

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	7 December 2021
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2020-21
REPORT NUMBER	ACHSCP/21/309
DIRECTOR	Rob Polkinghorne
CHIEF OFFICER	Graeme Simpson, Chief Social Work Officer and Vice Chair of the Child Protection Committee
REPORT AUTHOR	Kymme Fraser
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1, 1.2, 1.3

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To share Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee's (CPC) Annual Report 2020-21 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 CPC's Annual Report 2020-21;
- 2.2 notes the positive impact and effectiveness of child protection improvement initiatives detailed in the report;
- 2.3 notes the effective working across the partnership in Aberdeen City in relation to child protection; 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 is an appendix to this report, details the work of the CPC from the period August 2020 through to end of July 2021. The report demonstrates effective multi agency working in Aberdeen City across a range of partners who all participate in the improvement work undertaken through the CPC. The improvement initiatives are data informed, something which has previously 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 and that we continue to develop on an ongoing basis. 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 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 implications arising from this report. The work of the CPC is jointly funded by the partnership, to which the Council contributes 40% of the total costs.

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
Strategic Risk	None for this report		
Compliance	None for this report		
Operational	Required improvements and developments in practice are not identified and actioned.	M	Children, young people, their families and the professional workforce can be assured that services in Aberdeen City are continually appraised in order to improve the quality of locally delivered services.
Financial	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 monitors legislative changes, national standards and guidance; partners respond to self and external scrutiny; and identified areas for improvement are addressed.
Environment / Climate	Not applicable for this report		

7. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	<p>The work of the CPC, in conjunction with the Children’s Services Board, is directly aligned to the following policy statements contained within the Council Delivery Plan:</p> <p>2. UNICEF Child Friendly accreditation. 3. Work with the Scottish Government to provide flexible and affordable childcare for working families on the lowest incomes. 4. Support the implementation of Developing the Young Workforce, seek to gain the highest level of investors in young people accreditation and ensure there is a focus on supporting pupils excel in STEM subjects. 5. Appoint a mental health champion. 7. Commit to closing the attainment gap in education while working with partners across the city. 9. Promote diversion activities for youths and adults in our city with enhanced focused on our three locality areas.</p>
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	<p>The functions of the CPC are central to supporting and assuring that the multi-agency Children’s Services partners deliver on the outcomes of the LOIP Prosperous People (Children & Young People) Stretch Outcomes 4 to 9 and to ensure our children are safe and protected from harm. Children, young people and families who are adequately protected from threats to their health, safety and economic wellbeing are more likely to prosper than those who are not.</p>
Regional and City Strategies	<p>The work of the CPC is relevant to Aberdeen City Council Delivery Plan, the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, the Children’s Services Plan and the Child Protection Improvement Programme.</p>
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	<p>The CPC’s improvement programme is compliant with a range of statutory duties incumbent on the Council in relation to vulnerable and care experienced children including those contained in the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, Children’s Hearings</p>

	(Scotland) Act 2011, Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 and Children (Scotland) Act 2020. It progresses the policy ambitions of the Scottish Government's drive to #Keepthe Promise and the national expectations of Plan 21-24. It is key to the implementation of new National Guidance for Child Protection 2021 and new National Guidance for conducting Significant Learning Reviews 2021.
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8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. APPENDICES

A link to the report can be found [here](#).



CPC Annual Report
2021.pdf

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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