

Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee

Annual Report 2017





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Preface from Chief Officers

This is the fourth Annual Report of Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee. Ensuring that all children in Aberdeen are safeguarded and protected from harm and abuse is taken very seriously by all involved. The commitment of all agencies is apparent in the day to day delivery of child protection services. It can also be seen in those agencies' extensive contribution to the strategic improvements and developments carried out in 2016/17.

Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee covers the Aberdeen City local government area. The Child Protection Committee works with child protection agencies locally and nationally and, more widely, with colleagues across Integrated Children's Services in this City. It aims to support the multi-agency workforce and members of the public to ensure Aberdeen is the best place in Scotland to grow up, to promote the care and welfare of our children and to protect them from abuse and harm.

We are committed to partnership working to ensure the protection and safety of the City's children and young people. We are committed to understanding the child protection concerns which arise in our City and to making improvements together to address these. The Child Protection Committee has representatives from social work, police, health, education, housing, Children's Reporter and the third sector. Their achievements are highlighted in this report and include work in the areas of child sexual exploitation, on-line safety, significant case reviews, the provision of consistent child protection services and making the best use of data.

The work of the Child Protection Committee could not have been delivered without the commitment and support of many practitioners. We thank them for the contribution of their time, experience and insight towards the safeguarding of our children and young people.



Angela Scott, Chief Executive,
Aberdeen City Council



Chief Superintendent Campbell
Thomson, *Police Scotland*



Malcolm Wright, Chief Executive
NHS Grampian

Introduction to the Child Protection Committee

What is the role of the Child Protection Committee?

The Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee (CPC) is a locally based, interagency strategic partnership responsible for the design, development, publication, distribution, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of child protection policy and practice across Aberdeen City.

Child protection means preventing a child suffering significant harm from abuse or neglect. The CPC is committed to its responsibility to keep all children in Aberdeen City safe from that harm whether abuse or neglect has already taken place or looks likely to take place.

In working to achieve that, the functions of the CPC are continuous improvement, strategic planning, public information and communication. Professional and public bodies work collaboratively to promote and improve child protection across all areas of their agencies and services.

Who are the members of the Child Protection Committee?

The CPC has a membership across the full range of agencies and services with child protection responsibility including Aberdeen City Council (including social work, education and housing), Police Scotland, NHS Grampian, the Reporter to the Children's Hearing, the Alcohol & Drugs Partnership, Aberdeen Violence against Women Partnership and the third sector. The CPC is chaired by Heather MacRae, Lead Nurse, Aberdeen City Community Health and vice-chaired by Graeme Simpson, Lead Service Manager, Education & Children's Services, Aberdeen City Council. All members aim to consistently improve upon the delivery of robust child protection practices across the public, private and wider third sectors.



Who is responsible for and to the CPC?

The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014, requires that each CPC be governed by a Chief Officer Group. The Local Police Commander and the Chief Executives of NHS Grampian and Aberdeen City Council are the Chief Officers responsible for the leadership, direction and scrutiny of the local child protection services and the Child Protection Committee. They have strategic responsibility for the CPC.

Aberdeen City CPC, through its Operational Sub Committee, also fulfils the function of the Safe Outcome Group within the local Integrated Children's Services structure. This means that child protection is seen alongside the wider context of supporting families and meeting children's needs through Getting It Right For Every Child. GIRFEC is the national practice model which aims to ensure children and young people are safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected responsible and included.

Some areas of child protection activity are shared across Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray local authority areas. These are delivered under the identity of the Child Protection Partnership. These activities are the Child Protection Register (CPR) and the delivery of child protection learning and development opportunities to the multi agency workforce, including Joint Investigative Interview training.

The CPC also works in partnership with the Scottish Government and other CPC's nationally to take forward child protection policy and practice across the local area and across Scotland.

How does the CPC work?

The CPC now meets four times each year as well as having an annual development day. All the members have child protection skills and knowledge. They consider information from a variety of sources such as the local Child Protection Register, Children's Reporter, Aberdeen Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, significant case reviews, formal inspections of Children's Services, case file audits and national developments. Identified areas for improvement and emerging trends in relation to child protection are then incorporated into the Child Protection Programme, of which, more in this report.

The Operational Sub-Committee, which meets six times each year, has responsibility for delivering the multi agency Child Protection programme and reports directly to the CPC.

A professional group to drive on work in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE Sub Group) reports to the Operational Sub Committee. It's remit has been extended in 2016 to also cover child trafficking, an emerging issue inextricably linked to CSE.

A Significant Case Review Sub Committee was established in late 2016 to progress any SCRs locally and to ensure that the learning from SCRs around the country is disseminated in the Aberdeen City area.

A Learning & Development Sub Committee will be established in 2018 as soon as a multi agency child protection learning & development coordinator has been appointed. This will identify and address the areas where multi agency child protection learning will benefit professional practice across the range of services in Aberdeen City.

The structure is illustrated in a diagram forming Appendix 1 to this report.

The Child Protection Programme

What are the key themes of the Child Protection programme?

The Child Protection Programme (CP Programme) has been developed and continues to evolve to ensure that the CPC functions are fulfilled. The core functions of all Scottish Child Protection Committees are specified by the Scottish Government in national guidance as continuous improvement, strategic planning, public information and communication. Those functions have been incorporated into the multi-agency CP Programme.

There three key themes of the CP Programme are linked to the Quality Indicators as outlined in the Care Inspectorate document “How Well Are We Improving the Lives of Children and Young People?”. These are

- How well are the lives of children and young people improving?
- How well are partners working together to improve the lives of children, young people and families?
- How good is the leadership and direction of services for children and young people?

How is the Child Protection Programme informed?

In the CP Programme, we make sure national priorities are addressed as well as work required by local strategic plans, such as the Children’s Services Plan and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) which recognises that ‘Children Are Our Future’ and need to be safe and responsible as well as protected from harm.

We also incorporate other local work identified through various self-evaluation strands such as case file auditing, significant case reviews, inspection findings, statistics, data analysis and practitioners knowledge. The programme is reviewed at the annual CPC Development Day to which all members of the Chief Officers Group, CPC, Operational Sub Committee and any other relevant groups are invited. The CPC has developed a Risk Register in 2017 which is kept under review by both the CPC and the Chief Officer Group.

We have carefully considered and contributed to the Scottish Government’s National Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP) which was initiated in March 2017. The key themes identified are

- the CPC governance structure and links with Chief Officer Groups
- the operation of Child Protection Registers and Child Protection Case Conferences
- learning from Significant Case Reviews
- children’s and families’ experiences of the child protection process.

The current child protection programme has concentrated child sexual exploitation, on-line safety, significant case reviews, the provision of consistent child protection services and making the best use of data. We are now building on that to include focus on child protection and disability, neglect, child trafficking, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and domestic abuse.

The CPC is committed to improving links with other public protection partnerships in the City such as the Adult Protection Committee, Violence against Women Partnership and the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership; the work of all these other partnerships impacting on vulnerable children in the City.

The CPC is also committed to the appointment of a Learning and Development Coordinator and the establishment of a Learning & Development Sub Committee to ensure local training issues are addressed and learning from significant case reviews is disseminated.

What has the Child Protection Programme delivered in 2017?

There follows a flavour of some of the work carried out under the programme throughout 2017.

Making Best Use of Data

- Child Protection data including information from the Child Protection Register, ADP, SCRA and Child Protection Case Conference Performance Report are reviewed and analysed at the CPC and Operational Sub Committee meetings. This enables us to review performance, benchmark with other authorities, identify trends and areas for improvement. We aim to continue to mature in the use we make of management and performance information.

- CPC has prepared a data and performance framework for its areas of responsibility. Use of this framework began in March 2016 and has been used for reporting to the CPC on the impact of the CP Programme. An extensive multi agency case file audit in 2017 assisted in the identification of areas of strength and areas for improvement. The use of the data framework and the finding of the multi agency case file audit assisted the CPC in identifying the strategic priorities for the new CP Programme.

- Our data framework has attracted some national interest as it is an attempt to deal with the “so what?” elements of performance information. We are in the early stages of work with CELCIS as they implement the data and performance elements of the Scottish Government’s Improvement Programme.

We are also leading on work through the Central and North Consortium of CPCs to develop a simple data framework which will provide a basic, but up to date, source of comparator child protection information.



Case File Auditing

- The CPC and children's social work completed an extensive audit in relation to current practice around children going on and coming off the child protection register. Full reports were presented and the recommendations endorsed at the CPC meeting in June. The multi and single agency follow-up is reported to the CPC on a 6 monthly basis.
- On the back of the main findings of the audit, the CPC will now be progressing the following:
 - Developing a strength based approach to Child Protection. This will be in the Signs of Safety style. Case

Conferences will be conducted using this approach.

- Improving documentation, report writing and writing children's plans and quality assuring these.
- A consistency of understanding of significant harm and its impact on the child across the multi agency workforce
- Developing options for reviewing a Case which has been on the CPR for more than 1 year.

Child Protection Register

- A significant source of information about categories of concerns and emerging trends comes from the management information compiled by the CPR. This enables the CPC to consider issues in its own geographical area and to compare trends across the Grampian area. The annual figures are taken at 31 July each year and reported to the Scottish Government. The most recent figures from the CPR indicate that the predominant risk factors across Aberdeen City remain domestic abuse, parental drug and alcohol misuse, emotional abuse and neglect, with increasing evidence of concerns around parental mental health.

Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Trafficking

- There has been much emphasis on continuing local work in relation to child sexual exploitation (CSE) and the City has adopted a Zero Tolerance approach to CSE. The CSE sub group has been progressing local work on CSE for the past 18 months and coordinates the multi agency response to CSE. This group has been proactive in developing resources to ensure that our practitioners are confident and competent in recognising and reporting signs and concerns of CSE. Its remit has been extended to include Child Trafficking as it increasingly becomes apparent that this is closely linked to CSE. The group's action plan forms part of the CP Programme and focusses on the national priorities of Prevention, Disruption & Prosecution and Recovery. Professional awareness has increased through training opportunities made available through the Child Protection Partnership, national CSE working group and the UK Safer Internet Centre. CSE has been added as a category of concern and recording on CareFirst. The CSE group has produced and the CPC has endorsed the "Strategy and Extended Guide to CSE for Practitioners" and the "Short Guide for Practitioners: Identifying CSE", both of which have been widely circulated to the multi agency workforce.

- Aberdeen City hosted a north east CSE event in conjunction with Scottish Government in March 2017. This event was hosted by the Child Protection Partnership and was aimed at multi agency colleagues from Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray child protection committees. Representatives attended from Police Scotland, NHS Grampian, Children's Hearing Scotland, Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), the three local authorities and the third sector. Presentations were given by Moira McKinnon, chair of the National Child Sexual Exploitation multi agency working group, Detective Superintendent Elaine Galbraith, DS for Child and Adult Protection within Police Scotland, DS Lorna Ferguson and Sharon Ralph, Procurator Fiscal Depute specialising in sexual crimes and crimes involving children. The event provided an overview of national developments and an opportunity to discuss implementation at a local level
- As CSE and child trafficking is everyone's concern, the group recognised that we need innovative and creative ways to engage with professionals and the general public on this child protection issue. To coincide with the launch of the National Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy, the group coordinated an awareness raising month in October about CSE and child trafficking, including the launch of the local practice guidance, a conference

attended by 165 delegates, a Facebook live event in conjunction with the Police reaching 32,000 people, radio interview, and agency twitter and social media campaigns. The group along with Police Scotland are, at the time of writing, distributing around 4800 Z card leaflets on CSE and child trafficking to hotels, pubs, door staff, convenience stores, taxi drivers and schools.

- Aberdeen City have been fortunate to have one of two national CSE advisers; employed by Barnardo's and funded by Comic Relief. The progress made by the hard-working CSE and Child Trafficking sub group has been greatly enhanced by the contributions of the CSE Adviser and the Green Light Project, who work with young people experiencing or at risk of CSE.

Internet Safety

- The Scottish Government funded an event on internet safety and child protection which was held in Aberdeen in November and attracted 53 multi-agency delegates.



Child Protection Materials

- The web site/ pages for the CPC continue to be developed to provide relevant, up to date information in relation to child protection. The website can be visited at www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/childprotection
- National materials are endorsed such as those on the National Risk Framework, Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage and Human Trafficking.
- The GIRFEC national practice model and risk assessment framework brings together a range of resources such as chronologies, genograms and ecomaps. The CPC has endorsed these materials for use by staff across agencies and services in the Aberdeen City area. Materials are available on the CPC web pages.
- As well as updated child protection information forming part of the induction module for all staff at ACC, there is an accessible on-line training module on GIRFEC and Child Protection for the Children's Services workforce. All staff (old and new) have been encouraged to complete this. This module is intended for the general workforce. The experienced children's workforce staff will find this to be at basic level but may find it to be a useful refresher.
- Child Protection Case Conference documentation and guidance has been and continues to be refreshed. The Improvement Methodology was used to obtain feedback from those participating in child protection case conferences over an 8 month period. The results indicated that alternatives means of getting feedback and promoting participation was necessary and fresh efforts are being made in the new CP Programme. We are actively pursuing adopting a "strength-based" approach (in the Signs of Safety style), which is aligned with the aims of both the LOIP and the national CPIP.
- Multi Agency Practice Guidance has recently been refreshed and has been launched:
 - Working with Vulnerable Babies and their Families
 - Working with Sexually Active Young People
 - Working with Non Engaging Families
 - Working with Families with problematic drug and alcohol use
 - Working with Young People demonstrating Sexually Harmful Behaviour

These sit alongside our CSE Strategy and Extended Guide and our Short Guide to CSE.

- A series of short guides have been prepared and cover Child Trafficking, Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage, On line Safety, New Psychoactive Substances ("legal highs"), Domestic Violence, Grooming and Neglect



Learning and Development

- In the absence of a multi-agency training coordinator, learning and development opportunities have been made available through the Child Protection Partnership and national initiatives. Events have been held to raise awareness about child sexual exploitation, child protection and disability, significant case reviews, and domestic abuse. Efforts to appoint a multi-agency learning and development co-ordinator in 2017 proved unfruitful, but have been reinitiated as at the time of writing.
- The post holder will deliver and commission a range of child protection training and will lead on any Significant Case Reviews from which much learning is gleaned. This programme of learning will be available to all multi agency children's workforce including all members of COG, CPC and sub committees. The CPC is in process of establishing a Learning & Development Sub Committee in support of this work
- This remains an area of risk as the post has not yet been filled and the gap in multi-agency child protection training is notable. Continuous improvement, including training and staff development, is one of the 3 key functions of the CPC. Further, the post holder will be responsible for the progress of and learning from ICRs and SCRs which is an area of intense activity and scrutiny.

Significant Case Reviews

- The SCR sub committee was established in 2016 and has developed local procedures in relation to Initial and Significant Case reviews. The Local Operating Procedure takes account of national guidance, Ministerial expectations and the procedures utilised in our neighbouring local authority areas to ensure consistency in approach. These will ensure we learn lessons locally from Initial and Significant case reviews as well as learning from SCRs conducted in other parts of the country.
- An SCR development session was held in March. This event was aimed at Child Protection Committee and Significant Case Review sub-group members and 32 members were in attendance from City, Shire and Moray CPCs. The development session was led by Beth Smith and Jane Scott, independent consultants with experience leading SCRs in Scotland.
- In 2017, the SCR sub committee has produced Learning Reviews for all agencies following a local Initial Case Review and three SCRs conducted by Fife CPC. These have been reported to the CPC and Chief Officer Group. The various child protection agencies in Aberdeen City are responsible working together or individually to ensure the findings are progressed and for reporting to the CPC. Responses and improvements will be monitored by the CPC and, in turn, reported to the COG.
- A further two local ICRs are currently underway.
- This has in short timescale become a very busy, hardworking and effective sub committee. Referrals have been received from social work, police and health which would indicate a broad understanding of the procedures now in place and a healthy approach to learning from significant incidents.

Development Day 2017

- All COG, CPC and sub committee members were invited to the CPC development session in April. The focus was on -
- Scottish Government Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP) - The Scottish Government Reports on these matters were carefully considered at the development day and all relevant local matters have been incorporated into the ongoing CPC child protection programme.

Neglect - work is being progressed as a strategic multi agency starting point.

Data - Development of data analysis and reporting will continue to be taken forward.

Learning & Development - ideas for modern, economical and effective dissemination of learning were explored and will be further advanced on appointment of the Learning & Development coordinator.

Vulnerable 16 - 17 year olds

- Adult and children's services across multi agencies are working on protocol in relation to vulnerable 16-18 year olds. Clear guidance on Child/Adult protection is already in place – this new work is about the embedding of a GIRFEC approach in relation to those young people not hitting that criteria but who we know are about to disappear off the school radar, keep running away from home or residential unit, are about to be thrown out at home, have been attending STD clinics etc. This is consistent with the expectations of the Scottish Government's CPIP.

Child Protection and Domestic Abuse

- Practice Guidance on child protection and domestic abuse is being developed through a short life working group led by CPC member and in conjunction with Grampian Women's Aid. It will be based on the Scottish Government "Equally Safe" Strategy. The issue of the guidance will be followed up with local (Aberdeen) awareness raising and monitoring of use and impact of the Equally Safe approach.
- The CPC hosted a conference in November 2017 on child protection and domestic abuse, which was attended by 170 delegates, and had national and local speakers including Dr Marsha Scott of Scottish Women's Aid.

Strength - Based Practice

- Consistent with the CPIP aims, we aim to adopt a strength based practice approach across all agencies and services in Aberdeen City. The children's social work model, Reclaiming Social Work already incorporates this style of working with vulnerable families. Evidence from other parts of Scotland, UK and world-wide indicates that outcomes improve for children and families through such an approach. Work has commenced on a small scale utilising the Improvement Methodology to implement a strength-based "Signs of Safety" style to improve on children and families participation in the CP process.

Neglect

- This is one of the areas of focus of the local child protection improvement programme. It should be noted that neglect is a broad issue straddling a range of multi and single agency services, particularly those with a focus on earlier intervention. The CPC focus is in relation to child protection and neglect and it has established 2 sub-groups to start off on this work. The first will pull together a Neglect multi agency strategy and guide. The second short life group will consider a sample of the Plans for children on the CPR for neglect. It will use them as a measure of whether the current planning to address neglect has a consistency, and whether the current planning results in the reduction of the risk of significant harm due to the neglect



Child Protection Partnership

Aberdeen City CPC participates in the joint activities of the Child Protection Partnership. The three separate CPCs for Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray have worked together under the banner of the Child Protection Partnership in relation to the Child Protection Register, Joint Investigative Interview training and some bespoke child protection training, such as conferences. As well as a resource for professional staff across agencies, valuable management information is drawn from the Child Protection Register and, as part of the CPC's self-evaluation activity, assists in the identification of emerging gaps and trends.

From 2017 onwards, training (other than joint investigative interview training) will be a local CPC responsibility.

Conferences

The Partnership, works with The Robert Gordon University in the coordination and hosting of mini conferences. In June we hosted a Child Protection and Disability event, with Dr Audrey Cameron from Edinburgh University speaking, through a translator, to an audience of over a hundred attendees. The event has been highly evaluated. This often overlooked aspect of child protection forms part of the local Child Protection Programme. Useful national materials are available and will be an area of prioritisation for the L&D Coordinator once in post.

The conference held in November 2017 focussed on child protection and domestic abuse, which was attended by 170 delegates, and had national and local speakers including Dr Marsha Scott of Scottish Women's Aid. In January 2018, the child trafficking event, which had been postponed from September, was held and attracted 165 delegates from a range of disciplines.

Joint Investigative Interview training

Joint Investigative Interview training is coordinated along with Police Scotland and ensures that select staff in police and social work are adequately trained to deliver this essential element of child protection in Aberdeen City. Coordination meetings are held quarterly. The annual business meeting in relation to local arrangements will be held in February 2018.



Child Protection Register

The risk of abuse or neglect will be considered at a Child Protection Case Conference. Where a child is believed to be at risk of significant harm from abuse or neglect, their name will be added to the child protection register (CPR). The register enables agencies to be aware of the children at greatest risk in this area and to then plan to minimise those risks appropriately.

Statistical information from the CPR is intimated to the Scottish Government, annually with figures as at 31 July. Useful management information flowing from the CPR is produced by the Child Protection Partnership office

and assists in informing the CP Programme. The format of the report from the CPR containing management information from the Child Protection Register has been refined and will continue to be reviewed to assist the CPC and to inform the CP Programme.

Some more detailed performance management information is considered below. This information has been drawn from the CPR.

The areas of concern are identified at a case conference and recorded on the CPR. These can be one or more of the following in the table below:

1.	neglect	2.	parental substance misuse
3.	parental mental health problems	4.	non-engaging family
5.	domestic abuse	6.	sexual abuse
7.	physical abuse	8.	emotional abuse
9.	child placing themselves at risk	10.	child exploitation (not current)
11.	child sexual exploitation	12.	child trafficking



Performance Management

The suite of performance management information now required by Aberdeen City CPC includes the following; comprehensive quarterly reports from the Child Protection Register, SCRA Child Protection Committee reports, numbers of Child Protection Orders from Legal Services, Alcohol and Drugs Quarterly reports and administrative information from Child Protection Admin (Aberdeen City Council). These reports are considered at each meeting of the Operational Sub-Committee and reported upon, in accordance with the data framework, to the CPC. Performance issues arising are addressed as appropriate. The CPC aims to continue to develop this work through digitalisation. It is aware of the benefits of collaboration with Integrated Children's Services, particularly in demonstrating outcomes sought by the LOIP.

A significant source of information about categories of concerns and emerging trends comes from the management information compiled by the CPR. This enables the CPC to consider issues in its own geographical area and to compare trends across the Grampian area. The annual figures are taken at 31 July each year and reported to the Scottish Government. The statistics used in this report are therefore consistent with the return to the Scottish Government. We have also, where possible, illustrated the figures right up to the end of the year 2017.

As at 31 December 2017, in Aberdeen City there were 82 children on the Child Protection Register. These are children who require an inter agency child protection plan because they are considered to be at risk of actual or potential harm. The greatest percentage (at 49%) of the children was in the pre-school age group of 0-4 years. Registration does not substantially vary according to gender.

Compared to December 2016, registrations in the City have decreased from 130 to 82 children (2.4 per 1000 population). These numbers are comparable to the national average rate which is 2.9 per 1000 children.

15 of the children, involving 53 families, registered over the year to end December 2017 in Aberdeen City had previous registration history. In the same period, there were 204 de-registrations in Aberdeen City area.

The CPR is a well utilised resource with a total of 1353 enquiries in the period. From the Aberdeen City area, there were 376 direct and web-based enquiries during year to December 2017 compared to 360 in the previous year. The main referrers continue to be Police, Education and internal Social Work.

It is no longer necessary to identify a category of registration, but the key areas of risk are identified and recorded. A number of risk factors are therefore likely to be recorded in each case. The identification of risk factors enables focussed work with families through the child's plan on these identified areas. It also allows for a strategic focus on in the predominant areas of risk. These areas remain consistent and the work of the CPC will continue to focus on those areas through the CP programme.

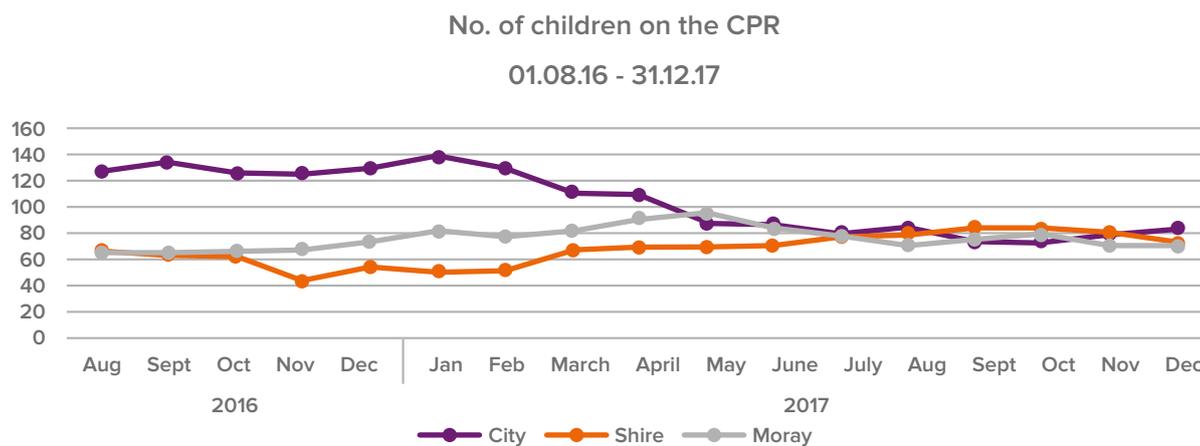
The most recent figures from the CPR indicate that the predominant risk factors across Aberdeen City remain domestic abuse, parental drug and alcohol misuse, emotional abuse and neglect, with increasing evidence of concerns around parental mental health.

The ages of the children on the CPR also assist in recognising, and planning for, the most vulnerable. Unborn babies in Aberdeen City accounted for 2% of total registrations, the pre-school age group for 49%, the 5-10 age group for 31%, the 11 - 15 age group for 17% of total registrations. There is one registration in the 16+ age group.

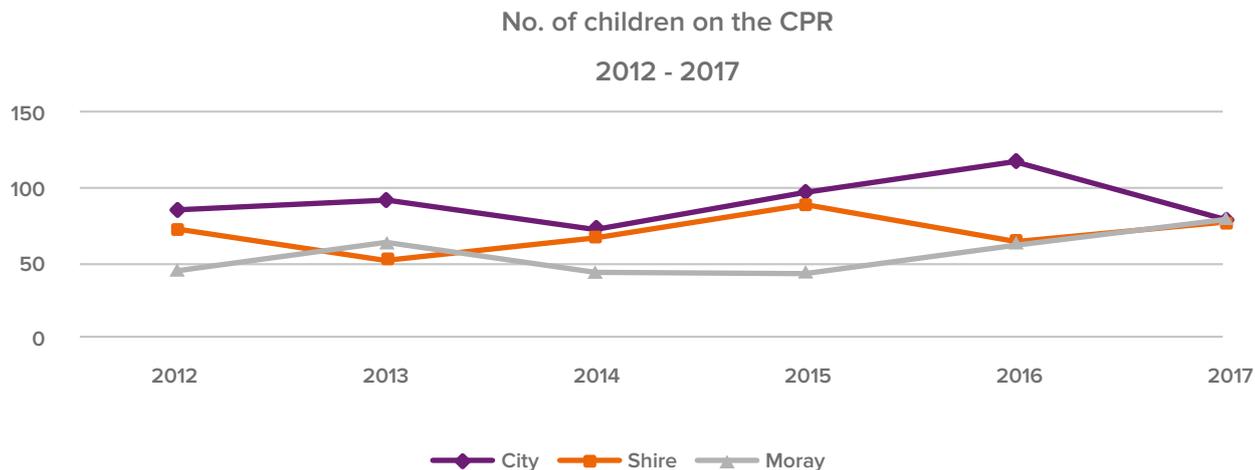
The following tables detailing information relating to Aberdeen city are extracted from the statistical return to the Scottish Government submitted for the year to 31 July 2017, with some extended to include data to the 31 December 2017.

Registrations in the North East

Registration Trends across the North East over the last year



Registration Trends across the North East over the last 5 years

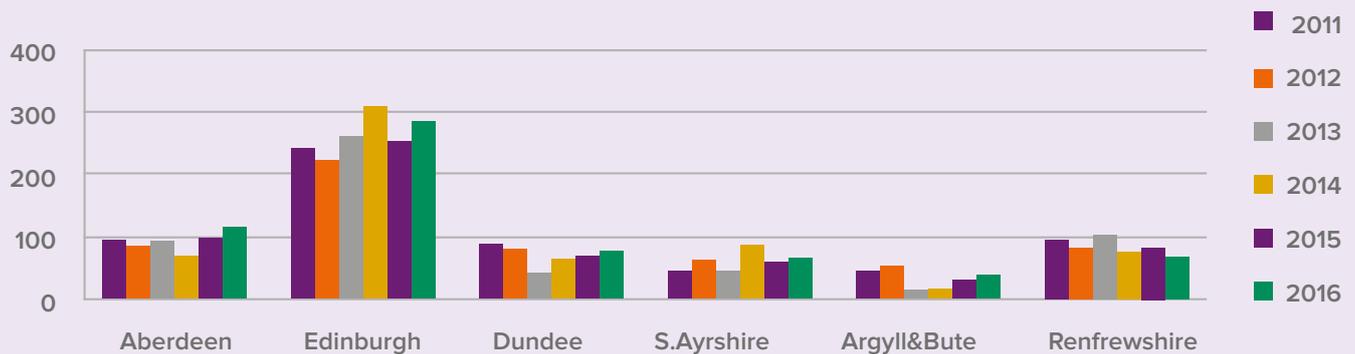


Number of children on the CPR as at the 31 July over the last 6 year period

Authority	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	As at 31.12.17
City	96	86	92	73	98	118	80	82
Shire	68	73	52	68	90	65	78	72
Moray	48	45	64	45	45	64	80	69
Total	212	204	208	186	233	247	238	223

Registrations per Comparative Local Authority Areas

No. of children on the CPR
Comparative Local Authorities



Re-Registrations

Of the children who were on the North East Child Protection Register from 1 August 2016 - 31 July 2017, 110 had previous registration history. In relation to Aberdeen City

- 47 children registered over the year had previous registration history
- 47 children involving 36 families
- The longest time interval between individual registrations was 14 years 6 months and the shortest 6 months
- 47 children had previous registrations compared to 38 in 2015/16.

Case Conferences

Number of scheduled Case Conferences between 01.08.16 - 31.07.17 per local Authority

Authority	*Initial/Pre-Birth			Reviews			Total		
	2015/16	2016/17	To 31.12.17	2015/16	2016/17	To 21.12.17	2015/16	2016/17	To 31.12.17
City	132	152	265	277	291	377	409	443	642
Shire	78	91	123	176	141	207	254	232	330
Moray	61	70	93	97	128	190	158	198	283
Total	271	313	481	550	560	774	821	873	1255

*Initial Case Conference include any Transfer in and Reviews include any transfer out Case Conferences involved singular and multi-sibling families.

De-registrations

In the period 31 December 2016 - 31 December 2017, Aberdeen City had 204 de-registrations

Duration	Number	Comparator Local Authorities 31.07.16	
0 - 1 month	4	Edinburgh	378
2 - 6 months	100	Dundee	143
7 - 12 months	58	South Ayrshire	72
13 - 18 months	24	Argyll & Bute	57
19 - 24 months	13	Renfrewshire	146
24 months +	5		
Total	204		



Enquiries to the CPR

Authority	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17 (to 31.7.17)	Total from 31.7.16 to 31.12.17
City	656	568	482	415	281	376
Shire	601	609	699	637	598	834
Moray	457	214	156	142	127	143
Total	1714	1391	1337	1194	1006	1353

Risk Factors

Of the children registered across the North East

% 31.12.17

31.07.16

Domestic Abuse	21%	32%
Parental Drug Use	24%	31%
Parental Alcohol Use	10%	17%
Parental Mental Health	23%	27%
Sexual Abuse	7%	2.5%
Physical Abuse	21%	8%
Emotional Abuse	46%	38%
Non-engaging family	5%	21%
Neglect	35%	26%
Child placing Self at Risk	0%	0%
Child Sexual Exploitation	0%	2%
Trafficking	0%	0%
Other	0%	2%



Aberdeen City	2017											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. on CPR	139	130	112	110	89	89	80	83	72	73	79	82
Affected by Neglect	33	25	22	18	13	14	20	20	16	18	24	29
Physical Abuse	13	13	6	4	4	6	4	5	6	13	13	17
Sex Abuse	3	2	3	4	4	3	2	2	4	4	5	6
Emotional Abuse	45	42	40	42	34	36	33	36	37	33	36	38
Domestic Abuse	36	37	35	35	26	29	30	33	19	13	16	17
Parental Drug Abuse	45	45	37	35	33	32	24	22	17	16	18	20
Parental Alcohol Abuse	18	12	9	19	11	9	10	10	7	6	5	8
Parental Mental Health	31	28	24	24	19	11	15	15	11	13	16	19
Non-engaging Family	21	20	13	14	13	13	14	11	9	7	6	4
Child placing Self at Risk	0	0	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0
Danger & Forced Labour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Sexual Exploitation	0	0	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Trafficking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Financial Implications

The shared north east activities (Child Protection Partnership) are funded by Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian each contributing 26%, and Police Scotland and the Moray Council each contributing 11% of the total annual cost. The budget is estimated for the year 2016-17 to be £112,094. Staffing consists of the Child Protection Admin Officer (who also fulfils the role of Keeper of the Child Protection Register) and 2 part-time admin support assistants. Aberdeen City Council provides the management and employment support for the staff of the Child Protection Partnership.

In relation to Joint Investigative Interviews in Grampian, the budget is administered by the Child Protection Partnership and is £24,000 for 2016/17.

This is the last year for the shared costs to be borne by reference to the formula outlined above. From the start of the financial year 2018/19, costs will be borne in equal one-third parts by each CPC; namely, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray.

Aberdeen City Chief Officers Group comprising the statutory agencies (ACC, NHS and Police Scotland) are currently determining the budget for the ongoing work of the City CPC. This will encompass staff costs, child protection partnership contribution costs and anticipated local expenditure. The staffing complement for Aberdeen City CPC is the Child Protection Programme Development Manager (funded exclusively by ACC), a Learning and Development Co-ordinator and 0.5 FTE admin support.

Future Planning

What is the CP Programme concentrating on now?

The child protection programme is comprehensive and far-reaching. The main areas of priority at the moment are:

- addressing neglect and supporting consistent risk assessment across Aberdeen City
- developing a strength based approach to our child protection services and to improving children's and families participation in the child protection process
- making best use of our data
- making sure we disseminate the learning from Initial and Significant Case Reviews across the multi-agency children's workforce
- continuing to address CSE and child trafficking, particularly with the night time economy and ongoing on-line safety work
- domestic abuse and child protection issues
- responding to the Scottish Government's child protection improvement programme
- strengthening alignment with our COG and with other Aberdeen City strategic partnerships such as Alcohol & Drugs Partnership, Adult Protection Committee, and the Violence against Women Partnership
- establishing a Learning & Development sub Committee and making sure our training programme meets local need.

Conclusion

This fourth annual report of Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee highlights the developments and improvements over 2017. It demonstrates the commitment of agencies and services to address current and emerging issues in order to continue to improve services for the protection of children and young people from all forms of abuse, neglect

or exploitation. The CPC aims to make sure that professionals are supported through improvement opportunities, evidence-led strategic planning and up-to-date learning and materials to safeguard and promote Aberdeen's children's health, welfare and development.

Heather MacRae

*Chair of Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee,
Professional Lead for Nursing and Quality Assurance,
Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership*

Kymme Fraser

*Child Protection Programme Development Manager,
Lead Officer, Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee*

Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee Governance Structure





If you are concerned about the safety of a child in Aberdeen, call

- 01224 306877 (Joint Child Protection Team)
- 101 (Police Scotland)
- 0800 731 5520 (Reception Team and Emergency Out of Hours)