNCILLOR JENNIFER STEWART, Convener**

EDUCATION OPERATIONAL DELIVERY COMMITTEE
19 April 2018

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE BUSINESS PLANNER | | | | | | | | |
| | The Business Planner details the reports which have been instructed by the Committee as well as reports which the Functions expect to be submitting for the calendar year. | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Report Title | Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report | Update | Report Author | Chief Officer | Directorate | Terms of Reference | Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T | Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred |
| 3 | 05 December 2018 | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Findings from National Significant Case Reviews (child protection) | To present the findings from the National Significant Case Reviews (child protection). A report is on the agenda. | This report has incorporated the content of the National Child Protection Improvement Review which was delayed on 10 October 2018. | Graeme Simpson | Integrated Children's and Family Services | Operations | 1.1.2 | | |
| 5 | Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee – National Child Protection Improvement Programme | To assure Committee of the involvement of Aberdeen City's Chief Officers Group and Child Protection Committee in progressing, in this area, the expectations of the national Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP). A report is on the agenda. | | Kymme Fraser | Integrated Children's and Family Services | Operations | 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 | | |
| 6 | Building Standards Report | To provide an overview of Council responsibilities in relation to securing dangerous buildings and protecting public safety, as well as activity on unauthorised building work and unauthorised occupation of buildings. A report is on the agenda. | | Gordon Spence | Strategic Place Planning | Place | 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 | | Delayed until 5 December 2018 to allow more time to produce evidence of enforcement activity in terms of protecting the public in and around buildings. |
| 7 | Consultation response on reducing health harms of foods high in fat, sugar or salt | To seek approval of the response in relation to the enforcement elements of the consultation on the wider principles of reducing health harms of foods high in fat, sugar or salt. A report is on the agenda. | | Andrea Carson | Operations and Protective Services | Operations | 3.3 | | |
| 8 | PREVENT Progress Report | To provide an update on progress made against the Prevent Peer Review's 18 recommendations. A report is on the agenda. | | Alana Nabulsi | Early Interventions and Community Empowerment | Customer | 2.1 | | Delayed until 5 December 2018 to allow the Council to close off a number of recommendations and provide a more comprehensive level of assurance to Committee. |
| 9 | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Six Monthly Performance Report | To present the six monthly performance report from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. A report is on the agenda. | | Bruce Farquharson | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service | 5.7 | | |
| 10 | 20 February 2019 | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Police Scotland Thematic Reports | To present thematic reports on road policing and gender based abuse. | | Campbell Thomson | Police Scotland | Police Scotland | 5.7 | | |

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| | Report Title | Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report | Update | Report Author | Chief Officer | Directorate | Terms of Reference | Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T | Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Findings of Care Inspectorate Inspection of Adult Social Care Services | To present a report outlining the findings and the Council's response to the Care Inspectorate's follow up inspection on adult social care services. | The Committee was advised at its meeting on 10 October 2018 that performance information on adult protection referrals would be incorporated into the post-inspection report. | Claire Duncan | Adult Social Care | Health and Social Care Partnership | 1.1 | | |
| 13 | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Thematic Report | To present a thematic report on response and resilience. | | Bruce Farquharson | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service | 5.7 | | |
| 14 | Enforcement of Food Law Requirements in Relation to Allergens | To present information on food allergies and the enforcement being used within the City. | | Andrew Morrison | Operations and Protective Services | Operations | 3.1 | | |
| 15 | | | 24 April 2019 | | | | | | |
| 16 | Annual Committee Effectiveness Report | To present the annual effectiveness report for the Committee. | | | Governance | Governance | GD 7.4 | | |
| 17 | Resilience Annual Report | To present the Resilience Annual Report. | The Committee was advised at its meeting on 10 October 2018 that progress on achieving self-assessment resilience standards would be incorporated into the annual report. | David McIntosh | Governance | Governance | 2.5 | | |
| 18 | Police Scotland Thematic Report (to be confirmed) | The content of any Thematic Reports would be guided by Members following consultation with Ch. Supt. Thomson. | | Campbell Thomson | Police Scotland | Police Scotland | 5.7 | | |
| 19 | | | May 2019 Onwards | | | | | | |
| 20 | Protective Services Food and Feed Regulatory Service Plan | To seek approval of Protective Services Food and Feed Regulatory Service Plan | May-19 | Andrea Carson | Operations and Protective Services | Operations | 3.3 | | |
| 21 | Protective Services Health and Safety Intervention Plan | To seek approval of Protective Services Health and Safety Intervention Plan | May-19 | Andrew Gilchrist | Operations and Protective Services | Operations | 3.3 | | |
| 22 | Police Scotland Performance Report Full Year (April 2018 - March 2019) | To present the annual performance report from Police Scotland. | Jul-19 | Campbell Thomson | Police Scotland | Police Scotland | 5.7 | | |
| 23 | Child Protection Committee Annual Report | To provide the Committee with information on the work of the multi-agency Child Protection Committee. | Jul-19 | Kymme Fraser | Integrated Children's and Family Services | Operations | 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 | | |
| 24 | UKAS Annual Audit for Scientific Service | To update committee on the status of UKAS accreditation and the progress of recommendations of assessment of the Aberdeen Scientific Services Laboratory. | Jul-19 | James Darroch | Operations and Protective Services | Operations | 3.1 | | |

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I |
|----|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| | Report Title | Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report | Update | Report Author | Chief Officer | Directorate | Terms of Reference | Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T | Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | Chief Social Work Officer's Report | To present the Chief Social Work Officer annual report. | Oct-19 | Graeme Simpson | Integrated Children's and Family Services | Operations | 1.4 | | |
| 26 | Corporate Parenting | At its meeting on 10 October 2018, the Committee requested an annual update on the Council's progress in meeting its Corporate Parenting responsibilities during the past year | Oct-19 | Margaret Cruickshank | Integrated Children's and Family Services | Operations | 1.2 | | |
| 27 | Grampian Joint Health Protection Plan | At its meeting on 10 October 2018, the Committee requested an annual update on the progress made in implementing the Plan. | Oct-19 | Hazel Stevenson | Early Interventions and Community Empowerment | Customer | 3.3 | | |
| 28 | Grampian Joint Health Protection Plan | To seek approval of the 2 year Grampian Joint Health Protection Plan. | Oct-20 | Hazel Stevenson | Early Interventions and Community Empowerment | Customer | 3.3 | | |

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| COMMITTEE | Public Protection |
| DATE | 5 December 2018 |
| REPORT TITLE | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report |
| REPORT NUMBER | GOV/18/285 |
| CHIEF OFFICER | Fraser Bell |
| REPORT AUTHOR | Iain Robertson |
| TERMS OF REFERENCE | 5.7 |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) local performance report and provide assurance on SFRS progress against local priorities, outcomes and actions set out in the Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Plan sets out the local priorities, actions and outcomes for the SFRS to deliver within the local communities of Aberdeen.
- 3.2 The performance report has been attached as Appendix A and covers the 12 months of the reporting year from April 2017 to March 2018 inclusively.
- 3.3 The performance report under **Appendix A** provides a detailed overview of performance and progress made towards meeting local priorities, outcomes and actions set out in the Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no significant legal implications for the Council.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

N/A

7. OUTCOMES

| Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Impact of Report |
| Prosperous People | SFRS are key partners within Community Planning Aberdeen and help contribute towards the achievement of LOIP themes which aim to make people more resilient and protect them from harm. |
| Prosperous Place | SFRS are key partners within Community Planning Aberdeen and help contribute towards the achievement of LOIP themes which aim to support the development of sustainable communities. |

| Design Principles of Target Operating Model | |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Impact of Report |
| Governance | The Council has an oversight role of SFRS and the purpose of the report is to provide assurance on SFRS performance. |
| Partnerships and Alliances | The Council and SFRS are Community Planning Aberdeen partners with a shared commitment to deliver the LOIP. |

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment | Outcome |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment | N/A |
| Privacy Impact Assessment | N/A |
| Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty | Not required. |

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

10. APPENDICES

Appendix A – SFRS Local Performance Report (April 2017 – March 2018).

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

North Service Delivery Area

Aberdeen City

2018 Q2 Public Protection Report



The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish Government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

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| Non-Domestic Fire Safety | 9-12 |
| Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals | 12-13 |
| Emergency Response and Resilience | 13-15 |

Introduction

This report provides detail on the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in the Aberdeen City area. In doing so it outlines our progress in the delivery of local priorities as set out within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan and the SFRS framework document.

The Scottish Government provides an overarching vision for public services. This vision is supported by 16 national outcomes, which demonstrate commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable growth. The SFRS can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes for Aberdeen City by contributing to the Community Planning arrangements across the area.

The national priorities for the SFRS are set out in the Fire and Rescue Framework (Scotland) 2016. The SFRS Strategic Plan 2016-2019 outlines how the SFRS will deliver against these priorities and the outcomes against which this delivery can be measured.

The SFRS Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the Local Authority Area of Aberdeen City is the mechanism through which the aims of the SFRS Strategic Plan 2016-2019 are delivered to meet the agreed needs of Aberdeen City's communities.




The Plan sets out the priorities and objectives for SFRS within Aberdeen City and allows our Local Authority partners to scrutinise the performance outcomes of those priorities. The SFRS will continue to work closely with our partners in Aberdeen City to ensure we are all "Working Together for a Safer Scotland" through targeting risks to our communities at a local level.

The SFRS aspires to deliver very high standards to our communities and our current performance is testament to the commitment, professionalism and dedication of our staff and the positive local partnerships embedded within Aberdeen City Community Safety working groups.

Performance Summary

We measure how well we are meeting our priorities using 6 key indicators, depicted below

| Key performance indicator | Apr to (& incl.) Sep | | | | | RAG rating |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|
| | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | YTD |
| All accidental dwelling fires | 102 | 130 | 118 | 111 | 109 | Green |
| All accidental dwelling fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal) | 18 | 26 | 9 | 11 | 9 | Green |
| All deliberate fires | 150 | 176 | 133 | 184 | 210 | Red |
| Non domestic fires | 44 | 51 | 51 | 35 | 49 | Red |
| All deliberate other building fires | 11 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 6 | Green |
| False Alarm - UFAs | 502 | 530 | 588 | 507 | 496 | Green |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | RED | 10% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved. |
|  | Amber | Up to 9% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved. |
|  | Green | Equal to or improved upon the previous equivalent quarter (or YTD period), or local target achieved. |

Note

Quarterly Performance RAG rating = the reporting period compared to the average over the previous quarterly reporting periods
 Year to Date RAG rating = the cumulative total of all quarterly performance in the current year compared to cumulative total of all quarterly performance in the previous year

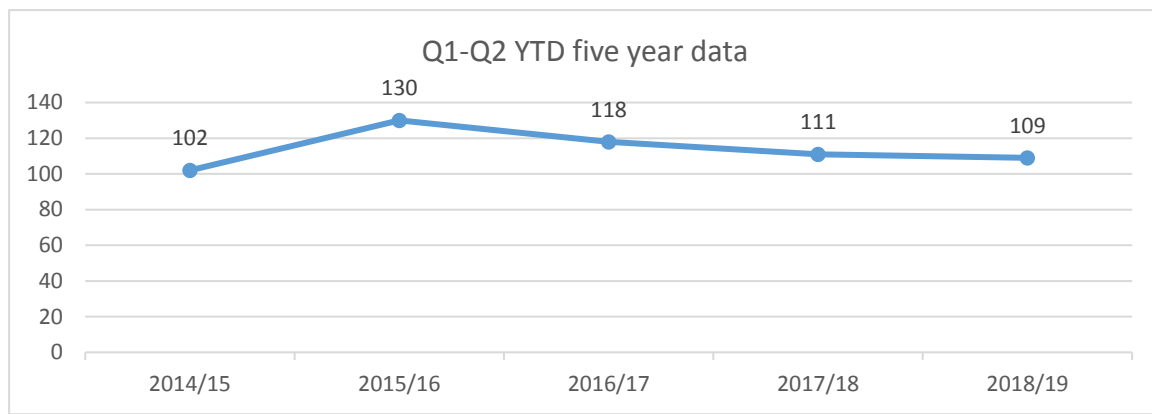
Progress on local fire & rescue plan priorities

LPI Assessment 1: Domestic Safety and Wellbeing

The main areas of measurement of Domestic Safety and Wellbeing are:

- Accidental Dwelling Fires
- Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties and Fatalities
- Number of high risk Home Fire Safety Visits delivered
- Number of referrals for Home Fire Safety Visits received from partners

Accidental Dwelling Fires:



Dwelling fires can have a significant negative impact upon both individuals and the community and are financially costly to house holders and housing providers in terms of repair and the reinstatement of homes. By giving safety advice and fitting smoke detectors, SFRS have reduce the risk of fire and its associated human and financial costs as well as enhancing community safety.

Results:

The Q1 thematic report presented to the committee demonstrated a 19% reduction in accidental dwelling fires across Aberdeen City. We are pleased to report a continued downward trend.

The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the previous four years confirms a downward trend in relation to accidental dwelling house fires.

The figure for the Q2 2018/19 reporting period of one hundred and nine (109) incidents demonstrates a decrease of 2% from the same reporting period in 2017/18 of one hundred and eleven (111) incidents.

The average over the previous four years for the same reporting period was one hundred and fifteen (115) incidents which identifies a continual downward trend.

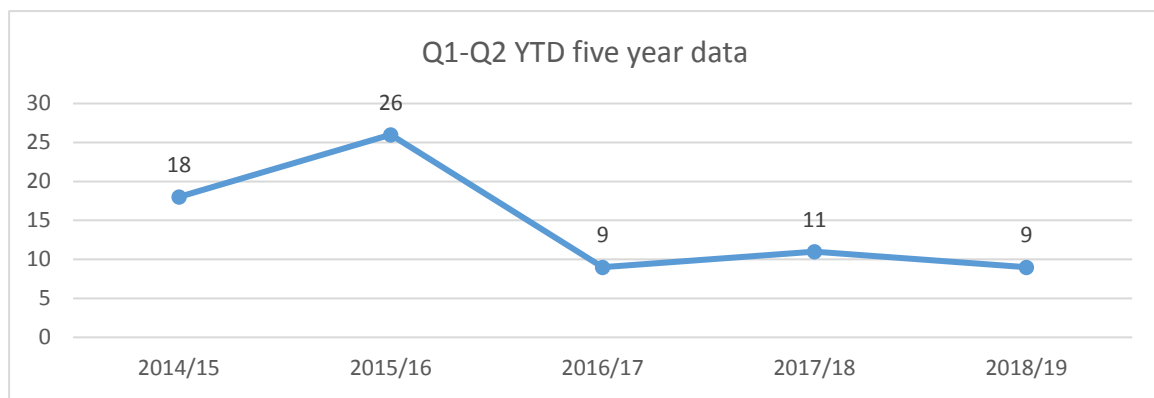
Reasons:

The area has analysed statistical data which has helped us to identify the root cause of fire as food ignited via 'cooking appliances' in the kitchen. The main cause is accidental by adults in the 18-64 age range. The most common human factors relate to occupants being distracted due to drugs/alcohol.

Actions:

As demonstrated in the thematic report, we are using a targeted approach to promote fire safety, education and awareness programmes, and work with our communities and partners to deliver safety initiatives. An example of this is our “Cook Safe” program with the North East College where safe cooking lessons are provided to residents in sheltered accommodation. We prioritised our ‘Home Fire Safety’ visits in our high risk areas to reduce the risk of fire within the home, and ensure individuals in our community remain safe from fire.

Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties and Fatalities (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))



Fire casualty and fatality rates provide an indication of the number of serious, life threatening injuries that occur as a result of fire. This statistic is a key indicator of the success of our risk reduction and community engagement strategies.

The reduction of fire fatalities and casualties is linked to the reduction in dwelling house fires and is at the core of preventative activities. The vulnerable in our communities continue to be those most at risk. Older people, those with disabilities, live alone or alcohol and drugs dependencies provide the SFRS with challenges in engagement and reduction strategies. Working with partner organisations with single shared assessments and signposting of vulnerable persons proves an effective method of identification and engagement. Fire casualties are more likely to occur in the areas with highest operational demand.

Results:

The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the previous four years confirms a downward trend in relation to all accidental dwelling fire casualties.

The figure for the 2018/19 reporting period is nine (9) which is down from the same reporting period in 2017-18 of eleven (11).

The average over the previous four years for the same reporting period was sixteen (16) which identifies a continual downward trend.

Reasons:

With a reduction in the number of ‘Accidental Dwelling Fires’ over recent years, the casualties from these type of incidents has followed the same reduction over the same reporting periods.

Analysis for this reporting period shows the fire incidents recorded were all accidental and predominantly by an adult aged 30-49, between 12:00hrs & 22:00hrs, with cooking appliances being the main source of ignition.

The casualties were recorded as overcome by smoke/breathing difficulties with one suffering burns. Three casualties went to hospital with the remainder receiving first aid at the scene.

It is pleasing to note that there have been no fatal casualties in this reporting period. It must be born in mind that statistically fire fatalities and casualties increase significantly between November and February each year across Scotland.

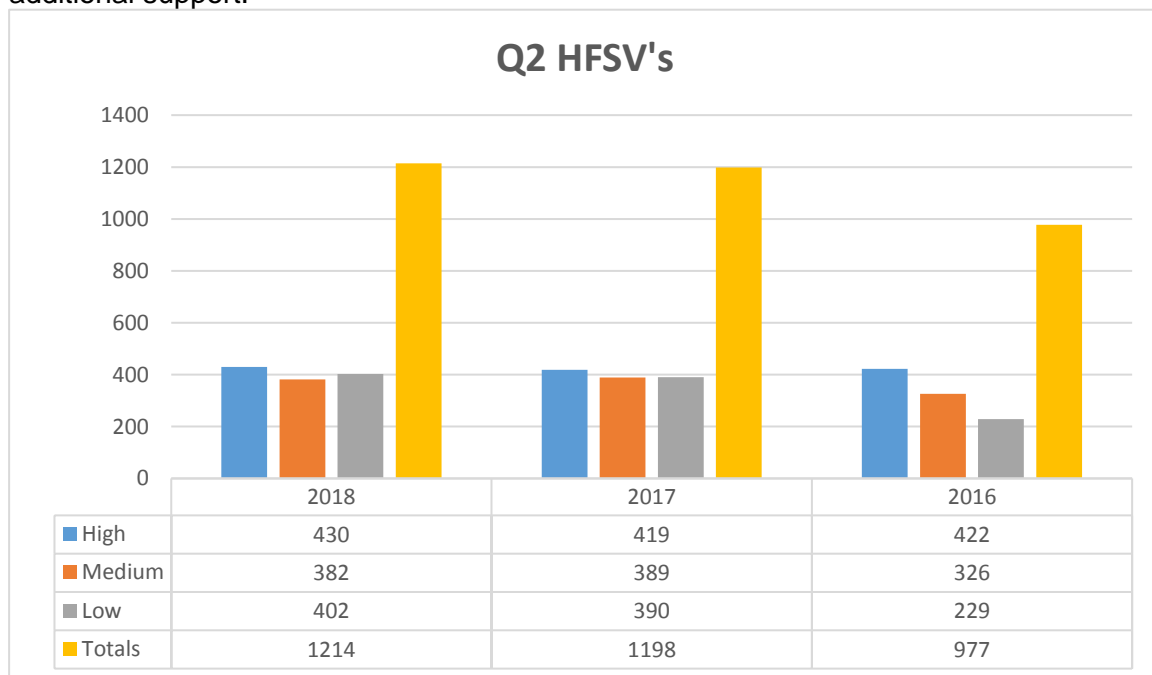
Actions:

Following all domestic incidents, SFRS personnel initiate effective and meaningful 'Community Engagement' through our 'Post Domestic Incident Response'. We engage with neighbouring households, and the wider community, offering Home Fire Safety Visits and providing community fire safety advice and guidance.

The area's Community Action Team actively targets where casualties have occurred, we have also invested in the provision of heat detectors which are being fitted on a risk basis to those most vulnerable from a kitchen fire. We have carried out one thousand two hundred and fourteen (1214) FREE Home Fire Safety Visits and provided detection in two hundred and ninety one (291) premises in the Aberdeen area. We will continue to engage with the local communities to target the highest risk individuals.

Number of high risk Home Fire Safety Visits delivered:

A Home Fire Safety Visit is a comprehensive assessment by our Firefighters or Community Action Team which examines the levels of fire risk within the home. It provides a means to mitigate the risk through the provision of guidance, advice and if required, the installation of battery operated smoke alarms and heat alarms where additional risk has been identified. Where appropriate, the HFSV will permit the occupier to be referred to other agencies for additional support.



Results:

Currently we are seeing an increase in home fire safety visits provided to the most vulnerable members of the community in comparison to previous reporting periods.

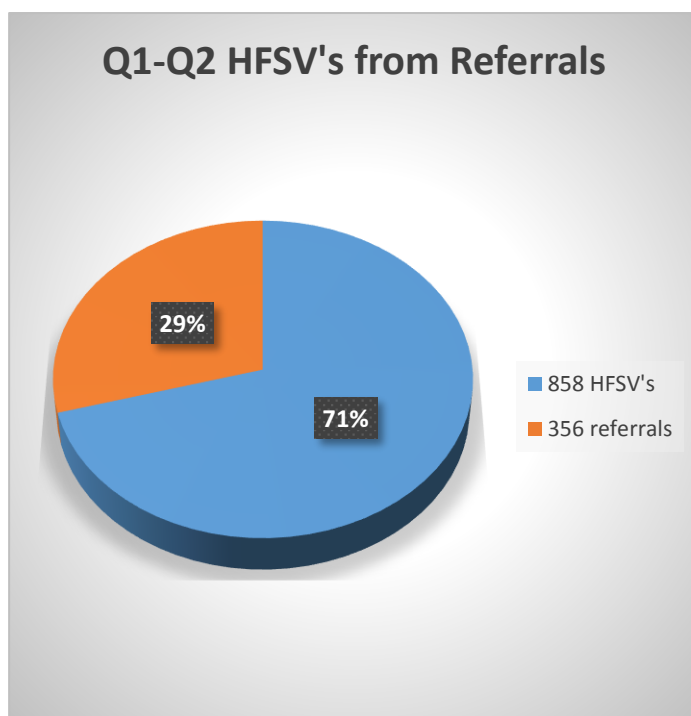
Reason:

Through engagement with partners involved in the Community Planning Partnership and Local Outcome Improvement Plan, referral pathways have been put in place to allow partners to refer “High Risk “vulnerable members of the community to SFRS for a comprehensive Home Fire Safety Visits to be carried out. As mentioned previously visits are carried out in the vicinity of accidental dwelling fires, this aids SFRS in reaching those at high risk of fire in specific wards of Aberdeen City.

Action:

Aberdeen City are currently engaged with Bon Accord Care rolling out a new referral pathway, which if proved successful will be replicated across Scotland. This will see the numbers of “High Risk “visits continue to increase.

Number of referrals for Home Fire Safety Visits received from partners:



As part of our commitment to building a safer Scotland we offer everyone in Scotland a free home fire safety visit. We can also fit smoke alarms free of charge if your home requires them.

Get in touch with us, it's so easy to arrange:

- call [0800 0731 999](tel:0800 0731 999)
- text "FIRE" to 80800 from your mobile phone
- complete our online form
- call your local fire station

Results:

Currently 29% of all Home fire Safety Visits are referrals from partners. Our aim by 2018/19 is to increase this to 50%.

Reason:

Referral pathways are in place and continually reviewed to ensure they are efficient and effective.

Action:

Our aim is to ensure that our resources are directed to those most vulnerable from fire, this part of the community can be the most difficult to reach, therefore partner referrals are key in assisting SFRS to create the opportunity to deliver lifesaving advice and increase smoke alarm ownership. Engagement with additional partners are currently underway to increase the number of referrals.

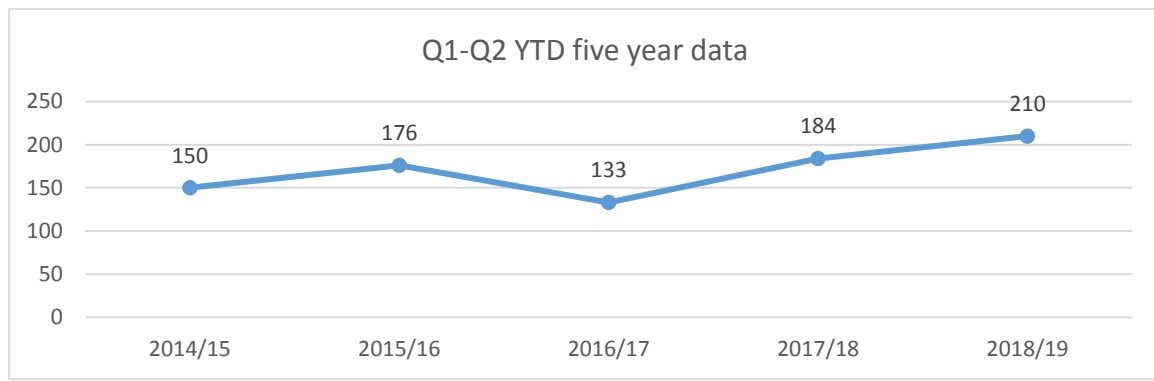
Status

LPI Assessment 2: Deliberate Fire Setting

The main areas of measurement of Deliberate Fire Setting is:

- All deliberate fires

All Deliberate Fires:



Deliberate Fires include both Primary Fires (those that involve a building or property) and Secondary Fires (typically refuse fires or fires involving grass, trees or heathland). Deliberate fires are defined as fires which were ignited deliberately or the Fire and Rescue Service suspect they were started deliberately.

The reduction of deliberate dwelling fires continues to be a priority for the SFRS in Aberdeen City. The SFRS have a partnership arrangement with 'Crime stoppers Scotland' which encourages the public to report fire crime and vandalism.

Results:

The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the previous four years confirms an upward trend in relation to 'All Deliberate Fires'.

The figure for the 2018/19 reporting period is two hundred and ten (210) incidents which is up on the same reporting period in 2017/18 of one hundred and eighty four (184).

The average over the previous four years for the same reporting period was one hundred and (160) which identifies a continual upward trend.

Reasons:

The annual trend for this statistic shows a steady increase over the five year period with the main peak for this reporting period being September. The increase for the 2018/19 Q2 period from the previous year can be linked to an increase in anti-social behaviour from fire setting. As the committee is aware a significant amount of deliberate fires were recently set on the Gramps, this is reflected in the increased figures.

Actions:

We worked closely with our partners, specifically Police Scotland and Aberdeen City Council in order to reduce deliberate fire setting across Aberdeen City, this partnership approach has seen a number of individuals arrested and subsequently charged with wilful fire raising. Community Action Team have delivered school presentations where the opportunity was taken to highlight the dangers from fire setting through anti-social behaviour to both secondary and primary children. This coupled with a close working relationship with Police Scotland and Aberdeen City council allows prevention activities such as clearing of combustibles and increased visibility patrols has impacted positively on the number of fires.

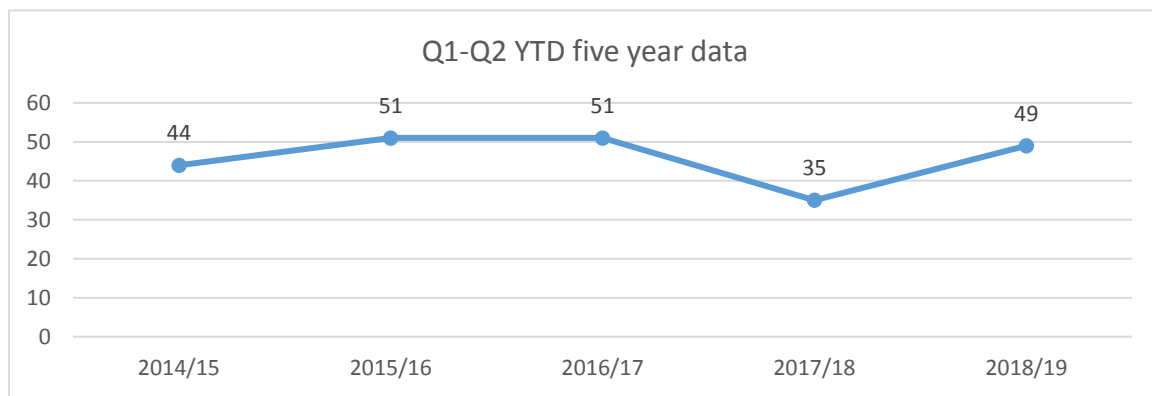
| | |
|---------------|--|
| Status | |
|---------------|--|

LPI Assessment 3: Non Domestic Fire Safety

The main areas of measurement of Domestic Safety and Wellbeing are:

- All non-domestic fires
- Number of Fire Safety Audits completed
- Deliberate fires in non-domestic properties

All non-domestic fires:



The most common cause of accidental fires in non-domestic buildings is faulty appliances and leads, accounting for more than 21% of fires followed by misuse of equipment or appliances at around 11%. Statistics also show that around 39% of fires in non-domestic buildings are deliberately started.

While the number of deaths from fires in non-domestic buildings is less than domestic buildings the potential for significant life loss and injuries is far greater. This is due to the large occupancy capacities that may be involved and the complexity of occupant behaviour including the potential for delay in occupant evacuation following the outbreak of fire.

Results:

The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the previous four years confirms an upward trend in relation to 'Non-domestic fires'.

The figure for the 2018/19 reporting period is forty nine (49) incidents which is up on the same reporting period in 2017/18 of thirty five (35).

The average over the previous four years for the same reporting period was forty five (45) identifies an upward trend.

Reasons:

The area has analysed statistical data which has helped us to identify the root cause of fire as food ignited via 'cooking appliances' as the main contributor. Overheating of appliances, electrical supplies & lighting and naked lights (smoking materials) applied to combustibles are contributing factor to a lesser extent. The main cause is accidental with no human contributing factors due to the nature of these incidents.

Actions:

Through our risk based fire safety audit programme our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers carry out fire safety audits. Working in partnership with duty holders to meet their legislative fire safety requirements we assist them to ensure that their buildings are safe for the building users.

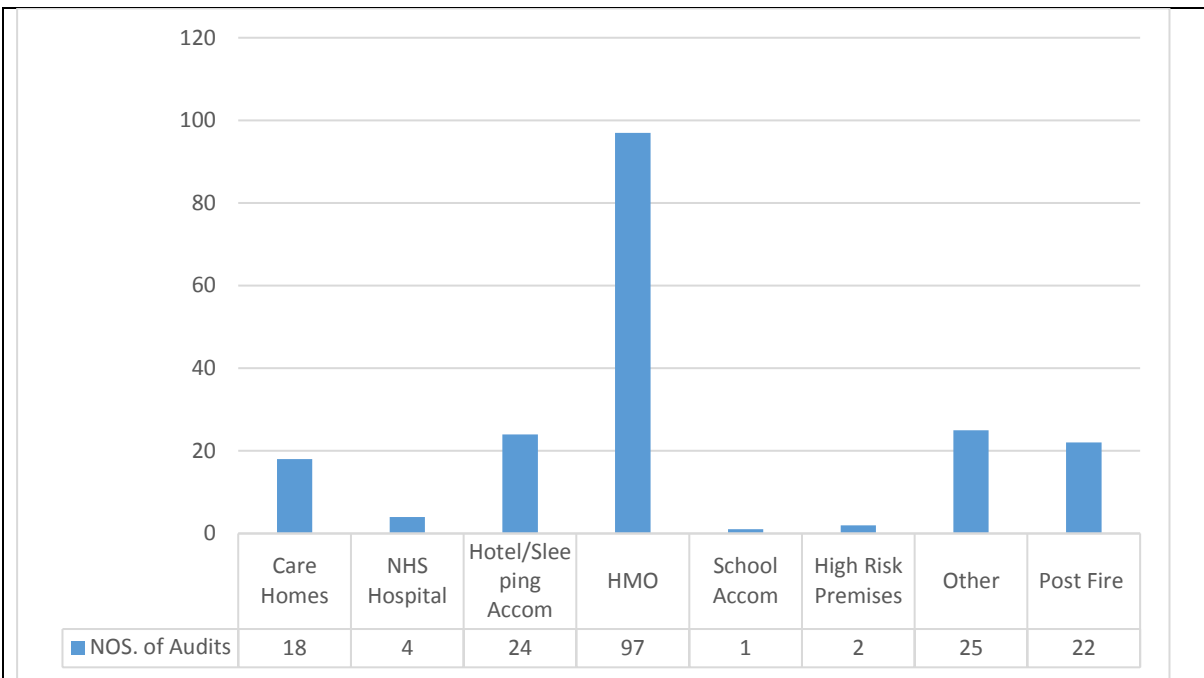
Our operational crews undertake Operational Intelligence visits to higher risk premises. This allows them to gather relevant operational information which is available to them in the event of an incident via our 'mobile data terminals' on appliances.

Number of Fire Safety Audits completed:-

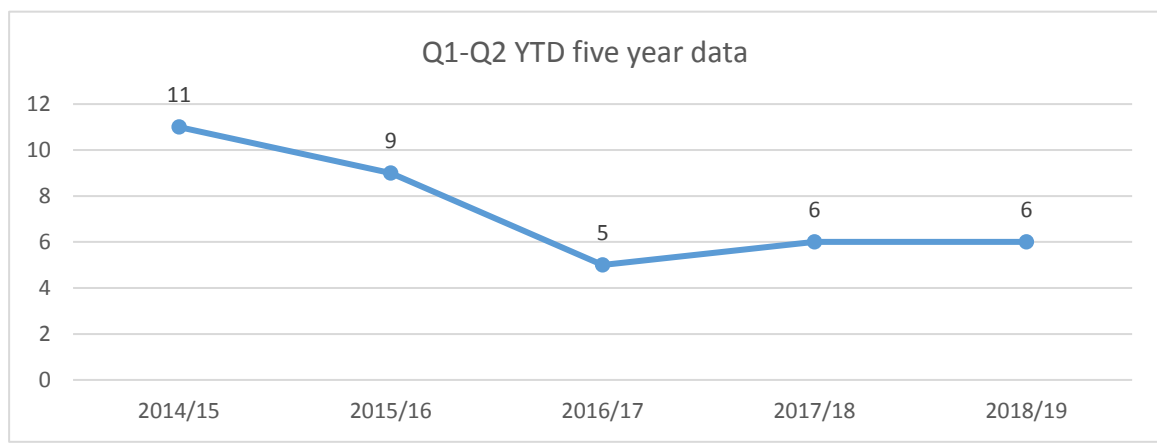
Fire safety legislation aims to ensure the safety of employees, residents, visitors or customers; it sets out rights and responsibilities in respect of fire safety.

Anyone who has control, to any extent, of any premises will have some responsibilities for ensuring that those occupying the premises are safe from harm caused by fire.

The legislation places a duty on those responsible for fire safety within relevant premises to carry out a fire risk assessment. These people are defined in the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 as Duty Holders.



Deliberate fires in non-domestic properties:



Building fires are known as primary fires i.e. those that involve a building or property. Deliberate fires are defined as fires which were ignited deliberately or the Fire and Rescue Service suspect they were started deliberately.

The SFRS have a partnership arrangement with 'Crimestoppers Scotland' which encourages the public to report fire crime and vandalism.

Results:

The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the previous four years confirms a downward trend in relation to 'All Deliberate other building fires'.

The figure for the 2018/19 reporting period is six (6) incidents is the same as the last reporting period in 2017/18.

The average over the previous four years for the same reporting period was eight (8) which identifies a continual downward trend.

Reasons:

Our statistical analysis for these deliberate fires shows the fire caused by persons unknown in most cases with two identified as a youth and age unknown respectively. Ignition was related to smoking material in two cases with the remainder unknown other than one involving a fuel. There has been no known human contributing factors in relation to these incidents.

Actions:

Through our risk based fire safety audit programme our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers carry out fire safety audits. Working in partnership with duty holders to meet their legislative fire safety requirements we assist them to ensure that their buildings are safe for the building users.

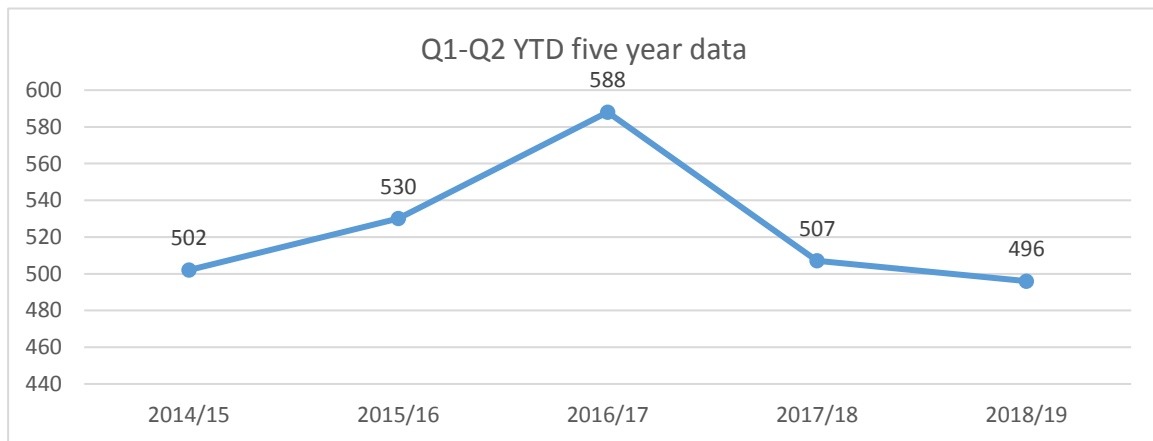
The SFRS do this through partnership work and engagement with stakeholders including the business sector .

Status

LPI Assessment 4: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

The main areas of measurement of Unwanted Fire alarm Signals is:

- Number of UFAS incidents



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are defined as incidents where an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that alarm turns out to be something other than a fire emergency. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to reduce UFAS mobilisations.

Results:

The same Year to Date (YTD) period average over the previous four years confirms a downward trend in relation to 'False Alarms - UFAS'.

The figure for the 2017-18 reporting period is four hundred and ninety six (496) which is down from the same reporting period in 2017-18 of five hundred and seven (507).

The average over the previous four years for the same reporting period was five hundred and fifty two (552) which identifies a continual downward trend.

Reason:

The increased prevalence of automatic fire detection systems throughout all classes of building has inevitably contributed to difficulties in terms of system faults and failures. The SFRS has long been aware of the importance of developing a robust process for managing UFAS activity. We have policies and procedures detailing the processes to be used to engage with persons responsible for managing automated alarm systems and the mechanisms available to support them in dealing with identified issues.

The majority of false alarm actuations originate from Hospital and medical care premises with student accommodation, manufacturing & engineering premises and retail shopping centres equally to a lesser extent. The types of alarm actuation most prevalent are 'Due to Apparatus' from Human (testing, smoking, cooking) and System (poor maintenance, faulty, damaged).

Action:

SFRS has an electronic system for recording UFAS activity and providing an audit trail for all engagement undertaken. Officers manage the system and provide reports on progress. SFRS aims to reduce the number of UFAS calls and are currently working with partners at a local level to reduce these calls by applying national policy and process to ensure a consistent approach. This approach has seen significant investment from partners in order to reduce UFAS incidents across Aberdeen City. SFRS will continue to support duty holders in minimising the impact of false alarms on their day to day business and the subsequent impact on SFRS resources.

Status

LPI Assessment 5: Emergency Response and Resilience

The main areas of measurement of Emergency Response and Resilience are:

- Staff competence
- Availability of operational intelligence risk information
- Appliances, equipment and specialist resources
- Operational assurance audits

Staff Competence – All operational staff follow a nationally defined 3-year development programme which aims to ensure that all firefighters are equipped with the necessary skills required to perform their duties. The process provides the platform for individual and supported development and assessment for the core and expanded skill areas. The process has capacity for additional training categories specific to local risks such as Shipping, Airports, Rail, and Pipelines etc. which are included within the programme to ensure that our firefighters are trained to deal with the incidents they may be called upon to deal with in the local areas.

Promoted Crew and Watch Managers undertake a period of development to provide them with the skills that they require in their supervisory manager role. The period of development has a duration of approximately 18 months linked to the completion of each of the elements required to achieve competency.

| | Watch Managers | Crew Manager | Firefighters | Overall Establishment |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Competent | 80% | 69% | 66% | 68% |
| Development | 20% | 31% | 34% | 32% |

Availability of Operational intelligence (OI) risk Information – Operational crews are actively engaged in the review process for operational intelligence information. The review programme is focused on premises previously identified as high risk with crews inspecting and refreshing critical intelligence for these premises. Operational information is stored in a secure electronic format and can be accessed by firefighters from the cab of the fire engines should they attend an incident at that premise. The ability to access detailed information at incidents supports firefighters at critical times and is vital element of the services approach to fire fighter safety. A new national approach to Operational intelligence is being rolled out across the country with new tablet devices provided to all appliances which will allow access to a wide array of information at the incident ground.

| Station Area | OI |
|---------------------|-------|
| Q01: Anderson Drive | 271 |
| Q02: Central | 481 |
| Q03: Altens | 383 |
| Q20: Dyce | 305 |
| Total | 1,440 |

Appliances, Equipment and Specialist Resources –Central fire station staff are in the final stages of concluding training with a new aerial rescue platform (ALP).This new appliance will be stationed at central fire station to provide a replacement for the current high reach aerial appliance. On 27 April Central Fire Station new water rescue equipment and resources including a trailer mounted rescue boat and dedicated response vehicle were declared as an available specialist resource. This followed a period of extensive training. This resource is mobilised to water rescue incidents such as flooding.

| Fire Station | Pumps | Specialist Resources |
|---------------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q01: North Anderson Drive | 2 | Major Incident Unit, Detection Identification and Monitoring vehicle. |
| Q02: Central | 2 | High reach aerial appliance, water rescue vehicle trailer and boat, Mass decontamination unit. |
| Q03: Altens | 2 | Incident Command Unit, Wildfire unit, Foam unit, Damage control unit |
| Q20: Dyce | 1 | Incident support van |

CPR Lifesaving Awareness Skills Sessions - Personnel are facilitating sessions to support others to develop vital lifesaving skills. Increasing the number of people who can administer CPR will increase survivability for anyone suffering a heart attack.

| Month | Events | People Trained |
|-----------|--------|----------------|
| April | 1 | unknown |
| May | 2 | 67 |
| June | 2 | 109 |
| July | 2 | 5 |
| September | 1 | 57 |
| Total | 8 | 238 |

Operational Assurance Audits – We have implemented a programme of Operational Assurance Audits for measuring operational readiness in fire stations that provides assurance of the quality of service delivery. The process seeks to identify and confirm good performance with the potential of sharing good practice across the service as well as identifying potential areas for improvement. In January 2019 a new SFRS Station Standards Audit and Inspection process will be implemented in accordance with National arrangements.

| Fire Station | Operational Assurance Audits |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Q01: North Anderson Drive | 1 |
| Q02: Central | 1 |
| Q03: Altens | 1 |
| Q20: Dyce | 1 |
| Total | 4 |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Status | |
|---------------|--|

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| COMMITTEE | Public Protection |
| DATE | 5 December 2018 |
| REPORT TITLE | Findings from National Significant Case Reviews |
| REPORT NUMBER | OPE/18/282 |
| DIRECTOR | Rob Polkinghorne |
| REPORT AUTHOR | Graeme Simpson |
| TERMS OF REFERENCE | 1.1 |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide assurance to the Public Protection Committee that there is appropriate systems and process in place to respond to local and national Significant Case Reviews.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 To note the role and function of the Significant Case Review Sub-Committee; and
- 2.2 To endorse the work of the Significant Case Review Sub-Committee to ensure the learning of all local and national Significant Case Reviews is embedded into local practice to improve the outcomes for children and young people who require care and protection.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In Scotland, Significant Case Reviews examine the circumstances and context of a child being harmed or killed, to evaluate the nature and quality of professional contact, if any, with the child, to identify any system failures which may impact on other children, and to learn from the incident, any specific lessons which will strengthen child protection systems, locally and nationally.
- 3.2 Any agency can ask for a case to be reviewed if they consider it meets the Significant Case Review (SCR) criteria. The criteria is set out in the 2015 National Guidance for Child Protection Committees - Conducting a Significant Case Review namely;
 - i. **When a child dies and** the incident or accumulation of incidents (a case) gives rise to significant/serious concerns about professional and/or service involvement or lack of involvement, and **one or more of the following apply:***

- Abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in the child's death;
- The child is on, or has been on, the Child Protection Register (CPR) or a sibling is or was on the CPR.
- The death is by suicide or accidental death;
- The death is by alleged murder, culpable homicide, reckless conduct, or act of violence
- At the time of their death the child was looked after by, or was receiving aftercare or continuing care from, the local authority,

ii. When a child has not died but has sustained **significant** harm or risk of significant harm

and in addition to this,

iii. The incident or accumulation of incidents gives rise to serious concerns about professional and/or service involvement or lack of involvement, and Child Protection Committee determines there may be learning to be gained through conducting a SCR.

3.3 The Scottish Government report - **Protecting Scotland's Children and Young People: It is Still Everyone's Job** published in March 2017 examined the systems and processes relating to child protection. It reinforced the critical role SCR's play in supporting a continuous learning culture across Child Protection. The report also recommended that the Care Inspectorate continue to act as the repository for all SCR's and that they ensure that the learning from these is made widely accessible.

3.4 The last report published by the Care Inspectorate in relation to SCR's was in 2016 and covered the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2015. During this period a total of 20 SCR's had been undertaken across Scotland concerning a total of 23 children, 11 of whom had died. The reasons for the SCR's were:

Non-fatal cases

| Type of harm | Number of children/young people |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Neglect | 2 |
| Eating disorder | 1 |
| Mental health and risks to self and others | 1 |
| Physical abuse | 4 |
| Sexual abuse | 3 |
| Causing death of another person | 1 |
| Total | 12 |

Fatalities

| Cause of death | Number of children/young people |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI) | 3 |
| Drowning | 1 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Physical injuries | 1 |
| Fall from height whilst intoxicated | 1 |
| Drug overdose | 2 |
| Suicide | 3 |
| Total | 11 |

- 3.5 The 2016 Care Inspectorate report on SCR's made several recommendations which were further considered in the 2017 Scottish Government report ***Protecting Scotland's Children and Young People: It is Still Everyone's Job***. These recommendations have been fully taken onboard by Aberdeen City and contributed to the resulted in a revision of the terms of reference for the Chief Officers Group Public Protection meeting and to the establishment of a sub-committee to the Child Protection Committee to focus on SCR's both locally and nationally.
- 3.6 The 2016 Care Inspectorate report made clear reference to the ***National Guidance for Child Protection Committees Conducting a Significant Case Review*** published in 2015. The National Guidance has been fully adopted by the Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee. The SCR Sub Committee is a multi-agency committee whose membership consists of senior officers from across children's services partnership in Aberdeen City. The sub-committee offers rigorous professional challenge and assurance to cases referred for consideration of an SCR before making a recommendation to the Chief Officers Group. It is the responsibility of the Chief Officers Group to determine the need for a SCR.
- 3.7 Since its establishment in early 2017 the SCR Sub Committee has received four referrals for consideration of conducting a SCR. It is the role of the SCR Sub Committee to undertake an Initial Case Review (ICR) to determine the need for a SCR. The outcome of these referrals was:
- 1 was deemed not to have met the criteria set out in 3.1
 - In 2 cases the Chief Officers Group accepted the recommendation of the SCR Sub Committee that having undertaken an ICR, while there was clear professional learning across all agencies, there was no requirement to conduct a SCR.
 - 1 was deemed to require a SCR and this is being progressed.
- 3.8 The four referrals have come from across the Child Services Partnership – 2 x Police Scotland; 1 x Children's Social Work and 1 x NHS Grampian. This demonstrates that the guidance has been appropriately disseminated and understood by the multi-agency workforce.
- 3.9 The SCR Sub Committee through the Child Protection Committee (CPC) has responsibility to ensure that learning from SCR/ICR's is understood and disseminated across all agencies. Individual agencies are required to demonstrate to the Chief Officers Group via the CPC how the learning has

informed practice improvement and if appropriate revising practice guidance and/or systems.

- 3.10 The SCR Sub Committee also has a duty to consider the findings of SCR's carried out across Scotland and to give consideration as their relevance for all agencies in Aberdeen City. The relevance of findings of national SCR's are also reported to the Chief Officers Group with the subsequent expectation that all agencies demonstrate their positive impact on services delivered to children and young people across Aberdeen City.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

| | Risk | Low (L), Medium (M), High (H) | Mitigation |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Financial | None | | |
| Legal | None | | |
| Employee | SCR's support the continuous professional development of staff working across children's services ensuring lessons are learnt and best practice promoted. | L | The Child Protection Committee ensures the learning from SCR's is disseminated across the children's services workforce. Individual agencies are required to feedback how learning has been embedded into practice to improve the outcomes for children and young people. |
| Customer | A SCR is undertaken following an incident which has caused significant harm to a child to ensure that | L | Children and young people can be assured that services in Aberdeen City are learning from SCR's to |

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | similar incidents can be avoided. | | improve the quality of locally delivered services. |
| Environment | None | | |
| Technology | None | | |
| Reputational | The circumstances surrounding a SCR can bring significant media interest and scrutiny of services delivered to children and young people. | L | The focus and attention of the Chief Officers Group and Child Protection Committee to SCR's ensures that all agency's are embedding the learning from SCR's to improve the services delivered to children and young people. |

7. OUTCOMES

| Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Impact of Report |
| Prosperous People | The functions of the Child Protection Committee are central to supporting and assuring that the multi-agency Children's Services Partnerships deliver on the outcomes of the LOIP Prosperous People - Children are our Future and that they have "the best start in life"; they are "safe and responsible" and "protected from harm". Children who are adequately protected from threats to their health, safety and economic wellbeing are more likely to prosper than those who are not. |

| Design Principles of Target Operating Model | |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Impact of Report |
| Governance | Appropriate oversight of services delivering public protection provides assurance to both the organisation and the public in terms of meeting the council's statutory duties, and also contributes to compliance with agreed standards |
| Workforce | A proactive learning approach is taken to support staff understanding and embedded lessons from SCR's carried out locally and nationally. |
| Partnerships and Alliances | Services to children and young people are delivered on a multiagency basis and the scrutiny, challenge and learning similarly requires all agencies to work in partnership with each other. |

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment | Outcome |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment | |
| Privacy Impact Assessment | Not Required |
| Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty | Not Required |

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COMMITTEE | Public Protection |
| DATE | 5 December 2018 |
| REPORT TITLE | Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee – National Child Protection Improvement Programme |
| REPORT NUMBER | OPE/18/283 |
| DIRECTOR | Rob Polkinghorne |
| REPORT AUTHOR | Kymme Fraser |
| TERMS OF REFERENCE | 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and “Joint Working with Non-Council Bodies” |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To assure the Public Protection Committee of the involvement of Aberdeen City’s Chief Officers Group and Child Protection Committee in progressing, in this area, the expectations of the national Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes the content of this report; and
2.2 Endorses the work of the Aberdeen City’s Chief Officer Group and Child Protection Committee in relation to the CPIP.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As the Committee were advised in the presentation from the Child Protection Committee to its meeting on 4 July 2018, the recommendations and actions of the Scottish Government’s CPIP are contained in two reports:

- [*Child Protection Improvement Programme Report*](#)
- [*Protecting Scotland's Children and Young People: It is Still Everyone's Job*](#)

3.2 The suite of recommendations and actions contained in both these reports was accepted by the Scottish Government on 2 March 2017. The Government's vision for a child protection system in Scotland is one that keeps children safer from abuse and neglect by placing the wellbeing of Scotland's children at the heart of everything it does by:

- being rooted in GIRFEC;
- both engaging early and supporting families;
- empowering practitioners to intervene to protect children when support is not working; and
- having a transparent and learning culture which values and supports its workforce.

3.3 **The Child Protection Improvement Programme**

The Child Protection Improvement Programme is made up of nine interconnected work strands:

- Child Protection Systems Review;
- Neglect;
- Child Sexual Exploitation;
- Child Trafficking;
- Child Internet Safety;
- Children's Hearings;
- Role of Inspection Agencies;
- Leadership and Workforce Development; and
- Data and Evidence.

The Child Protection Improvement Programme report sets out 35 actions covering these work strands.

3.4 **The Child Protection Systems Review**

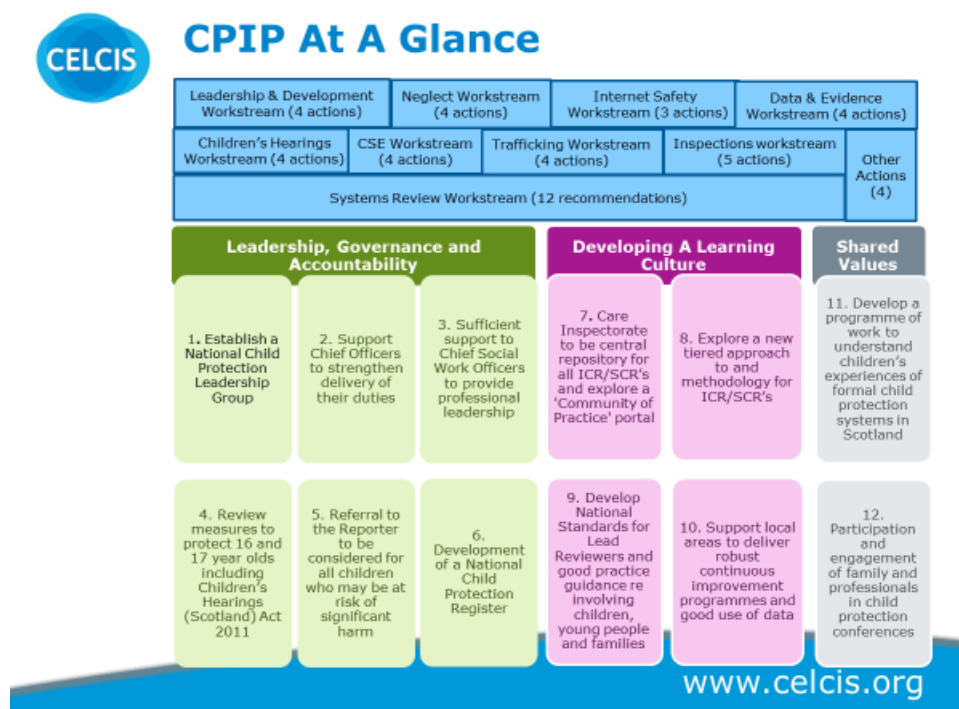
A review of the formal elements of the child protection system (child protection committees; initial and significant case reviews; the child protection register and case conferences) was conducted.

The findings of the Systems Review report have focused on three thematic areas:

- Leadership, Governance and Accountability;
- Developing a Learning Culture, and
- Shared Values. To support the participation of children, parents and wider families in the child protection and decision-making processes.

12 recommendations emerged from the systems review covering Initial and Significant Case Reviews, Child Protection Committees, the Child Protection Register, and matters of leadership, governance and accountability.

3.5 An overview of CPIP is captured below:



3.6 Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee (CPC) is progressing relevant local matters through its ongoing child protection improvement programme. At its meeting in June 2018, the Committee noted the progress attained and future intentions of the local child protection improvement programme as outlined in the CPC Annual Report. Also, a more detailed presentation in relation to this work was made to the Committee in September 2018. In summary, the focus of the improvement programme currently encompasses:

- Addressing neglect and supporting consistent risk assessments across Aberdeen City
- Developing a strength-based approach to our child protection services and improving participation in the child protection process
- Continuing to make best use of our data
- Making sure we disseminate learning from Initial and Significant Case Reviews
- Continuing to address child sexual exploitation (CSE), child trafficking and on-line safety; all of which are closely inter-related
- Domestic abuse and child protection issues

- Strengthening alignment with other local, strategic partnerships such as the Alcohol & Drugs Partnership, Adult Protection Committee and the Violence against Women Partnership.

It is anticipated that the progress made locally will be identified in the forthcoming Joint Inspection of Children’s Services.

3.7 The Chief Officer Group is committed to this work and has participated in the Leadership event held in Perth on 02 05 18, the report for which is attached.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 No financial matters are raised in this briefing report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

| | Risk | Low (L), Medium (M), High (H) | Mitigation |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Financial | None for this report | | |
| Legal | Failure of the council to have oversight of Services delivering Public Protection could result in the council failing to meet its statutory duties in terms of services aimed at protecting the public, and potential litigation from people who have been harmed | M | Agreement by this committee on the matters to be reported will allow oversight of these services with a view to minimising the risk of failing to protect the public. |
| Employee | None for this report | | |
| Customer | Failure of the council to have oversight of Services delivering Public Protection could result in the public being | M | Agreement by this committee on the matters to be reported will allow oversight of these services with a view to minimising the risk of failing to protect |

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | at risk of harm and loss of customer confidence | | the public, and ensure compliance with any legal requirements or national standards and guidance for those services |
| Environment | None for this report | | |
| Technology | None for this report | | |
| Reputational | Failure of the council to have oversight of Services delivering Public Protection could result in organisational failings being missed and damage the reputation of the council | M | Agreement by this committee on the matters to be reported will allow oversight of these services with a view to ensuring compliance with any legal requirements or national standards and guidance for those services |

7. OUTCOMES

| Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Impact of Report |
| Prosperous Economy | In addition to securing protection of the public, business compliance with legislation reduces the risk to them of criminal proceedings and/or litigation, and so is good for them individually and for the economy as a whole. |
| Prosperous People | The functions of the Child Protection Committee are central to supporting and assuring that the multi-agency Children's Services Partnerships deliver on the outcomes of the LOIP Prosperous People - Children are our Future and that they have "the best start in life"; they are "safe and responsible" and "protected from harm". Children who are adequately protected from threats to their health, safety and economic wellbeing are more likely to prosper than those who are not. |
| Prosperous Place | Protecting our built environment and natural resources reduces the risks to and enhances the health, safety and wellbeing of Aberdeen citizens and visitors. |

| Design Principles of Target Operating Model | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Impact of Report |
| Governance | Appropriate oversight of services delivering public protection provides assurance to both the organisation and the public in terms of meeting the council's statutory duties, and also contributes to compliance with agreed standards. |

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment | Outcome |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment | Protection of equality and human rights is integral to the work of these services, and for this reason a full EHRIA is not required. |
| Privacy Impact Assessment | not required |
| Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty | not applicable |

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES

10.1 CELCIS Report on the Leadership Event 2 May 2018

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Chief Officers' Leadership Events

Events Report

Protecting Children Programme Team, CELCIS

May 2018

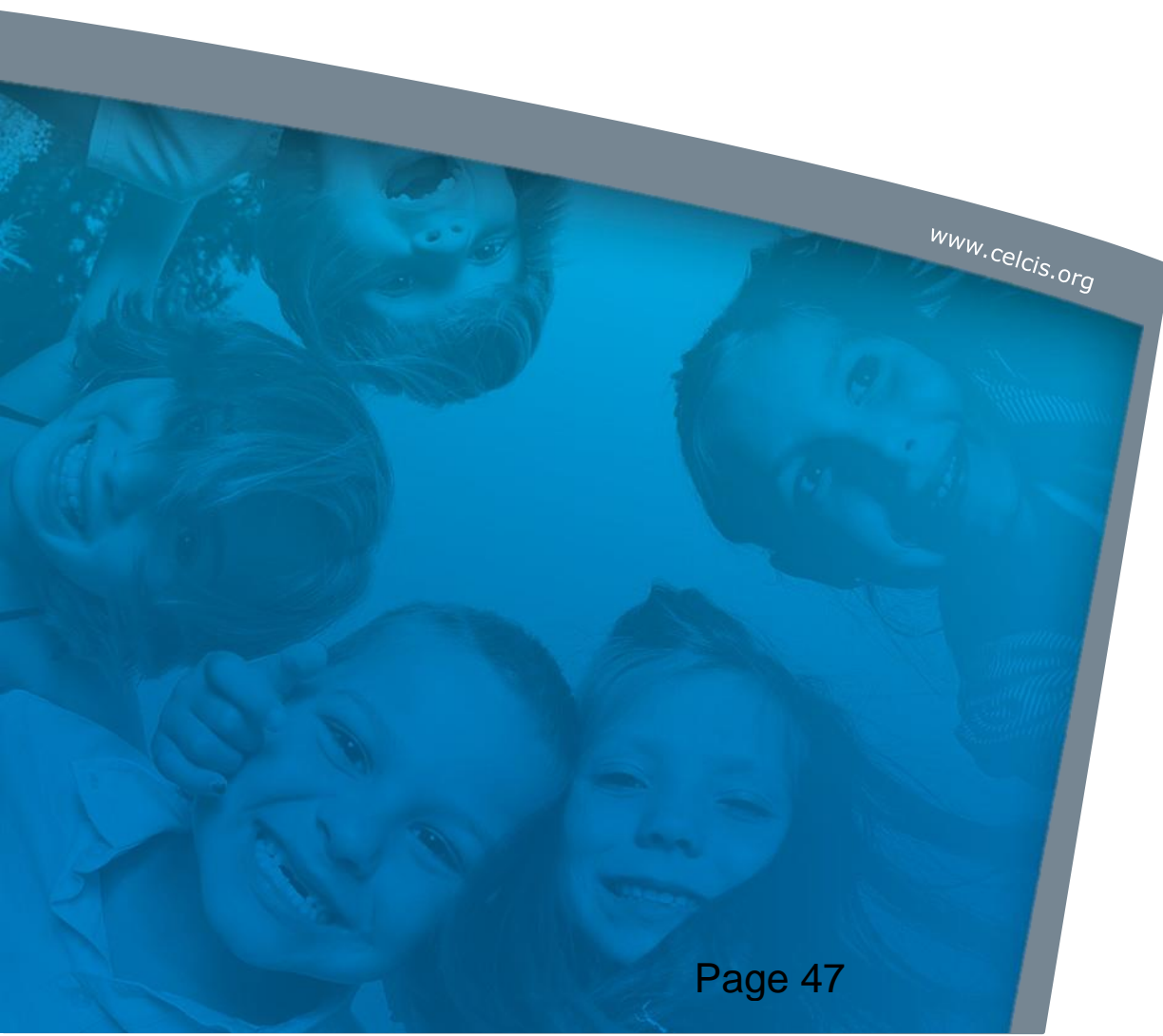


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Introduction

This is a report of the Child Protection Chief Officers' Leadership Events which took place in April and May 2018, in Glasgow and Perth respectively.

The report includes the background to, purpose of, and programme for these events; detail of discussions which took place at the two workshops on the day; an analysis of the feedback forms received from delegates at the end of the events; and an outline of the next steps.

This detailed report has been issued to all delegates who attended the events, plus all members of the National Child Protection Leadership Group.

A summarised report of the events has been published on the CELCIS website.

Background

On 25th February 2016, the then Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Angela Constance MSP, announced in Parliament that the Scottish Government would be undertaking a Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP). The Programme's core objective was to identify where recommendations for sustainable improvement could be made, building upon the observable improvements in practice that have already taken place in recent years and seeking to further embed Scotland's unique approach to child wellbeing: *Getting it Right for Every Child* (GIRFEC).

CPIP includes nine interconnected work strands: the Child Protection Systems Review; Neglect; Child Sexual Exploitation; Child Trafficking; Child Internet Safety; Children's Hearings; Inspections; Leadership; and, Data and Evidence.

Throughout 2016, a review of the formal elements of the child protection system (child protection committees; initial and significant case reviews; the child protection register and case conferences) was conducted. This review, led independently by Catherine Dyer, former Crown Agent and Chief Executive of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, included representatives from key stakeholder groups. Its findings focused on three thematic areas: Leadership, Governance and Accountability; Developing a Learning Culture, and, Shared Values. Twelve recommendations emerged from the review and the Scottish Government accepted these in full.

Recommendation 2 of the Systems Review states:

"Chief Officers should be supported by the National Child Protection Leadership Group and Child Protection Committees Scotland to strengthen delivery of their responsibilities, as set out in the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014), and to identify areas where further work may be required, such as:

- *Clarity of reporting mechanisms between Child Protection Committees and Chief Officers' Groups;*
- *Descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of Child Protection Committees (including that of Chairs of CPC's) and Chief Officers' Groups; and*
- *Supporting Child Protection Committees to carry out their roles and functions in line with the requirements set out in National Guidance.*

(...) The Scottish Government should resource a number of regional leadership events via the Leadership Group for all Chief Officers' Groups and Chairpersons of Child Protection Committees to network, share good practice and collectively horizon scan for new risks facing children and young people."

Scottish Government (2017), Child Protection Systems Review, Recommendation 2.

CELCIS supported Scottish Government in the planning for these events, working closely with the newly established National Child Protection Leadership Group chaired by the Minister for Childcare and Early Years.

Programme and Purpose

The purpose of these Chief Officers' Leadership Events is to provide opportunities for Chief Officers' Groups to come together to reflect on their respective roles and responsibilities in relation to the protection of children and young people; to share their experiences, successes and challenges; and to consider how best to utilise learning, data and evidence to continue to improve the protection and wellbeing of children and young people.

A full day event was planned, which ran twice to accommodate the large numbers of delegates across the country.

The focus of this first event was the opportunities and challenges inherent in strategic leadership. The programme was as follows:

09.30 Registration

10.00 Welcome by Chair

Donald Henderson, Head of Care, Protection and Justice, Scottish Government (chaired Glasgow event)

Angela Leitch, Chief Executive, East Lothian Council and Chair SOLACE (chaired morning of Perth event)

10.10 Opening Remarks

Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Childcare and Early Years

10.20 Leadership in a complex environment

Catherine Dyer, former Crown Agent and Chief Executive of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

- 11.05** **Q&A**
- 11.30** **Comfort break**
- 11.45** **Workshop 1:**
Revision of Children and Young People: Child Protection Committees (2005) Guidance
Key questions and table discussion
- 12.55** Lunch & networking
- 13.35** **Effective collaborative leadership for child protection**
Karen Reid and Helen Happer, Care Inspectorate
- 14.05** **Workshop 2:**
Reflections on strategic leadership of child protection
Key questions and table discussion
- 15.30** **Q&A**
Donald Henderson, Head of Care, Protection and Justice, Scottish Government
- 15.45** **Challenges and opportunities**
Iona Colvin, Chief Social Work Adviser, Scottish Government (Glasgow event)
Anne Houston, Chair of Child Protection Committees Scotland (Perth event)
- 16.00** **Final remarks & finish**
Donald Henderson, Head of Care, Protection and Justice, Scottish Government

Delegates

Invitations from the Minister for Childcare & Early Years were sent to the following groups:

- Chairs of Child Protection Chief Officers' Group
- Chief Executives of Local Authorities
- Chief Executives of NHS Boards
- Police Scotland Divisional Commanders
- Chief Social Work Officers
- Child Protection Committee Chairs
- Child Protection Committee Lead Officers/Coordinators
- Chief Officers of Integration Joint Boards

Members of each Chief Officers' Groups were encouraged to attend the same event to promote locality based discussion and reflection.

In addition, invitations were sent to HMIC, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Education Scotland.

A total of **165** participants attended these events (94 at the Glasgow event in April and 71 at the Perth event in May)

23 out of 32 Chairs of Chief Officers Groups attended
21 out of 32 Local Authority Chief Executives attended
8 out of 14 Health boards represented – 4 Chief Executives attended
15 divisional Police Scotland staff attended (11 of the 13 divisions represented)
25 out of 32 Chief Social Work Officers attended
25 out of 30 Child Protection Committee Chairs attended
21 out of 29 Child Protection Committee Lead Officers attended
12 Chief Officers from Health & Social Care Partnerships attended

The table on the next page shows representation per Child Protection Committee area. Green indicates that the invited representative attended, amber indicates that a depute attended and red indicates the invited representative was not able to attend.

| Child Protection Committee | COG Chair | LA Chief Ex. | Health Chief Ex. | Chief Superintendent Police Scotland | Chief Social Work Officer | IJB Chief Officer | CPC Chair | CPC Lead Officer | Notes |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aberdeen City | | | | | | | | | Other NHS rep attended |
| Aberdeenshire | | | | | | | | | Other NHS rep attended |
| Angus | | | | | | | | | Other NHS rep attended Other police division rep attended (3) |
| Argyll & Bute | | | | | | | | | |
| Clackmannanshire & Stirling | | | | | | | | | |
| Dumfries & Galloway | | | | | | | | | |
| Dundee | | | | | | | | | Other NHS rep attended Other police division rep attended (3) |
| East Ayrshire | | | | | | | | | |
| East Dunbartonshire | | | | | | | | | Other NHS rep attended |
| East and Mid Lothian | | | | | | Mid only | | | Other NHS rep attended (3) |
| East Renfrewshire | | | | | | | | | Other NHS rep attended |
| Edinburgh | | | | | | | | VACANCY | Other NHS rep attended (3) |
| Falkirk | | | | | | | | | |
| Fife | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Glasgow | | | | | | | | | Other NHS rep attended |
| Highland | | | | | | | | | |
| Inverclyde | | | | | | | | | Other NHS rep attended |
| Moray | | | | | | | | | Other NHS rep attended |
| North Ayrshire | | | | | | | | | |
| North Lanarkshire | | | | | | | | | |
| Orkney | | | | | | | | | |
| Perth & Kinross | | | | | | | | | Other NHS rep attended Other police division rep attended (3) |
| Renfrewshire | | | | | | | | | Other NHS rep attended |
| Scottish Borders | | | | | | | | | |
| Shetland | | | | | | | | | |
| South Ayrshire | | | | | | | | | |
| South Lanarkshire | | | | | | | | | |
| West Dunbartonshire | | | | | | | | | Other NHS rep attended |
| Western Isles | | | | | | | | | |
| West Lothian | | | | | | | | | Other NHS rep attended (3) |

Workshops

WORKSHOP 1

Workshop 1 asked attendees to reflect on and discuss the revision of the *Children and Young People: Child Protection Committees (2005) Guidance* that was led by the National Leadership Group. The discussion across the two events has been organised under the following headings:

- 1. Identified Strengths of the Revised 2005 Guidance.**
- 2. Identified Gaps or Weaknesses in the Revised 2005 Guidance.**
- 3. Comments on Specific Sections of the Revised 2005 Guidance.**
- 4. Opportunities and Supports for CPCs and COGs.**
- 5. Wider Priorities or Challenges Facing CPCs.**

1. Identified Strengths of the Revised 2005 Guidance

The main identified strengths of the revised 2005 Guidance were as follows:

- Clearly written.
- Consistent with but adds to the 2005 Guidance.
- Reflects what is viewed as best practice.
- Very useful document for new CPC and COG members.
- Helps to emphasise need for shared, multi-agency perspective rather than Social Work and Police alone, although importance of multi-agency ownership of Child Protection could be further strengthened (particularly in relation to early intervention and prevention).
- Good detail is provided around the membership of CPCs – including organisations, grades/positions, decision-making authority and attendance levels.
- Greater prominence and detail given to the role and responsibilities of the Chief Social Work Officer than in 2005 Guidance (*note: also see Workshop 2 Question 4 feedback*).

- Timely as some local areas are reviewing structures, functions and processes. The Guidance therefore helps to challenge partners undertaking these reviews about roles, responsibilities and activities.
- Provides an opportunity to 'walk through' local processes and procedures to assess fit with Guidance.
- Recognises that it is difficult to be overly prescriptive given the local variations and organisational cultures that have developed over time.

2. Identified Gaps or Weaknesses in the Revised 2005 Guidance

The main identified gaps or weaknesses of the revised 2005 Guidance were as follows, noting that the next Section 3 provides additional detail on specific sections of the Guidance:

- **Document structure and styles:**
 - Use strengths-based language where possible, so avoiding negative connotations of failure, blame, etc.
 - Text is dense in places and there may be the potential for greater use of tables and diagrams to help summarise and/or break up the text.
 - Text is quite disjointed in places and Guidance as a whole needs editing so that more consistent language and tone used throughout – for example, consistency in use of should/could/will etc.
 - Useful to have case studies and good practice examples included. One table suggested including examples of any Risk Registers being developed and used.
 - Could include annexes/appendices/how to guides on how to address challenging issues for CPCs, such as child and young person participation, engaging with families, and carrying out self-evaluations.
 - Aim should be for the Guidance to be a concise document.
- **Purpose of the Guidance:**
 - Guidance lacks ambition that can help drive improvement
 - Greater clarity required on who the Guidance is aimed at
 - Clarity needed on 2014 National Guidance versus the revised 2005 Guidance – what is *the* guidance; or what is the purpose of each?

- Greater clarity required around the context in which the Guidance sits. In particular, where does the Guidance sit in relation to the increasing multi-agency integration across Public Protection?
 - Too much focus on child protection/deaths (i.e. small number of high level needs) rather than protecting children/neglect (i.e. large cases of unmet needs). More information, guidance and emphasis around prevention and early intervention would be beneficial.
 - Guidance needs to be built into the Inspection Regime to help support its implementation.
 - One table saw a risk that the Guidance is symptomatic of continuing over-professionalisation of Child Protection, e.g. more procedures, risk factors, etc.
 - One table asked whether the Guidance be put into legislation (as it is in Adult Protection) to ensure that it is mandatory rather than setting expectations? However, the table also considered whether legislation has made Adult Protection more effective?
- **Specific additions/amendments suggested:**
 - Definition of a child could be added to the Guidance. There could also be guidance on how children who do not meet Child Protection thresholds should be supported.
 - Scope to provide greater clarity on governance and reporting relationships, interfaces and expectations between CPCs, COGs and wider strategic groupings and agenda – e.g. Community Planning Partnerships, Children’s Services Planning, Public Protection Groupings, Integrated Joint Boards Corporate Parenting, Health and Social Care Partnerships, NHS Boards and Police Scotland Boards. Organigrams between different functions could help here, although these would have to be developed locally given variations in local arrangements.
 - Clearer language could be developed around the importance of joint accountability across partners.
 - Reference to Children’s Rights could be strengthened.
 - Guidance is currently focused on process and procedure. The importance of culture is not considered, particularly the need for a strong and positive learning culture.

- No mention made to Terms of Reference – and Guidance could provide sample/template Terms of Reference.
- Scope to provide greater clarity around the role of Collaboratives (e.g. Educational Regional Collaboratives) and their connections to CPC continuous improvement activities.
- Clarify relationship/interface with Clinical Care Governance and Chief Accountable Officer.
- One table noted that the Guidance does not support cases where young people have committed crimes under the age of 16 but are not tried until they are 17 years old due to legal delays. These are vulnerable young people, many of whom will have experienced the Child Protection system.
- One table suggested that the Guidance become a live document that is 'date stamped' so that it is relevant and aligned to latest legislation.

3. Comments on Specific Sections of the Revised 2005 Guidance

The following section sets out the comments that were concerned with specific sections of the revised 2005 Guidance.

- **Section 2: Role of Chief Officers:**

- Important to explicitly state what the role of the COG is in relation to Child Protection, and the relationship between COGs and CPCs.
- Strengthen importance of Chief Officers in providing wider Public Protection perspective and alignment (i.e. spanning Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, MAPPA and Violence Against Women), as well as making the connections to other strategic groupings.
- Specify where Child Protection responsibilities should not be delegated from Chief Officers to their staff.
- Important that COGs are encouraged to consider their own capacity and objectivity.
- Scope for the Guidance to challenge Chief Officers more.
- Scope for greater clarity on what types of information CPCs should report to COGs to ensure the COGs have oversight of and confidence in their CPCs and local Child Protection processes.

- Section 2.2 – one table asked whether minimum expectations could be set, for example ‘does your local authority have a COG?’.
- Section 2.7 – one table viewed the section of resources for COGs as a sweeping statement with some inaccuracies around the role of the COG.
- Section 2.8 – in addition to reporting the number of vacancies and absences, there needs to be an assessment made of the impact of and risks caused by these vacancies and absences.
- Section 2.10 – one table disagreed on the option of referring decisions/cases to Scottish Government. It was felt that all cases should be dealt with at the local level.
- Section 2.11 – one table noted that the needs of the child are not being met, e.g. the interests of surviving siblings of SCR children are not being properly supported by services. Section can be enhanced to better reflect these issues.
- One table asked whether there should be four Chief Officers to include the IJB?

- **Section 3: Function of the Child Protection Committee**

- Section 3.3:
 - What is meant by engagement with children and families in relation to Child Protection?
 - How can we learn from practitioners about how they talk with children and families?
 - Public information, engagement and participation should extend beyond the public to include wider public and Third Sector staff (e.g. education, early years, and health). For these staff, they should understand the importance of Child Protection and be aware of different Child Protection partners.
- Section 3.4.4:
 - Need to shift attitude to SCRs so that they are viewed as a learning opportunity. This includes identifying what was working well, as well as where there were failings.
 - Effective information sharing is critical to ICRs and SCRs.

- Working with politicians and the media critical so that they understand the learning purpose of SCRs.
 - Needs to be a national portal to share learning and good practice from ICRs and SCRs, with the key learning points available in an accessible format and to an audience beyond CPCs.
 - Cross-chairing of ICRs and SCRs between CPCs could be suggested within the Guidance.
 - Guidance should strengthen the role of COGs in relation to SCRS, for example that COGs making the final decision around ICRs and SCRs (on the recommendations of the CPC).
 - Should CPCs undertake 'SCRs' of near misses or random cases to identify good and weak practice?
- **Section 4: Carrying Out the Task:**
 - Scope for greater clarity on and rationale for membership of CPC:
 - Procurator Fiscal – they do not sit on COGs or CPCs yet have involvement where necessary, e.g. SCRs. Their increased involvement and understanding of Child Protection could help speed up the legal process for young people.
 - Elected members – helpful to have greater clarity on the purpose and value of their CPC and/or COG membership, particularly as their involvement is highlighted in Systems Review.
 - Board members of NHS Boards and Integrated Joint Boards – these are the equivalent of local authority elected members, so should they also be CPC members?
 - Education – e.g. should Education be represented on the CPC and who should represent the sector (e.g. Director of Education, Chief Education Officer or a Headteacher)?
 - Primary Care – should they be added as a CPC member given the importance of the sector's workforce having child protection awareness and training?
 - Noting the detail provided around Chief Social Work Officers, *either* need to reduce detail provided on CSWO *or* provide greater detail around roles, responsibilities and resource commitments of partners and positions in education, health, Police Scotland, etc.

- The need for CPC members to have high levels of decision-making authority within their own organisation needs to be further reinforced.
 - Guidance could state that each partner organisation specify who their Child Protection Lead is so that issues can be directed to the most appropriate person.
 - One table questioned the extent to which the minimum of 13 CPC members is in line with evidence on the most effective meeting size.
 - Guidance does not specify the need for CPC members to have an understanding of Child Protection.
- Chair of the CPC (*note: also see Workshop 2 Question 5 feedback*):
 - Scope to be more explicit on respective strengths and weaknesses of having Independent versus Officer CPC Chair.
 - Important to specify the skillset and competences required of CPC Chairs – e.g. holding people to account, provide challenge, act as a 'change leader', prepared to escalate issues to COG, chairing and facilitation skills, trust and acknowledge expertise of professionals.
 - Scope to specify Chair's terms of service, so that position is reviewed on a periodic but scheduled basis.
 - Lead Officer of the CPC:
 - Given the detail provided for the Chief Social Work Officer, there is scope to more fully set out the requirements and expectations of CPC Lead Officers to help bring greater consistency.
 - CPC meeting schedule:
 - No clear expectation set around how often CPCs should meet.
 - No or little reference made to COGs and CPCs holding exceptional meetings outwith scheduled cycle of meetings when required.
 - Guidance could encourage CPCs to review membership using attendance level information to help encourage and ensure consistent attendance by designated members.
 - Other points raised:

- Scope for greater prescription around which CPC Sub-Groups should be in place, with the need for a Quality Assurance Sub-Group emphasised.
- Greater clarity needed around what a CPC Business Plan should contain.
- Greater insight into what resources are needed for an effective CPC – e.g. financial resources, administration support and other dedicated/specialist resources.

4. Opportunities and Supports for CPCs and COGs

To help CPCs and COGs to implement the Guidance, the following supports or activities were suggested:

- **Opportunities and issues arising from the revised Guidance:**
 - Potential for CPCs and COGs to review and refresh their Terms of Reference to clarify partners' roles and responsibilities.
 - Consideration is needed around how to raise the profile and visibility of CPCs and COGs, with this including raising the awareness of their roles and (with reference to CPCs) promoting the positive work they are doing.
 - Taking the time to take stock of new Guidance and reflect on how their CPC and COG stands against it.
 - Opportunity to test the Guidance with new Chief Officers to check what value they take from it.
 - Valuable to share the Guidance with stakeholders (including practitioners) to highlight changes and updates made from the previous 2005 version.
 - Greater use of 'walk throughs', 'pit stops' or 'simulated learning exercises' to understand in detail specific processes and cases – and then learn from this exercises.
 - One table suggested there was scope for leadership self-evaluation exercises to be carried out in other settings beyond Child Protection (e.g. Integrated Children's Services).
- **Supports for Chief Officers:**

- Develop (national) induction for all COG members, followed by a learning and development pathway, to reinforce the Guidance and build COG member understanding of Child Protection legislation, policy and processes. One table made reference to the induction and development programme that is in place for IJB Board members.
 - Support Chief Officers (and particularly Chairs) to pose challenging questions of and scrutinise the Child Protection system and its partners. It was noted that elected members can access support around scrutiny from the Centre for Public Scrutiny.
 - Support Chief Officers so that they are more 'Child Protection' confident and able to take greater responsibility for and ownership of Child Protection issues.
 - Establish safe environments (e.g. Communities of Practice) for Chief Officers to openly discuss their experiences (both positive and negative), ask questions and to learn from others. CPC Chairs have this via CPC Scotland and CPC Consortia but there is not an equivalent for COGs.
 - COGs could invite practitioners and other experts to their meetings to allow discussion of specific issues, which helps keep Chief Officers up to date with current practice and legislation, as well as having a better understanding of what is happening on the ground.
 - Opportunities should be explored that enable COGs to have better understanding of on-the-ground issues, such as the impact of staff vacancies.
- **Supports for CPC members:**
 - For CPC members, induction process widely in place but are local variations in content and approach. Is there scope for greater standardisation?
 - Supports for Independent CPC Chairs to keep up-to-date with changes to Child Protection legislation, policy and processes.
 - Scope for videos of effective CPC meetings to see what a good meeting looks like and help share good practice.
 - CPC members given the opportunity to attend more national groups due to the learning that can be gained.
 - Develop equivalents to the COLSA Handbooks but for Child Protection themes.

- **Supports for both CPC and COG members:**

- More guidance and support around how to develop a strong learning culture where learning is applied and implemented across the system.
- More guidance and support needed around implementation.
- Support in identifying and understanding emerging risks (e.g. IT and social media), noting that this horizon scanning requires sharing across Public Protection and learning from other local areas and countries.
- Scope for members to attend other areas' CPCs and COGs to enhance learning and to strengthen linkages with other areas. Also scope for Chief Officers to attend meetings of other partners (e.g. local authority chief executive attends Police Scotland meeting) to better understand other organisational cultures and priorities.
- Support around how to set more effective meeting agenda.

- **Wider Supports from National Partners:**

- Greater precision around Children and Young People Act 2014 to support its implementation, particularly on information sharing and the impact of GDPR.
- Greater joining up and alignment of Scottish Government demands of local areas, e.g. around strategic planning documentation and reporting.
- Greater alignment across different national strategies to enable CPCs and COGs to have a more coherent understanding of national policy and priorities.
- Some rebalancing of national resources from education (e.g. Scottish Attainment Challenge) to prevention, early intervention and protection work.
- More defined role for the Care Inspectorate – e.g. around providing recommendations and good practice examples to support continuous quality improvement and learning.
- National campaign around Child Protection that is designed to encourage and authorise the public to report suspected harm.

5. Wider Priorities or Challenges Facing CPCs and COGs

Workshop 1 also included discussion of wider challenges facing CPCs and COGs that could impact on the extent to which the Guidance is implemented. These were as follows:

- In line with Getting It Right For Every Child and in the context of Integrated Children's Services, scope for CPCs to focus **more attention on early intervention and prevention work**:
 - Scope to build on Adverse Childhood Experiences work.
 - Early intervention work could be an opportunity to develop more effective information sharing across partners.
 - Scope for two Registers – Child Protection Register and a 'Below the Radar' Register?
- **More effective use of data** (*note: also see Workshop 2 Question 2 feedback*):
 - Data collected should be meaningful and proportionate.
 - Data should include quantitative data and qualitative data (e.g. how children and young people are feeling about their lives).
 - Data should come from multiple partners – and not only social work.
 - Important to understand the drivers for service need – e.g. what socio-economic, health and community factors are driving demand?
 - Data should be oriented towards outcomes for children and young people.
 - A set of questions could be developed that CPCs and COGs could universally use to assess their performance.
 - Benchmarking performance against other local areas seen to be important, but question of how feasible and reliable local area comparisons are.
 - Opportunities to share information and data across different Adult Protection and Child Protection themes should be taken (e.g. neglect, CSE, trafficking, missing children).
 - Child's Plan provides opportunity to measure wider aspects of wellbeing, alongside child protection concerns and actions.
 - Important to have a narrative that discusses what the data shows.
 - Good quality data analysis skills can be challenging to find and many CPCs are drawing on centralised data analysis teams that can lack the subject knowledge.

- **Strengthening the role of the Third Sector:**
 - Extends beyond more Third Sector representation on CPC membership to wider consideration of how the Third Sector more effectively works in partnership and offers collective voice.
 - Opportunity to work with Third Sector partners to hear the voice of children and young people.
- **Enhancing the voice of children and young people**, with the example given of how to connect more closely with local Champions Boards (*note: also see Workshop 2 Question 1 feedback*).
- **How to empower and support all levels of practitioners**, which includes:
 - More effective sharing of information by leaders within their organisations, with this including explaining what CPCs and COGs do and decided on.
 - Greater attention to quality assessments and joint planning.
 - Enabling leadership across all staff levels.
 - Providing support to all staff levels.
- **Managing the impact of the wider operating environment** on Child Protection resourcing and processes:
 - Public sector budgetary pressures leading to cuts in business support services, e.g. data analysis.
 - Legal processes and procedures are leading to delays and obstructions to supporting children or completing SCRs and implementing the learning from them.

WORKSHOP 2

Workshop 2 asked attendees to reflect on and discuss what they were committed to do differently, individually and collectively, as leaders for the protection of children. As prompts to the discussion, attendees were posed the following six questions and these have been used to organise the feedback across the two events:

- 1. How are we going to better engage with and involved children, young people and their families?**
- 2. How are we going to make better use of data and evidence?**
- 3. How could we build on the relationship between CPCs and COGs?**
- 4. How could we build on the role of the Chief Social Work Officer?**
- 5. How can we ensure the role of the CPC Chair is the most effective it can be?**
- 6. How can we ensure that we are able to identify and respond to emerging risks and concerns?**

1. How are we going to better engage with and involved children, young people and their families?

- Recognition needed that this is a resource intensive exercise and is of importance to Children's Planning as a whole, not just CPCs.
- **Who to engage with:**
 - Important to understand who the most vulnerable children, young people and families are – and then work hard(er) to engage with and listen to them.
 - Challenge that tend to hear voice of older children and young people, and also the voices of those most confident to speak up.
 - One table highlighted the importance of hearing from parents given that a large proportion of Child Protection cases are babies. For example, what are their experiences of Child Protection processes? How involved do they feel in decision-making? Do they understand the decisions made? Do the Child's Plans and language used make sense to them?
- **Methods for gathering the voice of children and young people:**
 - Important to proactively embrace technology to support engagement:

- One table saw opportunities for technology to enable advocacy services.
 - Social media can be better used to engage young people.
 - One table noted that electronic surveys have achieved higher response rates.
 - One table noted that partners could learn from other sectors – e.g. marketing.
- Consideration needed around who is best to lead the engagement work:
 - One table suggested that young people could be supported to lead research into what information and support children and young people would like.
 - One table suggested young adults with experience of Children’s Services.
 - Consideration needed of best ‘touch points’ or ‘contact points’ through which to engage with children and young people. This includes thinking about where young people go – e.g. locations and online.
 - Activities need to be engaging and fun in style. Small group settings seen to work best.
 - One table considered how to help staff become more confident in having difficult conversations with young people. The table suggested learning could be taken from end of life care examples.
- **Purpose of engagement:**
 - Important to have ongoing and empathetic feedback from children and young people, and not just at/for specific process purposes (e.g. at Child Protection Case Conferences) or for tokenistic purposes.
 - Alongside engagement to gather their views, important also to:
 - Offer them choice in what services and supports they access.
 - Provide feedback on what changed – i.e. ‘You said, we did mentality’.
 - Further work is needed on ensuring children and young people know what the risks are and what supports are available to them. Building understanding among the child and young person population is important here as young people typically turn to peers for support and guidance first.

- **Examples of existing, effective approaches or opportunities**, noting that it was felt that individual organisations are already consulting widely and hold valuable information, but this information is not being effectively shared, joined up or analysed:
 - Champions Groups/Boards – with the caveat that their experiences of the Child Protection system may be from 10+ years ago.
 - Young Carers Groups.
 - Data collected through Realigning Children’s Services.
 - Third Sector organisations, e.g. Young Scot, Children 1st, Includem, Who Cares? Scotland, Life Changes Trust and organisations providing advocacy services.
 - Police Scotland Youth Volunteer Group.
 - Youth Alliance group.
 - Children’s Commissioner.
 - Care Inspectorate model of Young Inspectors.
 - Signs of Safety model.
 - Service User Group that informs an Adult Protection Committee, including members of the Service User Group being represented on the Adult Protection Committee. Could children and young people be members of the CPC?
 - Graded Care Profile which works alongside families.
 - MOMO (Mind Of My Own) app to capture young people’s views.
 - Police Scotland Prevention Hub, which will deal with lower level concerns than the Concern Hub and support earlier intervention.
- **Issues to be considered when planning engagement:**
 - ‘Lived experience’ of individuals – including of families as a whole of real value because it provides insight into their views and experiences of services and practitioners. However, challenge is how to get lived experience of children in the Child Protection system. Timing the engagement is difficult as may wait until they have left the system, meaning their views can be out-of-date.

- Main message coming back from is for services and practitioners to 'Listen more and judge less'.
 - Gaining views of children, young people and families while involved in the Child Protection process and/or at times of crisis will impact and influence their views. More measured and rationalised views may only be held some months or years later.
 - Leaders need to be open to listen to and take seriously the feedback from children and young people.
 - Schools have important role to play in enabling child wellbeing safety and protection messages to be heard by all children, and could be a conduit for getting key information and surveys out.
 - One table noted that the child's voice is typically usurped by professionals' voices and existing systems. Any engagement is therefore superficial and does not really lead to fundamental, child-centred systems re-design.
 - One table noted that Strategic Children's Services Groups are the appropriate structure for overseeing child and young person participation across local areas.
- One table outlined their next steps would be to find ways to:
 - Support ongoing engagement with children and young people, rather than *ad hoc* or incidental feedback.
 - Hear the voices of all children and young people, with this requiring support for younger children and those who are less confident to speak up (noting balance between encouragement and coercion).
 - Hear children and young people's views on issues other than child protection and corporate parenting alone.

2. How are we going to make better use of data and evidence?

- **Views on draft Shared Dataset for Vulnerable Children:**
 - General support for the development of the dataset.
 - Important that it includes data on inputs, processes and efficiencies, as well as outcomes.
 - Number of indicators should be reduced.

- Indicators should be focused on agreed priorities.
 - Definitions of indicators need to be more precisely drafted so that there is consistency in collection and interpretation.
 - Clear indicator-by-indicator justifications for the importance of each indicator should be included.
 - Key questions could be used to help structure the indicators and their analysis.
 - One table suggested starting small with a select number of indicators and then comparing data with other areas to identify issues.
 - Aim should be for the dataset to provide direction of travel, raise questions and develop lines of enquiry.
 - Some assumptions made that all the data already exists.
 - Not sufficiently tailored to needs and purposes of local areas, but is instead designed for national organisations.
- **Data gaps or weaknesses identified in draft dataset:**
 - Outcomes data – noting there is no agreement on what outcome(s) we are trying to achieve and measure.
 - Staffing data – e.g. caseloads, vacancies and absence levels.
 - Views of children, young people and families.
 - Data around the quality of services.
 - Identification of emerging risks and concerns.
 - Real time, 'live' data that gives an up-to-date picture rather than relying on annualised data.
 - Understanding of what acceptable levels are – for example, what are acceptable vacancy levels or positive destinations?
- **Other data aspects for CPCs and COGs to analyse:**
 - Qualitative evidence, case studies and good practice examples to provide a more holistic understanding of performance, trends and issues. One table cited example of Violence Against Women group reviewing women's stories and lived experiences alongside data.

- Benchmarking data so that local areas can identify other areas to learn from.
 - National and international data and evidence where available to provide context and comparisons.
 - One table suggested Police Scotland data could be better used to profile communities as part of a multi-agency profile.
 - One table asked whether there was an opportunity to learn from the ACEs work to help develop a predictive toolkit.
 - One table questioned whether there could be a smarter approach taken to Child's Plans so that they enable reporting on individual outcomes.
- **Making sense of the data:**
 - Challenge of local areas' analytical capacity.
 - Loss of analytical capacity over past 10-15 years.
 - Small number of data analysts with child protection understanding in place, with budgetary pressures contributing to this.
 - Difficulties encountered recruiting for posts.
 - CPPs need resource to look at data across the partnership.
 - Involving CPC members in interpreting and making sense of the data is important.
 - Having data analytical skills at managerial level are more important than at practitioner level. At practitioner level, emphasis must be on the importance of collecting and recording data and understanding costs of different intervention/support options.
 - One table asked whether university social work curricula could be influenced so that data collection and analysis (i.e. data literacy skills) is included within courses. SSSC could be a key influencing voice here.
 - One table noted that their COG is asking for a narrative of key issues rather than statistical data, with the analysis of the data undertaken at CPC (and other Public Protection groupings) level.
 - Can the data be used to set and test hypotheses?
 - **Opportunity to learn from others:**

- New analytical staff should be supported to connect with and learn from Care Inspectorate exemplar areas.
- One area had visited Wigan Council to understand how they had used data to predict attainment outcomes for children. This type of information can support early years and preventative work.
- **Wider challenges or issues** noted:
 - Information sharing is compromised by different IT systems (e.g. health versus social work versus education) not talking to each other.
 - If committed to a learning culture, need to invest in quality assurance, sharing of practice and learning from SCRs.
 - One table noted that the data that COGs currently receive is not broad enough, for example health data could be enhanced.

3. How could we build on the relationship between CPCs and COGs?

- **Key aspects of effective relationship between CPCs and COGs:**
 - Needs to be balanced between support versus challenge and accountability.
 - Accountability and scrutiny of CPCs need to be clear.
 - CPCs have a role in sharing their knowledge and experience with COGs, particularly new Chief Officers.
 - Important for COGs to provide wider Public Protection perspective (drawing on Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, MAPPa and Violence Against Women) for CPCs given the impact of adult behaviours and challenges on children's lives.
 - COGs should periodically review CPC memberships.
 - Where CPC puts forward recommendations to COGs, these need to be provided with a clear, supporting evidence base.
 - Chief Social Work Officer seen to be important linkage between CPCs and COGs.
- **Important for CPC and COG to have:**
 - Shared sense of purpose and ambition for change.

- Mutual respect and trust.
- Agreed expectations of each other.
- Openness and preparedness to learn.
- Openness and preparedness to challenge and be challenged.
- **Opportunities for developing the relationship between CPCs and COGs:**
 - CPC Chair could meet individually with Chief Officers outside of scheduled meetings to build relationships and mutual understanding.
 - Joint development sessions for CPC and COG members.
 - Joint visits, self-evaluation and inspection days involving CPC and COG members.
 - Build visibility across practitioners and services.
 - Joint communications – e.g. newsletters and vlogs.
 - CPC members having opportunities to observe COG meetings and vice versa to understand how different meetings operate.
 - Strengthen feedback loops between the two.
 - Joint pieces of work, e.g. around ‘how good is our leadership?’
 - Some crossover membership between CPCs and COGs.
 - Sharing of minutes between CPCs and COGs.
- Greater challenge is around how to **improve the relationship between COGs and frontline services.**
 - COG members should make themselves more visible at local events.
 - COGs could be ‘walked through’ cases to get a sense of the ‘Child Protection journey’.
 - COG needs to be support frontline staff where issues or crises arise.
 - CPC and COG could invite practitioners to meetings as a mutual learning exercise.
 - Frontline staff should be encouraged to report issues to the COG.
- One table put forward a CPC and GOG Shared Agenda of:

- Wider Public Protection perspective.
- Clarity of structure and architecture.
- Linkages and collaborative leadership.
- Induction and training.
- Data knowledge and evidence.
- Self-evaluation.
- Linkages with Community Planning Partnership structures to understand longitudinal outcomes.
- Children's Services Planning as the overarching architecture of relationships.
- Increase visibility of COG across frontline staff and wider community.
- Protect and support frontline staff, particularly where crises arise.

4. How could we build on the role of the Chief Social Work Officer?

- One group reflected on the question and whether there was a need to develop or build on the role of the CSWO.
- **Greater clarity needed on the role of the CSWO.** For example:
 - Brings together perspective across adult and child risks and protection issues.
 - Builds on their own professional background and expertise.
 - Brings together and holds all risks for the local authority.
 - Critical friend on the CPC and COG, but should also provide the CPC and COG with an insight into operational issues
 - Advocate for frontline staff so that sufficient resources are secured to meet standards set.
 - Provide quality assurance of the system.
 - Challenge the system.
 - Line management and providing case support.

- **Challenges of the role:**

- Operating within increasingly leaner management structures and more complex governance structures, while also more involved in national work.
- Question of the extent to which the CSWO role is recognised and their advice sought. For example, CSWO can often be too quickly made responsible for issues or crises. Joint accountability is needed.
- Connectivity of the CSWO with other services is often underestimated.
- How to balance professional leadership with managerial responsibilities.
- Having sufficient capacity to allow a focus on child protection issues.
- Some CSWOs have adult services background, so making understanding of Child Protection roles and responsibilities more difficult.
- If Head of Service, can be potential conflict of interest and can constrain capacity to challenge.
- Is the role too big? Should operational management tasks be taken away so that can focus on providing strategic view across child and adult services?
- Possible conflict with Clinical Governance roles due to their scrutiny role.
- Can be an isolated position where CSWO is lone voice in raising key issues.

- **How to support the CSWO:**

- Importance of strong relationships, including potentially direct reporting lines to and support from:
 - COG with potential for CSWO to have specific COG agenda item.
 - Local authority chief executive.
 - Similar, equivalent roles – e.g. Chief Nurse.
 - One table explained that their area has a support group for the CSWO that brings together all 'monitoring' officers (e.g. finance officer) on a monthly basis to help provide an organisation-wide perspective.
- CSWO should be empowered and enabled at director level, noting that there are now fewer CSWOs who are also Directors of Social Work.
- Role of the CSWO needs to be more effectively communicated to other partners, with national and local efforts needed here.

- Guidance could more effectively convey and promote the CSWO as an active and attractive professional development opportunity, so helping to ensure succession pathways.
 - Important to facilitate continuous professional development in the role through self-evaluation, training and testing.
- **Other comments raised:**
 - The need to strengthen IJB relationships across the sector was noted.
 - One table noted that it was important that the CSWO role is accessible to staff, including those not in the local authority.
 - One table suggested the CSWO could be sighted on reports going to COG to have time to consider and reflect on implications.
 - One table felt there was too much focus on the CSWO role in the Guidance, with the danger that this reinforces the message that Child and Adult Protection is a social work role rather than a shared responsibility.

5. How can we ensure the role of the CPC Chair is the most effective it can be?

- No consensus on whether CPC Chair should be Independent or Officer role with advantages and disadvantages cited for both options.
- **Factors that support the Chair:**
 - Clear person specification and job description for the role to support selection.
 - High quality induction into the role.
 - Ongoing learning and development.
 - Peer support, mentoring and a space to share experiences and issues – noting that this currently *ad hoc* in nature and lacks consistency.
 - Role of the CPC Lead Officer.
 - Appropriate CPC membership and attendance.
 - An agreed agenda within the CPC membership.
 - CPC members fully understanding their roles and responsibilities, including taking accountability for actions required of their own organisations.

- COG empowering the Chair, albeit within an agreed framework that sets out expectations. Enabling the Chair to challenge is particularly important.
 - Clarity on where COG's input and influence is needed to resolve issues faced by CPC.
 - Administrative support for Chairs, with this available at and between meetings
 - Analytical support for the Chair.
- **Wider skills and competences** are arguably more critical than experience of Child Protection. Key skills and competences span:
 - Leadership skills.
 - Relationship building skills.
 - Chairing experience of strategic partnerships.
 - Interpersonal skills to help understand the CPC, the dynamics within it and how to get best from members.
 - Monitoring performance.
- **Other comments raised:**
 - Important to put in place appraisal processes for Chairs, although the process could be challenging where there is an Independent Chair.
 - Greater clarity needed on the Chair's role in relation to ICRs and SCRs, particularly around the Chair's ownership of the process and ability to commission reviews.
 - Important that Chair is held to account by the COG, but also that the Chair challenges the COG.
 - Where Chair faces a potential conflict of interest for an agenda item, important that the CPC Vice Chair takes the chairing role for that item.
 - One table suggested there was scope to learn from England and Wales' experience around safeguarding.

6. How can we ensure that we are able to identify and respond to emerging risks and concerns?

- Horizon scanning of risks and particularly emerging risks viewed as challenging, and good practice examples of this would be welcomed.
- Impact of the internet and social media a real concern. Vale in involving young people to better understand the risks of the internet and social media as they are 'digital natives'.
- Scope for CPCs to review their Risk Registers to consider the emerging trends in their areas, and the impact of these.
- Continued focus on prevention and early intervention can maintain attention on identifying risks and concerns.
- At the local level, can specific risks be identified – e.g. digging deeper into broad area of alcohol and drugs use?
- **Effective activities include:**
 - Feedback loops that enable practitioners to highlight to CPCs and COGs emerging risks and concerns that they have identified.
 - Build on information collated through MASH.
 - Co-location of services (e.g. Police, social work and health) as enables cross-agency discussions.
 - Reviewing recent research reports.
 - Working with other Public Protection groupings and CPP structures to identify and share emerging concerns.
 - Working with other local areas to share learning and experiences (potentially within Health Board or City Deal areas).
 - Elected members reporting risks and concerns in their constituencies/wards, while also making elected members aware of risks as they emerge.
 - Early alerts from Police Scotland, e.g. around modern day slavery or child trafficking, rather than waiting until an incident happens.
 - Learning from ICRs and SCRs.
 - Having dedicated space on CPC and COG agenda to discuss emerging risks.
- **Consideration is needed around how to respond to emerging risks:**

- Some risks may have substantial impact, yet local areas may not have sufficient resources available to respond.
- Some may turn out to be of minor prevalence and/or impact, meaning that proportionate resources are invested in negligible issues.

Evaluation

CONTEXT

This section analyses the feedback collected after the first two Child Protection Chief Officers' Leadership Events (COLEs), which took place in April and May 2018, in Glasgow and Perth respectively.

The specific aims of the Child Protection Chief Officers' Leadership Events were detailed in the Recommendation 2 of the Child Protection Systems Review¹, as well as in one of the actions fully adopted by the Scottish Government, as part of the Child Protection Improvement Programme Report².

"Chief Officers should be supported by the National Child Protection Leadership Group and Child Protection Committees Scotland to strengthen delivery of their responsibilities, as set out in the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014), and to identify areas where further work may be required, such as:

- *Clarity of reporting mechanisms between Child Protection Committees and Chief Officers' Groups;*
- *Descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of Child Protection Committees (including that of Chairs of CPC's) and Chief Officers' Groups; and*
- *Supporting Child Protection Committees to carry out their roles and functions in line with the requirements set out in National Guidance.*

(...) The Scottish Government should resource a number of regional leadership events via the Leadership Group for all Chief Officers' Groups and Chairpersons of Child

¹ Scottish Government (2017) Protecting Scotland's Children and Young People: It is Still Everyone's Job. Child Protection Systems Review. Available online www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00514758.pdf (accessed 16 May 2018)

² Scottish Government (2017) Child Protection Improvement Programme Report. Available online www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00514761.pdf (accessed 16 May 2018)

Protection Committees to network, share good practice and collectively horizon scan for new risks facing children and young people.”

Scottish Government (2017), Child Protection Systems Review, Recommendation 2.

The purpose of the present evaluation was to look at participants' satisfaction with the two events, understand how well the specific aims of the COLE were met and gather recommendations to inform the next series of events. A bespoke form was designed in this regard (see [Annex 1](#)). A total of 83 feedback forms were returned (56 after the Glasgow event and 27 after Perth).

EVALUATION SUMMARY

Satisfaction with the events:

Between 77% and 89% of respondents expressed high and very high levels of satisfaction with the events, with the highest levels reported in relation to the relevance of the content and discussions, the representation at the event and the usefulness of the content and discussions. Perth event scored slightly better than Glasgow at all but one aspect (i.e. the representation at the event).

Meeting the COLE's specific aims:

The Glasgow and Perth events supported COGs and CPCs to network and improve clarity around roles and responsibilities, to great and moderate extent; with slightly more modest contributions reported in terms of improving clarity around reporting mechanisms and sharing good practice. At the other end, the most modest contribution to the COLE's specific aims was in relation to horizon scan for new risks facing children and young people. The distinct scores (average rating) for Glasgow event and Perth event were very similar.

The key takeaways that might influence/inspire the strategic leadership of participants:

- Developing a learning culture, reflecting on reviews and practice, with a focus on good practice (16 mentions); Supporting leadership and accountability (15 mentions); Strengthening the relationship between CPC and COG, including in terms of informing improvement plans and local strategies (13 mentions).
- Strengthening the links with the wider sector and the engagement at various levels within the system (9 mentions); Networking with other areas (5 mentions); Strengthening prevention and identifying priorities (5 mentions); Strengthening

the engagement with children and young people, families/carers and service users in general, as well as using the Guidance for CPCs/COGs (each with 3 mentions).

- Reflecting on data collation, and considering a development day on information sharing and impact of legislation as factors of concern amongst CPC/COG (with 1 mention each).

Topics suggested for future events:

- Analysing and sharing learning, experience and good practice (12 mentions); Using meaningful data and evidence, including for guiding improvement and performance (9 mentions);
- Strengthening the links and engagement with other public protection structures, elected members, the wider sector, but also children/young people and families(7 mentions); Identifying and responding to risks and vulnerabilities (5 mentions); Strengthening leadership (4 mentions);
- Information sharing, as well as considering updates on national developments and agreeing where priorities lay (each with 2 mentions).

Suggestions regarding COLE's format and representation:

- More time for interaction, small group discussions and networking, including between areas (9 mentions), to this we add that some participants explicitly said that they liked the workshop discussions (5 mentions); shorter and more dynamic/interactive presentations (7 mentions); shorter, more condensed event, perhaps with a later start (5 mentions);
- Mixed opinions were expressed in terms of representation, with an equal number of mentions for considering a wider representation and, on the other hand, keeping the focus on strategic leadership whilst strengthening their attendance (4 mentions each); however, the balance tends to incline towards leadership, as another set of recommendations regarded a better tailoring of the event to the level of experience and leadership in the room, with a focus on progress (3 mentions), with another participant highlighting that the representation was "really positive and [should] be encouraged, not diluted"(1 mention).
- Allowing more opportunity for reflection, and having a format which allows conversation in solely CP and AP issues (1 mention each).

Suggestions regarding COLE's frequency:

Most respondents favoured an annual event (24 mentions). Nevertheless, the 'twice a year' suggestion came very close (with 21 mentions).

Recommendations for strengthening the link and communication between the Child Protection Leadership Group and Chief Officers:

- Regular direct communication, joint events/activities and developing a learning culture (13 mentions); Awareness raising of structure/membership, aims or work plan of the Child Protection Leadership Group (7 mentions);
- Clarifying and awareness raising of roles and memberships within COG; Regular dialogue on an area specific basis, including the opportunity to present at Chief Officers Group meetings (each with 3 mentions);
- Using CPC Scotland or CELCIS as a conduit (each with 1 mention); More informal opportunities to discuss significant issues; The Child Protection Leadership Group consulting Chief Officers about the content of the session (1 mention each);
- In addition, the following means of communication were suggested: newsletters (2 mentions), publications, briefings, website and emails (each with 1 mention).

MAIN EVALUATION FINDINGS

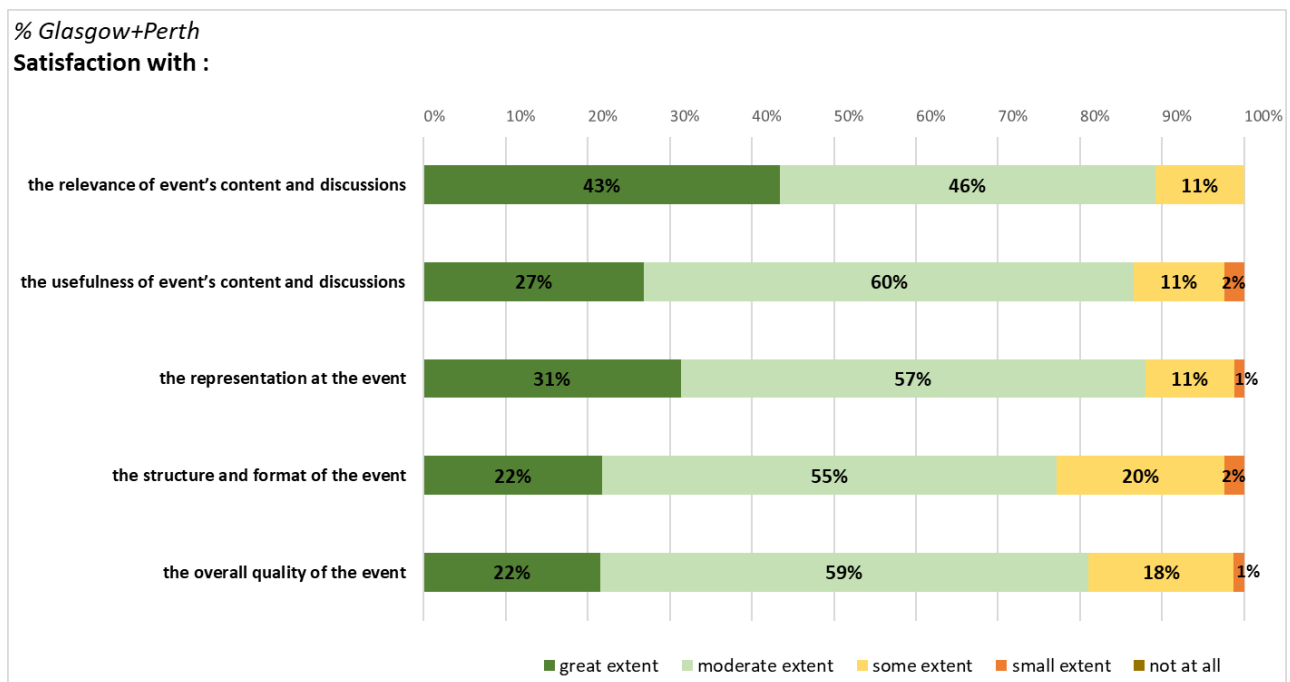
Satisfaction with the events

Looking at Glasgow and Perth events together, we see that most participants (between 77% and 89% of those who filled in the feedback form) expressed high and very high levels of satisfaction with the various aspects of the events, as Graphic 1 shows.

The highest levels were reached in relation to the relevance of the content and discussions, the representation at the event and the usefulness of the content and discussions.

The structure and format and the overall quality of the events scored high for many respondents, but at the same time, for approximately a fifth of participants, these were aspects that left room for improvement.

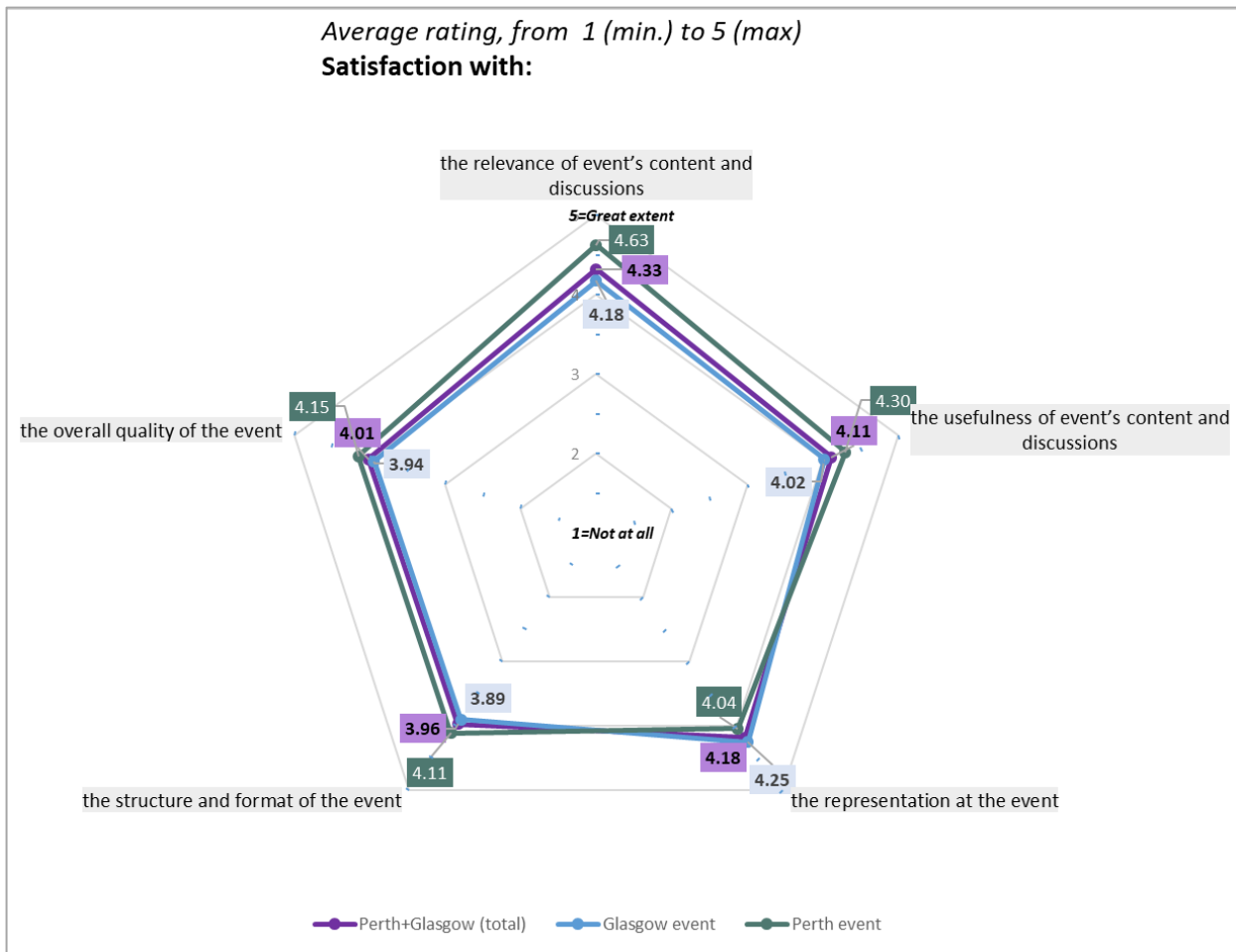
Graphic 1: Satisfaction with different aspects of the events, total percentages for Glasgow and Perth events



The separate analysis of the average rating (on a five-point scale) for each event, presented in Graphic 2, illustrates the differences between the two events, with Perth scoring slightly better than Glasgow at all but one aspect (i.e. the representation at the event).

The average rating for Glasgow and Perth taken together, ranges between 3.96 and 4.33 (from a maximum possible rating of 5), thus confirming that participants expressed relatively high levels of satisfaction with the events.

Graphic 2: Satisfaction with different aspects of the events, average rating for the Glasgow event, the Perth event, as well as the total for both events.



Meeting the COLE’s specific aims

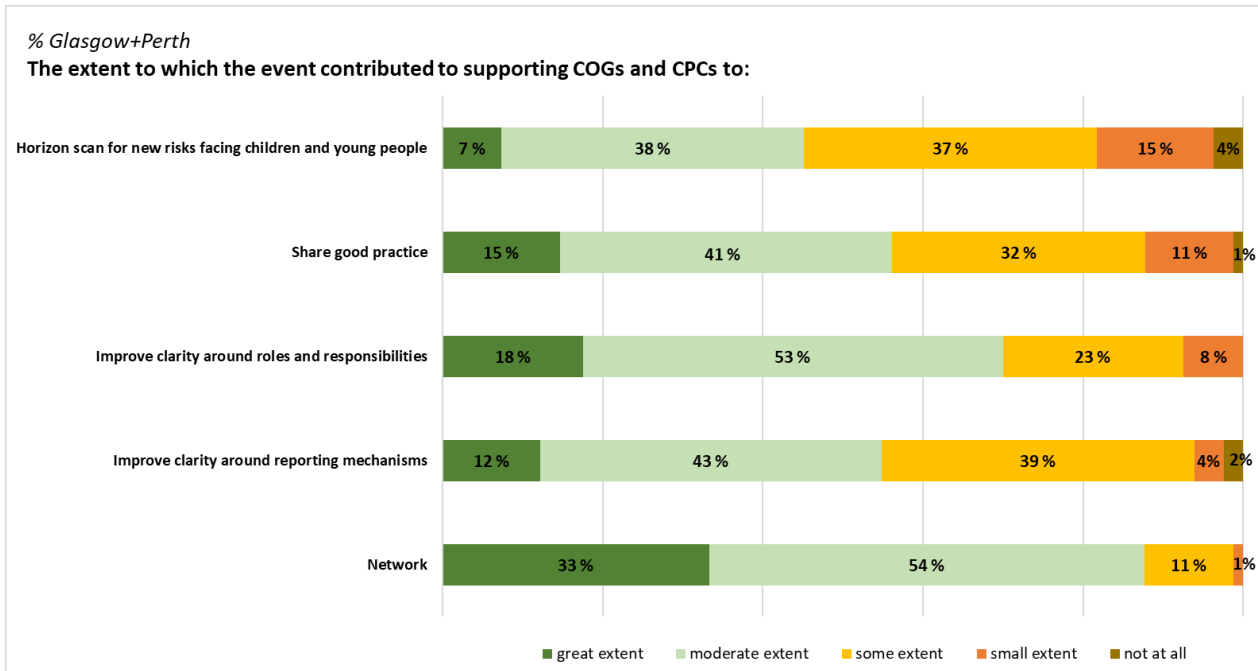
The next question measured the extent to which the COLE’s specific aims (as per Recommendation 2 of the Systems Review) were met.

The Glasgow and Perth events supported COGs and CPCs to network to great and moderate extent, according to 87% of those who answered the question, as Graphic 3 shows. The events were reported, by 71% of the respondents, to also have improved clarity around roles and responsibilities to great and moderate extent.

Slightly more modest contributions were reported in terms of improving clarity around reporting mechanisms and sharing good practice.

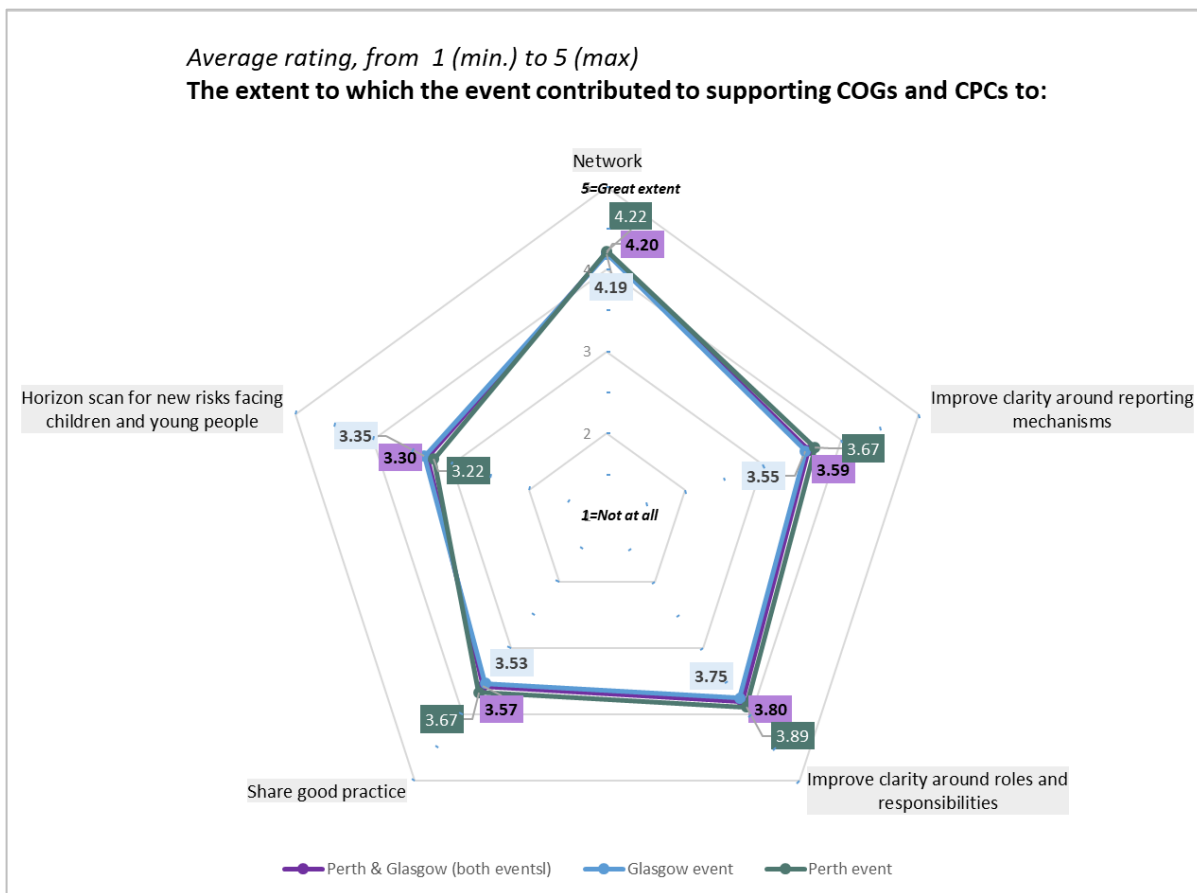
At the other end, the most modest contribution to the COLE’s specific aims was in relation to horizon scan for new risks facing children and young people: almost a fifth of respondents said that this didn’t happen at all or only to a small extent, whilst 37% of them positioned their answer at the middle of the scale (‘some extent’ option).

Graphic 3: Contribution to COLE’s specific aims, total percentages for Glasgow and Perth events



No substantial differences can be noticed between the two events, as Graphic 4 illustrates, the average rating analysis confirming the above findings.

Graphic 4: Contribution to COLE’s specific aims, average rating for the Glasgow event, the Perth event, as well as the total for both events.



Key takeaways ³

- Developing a learning culture, reflecting on reviews and practice, with a focus on good practice: **16 mentions.**

Examples: Ensure we are doing all we can to drive improvement and culture; sharing learning; open dialogue; learning culture; Value of oversight held by Care Inspectorate and how that can be made to best use; thoughts on the new inspection and past key findings; safety critical role - human factors of failure of systems; Review of practice; service arrangements; opportunity to reflect on current practice; effective different approaches across the country; good practice examples (this alone mentioned 3 times).

- Supporting leadership and accountability: **15 mentions**

Examples: Leadership needs to be more visible; profile of COG needs raised; help strengthen COG; need to challenge Chief Officers to undertake their role; importance of the role of CSWO; support to CPC chairs; role of independent Chair; review CPC membership/representation; need to have these open discussions in local team on strategic leadership; Importance of key skills and attributes of the people in the roles to make collaborative partnership work; minimum standards for roles and practices would be useful.

- Strengthening the relationship between CPC and COG, including in terms of informing improvement plans and local strategies: **13 mentions.**

Examples: How we can bring CPC and COG together to influence change; vision for the future development of CPC/COG; ways to engage COG and CPC; promote the work of CPC - improve work of CPC and COG; importance of collaboration within leadership; more work on COG/CPC interface; need to clarify the role of COG and CPC for future; inform CPC about key issues/ opportunities; inform Strategic Plan for CPC 2018-2020; inform the improvement plan for COG and CPC and ultimately performance.

- Strengthening the links with the wider sector and the engagement at various levels within the system: **9 mentions.**

Examples: Renew mapping of various groups and action plans in order to streamline; collaboration across all public sector required; functions need to be much better understood across all partners; CP needs to be link with the change across the public sector; improve alignment of planning processes; engagement at right levels - internal and external; need to review CPC and Public Protection management; link between COE and operational improvement; link between CPC and front line staff.

³ The exact question used in the feedback form was: "Key points that you are taking away from the event. How do you think these might influence/inspire the strategic leadership you provide?"

- Networking with other areas: **5 mentions.**

Examples: There is definitely benefit in meeting strategic leads from other areas to learn from and share experiences with and across the child protection spectrum; good to network with our region; we have much more in common than we might think; local and national issues similar; opportunities to learn across region.

- Strengthening prevention and identifying priorities: **5 mentions**

Examples: Horizon scanning to drive CPC work; the issue on identifying risk was hard to pin down; prioritise/support universal Health and Education services and the key roles they have in preventing escalation of risk; [identify] priorities; [identify] challenges within area.

- Using the Guidance for CPCs/COGs: **3 mentions.**

Examples: Revisit guidance for CPCs/COGs to identify areas to put on agenda for COG and CPC; drop CPC Guidance in discussion around it; revised guidance.

- Strengthening the engagement with children and young people, families/carers and service users in general: **3 mentions.**
- Reflecting on data collation: **1 mention.**
- Considering a development day on information sharing and impact of legislation (as these are causing concern amongst CPC/COG): **1 mention.**

Topics suggested for future events

- Analysing and sharing learning, experience and good practice: **12 mentions.**

Examples: sharing/comparing good practice; case studies/histories; topics that look at real experiences/stories and help share learning; learning from CP reviews; culture change; more focus on what works and how; celebrating successes.

- Using meaningful data and evidence, including for guiding improvement and performance: **9 mentions.**

Examples: what next [in terms of] data, evidence and analysis; national data collection and analysis - what works on early intervention, decomposition of outcomes [and look at] what have you got to change; outcome/impact (on children); Use of data to drive improvements; quality improvement and how we use this throughout practice; how can COG undertake performance management; International debates around child protection – research.

- Strengthening the links and engagement with other public protection structures, elected members, the wider sector, but also children/young people and families: **7 mentions**

Examples: Link CPC with APC and other public protection forums; better engagement with key partnerships, such as HSCP and Community Planning; need to consider the role of and interface with other public protection partnerships; role of Elected Members; third sector; consultation and engagement with children, young people and parents/carers.

- Identifying and responding to risks and vulnerabilities: **5 mentions**

Examples: human factors and how to manage them; horizon scanning; collective response to ACEs; CSE; neglect – messages from national programme;

- Strengthening leadership: **4 mentions**

Examples: developing/strengthening the role of the Lead Officer; strategic leadership – cases studies and external input on leadership from Chief Executive Officers from industry; practical staff on 'doing' leadership - inputs from highest scores on inspection performance, people who teach leadership programmes etc.; accountability of all specific chief officers - there was little focus on this.

- Information sharing: **2 mentions**
- Considering updates on national developments and agreeing where priorities lay: **2 mentions.**

Suggestions regarding COLE's format and representation

Participants suggested the following adjustments in terms of event's format and representation:

- More time for interaction, small group discussions and networking (including between areas): **9 mentions.**

Examples: more networking between areas; mix areas to assist learning, sharing good practice and cross fertilisation; more fun from interaction; format of small group discussions could be more dynamic; breakout rooms (Glasgow event).

- Presentations should be shorter and more dynamic/interactive: **7 mentions.**

Examples: shorter presentation goes better; breaking up verbal presentations and more visuals; the two presentations, whilst interesting, were perhaps a bit long compared to value added to discussions; please stop talking at us, listen; less 'talking at' us, more sharing experiences.

- Shorter, more condensed event, perhaps with a later start: **5 mentions.**

Examples: could be more condensed; same, again, but half a day; start later for those of us travelling a distance.

- A better tailoring of the event to the level of experience and leadership in the room, with a focus on progress: **3 mentions.**

Examples: must take advantage of attendance level to get things done; [there was] no opportunity for level of experience [present]; have focus on what you want to achieve, this was not good use of senior leaders time.

- Keep the focus on strategic leadership and strengthen their attendance: **4 mentions.**

Example: include CSWO equivalents from other professions; focus should remain on strategic leadership - chairs/COG; insist on Chief Officers representation as according to new guidance; the event was aimed at Chief Officers, but not all prioritised attendance.

- Consider a wider representation: **4 mentions.**

Examples: representation from third sector, education, frontline staff, service users.

- Having a format which allows conversation in solely CP and AP issues: **1 mention.**

- Allow more opportunity for reflection: **1 mention.**

On the other hand, out of 39 people who answered this question, 10 explicitly mentioned that no adjustments are needed. In addition, although participants were not directly asked to mention what they liked about the events, some answers highlighted the following positives:

- The workshops (which allowed an in-depth consideration of issues): **5 mentions**
- Good format (where *"the balance was about right"*): **3 mentions.**
- The fact that there is a clear role for this series of events to develop into a 'continuing professional development' (CPD) function, in order to support and network Chief Officers and CPC Chairs: **1 mention.**
- Representation at the event, which was *"really positive and to be encouraged and not diluted"*: **1 mention.**

Suggestions regarding COLE's frequency ⁴

The frequency suggested for the Child Protection Chief Officers' Leadership Events is:

- Annually: **24 mentions**

(with one person drawing attention to the need of linking the event to the Scottish Leadership forum)

- Twice a year: **21 mentions**

Example: *[twice a year] would provide benefit without significant impact on day to day demands [if] dates populated well in advance.*

- Every two years: **2 mentions.**
- When required: **1 mention.**

⁴ A total of 45 participants answered this question, with some offering several options (in this case, each option was counted in the relevant category).

Recommendations for strengthening the link and communication between the Child Protection Leadership Group and Chief Officers

- Regular direct communication, joint events/activities and developing a learning culture: **13 mentions.**

Examples: clear structures and guidance integrated with supportive CPD (continue professional development)/training/peer support for such role; culture of learning; opportunities for further development; good practice sharing - what works and why; annual self-evaluation events; meetings; more local joint events; joint attendance; revisit development workshops to take account of changes in membership and identify priorities knowledge hub; more regular communication on thinking and challenges; ongoing communication directly; continued discussion and review.

- Awareness raising of structure/membership, aims or work plan of the Child Protection Leadership Group: **7 mentions.**

Examples: more info coming out about what the Leadership Group is doing; I wasn't aware of CPLG until today; greater transparency around work programme of CPLG - What do they aim to achieve and by when?; update on work; progress reports; group established a series of key learning points/actions for us to take forward collectively.

- Clarifying and awareness raising of roles and memberships within COG: **3 mentions.**

Examples: clarify attendance and role of Chief Officers and clarify the qualifications and induction for Chairs and new Chief Officers; amendments to Guidance to better define COG membership.

- Regular dialogue on an area specific basis, including the opportunity to present at Chief Officers Group meetings: **3 mentions.**
- Using CPC Scotland or CELCIS as a conduit: **each with 1 mention.**
- The Child Protection Leadership Group consulting Chief Officers about the content of the session: **1 mention.**
- More informal opportunities to discuss significant issues: **1 mention.**
- In addition, the following means of communication were suggested: newsletters (**2 mentions**), publications, briefings, website and emails (**each with 1 mention**).

Other comments made by participants

- Congratulations/thanks for a well-run event: **3 mentions.**
- The excellent venue for the Glasgow event: **2 mentions.**
- The responses provided to the first Q&A session in Glasgow were considered too emotive: **1 mention.**
- Feedback on the content of one of the presentations – the analogies between child protection and pit stop and heart ops might not be the most appropriate, as the work of those in attendance is around design, prevention and health promotion: **1 mention.**
- Feedback on the guidance, highlighting that the roles of Health - Chief Nurse/Nurse Consultant do not reflect national designation, with usually having attendance of Directors, Head of Service from Health as CPC membership: **1 mention.**
- The need to integrate Girfec and child participation, as the work is still in silos: **1 mention.**
- Leadership Group to consider membership from representatives of families and children/young people: **1 mention.**
- Feedback on the Leadership Group from Catherine Dyer would have been helpful: **1 mention.**

Summary

Child Protection Chief Officers' Groups across the country engaged very well with these events and, while there were some gaps, overall the representation was excellent.

Over three quarters of delegates who completed an evaluation form expressed high and very high levels of satisfaction with the events, and feedback indicated that the events supported Chief Officers' Groups and Child Protection Committees to network and improve clarity around roles and responsibilities.

The rich discussion which took place within the workshops has value both for the continuing development of Chief Officers' Groups themselves, but also as a contribution towards the continuing implementation of the Child Protection Improvement Programme.

In addition to direct input to the consultation opportunity in relation to the revision of the guidance for Child Protection committees, the feedback forms submitted by delegates also contained suggestions for improvements at any future events, all of which will be taken into account by the National Leadership Group.

Next Steps

The Child Protection Leadership Group will utilise the learning from these events to inform the future workplan of the group.

The comments specifically related to the revised 2005 Guidance for Child Protection Committees will be utilised by the Task and Finish Group who are undertaking this revision work on behalf of the National Leadership Group.

Comments related to data and evidence will be utilised by the data and evidence workstream of the Child Protection Improvement Programme – and specifically by those working directly on the shared dataset for vulnerable children and young people.

The Child Protection Improvement Programme will continue to be implemented; the progress of which is overseen by the National Leadership Group. Updates on progress are available here:

<https://blogs.gov.scot/child-protection-improvement-programme/>

Annex 1

Evaluation Form

| <i>(please circle)</i> | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| I. Please tell us to what extent you are satisfied with: | <i>4= great extent</i> | <i>3= moderate extent</i> | <i>2= some extent</i> | <i>1=small extent</i> | <i>0=not at all</i> | <i>N.A.(/don't know)</i> |
| the <u>relevance</u> of event's content and discussions; | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | N.A. |
| the <u>usefulness</u> of event's content and discussions; | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | N.A. |
| the <u>representation</u> at the event; | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | N.A. |
| the <u>structure and format</u> of the event; | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | N.A. |
| the <u>overall quality</u> of the event? | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | N.A. |

| <i>(please circle)</i> | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| II. To what extent did the event contribute to supporting COGs and CPCs to: | <i>4= great extent</i> | <i>3= moderate extent</i> | <i>2= some extent</i> | <i>1=small extent</i> | <i>0=not at all</i> | <i>N.A.(/don't know)</i> |
| <u>Network</u>; | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | N.A. |
| <u>Improve clarity around reporting mechanisms</u>; | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | N.A. |
| <u>Improve clarity around roles and responsibilities</u>; | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | N.A. |
| <u>Share good practice</u>; | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | N.A. |
| <u>Horizon scan</u> for new risks facing children and young people? | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | N.A. |

III. Please think about the key points that you are taking away from the event. How do you think these might influence/inspire the strategic leadership you provide?

IV. What topics would you like included in future events?

V. For future events, are there any adjustments to be made in terms of format and representation?

**VI. How often should the Child Protection Chief Officers' Leadership Events take place?
*(please specify)***

VII. What will you recommend for strengthening the link and communication between the Child Protection Leadership Group and Chief Officers?

VIII. If you have any other comments or suggestions, please note these below:

IX. What type of organisation do you represent? (please tick)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Chair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education Scotland | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Authority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Care Inspectorate | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Authority/IJB |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare Improvement Scotland | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Board/IJB |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HMIC | <input type="checkbox"/> Third Sector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SCRA | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Police Scotland | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire and Rescue Scotland | |

About CELCIS

CELCIS, based at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, is committed to making positive and lasting improvements in the wellbeing of Scotland's children living in and on the edges of care. Ours is a truly collaborative agenda; we work alongside partners, professionals and systems with responsibility for nurturing our vulnerable children and families. Together we work to understand the issues, build on existing strengths, introduce best possible practice and develop solutions. What's more, to achieve effective, enduring and positive change across the board, we take an innovative, evidence-based improvement approach across complex systems.

For more information

Visit: www.celcis.org **Email:** celcis@strath.ac.uk **Tel:** 0141 444 8500

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| COMMITTEE | Public Protection Committee |
| DATE | 5 th December 2018 |
| REPORT TITLE | PREVENT Progress Report |
| REPORT NUMBER | CUS/18/284 |
| DIRECTOR | Andy Macdonald |
| CHIEF OFFICER | Derek McGowan |
| REPORT AUTHOR | Alana Nabulsi |
| TERMS OF REFERENCE | 2.1 |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on progress made against the Prevent Peer Review's 18 recommendations and an update on the national context.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee:-

- 2.1 Note progress made against the Prevent Peer Review recommendations as requested by Committee on 9th May 2018; and
- 2.2 Note the appointment of Fraser Bell as the new lead officer for CONTEST; and
- 2.3 Note the commendation from Scottish Government regarding the partnership working of the Prevent Delivery Group

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) places a duty on certain bodies, listed in Schedule 6 to the Act, to have, in the exercise of their functions, "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism." The Prevent Duty came into force in July 2015. The duty does not confer new functions on any specified authority.
- 3.2 Prevent activity in Scotland is overseen by the Prevent Sub-Group of the Scottish CONTEST Delivery Group (previously known as the Multi-Agency Strategic CONTEST Board or MASCB for Scotland). CONTEST refers to the counter terrorism strategy. Local multi-agency CONTEST groups oversee

Prevent activity in their area and provide progress updates on activity contained in the local implementation plan. Please see Appendix A for diagram detailing these groups and how they interplay.

- 3.3 Fraser Bell, Chief Officer - Governance, is now the CONTEST lead and Alana Nabulsi, Statutory Homeless Team Leader, is the local authority Single Point Of Contact (SPOC). The CONTEST lead role previously sat with Derek McGowan, Chief Officer Early Intervention and Empowerment.
- 3.4 On 28th and 29th March 2018 Aberdeen City Council participated in a Prevent peer review process and a preliminary report was presented to the Chief Executive.
- 3.5 Feedback throughout the process was positive and constructive, highlighting the excellent leadership and collaborative partnership approach to Prevent delivery in the city amongst many other key strengths. In total, the peer review highlighted 18 recommendations.
- 3.6 The 18 recommendations were approved by the inaugural Public Protection Committee on 9th May. It was agreed that the action plan would be overseen by the organisational Resilience Working Group, to ensure that the Council is able to adopt best practice in preventing the radicalisation of people within Aberdeen. Committee requested that a progress report be presented at the 10th October meeting, The next scheduled meeting of the Organisational Resilience Working Group is on 26th November.
- 3.7 A new CONTEST strategy was published by the UK Home Office in June 2018. It outlined three objectives in the Prevent Delivery Model:
 1. **Tackle the causes of radicalisation** – both in terms of empowering communities and individuals to be resilient to divisive ideologies and in terms of tackling online influences.
 2. **Early intervention** – safeguarding and supporting those vulnerable to being radicalised.
 3. **Rehabilitation of those already engaged in terrorism** – providing individuals with support to disengage and rehabilitate (a new strand to Prevent).
- 3.8 The Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Michael Matheson, has welcomed the refreshed CONTEST Strategy and Scottish Government Officials have provided assurances that the focus in Scotland will continue to be around both empowering communities to be cohesive and resilient to divisive narratives (Objective 1) and safeguarding people who are vulnerable to being radicalised (Objective 2), as this fits the risk profile in Scotland. They are working with multi-agency partners to understand the practical implications of working to rehabilitate individuals already involved in terrorism (Objective 3), adapting current arrangements as appropriate. The current position reflects a commitment to develop their thinking and work to embed the strategic objectives in business plans and work priorities going forward.

Please see table below for a summary of progress made:

| RRECOMMENDATION | PROGRESS | STATUS |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Strong CONTEST governance should ensure that Prevent is as incorporated and visible as other strands | Updated and strengthened CONTEST strategy launched Monday 4 th June. Governance scrutinised with input from Ali Mackenzie, Counter Terrorism Liaison Sergeant. Concluded that Prevent has prominent representation within CONTEST. | COMPLETE |
| 2. Organisational change presents opportunity to review and refresh internal/external Prevent messages (Communications Plan) | Draft proposal for targeted messaging to new management structure including Chief Officers, Directors and Elected Members to be taken to the next Organisational Resilience Working Group meeting. Strategy still to be developed. | INCOMPLETE Expected completion by March 2019 |
| 3. Consider creation of internal working group to review Prevent delivery, peer review findings and identify early priorities | Agreed Resilience Working Group will oversee implementation of recommendations at next meeting and set terms of reference and priorities. | PARTIALLY COMPLETE Expected completion by end of January 2019 |
| 4. Review resources available for Prevent delivery to ensure appropriate contingencies | Interim Deputy SPOC identified and appointed. | PARTIALLY COMPLETE |
| 5. Referral process established and published – would benefit from being refreshed to reflect role of different stakeholders | Agreed new process with Chief Officer - Integrated Children's and Family Services to fit existing safeguarding framework. Discussions also held with Chief Officer Education | PARTIALLY COMPLETE Expected completion by end of December 2018 |
| 6. Internal referral process could be evaluated to establish confidence of staff and management | All facilitators have been consulted and self-evaluation conducted. 78% | COMPLETE |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>of those responding feel confident carrying out training and explaining referral process. 57% advise they require no further training input. Refresher training exercise held on 25th October.</p> | |
| <p>7. Consider reviewing and formalising internal Prevent Professional Concern (PPC) process to clearly identify chair and adopting table-top exercise</p> | <p>Agreed new process with Chief Officer - Integrated Children's and Family Services.</p> <p>PPC process has since been tested.</p> <p>Agreed at Prevent Delivery meeting on 23rd October that a North East case review of PPCs will be completed and learning developed into best practice guide</p> | <p>COMPLETE</p> |
| <p>8. Carry out stocktake and evaluation of current training to establish effectiveness and target future training appropriately</p> | <p>Resources currently being refreshed nationally. Update from Scottish Government on 27th August advised that resources are still under review. Bespoke refresher training for Prevent WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) facilitators held on 25th October.</p> | <p>COMPLETE</p> |
| <p>9. Use organisational change as opportunity to refresh relevant policies to include Prevent (venue hire, Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs), procurement, etc</p> | <p>Multi agency workshop carried out on 15th August to review venue hire policies. Meeting requested and being arranged with Commissioning function to implement procurement</p> | <p>PARTIALLY COMPLETE</p> <p>Expected completion by April 2019</p> |

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | duties. ALEO Assurance Hub currently reviewing its terms of reference to include assurance around Prevent | |
| 10. Ensure Prevent is considered in relation to outsourcing of public WiFi provision | <p>Assurance confirmed that content filtering is applied across the public WiFi network. As per the initial network design agreed with ACC the following categories are blocked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Abuse - Discrimination - Drug Abuse - Explicit Violence - Extremist Groups - Hacking - Illegal or Unethical - Pornography - Weapons (sales) - Peer-to-Peer - Malicious websites - Phishing - Spam URLs <p>The supplier can also block individual sites that do not fit into the above categories as and when requested by ACC</p> | COMPLETE |
| 11. Established structure of community engagement presents opportunity to communicate positively about Prevent and empower local | To be rolled into communication strategy and training to be delivered across localities. | INCOMPLETE Expect partial completion by January 2019, and then ongoing |

| communities | | engagement completed by June 2019 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12. Existing partnership working arrangements (CONTEST, public protection, community planning) offers opportunity to manage and report performance | Prevent progress reported to Public Protection Committee. | COMPLETE |
| 13. Build on existing relationship with Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) to identify opportunities to enable staff and empower communities on Prevent | Meeting arranged with Prevent lead from ACVO on 7 th September. Agreed key messaging would be cascaded through ACVO forums and communication to go out via their newsletter which has reach of over 4000 subscribers. Exploring opportunities to open up access to the e-learning module. | PARTIALLY COMPLETE Expected completion by March 2018 |
| 14. Consider holding a partnership training event to raise awareness of PPC process | Scottish Government now undertaking to organise a PPC seminar, together with the development of enhanced training and guidance. | COMPLETE |
| 15. Refresh communications plan to ensure that key stakeholders are informed as to the value of Prevent activity and the council's responsibilities for delivery | Contact has been made with Chief Officer Internal and External Communications and plan to be developed. | INCOMPLETE Expected completion by March 2019 |
| 16. Consider provision of information relating to on-going Prevent Case Management at partnership meetings (CONTEST, Prevent Delivery Group) | Terms of Reference for Prevent Delivery Group meetings updated to include learning from local case management. Learning also shared at North Prevent SPOC meetings. Further work to be developed to ensure | COMPLETE |

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| | learning is shared online, at Knowledge Hub. | |
| 17. Feed into national work to review and refresh the Emerging and Residual Threat Local Profile (ERTLP) | Discussed with Leads from Scottish Government and UK Home Office – ACC communicated interest and availability to engage in any national development work | COMPLETE/ONGOING |
| 18 Utilise existing community engagement to identify emerging community tensions and target services accordingly | Data framework to be identified. Meeting to be arranged with new Locality Managers and Police Scotland | INCOMPLETE Expected completion by March 2019 |

3.9 Following the appointment of Fraser Bell as the new CONTEST lead officer, Organisational Resilience Working Group meetings have been scheduled. The 18 recommendations of the Peer Review report and recommendations will be added to the agenda and action plan carried forward.

3.10 At the Prevent Delivery Group meeting held on 23rd July the partnership agreed to work together to incorporate the recommendations from Aberdeen City Council's peer review. Workshop arrangements detailed above have consequently been organised through the Prevent Delivery Group, and jointly by Aberdeen City, The Moray Council, Aberdeenshire Council, NHS Grampian, Police Scotland, Aberdeen University, North East Scotland College and Robert Gordon University. This multi-agency partnership approach to Prevent delivery has once again been highlighted by Scottish Government as best practice to be followed by the rest of Scotland.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The legal framework is set out in the body of the report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

| | Risk | Low (L), Medium (M), High (H) | Mitigation |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Financial | This has been considered and no risks have been identified | N/A | N/A |
| Legal | Council fails to comply with Prevent duties. | Medium | Continue to progress recommendations and refresh current operational practice |
| Employee | Staff fail to spot potential radicalisation of local residents due to insufficient training and awareness raising; or are unaware how to report an issue of concern. | Medium | Refresh communications strategy and refresher training to be provided to WRAP facilitators. All new staff to continue to be trained |
| Customer | Customers will not be protected from radicalisation | High | Provide further training to staff in order to identify customers who may be at risk of radicalisation |
| Environment | This has been considered and no risk has been identified. | N/A | N/A |
| Technology | This has been considered and no risk has been identified. | N/A | N/A |
| Reputational | We do not comply with duties and someone known to us is radicalised and commits a serious offence | Medium | Refreshing strategy, communications and training plans to deliver WRAP support. |

7. OUTCOMES

| Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Impact of Report |
| Prosperous People | Progress will help ensure that people are more resilient, included and supported. The 'notice, check, share' process will help protect them from harm and support vulnerable people in our communities from being drawn into terrorism or supporting terrorism. Prevent is an early intervention tool. No matter the ideology or idea which sits behind vulnerability, the collective focus for Prevent is always the early identification of risk to an individual in order to safeguard them. Where a vulnerable individual has been identified, appropriate partner agencies will work together to provide support to reduce the risk of any crime being committed. |
| Prosperous Place | Progress to implement the recommendations from our Prevent peer review will enable us to build empowered, resilient and sustainable communities. Prevent aims to safeguard people and communities from the threat of terrorism. It is one of four work streams which make up CONTEST, the UK Government's overarching counter-terrorism strategy. |

| Design Principles of Target Operating Model | |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Impact of Report |
| Customer Service Design | All parts of the organisation are responsible for compliance with the Prevent duty and this will need to be reflected in customer service design |
| Organisational Design | All parts of the organisation are responsible for compliance with the Prevent duty and this will need to be reflected in organisational design |
| Governance | Supported to identify signs of radicalisation and protect customers from harm |
| Workforce | Prevent will be strengthened as an aspect of organisational and City resilience |
| Process Design | All parts of the organisation are responsible for compliance with the Prevent duty and this will need |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | to be reflected in design |
| Technology | Prevent duties will need to be incorporated into our use of ICT internally and outwith the organisation |
| Partnerships and Alliances | Duties are imposed on ALEOS and partners. We will need to work together to comply with the Prevent duties related to the community |

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment | Outcome |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment | Full EHRIA not required |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment | Not required |
| Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty | Not applicable |

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

New CONTEST strategy document:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest-2018>

Aberdeen City Council Prevent Peer Review report to Public Protection Committee May 9th 2018:

<http://councilcommittees.acc.gov.uk/documents/g6280/Public%20reports%20pack%2009th-May-2018%2014.00%20Public%20Protection%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

10. APPENDICES

Appendix A: CONTEST Governance Diagram.

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

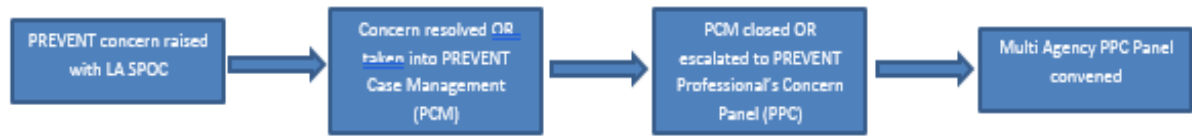
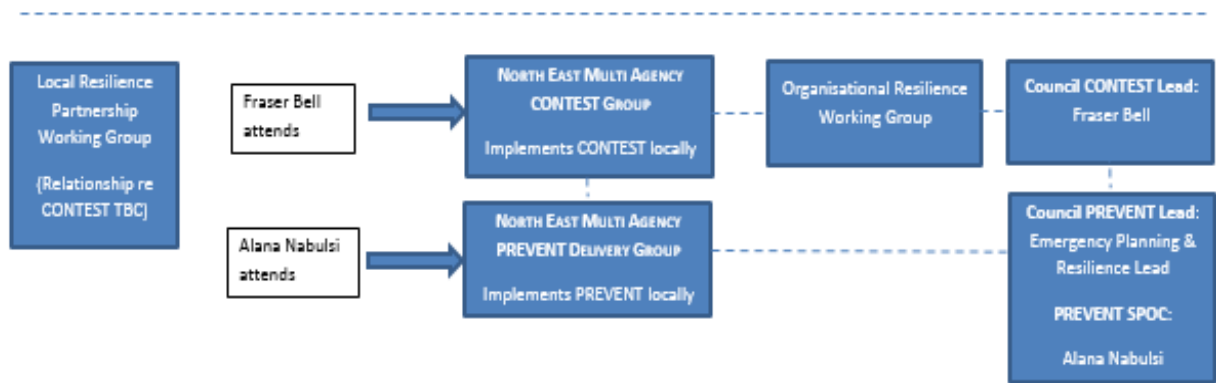
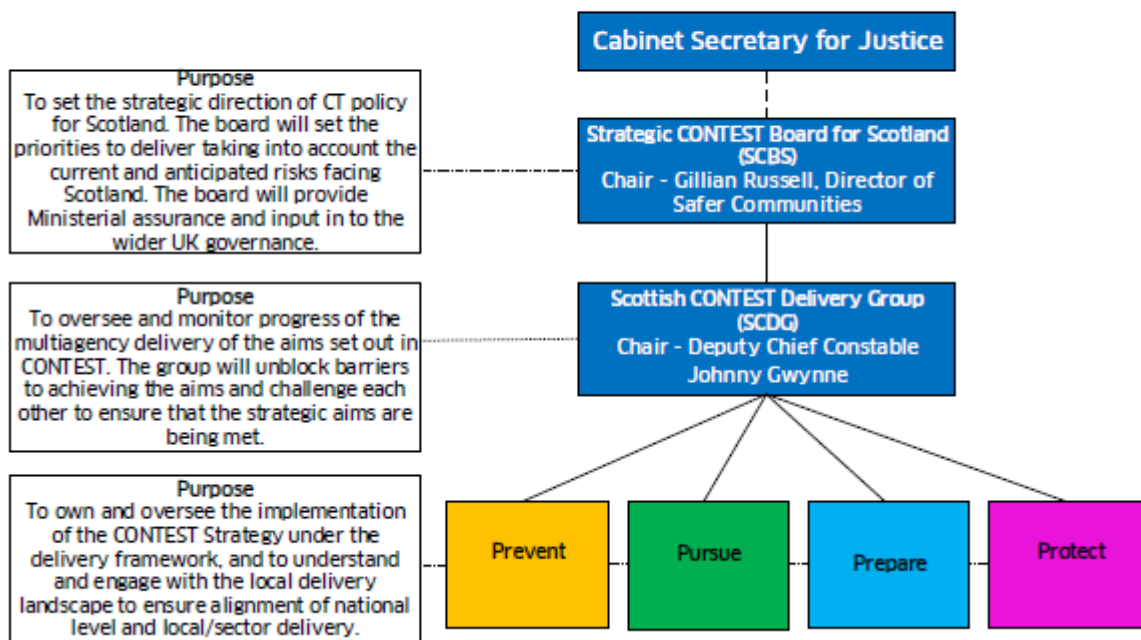
Alana Nabulsi, Statutory Homeless Team Leader

ANabulsi@aberdeencity.gov.uk

01224 52(3846)

Appendix A: CONTEST Governance Diagram

Governance of the delivery of CONTEST in Scotland - July 2018



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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COMMITTEE | Public Protection Committee |
| DATE | 5 December 2018 |
| REPORT TITLE | Response in relation to enforcement elements of the Scottish Government Consultation on Reducing Health Harms of Foods High in Fat, Sugar or Salt |
| REPORT NUMBER | OPE/18/298 |
| DIRECTOR | Rob Polkinghorne, Chief Operating Officer |
| CHIEF OFFICER | Mark Reilly |
| REPORT AUTHOR | Andrea Carson |
| TERMS OF REFERENCE | 3.3 Approve statutory plans aimed at protecting the public and delivered by or in partnership with Environmental Health and Trading Standards Services |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to provide the attached response in relation to the enforcement elements of the consultation. A consultation response regarding the wider principles of reducing health harms of foods high in fat, sugar or salt is being provided by officers from the Health & Social Care Partnership.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Approves the consultation response at Appendix A;
- 2.2 Instructs the Chief Officer Operations to submit the consultation response on behalf of Aberdeen City Council; and
- 2.3 Acknowledges that additional financial resources may be required in order to deliver this proposal to address the potential impact on other public health controls currently delivered by the Environmental Health Service.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.01 Scottish Government is focussed on improving the nation's health by improving diet and has an aspiration to become a Good Food Nation which is renowned for not only the food that it produces but also the food that is consumed. Tackling Scotland's serious diet and weight problems requires actions on several fronts.
- 3.02 Certain foods have been identified as being "discretionary foods" that are high in calories, fat, sugar and salt but with little nutritional value. These foods include confectionary, sweet biscuits, crisps, savoury snacks, puddings, pastries, cakes and soft drinks with added sugar.
- 3.03 The Reducing Health Harms of foods High in Fat, Sugar or Salt Consultation Paper suggests that one of the ways that the consumption of these "discretionary foods" can be reduced is by introducing a policy restricting their promotion and marketing.
- 3.04 The primary aim of the policy is to reduce the public health harm associated with the excessive consumption of calories, fat sugar and salt, including the risks of developing type 2 diabetes, various types of cancer and other conditions such as cardiovascular disease.
- 3.05 By restricting the promotion and marketing, which may include price promotions, and other forms of promotion and marketing such as placement in the premises, promotion of value, in-store advertising and upselling of foods that have limited beneficial nutritional value, less of these foods will be purchased, thus improving diet related health over time.
- 3.06 The Scottish Government are proposing that Local Authorities, in particular Environmental Health Services, would be best placed to enforce this policy, due to already having similar powers of entry, powers to obtain information and powers to issue compliance notices and fixed penalty notices in relation to other food safety legislation.
- 3.07 The response contained in Appendix 1 relates only to section 8 of the consultation that deals with enforcement and implementation as this has potential impact on the Environmental Health Service. Colleagues from the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership will respond directly to the consultation on the policy's aim and scope.
- 3.08 The primary role of Environmental Health Services in local authorities is public health protection. Authorities therefore have a significant role to play in resolving diet related ill health which is the biggest public health issue facing the nation.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.01 There is no indication within the consultation documents whether additional funding will be made available to implement this proposed policy. Therefore, it may be expected that this additional function if ratified would be delivered within existing resources.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

| | Risk | Low (L), Medium (M), High (H) | Mitigation |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Financial | Cost of extending inspection time potentially met by Authority | M | Resource adjusted accordingly. Work programme altered to match available resource |
| Legal | Policy if implemented may place statutory duties on the authority. | L | Duties can be addressed during inspections already undertaken |
| Employee | Competency in enforcing proposed policy | L | Ministerial Guidance to be provided |
| Customer | Customer relationship management relating to new policy | L | Guidance to be provided for industry to support effective implementation |
| Environment | Negligible | L | |
| Technology | Negligible | L | |
| Reputational | Negligible | L | |

7. OUTCOMES

| Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Impact of Report |
| Prosperous People | By supporting the introduction of a policy that restricts, at the point of purchase, the promotion and marketing of foods that have little nutritional value it is reasonable to expect less of these foods will be bought, improving, over time, the diet related health of the city's population. |

| Design Principles of Target Operating Model | |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Impact of Report |
| Governance | Delivering public protection provides assurance to both the organisation and the public in terms of meeting the council's statutory duties |

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment | Outcome |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment | EHRIA not required |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment | Not Required |
| Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty | Not Applicable |

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Reducing Health Harms of Foods High in Fat Sugar or Salt Consultation Paper
October 2018

<https://consult.gov.scot/health-and-social-care/reducing-health-harms-of-foods/>

10. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Extract from Consultation Document with proposed response

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name: Andrea Carson

Title: Principal Environmental Health Officer

Email: acarson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Tel: 01224 522741

Appendix A: Extract from the Consultation Document

8. ENFORCEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

We are considering giving local authorities the role of enforcing the proposed policy.

We do not anticipate a need for a new register.

We are considering giving Ministers powers to issue guidance to local authorities.

We are considering a guide to industry to support effective implementation.

Related Information

Enforcement and implementation

1. Those selling, manufacturing or distributing discretionary foods in Scotland are required under EU Food Hygiene Legislation to register as a "food business" which is generally enforced by local authorities. Local authorities are also responsible for related matters, including enforcing trading standards and environmental health legislation. We want to minimise demands on (a) existing enforcing authorities and (b) those subject to the restrictions. We therefore consider local authorities would be best placed to enforce the policy outlined in this consultation paper. Given food businesses must already register with their local authority, we do not anticipate a need for a new register for this policy.
2. Local authorities would have relevant powers to them, including in relation to powers of entry and powers to obtain information. Similar to food safety legislation, we are considering local authorities would also have powers to issue (a) compliance notices and (b) fixed penalty notices.⁽¹⁾ Relevant offences would be created.

3. We plan to work closely with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, FSS and others to assess resource implications.

Guidance

4. We recognise the importance of clarity in ensuring the effective implementation of this policy. To support this, we plan to work with local authorities and industry in developing Ministerial guidance to local authorities on matters for which they should have regard when discharging their functions. This could include, for example, guidance on placement restrictions (e.g. at checkouts, end-of-aisle etc.).

Support to industry for implementation

5. We are considering the publication of a guide to industry, co-designed by industry representative bodies, to support effective implementation.

[1] Provisions for compliance notices and fixed penalty notices are contained in the Food (Scotland) Act 2015. They have yet to be brought into use.

12. Please comment on our proposals for enforcement and implementation outlined in section 8.

Proposed comments:

Local Authority Environmental Health departments are primarily focused on delivering controls in relation to Public Health. The purpose of the proposal within the consultation is to deliver enhanced public health impacts in relation to diet.

Local Authorities are designated as the local competent authorities in relation to the enforcement of food law and maintain a register of food businesses that manufacture, sell and distribute food and implement a comprehensive inspection programme of food businesses. It is agreed that they are best placed to enforce the proposed restrictions on the promotion and marketing of foods

that should be consumed less frequently, especially where this can be combined within existing planned interventions.

Food business establishments are routinely inspected by enforcement staff who have powers of entry and powers to obtain information. In addition, staff are familiar with the process for issuing statutory and fixed penalty notices through the application of other legislative provisions. It would therefore be appropriate for enforcement powers to be extended to fulfil the requirements of this proposed policy. Unless additional resources are provided, there is the potential that this could impact on other public health controls delivered by Environmental Health as it could extend the length of time that a food law inspection currently takes and therefore may ultimately reduce the number of inspections that could be conducted annually.

The enforcement of this policy has the potential to divert resources from higher risk catering businesses which need concentrated intervention visits to ensure that they are complying with the law.

Ministerial Guidance to ensure consistency and support the effective implementation of this policy would be welcomed. It would appear appropriate for such guidance to be incorporated within the Food Law Code of Practice (Scotland) or the associated Practice Guidance.

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| COMMITTEE | Public Protection Committee |
| DATE | 5 th December 2018 |
| REPORT TITLE | Building Standards Activity Report |
| REPORT NUMBER | PLA/18/160 |
| CHIEF OFFICER | Gale Beattie |
| REPORT AUTHOR | Gordon Spence |
| TERMS OF REFERENCE | 4.1, 4.2 & 4.3 |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide assurance and an overview of Council responsibilities in relation to securing dangerous buildings and protecting public safety, as well as activity on unauthorised building work and unauthorised occupation of buildings.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes the contents of the report and Appendix.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Aberdeen City Council act as verifier to administer the Building (Scotland) Act 2003 which is intended to secure the health, safety, welfare and convenience of persons in or about buildings and of others who may be affected by buildings or matters connected with buildings. In addition, the Building Standards team complete enforcement duties under the above Act with the objective of protecting the public from harm caused by buildings.
- 3.2 Details of formal and non-formal enforcement activity can be found in Appendix 1 relating to:
- Public Safety and dangerous buildings
 - Unauthorised building work
 - Unauthorised occupation of buildings without a completion certificate
- 3.3 It should be noted that these activities do not have targets or performance measures as each case is dealt with in accordance with the Regulators Code of Conduct supported by the Building Standards Enforcement Charter.

3.4 As a result of the tragic events of Grenfell and separately, the Cole report of the Independent Inquiry into the Construction of Edinburgh Schools, Scottish Government commissioned two Ministerial Working Groups to review Building Regulation Fire Safety and secondly, Building Standards Compliance and Enforcement. The findings of these two Working Groups resulted in a formal consultation titled “Building Standards Compliance and Fire Safety – a consultation on making Scotland’s buildings safer for people”. Officers submitted a response to the consultation – see Appendix 2. The Scottish Government will review the consultation findings and release legislative changes or guidance around Spring 2019 which will be reported back to this committee.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no increased financial implications in relation to on-going verification and enforcement services.

4.2 Any future legislative or guidance changes may increase Building Standards duties. The verification role is funded by building warrant fees and therefore should be cost neutral. Increased enforcement activity may impact on Building Standards activity and resources.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Occasional legal input required for enforcement action.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

| | Risk | Low (L), Medium (M), High (H) | Mitigation |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Financial | Potential increase in Building Standards activity and resources from future legislative or guidance changes | M | Any cost resulting from the increase in activity will be actively monitored and will be met through existing service budgets. |
| Legal | Increased legal input | L | Any cost resulting from the increase in activity will be actively monitored and will be met through existing service budgets. |
| Employee | Potential increase in enforcement activity | L | Any cost resulting from the increase in activity will be actively monitored and will be met through existing service |

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| | | | budgets. |
| Customer | Delay in processing of building warrant applications. | M | Management of resources |
| Environment | None | | |
| Technology | None | | |
| Reputational | Delay in processing building warrant applications. | M | Management of resources |

7. OUTCOMES

| Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Impact of Report |
| Prosperous Economy | Future changes to legislation or guidance may bring higher building costs. |
| Prosperous People | Future changes to legislation or guidance may bring higher building costs. Increased enforcement activity will make a safer environment. |
| Prosperous Place | Future changes to legislation or guidance may bring higher building costs. Increased enforcement activity will make a safer environment. |

| Design Principles of Target Operating Model | |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Impact of Report |
| Customer Service Design | The purpose of this report is to ensure customer outcomes are maintained and services continue. Maintain the Councils customer focus and prevent any reputational damage. |
| Partnerships and Alliances | The report provides assurance of the continued working with Community Safety Hub, Police and Fire Service liaison and the impact of this. |

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment | Outcome |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment | Full EHRIA not required. |
| Privacy Impact Assessment | Not required |
| Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty | Not applicable. |

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Appendix 1 | Building Standards Activity |
| Appendix 2 | Building Standards Compliance and Fire Safety a consultation on making Scotland's buildings safer for people |

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name:- | Gordon Spence |
| Email Address:- | gspence@aberdeencity.gov.uk |
| Tel:- | 01224 522436 |

Appendix 1 – Building Standards Activity

| Period 01/01/18 – 30/10/18 | Notices served | Notices closed |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Public Safety and Dangerous Buildings | 5 | 4 |
| Unauthorised Building Work | 9 | 4 |
| Unauthorised Occupation of Buildings | 1 | 0 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Number of visits resulting in formal or informal action | 45 visits |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|

For information – once a Notice is served, there is a statutory period of 21 days to allow an owner to appeal the notice. Thereafter, there is an expiry date by which the terms of the Notice must be met.

Of the 7 Notices not closed:

4 notices are pending approval of building warrant applications to regularise the work and are therefore in the process of being closed

1 notice the Council are making safe the building

2 notices are currently live and within the expiry period

APPENDIX 2

Building Standards Compliance and Fire Safety – a consultation on making Scotland’s buildings safer for people

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:
<https://beta.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
 Organisation

Full name or organisation’s name

Aberdeen City Council

Address

Marischal College
Business Hub 4
Broad Street

Email

gspence@aberdeencity.gov.uk

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
 Publish response only (without name)
 Do not publish response

Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future,

but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

No

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Part 1

Question 1.1:

Do you agree that the roles and responsibilities of verifiers (including their key activities) must be clearly defined and recorded, including the expected level of resources and skills needed to undertake verification activity, and the actual level?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Scottish Ministers should provide clarity through the appointment process to the expected level of resources and skills required to undertake verification activity which will be different for different verification areas. This clarity will help the Local Authority decide whether the required skill and resourcing exists or whether upscaling is required. The operating framework has gone some way to achieving this but still has a degree of vagueness. For instance, there are significant differences between verification services within a city compared to a rural authority.

Question 1.2: Do you agree that verifiers must place a greater emphasis on inspection and testing throughout construction and at completion?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: In light of recent events, it is clear that the “relevant person” and the construction industry are not putting in place sufficient supervision to ensure compliance with basic structural and fire safety construction elements are achieved. It is therefore appropriate that verifiers provide greater emphasis in key areas relating to building and occupant safety. It needs to be recognised that any additional resourcing will require additional funding.

Question 1.3: Do you agree that verifiers must place a strong focus on safety critical elements such as structure (for example wall ties, lateral restraint) and fire safety (for example fire protection, fire-stopping, cavity barriers)? If possible, please provide details, in the comments box of other elements that should be included.

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Yes. However, it may be appropriate to accept suitable confirmation if the designer has an onsite inspection role – it is important that the designer’s intent has been carried through to site construction. If the design intent is solely

left with the contractor, and/or the verifier to interpret, then there is still a risk of compliance not being achieved through lack of knowledge or misinterpretation.

Question 1.4: Do you agree that local authorities should not be able to act as verifier for their own “higher risk” building work due to possible conflicts of interest?

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Yes No Unsure

Question 1.5: Do you agree that local authorities should still be able to act as verifier for their own lower risk building work?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Within this local authority, there is sufficient impartiality between design teams and the verifier to ensure compliance is achieved for both high and low risk building work. However, it is accepted that this impartiality may not be particularly “visible”. Although the issues arising from recent public body developments have raised concerns for those buildings, it is assumed that this is a more endemic issue crossing both public and private sector work.

If adopting an alternative verifier for local authority work, there is a risk of that verifier not having suitable experience for the type of work involved. For example, Aberdeen City has 59 multi storey buildings whereas our next nearest verifier has no multi storey buildings. This would lead to applications being directed to a more remote verifier where the skill set exists. There are also practicality issues around the onsite verification role being completed by a more remote verifier – in the above example, the nearest verifier with multi storey buildings is 70 miles away. The potential also exists for Local Authority developments to be delayed due to alternative verification arrangements making it unfair that timescales may differ between local authority and private developments.

It seems appropriate that a separate system can be implemented to make impartiality more visible. A peer review similar to that implemented after the 2005 Act came into force could be developed to cover the competent checking of approvals and sample checking of work during construction – record of site notes, photos and other evidence gathered to reduce the risk of non-compliance and confirm the correct implementation of the Compliance Plan.

Question 1.6: Do you agree that the roles and responsibilities of building owners and developers (including their key activities) must be clearly defined within the Building Standards system and recorded including the expected level of resources and skills needed to assure themselves and verifiers of compliance, and the actual level?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: It can be very difficult for the verifier to ascertain the level of competence assigned by the owner/developer to ensure the risk of non-compliance is reduced. For example, in a recent private development involving a conversion to a high risk building, it was found late in the construction work that the electrician was unable to issue suitable certification under BS7671 due to a lack of qualifications. It is clear that the level of resources employed by developers on supervision varies considerably but has definitely reduced over the years. Consideration should be given to the mandatory employment of competent supervision by the developer depending on the risk category of buildings and their occupants.

Question 1.7: Do you agree that the building owners and developers must, to ensure compliance, place a greater emphasis on inspection and testing throughout construction and at completion, with focus on the safety critical elements?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: For the reasons described in the comments to question 1.6 above.

Question 1.8: Do you agree with the requirement for a Compliance Plan, to be provided by the owner or developer, to demonstrate their approach to compliance from initial design, through detailed design and construction, and leading to their final sign-off and certification of the completed building?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: This is an important element for high risk buildings to ensure compliance and for high value buildings to reduce the risk of retrospective works and therefore provide value for money in both public and private developments. It is considered necessary that the Compliance Plan must be embedded as a mandatory requirement so that, similar to CDM Regs, it becomes part of the costed process for the delivery of buildings.

Question 1.9: Do you agree that the building owner or developer should be required to appoint a competent professional person, with the appropriate experience and qualifications, to act on their behalf in order to assure them of compliance when they submit the completion certificate?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Agree on the basis that this should not reduce the enhanced role of the verifier as discussed in question 1.2. The combination of a developer appointed competent person and an increased inspection role for the verifier can only enhance compliance in the constructed building.

Question 1.10: Do you agree that mandatory pre-application discussions and pre-commencement of construction discussions should be introduced for higher risk buildings?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: This will ensure discussions between designer, contractor and verifier take place to ensure design intent is carried through to construction compliance

Question 1.11: Do you agree that amendments to warrant should differentiate between minor changes, major changes, and staged warrants?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: The current legislative framework and enforcement does not suit the delivery needs for larger developments. It is unrealistic to expect construction work to stop and await a pre-emptive amendment approval when an unforeseen or client led change is necessary. Equally, both the developer and verifier must be comfortable that design and construction compliance will still be achieved should work continue without formal approval. Since 2005, this local authority has adopted a pragmatic approach when changes occur and enforcement has only been used when safety concerns are identified. The proposed certification of amendment scheme appears to go a long way to formalising the process.

1. Construction (procedures throughout construction)

- Construction procedures and guidance to be reviewed and strengthened for higher risk buildings to cover notifications, inspections, disruptive surveys and recording non-compliances.
- Design changes to be notified to the verifier as the project progresses and subsequently covered by an amendment granted before the completion certificate is submitted.

Question 1.12: Do you agree that the construction procedures and guidance should be reviewed and that mandatory notifications are introduced, including notification of progress on higher risk projects?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: The establishment of a Compliance Plan should be made mandatory but the content of the Plan should be left to the developer and verifier to agree the key inspections which will vary between developments.

Question 1.13: Do you agree that verifiers should carry out ad-hoc (unannounced) progress inspections and be able to require disruptive surveys when mandatory notifications are not made to them?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: No further comment required

Question 1.14: Do you agree that verifiers should record safety critical building standards non-compliances and feedback at a national level to drive improvements?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Whilst identifying safety critical non-compliances will be helpful, the reality of consistently recording this information across Scotland will be difficult. It may prove too subjective, it will vary between rural and city authorities and will vary depending on the number of site visits. It will also place an additional burden on the verifier.

Question 1.15: Do you agree that verifiers should be notified of minor changes in design as the project progresses, on the understanding that they are to be covered by an amendment to warrant before the completion certificate is submitted?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Yes, as per the comments to Question 1.11 above, this appears a pragmatic approach for administering minor changes.

Question 1.16: Do you agree that the completion certificate for a higher risk building should have sub-sets for safety critical aspects, and be accompanied by as-built drawings and the completed Compliance Plan?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: If the Compliance Plan is legislatively linked to the Acceptance to a Completion Submission then it will include the safety critical sub-sets and act as a record of compliance for future reference.

Question 1.17: Do you agree that the procedures for the temporary occupation or use of a building should be strengthened for example requiring a declaration of compliance and monitoring of the expiry dates?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: The temporary occupation is a simple application form which requires no declaration relating to compliance from the relevant person. This is considered to be a legislative weakness in the process whereby the verifier appears to be responsible for confirming the safe occupation of a building based on the granting of a temporary occupation certificate. More responsibility should be placed on the developer to confirm that compliance has been achieved and the building is therefore safe to occupy.

Question 1.18: Do you agree that restrictions to the occupation or use of existing buildings should be considered when significant alterations are being carried out to higher risk buildings?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: The Act only requires a completion certificate or temporary occupation to confirm occupation in new build development. Alterations during occupation present a different and sometimes larger risk to safe occupation. For example, alterations in a care home where vulnerable residents reside requires careful consideration of all risk factors and indeed, may require the decant of residents if the risks are too high. Another example might be that contractors require to use an escape stair for construction access and the stair is compromised through fire doors being wedged or the storage of materials. The legislative backstop in these cases sits in the Fire (Scot) Act 2005 and it may be appropriate for Building Standards to collect a occupation risk assessment as part of the warrant approval which can be passed to the Fire Service similar to a Fire Safety Design Summary.

Question 1.19: Do you agree that local authorities should be more pro-active in enforcing building regulations and monitor construction regularly?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Enforcement should be appropriate and in accordance with guidance provided by the Scottish Strategic Regulators Code of Practice. Currently, the consensus is that enforcement is resource intensive with an unknown success rate. Local Authorities therefore enter negotiation to achieve the best outcome. Where there is a need to enforce due to real safety concerns, the current route can be slow and cumbersome. In general, quicker powers should be granted to stop work and/or occupation where the Local Authority considers safety and lives are endangered. This is similar to the Health & Safety Executive.

Question 1.20: Do you agree that local authorities should have a building standards enforcement policy in place that is based on national guidance?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: This will provide national consistency which is especially important for national companies carrying out work across Scotland.

Question 1.21: Do you agree that national guidance on building standards enforcement should include what enforcement related actions local authorities should carry out and the level of resources and skills they should have to do so?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: National guidance will help national consistency. However, Local Authorities should be free to prioritise resources across the range of functions they deliver

Question 1.22: Do you agree the penalties and levels of fines associated with serious failures in compliance should be increased?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Fines should be increased but proportionate to the type of development which will then act as a suitable deterrent.

Fire Safety

Question 2.1: Do you agree that the guidance should be developed to make clear that there is more than one way of achieving compliance with the mandatory functional standards?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: This is already suitably covered in the Technical Handbooks

Question 2.2: Do you agree that the annexes in the Technical Handbooks for residential care buildings, hospitals and enclosed shopping centres should be published separately?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: It is better the annexes are published within the Technical Handbooks and not separately. It makes the annexes more visible.

Question 2.3: Do you agree that an additional Technical Handbook for simple domestic detached and semi-detached dwellings (up to 3 storeys) should be introduced as a means of compliance with fire, and all applicable building standards and sections of the Handbooks?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: This appears to be appropriate as a high percentage of building warrant applications fall into this category.

Question 2.4: Do you agree that a national “hub” approach should be developed to share expertise and skills and be responsible for verifying fully performance based “fire safety engineering designs”?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Questions remain around the funding of a hub, potential disruption to turnaround timescales if utilising a hub and how design intent is passed to the verifier to confirm construction compliance.

Question 2.5: Do you agree that consideration should be given to a certification scheme for fire engineering?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Yes, if it is as robust as the SER scheme for structural engineering certification

Question 2.6 Do you agree that the reference to British Standards Reaction to Fire Tests should be removed from the Technical Handbook?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: This local authority is in agreement with the findings of the review panel

Question 2.7: Do you agree that only A1 and A2 materials, using the European Harmonised “reaction to fire tests”, should be required for external walls or insulation exposed in a cavity of a high rise building (domestic and non-domestic) with a storey at a height of more than 11m above ground?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Clarity required for the description of materials between fire resistance, combustibility and surface spread of flame. If possible, simplification is required to be more understandable to common person and the building industry.

Question 2.8: Do you agree that only A1 and A2 materials, using the European Harmonised “reaction to fire tests”, should be required for external walls or insulation exposed in a cavity of entertainment and assembly buildings, residential care homes and hospitals of any height?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: This local authority is in agreement with the findings of the review panel

Question 2.9: Do you agree that BS 8414 (and BR135) may still be used as an alternative method of providing evidence to show compliance?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Difficulties of testing a part/sample of building may not replicate the difficulties of re-cladding a whole building. Testing does not take account of environmental conditions, wind, add on fixings, etc or particular detailing which may differ depending on the building being re-clad. However, testing to BS8414 is still better than nothing.

Question 2.10: Do you agree fire service activated evacuation sounders should be required in each flat in new domestic buildings which have a storey at a height of more than 18m above ground level?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Why 18 metres and not 11 metres – the application of different height allowances can cause confusion for designer and general industry. It is better to simplify where possible. There are concerns that a simultaneous evacuation may hinder fire fighting operations so consideration should be given to a phased evacuation via “intelligent” system but still in the control of the Fire Service. Concerns exist should it be the intention to place the evacuation sounders within flats due to access difficulties for maintenance. For this reason, it would be better to site the sounder within the common corridors with suitable audibility.

Question 2.11 Do you agree that two stairways should be required for new domestic buildings which have a storey at a height of more than 18m above ground level?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Consideration should to lowering the trigger for 2 stairs even lower. For example an office requires 2 escape stair if it has a storey greater than 7.5m. Although, an office has less compartmentation, occupants are awake whereas, a flatted development includes a sleeping risk. However, should automatic suppression be introduced as a mandatory requirement, then the requirement for 2 means of escape can be relaxed.

Question 2.12: Do you agree that new HMOs used for “care” 24/7 should be included in the list of buildings with a mandatory requirement for automatic fire suppression systems?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Simply due to the vulnerability of the occupants

Question 2.13: Do you agree that new HMOs with 10 or more occupants should be included in the list of buildings with a mandatory requirement for automatic fire suppression systems?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Simply due to the potential vulnerability of the occupants

Question 2.14: Do you agree that new flats should be included in the list of buildings with a mandatory requirement for automatic fire suppression systems?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Yes, but only to buildings with flats containing a storey above 11 metres. Above this height, the Fire Service is restricted to firefighting operations purely via internal means of access. Up to 11 metres, external access can be gained as long as this is designed as part of the development.

Miscellaneous

Question 3.1: Do you agree that protected lobbies need not be provided to shared residential accommodation with only one escape stair?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Yes, but subject to other mitigation factors such as enhanced Alarm & Fire Detection.

Question 3.2: Do you agree that exempt type 16 of building regulations should be reviewed in respect of the criteria for the erection of a temporary building and the temporary use of a building?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: The wording of the exempt class requires greater clarity and currently causes confusion in their application

Question 4.1: Do you agree with the areas identified for further consideration?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: Fee income stayed static between 2005 and 2017 making it impossible for verifiers to provide the same level of service due to inflationary rises. Investment in resources was reduced accordingly and greater prioritisation was given to plans checking. Regular review of fee income is required if verifiers are to continue to provide the same level of service consistently. Clearly, if increased inspection work via Compliance Plans and greater use of enforcement is an outcome of this consultation, then this needs to be recognised in the fee structure. A scheme of licensing contractors will enhance construction compliance but requires to be a robust scheme of membership, auditing, etc to be of value.

Question 4.2: Do you consider there are other areas of the building standards system that require further consideration?

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the box below.

Comments: The upskilling and upscaling of verification services will take some time to implement before an further consideration is given to changes in the building standards system.

Question 4.3: If Yes above please tell us what they are in the box below.

Comments:

Question 5.1: Are there any proposals in this consultation which impact or have implications on 'equality groups'? Choose from the following options:

Part 1 – Building Standards (Compliance and Enforcement)

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the boxes below.

Verifiers

Comments:

Building Owner or Developer

Comments:

Compliance Plan

Comments:

Building standards system

Comments:

Enforcement

Comments:

Part 2 – Building Standards (Fire Safety)

Question 5.2: Are there any proposals in this consultation which impact or have implications on 'equality groups'? Choose from the following options:

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the boxes below.

Structure of building standards and supporting guidance

Comments: No comment

Fire safety engineering

Comments: No comment

External walls and cladding

Comments: No comment

Escape

Comments: No comment

Automatic fire suppression systems

Comments: N comment

Question 5.3: Do any of the proposals in this consultation have any financial, regulatory or resource implications for you and/or your business (if applicable)? Choose from the following options:

Part 1 – Building Standards (Compliance and Enforcement)

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the boxes below.

Verifiers

Comments: Upskilling and upscaling resources will have a financial impact. Greater investment in training in verification and/or enforcement has a time and financial impact.

Building Owner or Developer

Comments: Potentially increased cost implications for new build flats in Council ownership

Compliance Plan

Comments: Potentially increased cost implications for administering the Compliance Plan through additional supervision costs and employment of a competent person to oversee

Building standards system

Comments: No comment

Enforcement

Comments: Greater investment in training in verification and/or enforcement has a time and financial impact.

Part 2 – Building Standards (Fire Safety)

Question 5.4: Do any of the proposals in this consultation have any financial, regulatory or resource implications for you and/or your business (if applicable)? Choose from the following options:

Yes No Unsure

Please select only one answer and provide any comments in the boxes below.

Structure of building standards and supporting guidance

Comments: No comment

Fire safety engineering

Comments: Potential funding of a hub for fire engineering

External walls and cladding

Comments: No comment

Escape

Comments: Potentially increased cost in new build flats for means of escape and passive systems

Automatic fire suppression systems

Comments: Potentially increased cost in new build flats

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