

# Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee Improvement Programme 2024-2026



Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee (CPC) is a multi-agency strategic partnership governed by the Chief Executive Officers of Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian and the Police Commander for the area. It is committed to providing individual and collective leadership and direction for the management of child protection services in the Aberdeen City area. Improvements are driven through the Child Protection Programme.

The CPC works alongside Integrated Children's Services in Aberdeen to ensure that improvement areas are aligned. In this way we ensure the best and most effective use of resources. The CPC also aims to work collaboratively with other strategic partnerships in the City such as the Children's Services Board, Aberdeen Violence Against Women & Girls Partnership (particularly in relation to child protection and domestic abuse), Adult Protection Committee, Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.

Progress on improvement activity is reported to and monitored by the CPC through its connected sub committees which are; the Significant Learning Review, the Performance & Quality Assurance, and the Learning & Development sub committees. The CPC produces an Annual Report which is made widely available across agencies and demonstrates the work of the CPC through these connected structures.

## CPC Improvement Aims

The Child Protection Programme aims to improve the safety, wellbeing and life chances of vulnerable children and young people. As a partnership we achieve this by

- recognising and responding when children and young people need protection
- helping children and young people stay safe, healthy and, for those who have experienced abuse and neglect, to recover from their experiences and
- providing strong and effective collaborative leadership to deliver the Child Protection Programme ensuring the CPC is ready to adapt and adjust as required to both local and national developments

## Improvement Activity

The Child Protection Programme includes and is aligned to improvement activity identified by:

- Local self-evaluation through data analysis, case file auditing, local and national learning from Learning Reviews, and the collaboration of multi agency professionals in the City,
- National initiatives driven by legislation and other Scottish Government priorities and
- Local priorities identified in the Children's Services Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

This programme will be delivered on a phased basis, building on the trauma informed and strength based practice approaches used across the City. All improvement priorities are a multi-agency responsibility and sit collectively with the agencies and members of the CPC. This will ensure and support the embedding of improvements in practice as well as realistically enabling the CPC to deliver on the programme with the resources available. It is acknowledged that, whilst this is a comprehensive programme, it requires to be sufficiently flexible to be adjusted as needs arise, such as from the findings of case reviews, audits, joint inspections as well as developing areas identified in the LOIP or by Integrated Children's Services.

## Our priorities in the programme 2024-2026

- Neglect
- Child Protection & Parental Substance Use
- Exploitation
- Child Protection & Domestic Abuse
- Interdisciplinary multi agency working
- Learning & Development

## Alignment to LOIP 2016-2026

The delivery of the CPC improvement programme directly supports the delivery of the [LOIP](#), in particular stretch outcomes that relate to children, young people and families (SO3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10,11, and 12)

Priority	What will we do?	How will we do it?	How will we know?	Lead Group	Period
<p><b>Neglect</b> (This is a priority because Neglect is the most prevalent concern for children on our Child Protection register and also has featured within Learning Review activity)</p>	<p>Increase practitioner’s skills and confidence in preventing, identifying, and addressing neglect. This will recognise the correlation between poverty and neglect.</p> <p>In collaboration with the ADP/CPC thematic group, explore our messaging and approaches to safe sleep practices.</p>	<p>Review &amp; refresh the remit of our multi agency thematic group.</p> <p>Establish a multi agency workforce group to identify and mitigate the barriers to naming and responding to neglect.</p> <p>We will seek to understand the lived experience of children, young people and families who have experienced neglect.</p> <p>Consider the use of the Graded Care Profile.</p> <p>Explore the development of a neglect pathway that mitigates the escalation into child protection/statutory processes.</p>	<p>Review of the multi agency Neglect training.</p> <p>Monitor data around neglect and children re-registered under neglect.</p> <p>Children &amp; families will tell us that they are receiving early and preventative support.</p> <p>Data from our audit and learning review activity.</p>	<p>Neglect Thematic Group</p> <p>Clear links with Best Start In Life</p>	<p>Throughout 2024-2026</p>
Priority	What will we do?	How will we do it?	How will we know?	Lead Group	Period
<p><b>Child Protection &amp; Parental Substance Use</b> (This is a priority because it has been identified Learning Review activity, and through our data &amp; scrutiny reports. Parental substance use continues to feature prominently in our CPR registrations)</p>	<p>Ensure an aligned framework for understanding &amp; risk of</p> <p>Develop an escalation pathway for young people exhibiting early indications of problematic drug/alcohol use</p> <p>Explore the interconnectivity of related child protection and substance use activity to develop a more cohesive and preventative approach to whole family support.</p>	<p>Establish a joint thematic group with Aberdeen City’s Alcohol &amp; Drug Partnership</p> <p>Thematic group will determine the priorities for improvement activity to drive the ‘what will we do’ activity.</p>	<p>The escalation pathway will be implemented across the workforce</p> <p>Quality Assurance Framework audit</p> <p>Children &amp; families will tell us that they are receiving early and preventative support.</p>	<p>ADP/CPC Thematic Group</p>	<p>Throughout 2024-2025</p>

	In collaboration with the Neglect thematic group, explore our messaging and approaches to safe sleep practices.				
<b>Priority</b>	<b>What will we do?</b>	<b>How will we do it?</b>	<b>How will we know?</b>	<b>Lead Group</b>	<b>Period</b>
<b>Exploitation</b> (This is a national and local priority. Our exploitation thematic group share this position and recognise, like the rest of Scotland, there are few children on our CPR under this category)	Increase practitioner’s skills and confidence in preventing, identifying, and responding to all types of exploitation  Consider how we communicate with the public to raise awareness of the risk of all types of exploitation.	Develop, review and disseminate local multi-agency guidance, or other awareness raising materials in relation to Child Criminal Exploitation, Sextortion, and other relevant forms of exploitation  Improve data gathering in relation to all forms of exploitation, particularly in universal services  Develop and disseminate a contextual safeguarding e-module.	The guidance or other materials will be developed and disseminated across the workforce. The impact will be measured by engaging with the workforce  The data from universal services will illustrate the prevalence of children and young people at risk of exploitation in Aberdeen and the impact of preventative interventions.	Exploitation Thematic Group  (Establish links with Youth Justice, and the Corporate Parenting Groups)  L&D Sub Committee	Throughout 2024-2026
<b>Priority</b>	<b>What will we do?</b>	<b>How will we do it?</b>	<b>How will we know?</b>	<b>Lead Group</b>	<b>Period</b>
<b>Child Protection &amp; Domestic Abuse</b> (This is a priority because it has been identified through Learning Review activity and through our data & scrutiny reports)	We will undertake a joint learning & development session in collaboration with the Violence Against Women Partnership to explore the interconnectivity of related activity to develop a more cohesive and preventative approach to supporting women and girls who experience violence and abuse.	Establish a joint thematic group with the Violence Against Women Partnership to deliver on improvement priorities in relation to violence and abuse experience by women and girls.	Improvement priorities will be identified through the joint development session. This will include quality assurance activity  Women and girls will tell us that they are receiving early and preventative support.	VAWP/CPC Thematic Group	Throughout 2025-2026

Priority	What will we do?	How will we do it?	How will we know?	Lead Group	Period
<p><b>Interdisciplinary multi agency working</b> (This is a priority because services to children and families need to be more holistic)</p>	<p>Align strategies and procedures to the fullest extent across public protection</p> <p>Provide whole family support where there are children &amp; young people at risk of significant harm, or are at risk of causing significant harm</p> <p>Ensure children, young people and their families have their say in decisions made about them and that they are listened to.</p>	<p>Review practitioner guidance in relation to the transition from child to adult services</p> <p>Continue to explore opportunities to integrate and collaborate via the public protection leads group</p> <p>Review our local child protection operational guidance ensuring that the family’s journey through our child protection processes is proportionate</p> <p>Develop and open our Bairns’ Hoose.</p>	<p>Young people will be supported by the service that best meets their needs</p> <p>Develop a work programme for the public protection leads group</p> <p>IRD quality assurance, P&amp;QA data and conversion rates</p> <p>Evaluation of our Bairns’ Hoose.</p>	<p>CSB/IJB (CPC/APC)</p> <p>PP Leads Group/CPC Lead Officer</p> <p>P&amp;QA Sub Committee</p> <p>Bairns’ Hoose Delivery Group</p>	<p>Throughout 2024-2025</p>
Priority	What will we do?	How will we do it?	How will we know?	Lead Group	Period
<p><b>Learning &amp; Development</b> (This is a priority because it is a fundamental part of the learning and development function required from the CPC)</p>	<p>Ensure all multi-agency staff have access to appropriate learning and development resources in relation to our child protection improvement priorities</p> <p>Develop our Learning &amp; Development strategy to the <a href="#">National Framework for Child Protection L&amp;D in Scotland 2024</a>.</p>	<p>Undertake a learning needs analysis to identify the learning &amp; development requirements of the workforce, and refresh our L&amp;D plan</p> <p>Communicate with the workforce in relation to child protection improvement activity</p> <p>Consider how we communicate with the public in relation to child protection improvement activity</p> <p>Further develop the Aberdeen Protects website.</p>	<p>Develop and deliver a workforce learning &amp; development strategy, in collaboration with other strategic public protection groups to meet the learning requirements of the workforce</p> <p>Issue quarterly CPC bulletins to the workforce reflecting local and national priorities and activity</p> <p>The workforce will tell us.</p>	<p>L&amp;D Sub Committee</p> <p>CPC Lead Officer and L&amp;D Coordinator</p>	<p>Throughout 2024-2026</p>

