

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Public Protection Committee
<b>DATE</b>	7 October 2020
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2018-19
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	OPE/20/149
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Rob Polkinghorne
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Graeme Simpson, Chief Social Work Officer and Sheena Gault, Independent Chair of the CPC
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Stuart Lamberton
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and "Joint Working with Non-Council Bodies"

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To share Aberdeen City Child Protection Committees (CPC) Annual Report 2019-20 which provides the Committee with information and assurance on the work of the CPC.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- 2.1 notes the content of the CPCs Annual Report 2019-20, including the Child Protection Improvement Programme for 2019 – 2021;
- 2.2 notes the positive impact and effectiveness of child protection improvement initiatives detailed in the report;
- 2.3 notes the effective working across child protection as demonstrated in our joint children's service inspection; and
- 2.4 notes the use of statistical information to inform practice and improvement initiatives relating to child protection.

### 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The CPC Annual Report, which can be found under the appendices section of this report, details the work of the CPC from the period April 2019 through to end of June 2020. It demonstrates effective multi agency working in Aberdeen City across a range of partners who all fully participate in the improvement work undertaken through the CPC. The improvement initiatives are data informed, something which has been commended by the Care Inspectorate in their Report of a joint inspection of services for children and young people in need of care and protection in Aberdeen City, September 2019. The CPC annual report illustrates:

- the delivery of national initiatives and local implications;
- the impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic
- learning from significant case reviews;
- quality assurance processes;
- development and delivery of our multi agency learning and development; and
- local evidence based initiatives.

3.2 The CPC Annual Report also details the Child Protection Programme for the forthcoming period 2019 – 2021. The initiatives are aligned with the aims of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and are informed by national expectations as well as local requirements.

The focus of the Child Protection Programme 2019-21 is:

- To adopt a strength based and participatory approach to child protection practice across the partnership in Aberdeen City;
- To improve multi-agency recognition and response to indicators of cumulative neglect;
- To improve professional, family and young people's awareness, knowledge and skills to safeguard and protect from the abuse and harm of on-line safety, child sexual exploitation and child trafficking;
- To improve multi agency recognition and response to child protection implications of domestic abuse;
- To improve the partnership's processes and responses to the vulnerabilities of 16-17 year olds and all young people who go missing;
- To improve multi-agency recognition and response to child protection implications of emotional abuse;
- To improve multi-agency recognition and response to equality, diversity, and inclusion (this includes Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), ethnicity, LGBT+, Prevent, Forced Marriage) in the field of child protection; and
- To improve multi-agency recognition and response to child protection issues arising among children with disabilities and complex needs.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

#### 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

#### 6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	None for this report		
Legal	None for this report		
Employee	None for this report		
Customer	Required improvements and developments in practice are not identified and actioned.	M	Children, young people and their families can be assured that services in Aberdeen City are continually appraised in order to improve the quality of locally delivered services.
Environment	None for this report		
Technology	None for this report		
Reputational	Organisational failings in relation to child protection can bring significant media interest and scrutiny of services delivered to children and young people.	M	The public can be assured that: the Council ensures compliance with legal requirements, national standards and guidance; partners respond to self and external scrutiny; and identified areas for improvement are addressed.

#### 7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report

<b>Prosperous Economy</b>	None
<b>Prosperous People</b>	The functions of the Child Protection Committee are central to supporting and assuring that the multi-agency Children's Services partners 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.
<b>Prosperous Place</b>	None

<b>Design Principles of Target Operating Model</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Customer Service Design</b>	None
<b>Organisational Design</b>	None
<b>Governance</b>	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.
<b>Workforce</b>	A proactive learning approach is taken to support staff understanding of the range of child protection issues identified locally and nationally.
<b>Process Design</b>	None
<b>Technology</b>	None
<b>Partnerships and Alliances</b>	Services to children and young people are delivered on a multi-agency basis and the scrutiny, challenge and learning requires all agencies to work in partnership with each other.

## 8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
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<b>Equality &amp; Human Rights Impact Assessment</b>	Not required
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required
<b>Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty</b>	Not required

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**10. APPENDICES (if applicable)**

[Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2019-20](#)

**11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS**

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