

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education and Children's Services Committee
DATE	21 March 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2021-22
REPORT NUMBER	CFS/23/088
DIRECTOR	Eleanor Sheppard
CHIEF OFFICER	Graeme Simpson
REPORT AUTHOR	Amy Anderson
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 2021-22 to provide assurance that the work of the CPC is effectively helping reduce risks to children and young people.

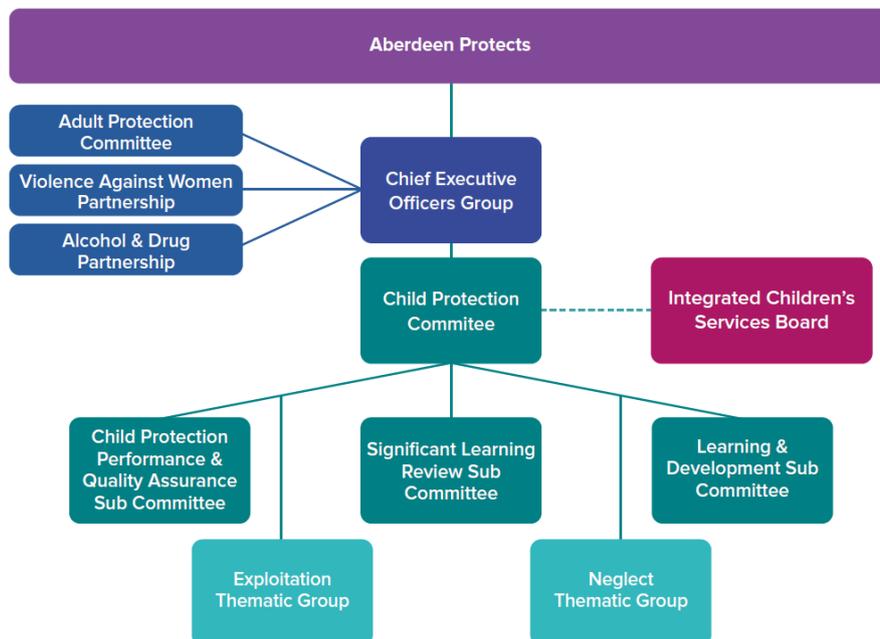
2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the content of the CPC's Annual Report 2021-22, including the Child Protection Programme 2021-2024; and
- 2.2 Instructs the Chief Social Work Officer to provide Committee with a further report in 2024 detailing the continuing impact and effectiveness of partnership work in relation to child protection.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 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. Areas for improvement which are identified through self-evaluation are driven through the Child Protection Programme.
- 3.2 The CPC works collaboratively with other strategic partnerships in the City such as the Children's Services Board, Aberdeen Violence Against Women 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 under the banner of Aberdeen Protects as is outlined in visual below.



- 3.3 The Child Protection Programme aims to improve the safety, wellbeing and life chances of vulnerable children and young people. 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. Improvement activity set out in the Child Protection Programme 2021-2024, is and will be subject to the inspection scrutiny of the Care Inspectorate.
- 3.4 The CPC produces a statutory Annual Report to demonstrate the work of the CPC. The report is informed by the now well embedded Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) and audit programme.
- 3.5 The Annual Report highlights many achievements including the first Significant Learning Review to be conducted based on positive practice, steps towards the implementation of the new National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021, and delivering on recommendations identified from our Quality Assurance Framework. This year saw Campbell Thomson take over as Chair of the CPC in November 2021. His leadership has helped drive the positive work of the CPC.
- 3.6 The CPC continues to work to ensure that the Child Protection Programme Plan is informed by and aligned to national expectations flowing from the independent care review and as set out in The Promise. The CPC priorities for the coming year are to:
- To increase workforce confidence and knowledge to respond to child protection issues arising among children with disabilities
 - To improve multi-agency recognition and response to indicators of cumulative neglect

- To raise awareness and develop a multi agency understanding of, and response to, all forms of child exploitation and children who go missing
- To implement a whole system approach across the City in relation to child protection and domestic abuse, and support the delivery and embedding of the Safe and Together model alongside the Violence Against Women Partnership
- To consider the revised National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland and ensure the required changes are implemented to help support and improve practice
- To build on our trauma informed and strength based practice approaches ensuring children and their families are engaged with appropriately, and that their voices are heard when they are involved in child protection processes
- To improve the multi agency recognition and response to equality, diversity and inclusion from a child protection perspective. This includes Female Genital Mutilation, Gender Identity, Prevent, Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage in the field of Child Protection.

3.7 A refreshed quality framework for children and young people in need of care and protection was published by the Care Inspectorate in November 2022. This framework outlines the Care Inspectorate's expectations for the quality of service provision for children in need of care and protection across community planning partnerships. The quality improvement framework will support partnership self-evaluation over the coming year and beyond.

3.8 In light of the refreshed quality framework, the CPC intend to undertake a level of self-evaluation in anticipation of inspection, ensuring we identify, and take measures to address, any areas requiring further improvement based on the refreshed expectations.

3.9 Feedback from our Care Inspectorate Link Inspector, who attends CPC meetings, continues to reflect very positively on the work of the partnership.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	No significant risks identified			
Compliance	No significant risks identified			
Operational	Required improvements and developments in practice are not identified and actioned.	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.	M	Yes
Financial	No significant risks identified			
Reputational	Organisational failings in relation to child protection can bring significant media interest and scrutiny of services delivered to children and young people.	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.	M	Yes
Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified			

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2023</u>	
Impact of Report	
<p>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</p> <p><u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u></p>	<p>The work of the CPC is aligned to other strategic partnerships, namely the Children’s Services Board, Violence Against Women Partnership, Alcohol and Drug Partnership, and the Adult Protection Committee, whose aims are aligned collectively to the Council Delivery Plan 22/23 and the Working in Partnership for Aberdeen Policy Statement.</p>
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</u>	
<p>Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes</p>	<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 and Young People) Stretch Outcomes 4 to 9 and to ensure our children are safe 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>
<p>Regional and City Strategies</p>	<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>

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Not required for this report
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required for this report
Other	Not required for this report

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2021 – 2022

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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