

East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee



Protecting Children and Young People

Annual Report 2005-06 and Business Plan 2006-07

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Preface from Chief Officers

We are pleased to present the first East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee Annual Report for 2005-06 and Business Plan for the year 2006-07. It has been informed by the Scottish Executive's guidance document "Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committees" (2005). This guidance requires that the senior managers of key agencies, particularly within health, police and local authority, provide leadership and acceptance of responsibility in promoting the best interests and protection of children and young people. This report and plan demonstrates how through the work of the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee the continuous improvement of protective services in partnership with other agencies has been and will continue to be achieved.

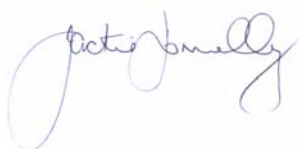
Within East Ayrshire significant work has already been undertaken in ensuring structures and resources are in place to ensure the effective delivery of protection services in line with the Scottish Executive's Child Protection Reform Programme. The Child Protection Committee continues to progress this through the Scottish Executive's initiative "Getting It Right for Every Child" which brings along new and important challenges for partnership working. It requires Child Protection Committee's to better inform all our stakeholders that we are constructing and delivering our current services to a high quality standard.

To that end the Child Protection Committee has ensured that its future plans include practical approaches to achieving the Quality Indicators defined by HMle in relation to the protection of children. The Quality Indicator model uses a self assessment scoring system, enabling the Child Protection Committee to self evaluate and monitor its work against the National Framework for Standards set for Child Protection and also our own internal EFQM processes. The supporting evidence will inform external audits and inspections carried out by a number of agencies such as Audit Scotland, Social Work Inspectorate, Care Commission and HMle.

The Committee and its Sub Groups have compiled an action plan, in line with the Scottish Executive guidance, outlining their priorities for the coming year. The action plans contain a series of objectives which will be measured against the Quality Indicators for Child Protection. All of these action plans have been endorsed by the Child Protection Committee.

All of our partners agencies are committed to the important work of the Child Protection Committee, so that we can respond more effectively and protect our children and young people in order that they can grow up feeling protected from harm and in a safe environment. Therefore we believe that this plan provides everyone with a clear understanding of what we need to achieve, namely, to continually improve our services for our children, young people and their families.

Finally, we wish to take the opportunity to thank the members of the Child Protection Committee, its sub groups and all staff for their hard work and commitment in striving to ensure the protection of children in East Ayrshire in the last year and in the years to come.



INTRODUCTION

The East Ayrshire Children and Young People Annual Report and Business Plan, covering the period April 2006 – March 2007, has been formulated in line with Scottish Executive guidance to fulfil a number of Child Protection Committee functions and includes:

- East Ayrshire's Child Protection Committee role and function.
- A business plan for the coming year including population demographics and an evaluation of comparison trends with local authority family groups along with the national position.
- Meeting the challenge's of national evaluation and inspection agendas locally.
- A summary of local interagency planning mechanisms and links to wider key national policy drivers.
- An account report of the years work against the previous year's plan addressed under the Scottish Executive's nine key continuous improvement functions of a Child Protection Committee.
- Future Planning Actions referenced under the nine key function headings.

Challenges Ahead

Child Protection is the highest priority for Children and Families Social Work Service and for those staff who work in the service it is a complex, stressful and time consuming. The regulation and inspection of childrens' services has become an increasingly challenging task for everyone involved in this area of work with the introduction of HMIE Child Protection Inspections, Social Work Inspection (SWIA), National Care Standards and Quality and Performance Improvement Frameworks all of which have contributed to increased activity around practice.

To meet these challenges this Annual Report and Business Plan illustrates the Child Protection Committee's ongoing commitment to develop services and promote a continuous improvement culture across all levels of interagency child protection work.

The Child Protection Committee is the primary forum for developing and implementing child protection strategy across and between agencies in East Ayrshire. This is achieved through the Partnership Agreement and Joint Statement of Assurance within Child Protection Services which provides strong leadership and direction, and is continuing to successfully implement the Child Protection Reform Agenda. All of the interagency work secures better outcomes for children and young people in East Ayrshire, and in particular vulnerable children. So that children receive the highest quality services which allow them to remain Safe, Nurtured, Healthy, Achieving, Active, Included, Respected and Responsible.

Key Achievements and Good Practice

In East Ayrshire the Child Protection Committee and its sub groups have made considerable advancements in addressing the Evaluation and Inspection Agenda. We continue to build on our successes from previous years coupled with recent developments made in 2004/05. This is evidenced in the Continuous Improvement section of this plan which lists key achievements and areas of good practice addressed under the Scottish Executive's nine key functions of the Committee.

EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

The East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is a multi-agency forum constituted in compliance with the guidance “Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committees” (Scottish Executive 2005). The Committee has representation from all key agencies involved in working for and protecting children in the East Ayrshire area as outlined in Appendix 2 of this report.

The role of the Child Protection Committee is to:-

- Ensure that local inter-agency guidelines on procedures to be followed in individual cases are produced, maintained and regularly reviewed and that the procedures, including referral procedures, are known about by those who may need to know.
- Promote good inter-disciplinary practice in preventing and dealing with the causes and effects of child abuse.
- Assess issues of significance in collaborative working which arise from the handling of cases and from reports on inquiries.
- Review arrangements for providing expert advice and inter-agency liaison.
- Monitor and review information about the operation of the Child Protection Register.
- Identify inter-agency training needs and take a leading role in developing and promoting inter-disciplinary training programmes.
- Self evaluate performance against the quality indicators for child protection
- Publish an annual report and business plan.
- Undertake significant incident reviews on critical cases in order to inform positive practice developments and ensure continuous improvement

To assist the Child Protection Committee in fulfilling its responsibilities four Sub Groups have been established to take forward the work of the Committee. These Sub Groups have participants from a wide range of professional and interest groups and focus on four key aspects of the work of the Child Protection Committee:

- Public Engagement and Information Sub Group
- Performance and Audit Sub Group
- Practitioners’ Sub Group
- Training Sub Group

The recent and future work of the Sub Groups is referred to throughout this Annual Report and Business Plan. However it is important to place the work of the Child Protection Committee and its Sub Groups in the context of the demographic profile of the East Ayrshire area and in the context of child protection work in Scotland as a whole as addressed in the following section.

EAST AYRSHIRE DEMOGRAPHICS

East Ayrshire is situated in West Central Scotland, approximately thirty miles South of Glasgow. East Ayrshire covers an area of 490 square miles from Lugton in the north to Loch Doon in the south. The 2001 National Census¹ indicates that East Ayrshire has a population of 120,235 people living in a total of 50,346 households. There are twenty-one main communities and settlements in a diverse geographical area, embracing both rural and urban settlements. The main population centres are Kilmarnock, Stewarton and Galston in the north of the authority and Cumnock, New Cumnock and Auchinleck in the south. Kilmarnock is the major urban area with a population around 44,000. The rest of the population live in smaller communities ranging from a few hundred people to around 9,000 people in Cumnock.

Deprivation

East Ayrshire as a whole has significantly higher levels of poverty than the Scottish average and when compared to other authorities in Scotland, for example as a proportion of the relevant population in relation to children, East Ayrshire has the²;

- third highest proportion of unemployed people claiming benefit
- fourth highest proportion of lone parents claiming benefit
- fifth highest claiming Housing Benefit
- sixth highest proportion of children in families claiming benefit
- seventh highest proportion of householders claiming council tax benefit
- eighth highest proportion of people claiming Disability Living Allowance and also eighth highest claiming disability benefits overall
- the highest proportion of carers claiming carers allowance

In addition;

- The percentage of households in East Ayrshire who have no adult in employment and dependent children is 6.1%, which is 1% above the national average³.
- The Unemployment rate in East Ayrshire Council in September 2004 was 4.5% compared to a national average of 3.5%. This is the fourth highest rate in Scotland.⁴
- The Average Gross Household Income in East Ayrshire in 2001 was: for Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency; £25,143 (2.8% under the national average) and for Cumnock and Doon Valley constituency £24,101 (6.8% under the national average).

¹ <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/censushm>

² Figures taken from Scottish Executive document "Benefits and Tax Credits in Scotland report for August 2003" Scottish Executive National Statistics publication

³ GRO census 2001 KS21

⁴ Benefits and Tax Credits in Scotland report for February 2004 Scottish Executive Office of Chief Economic Advisor issues September 2004

Within East Ayrshire, there are considerable differences between communities with some experiencing higher levels of inequality and poverty, with significant numbers of people excluded from the economic and social mainstream. East Ayrshire has seven local areas assessed as among the 5% most deprived areas in Scotland, with in total 40 local areas in the 20% most deprived areas. East Ayrshire with 2.4% of the total population of Scotland has 2.1% of the total population living in the 5% most deprived areas and 3.1% in the 20% most deprived areas. For example⁵:

- The percentage of pupils claiming free school meals ranges from over 72% in one Primary school, down to 2.6% in another.
- The percentage of children living in households receiving either Income Support or Family Credit ranges from 69% to 7% between council wards.

Ethnic Group and Language

94% of the population of East Ayrshire represent themselves as white Scottish, the second highest proportion in Scotland. In all other ethnic groups, the proportion represented within the population of East Ayrshire is very low compared to the national average and East Ayrshire has the lowest proportions of people from other white origins, Bangladeshis and other ethnic groups in Scotland. The only non-white minority ethnic population of any significance in East Ayrshire Council is Chinese at 0.18% of the population. Overall only 0.6% of the East Ayrshire population do not represent themselves as white.

Given this overall homogeneity, it is important for service providers to continue to recognise and be able to address cultural diversity within our communities.

⁵ Information taken from <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/ward.asp?la=QK>

Population changes⁶

Population projections for Scotland are normally prepared every two years by the Government. These projections are then used as a basis for preparing consistent sub-national projections for the local authority and health board areas of Scotland.

Based on information produced for 2003, the population of East Ayrshire is expected to fall significantly between 2002 and 2018. (down 7.8%) This compares with a 2.4% decline nationally over the same period. However as the following table indicates the rate of decline is not consistent and affects different age groups consistently.

Table 1: Projected population of East Ayrshire by broad age group

Age	2002	2008	2013	2018
0-4	6,269	5,635	5,261	5,126
5-14	15,500	13,310	12,128	11,268
15-29	20,386	20,449	19,834	17,937
30-44	27,326	24,007	20,142	18,086
45-59	24,230	24,686	25,824	25,961
60-74	17,515	19,137	20,198	20,876
75 & over	8,514	9,127	10,029	11,109
All Ages	119,740	116,351	113,416	110,363

Table 2: East Ayrshire population as a percentage of the total

Age	2002	2008	2013	2018
0-4	5.2%	4.8%	4.6%	4.6%
5-14	12.9%	11.4%	10.7%	10.2%
15-29	17.0%	17.6%	17.5%	16.3%
30-44	22.8%	20.6%	17.8%	16.4%
45-59	20.2%	21.2%	22.8%	23.5%
60-74	14.6%	16.4%	17.8%	18.9%
75 & over	7.1%	7.8%	8.8%	10.1%
All Ages	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

This indicates that it is the younger age groups that will decline the most with a significant growth in the older population.

⁶ Population projections based on GRO 2002-Based Population Projections for Scottish Areas - <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/02population-projections-scottishareas>

Comparisons with the Scottish average indicate that the projected decline in the East Ayrshire population is estimated to be over three times that of Scotland and slightly higher than Ayrshire and Arran as a whole. However the decline is significantly different for specific age groups and the projected decline in the child population is higher than the national particularly the proportion of children under 4.

Table 3: Comparison of Population Changes between 2002 and 2018; East Ayrshire, Ayrshire and Arran and Scotland

	East Ayrshire	Ayrshire and Arran	Scotland
0-4	-18.2	-16.5	-9.5
5-14	-27.3	-27.8	-21.6
15-29	-12.0	-9.9	-5.5
All ages	-7.8	-7.0	-2.4

These projections will have significant issues for the provision of care services, and staffing of services in local areas.

Substance Misuse

Substance misuse in the family has been recognised as a key issue in relation to Child Protection cases.

- The most recent bi-annual national study for which figures are available (2003-2004) estimated that East Ayrshire had 1387 problem drug users. This equates to a prevalence rate of 1.92% of the adult population (aged 15-54 years) and is higher than the Scottish average of 1.84%.
- This figure indicates that East Ayrshire has the 10th highest prevalence for all local authority areas in mainland Scotland and the 2nd highest prevalence rate for areas classified as “rural” by the Scottish Executive.
- Of the 1387 problem drug users 466 (34%) are female and 921 (66%) are male.
- 559 of the total are identified as injecting (40%)
- When compared to the previous bi-annual study (2001-2002) East Ayrshire shows an increase of 7% in problem drug users, with the prevalence rate increasing from 1.8% to the 1.92%. This is in contrast to a national trend which shows a decrease in the number of problem drug users.
- More recently in the year 2004-05 in East Ayrshire 371 new individuals presented at support services for treatment for drug problems, of these 70% reported use of heroin.
- This rate of heroin use reflects the national average and heroin continues to be the main drug of choice. However there is also significant, secondary use of benzodiazepines.

The prevalence of problem drug use by young people has become an increasing problem as has the impact of parental substance misuse on children and young people.

- In 2003-04 from a total of 393 presenting to services in relation to problem drug use 26 were young people aged between 15-19 years. This is above the national average of children referred for drug misuse. There were no children referred under the age of 15 years.
- Of all new patients presenting in 2003-04 29% reported the age at which they started using drugs as being under age 15. This is significantly below the national average. However 51% reported first using drugs at age 15-19, which means that an average percentage of people misusing drugs began to do so as a young person.
- In 2002 through the Scottish School Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) young people in East Ayrshire indicated that 21% of 13 to 15 year olds had tried illicit drugs with 5% of 15 year olds indicating the use of illicit drugs at least once a week.
- 28% of new patients in 2003-04 reported living with dependent children, (12% as single parents). This is significantly above the national average of 18% and the third highest among local authorities in Scotland.

Alcohol misuse also has a significant impact on the lives of vulnerable children in East Ayrshire. Nationally it is believed that the lives of approximately 50,000 children and young people are affected by parental / carer drug misuse, but it is believed that 100,000 are similarly affected by alcohol misuse. This experience is reflected in East Ayrshire.

- In 2004-05 East Ayrshire had 1161 alcohol related hospital admissions which equates to a rate of 1367 admissions per 100,000 of the population. This is significantly higher than the Scottish average of 1121 per 100,000 of population.
- In 2002-03 there were 106 alcohol related acute hospital discharges for young people aged 0-15 years in the NHS Ayrshire and Arran area.

EVALUATION OF CHILD PROTECTION PERFORMANCE AND COMPARISON TRENDS

The Child Protection statistics in this section have been drawn from East Ayrshire Council's Child Protection Annual Return to the Scottish Executive. These statistics provide a baseline indication of Child Protection activity within the East Ayrshire area and focus on children where there has been a failure to protect on the part of their parents or immediate carers. The statistics do not relate to cases of the abuse of children by strangers.

Also illustrated is East Ayrshire's activity against local authority family group comparators along with the national position. The statistics provide the Child Protection Committee with a useful measure of annual trends from 2000 – 2006 (The period reporting years are 1 April – 31 March)⁷.

The Council has agreed its comparator authorities as listed below:

- Inverclyde
- Clackmannanshire
- North Ayrshire

The Committee's Audit and Performance Sub Group is currently undertaking a review of internal management information systems to develop a suite of reporting information. This will refine regular monitoring and improved decision making across all levels of service activity. The information obtained will provide qualitative indicators in respect of issues such as the level of risk which professional staff have to manage while children are named on the Register or the extent of intensive support provided to enable children's names to be removed from the Register. Similarly there will be more accurate qualitative reporting on the extensive work undertaken with children and their families on a long term basis, reflecting the high quality of practice which ensures that a greater number of children do not need to become subject to child protection processes in the first place.

⁷ The statistics presented in this section have been downloaded from the 21st Century Social Work Website, resources and performance <http://www.socialworkscotland.org.uk/programme5stats.php>. Information for all 32 Scottish Local Authorities can also be compared with Local Authorities and against Scotland as a whole.

Children Referred for Child Protection Enquiries

Table 4 on the following page illustrates the numbers of child protection referrals. The key summary points are as noted below.

- Total referrals within East Ayrshire in 2003 were 80 rising to 120 in 2004 an increase of 51% on the 2003 figure. The Scottish figure for the same period saw an increase of only 4% for the same period.
- Total referrals in 2005 increased to 229, an increase of 92% on the 2004 figure and 188% on the 2003 figure. Over the same period the Scottish figure showed increases of only 9% and 14% respectively.
- The number of child protection referrals in East Ayrshire in 2006 was 285 (an increase of 24.5% from 229 in 2005)
- The comparator authorities show an increase of 39.2%, while the Scotland figures show an increase of 15.3%
- Statistics noted previously in respect of Substance Misuse (Page 8) also highlight that drug misuse in the family has been recognised as a key issue in relation to Child Protection cases. The statistics also showed that 29% of the new patients in 2003/04 who reported that they started using drugs began to do so as a young person.

As published in our Quality and Standards Report 2005, the increase in Child Protection Referrals is related to several factors but in particular the increase in parental substance misuse has been highlighted as significant.

Related to this has been the implementation of the High Risk Pregnancy Protocol by the partner agencies of the Child Protection Committee. The development of the Protocol arose from the recommendations of the publications "Getting Our Priorities Right" and "Hidden Harm" (Scottish Executive) which focussed on the impact of substance and alcohol misuse on children in Scotland. This has resulted in an increase in the number of pre-birth assessments being undertaken and subsequent Pre-Birth Case Conferences being convened. This Protocol provides guidance to all staff in respect of assessing the potential risk to an expected baby where there may be identified risk factors such as parental problem drug use, alcohol abuse, domestic violence or a previous parental history of having been in Local Authority care and ensures that an appropriate care plan is in place by the time of the child's birth.

Partly as a result of high profile national cases and enquiries into the deaths of children there has been a general raising of awareness of child protection issues on the part of professionals and members of the public. In turn this has been a factor in contributing to the increase in the number of referrals. The growing awareness that it is "everyones' job" (Scottish Executive 2002) to make sure that children are alright has in part resulted in a greater number of children having their needs for protection assessed and addressed through integrated service delivery.

The Child Protection Committee and the Performance and Audit Sub Group will prioritise the following set of actions:

- The Child Protection Committee are currently examining how to ensure the accurate recording of the sources of referrals from across agency sectors which will in turn inform where further awareness training can be focused in the coming year.
- Refine quarterly Child Protection Committee reporting to evaluate if there is a correlation between the delivery of awareness training and a subsequent rise in referrals.

Child Protection: Referrals

Table 4

select comparators:

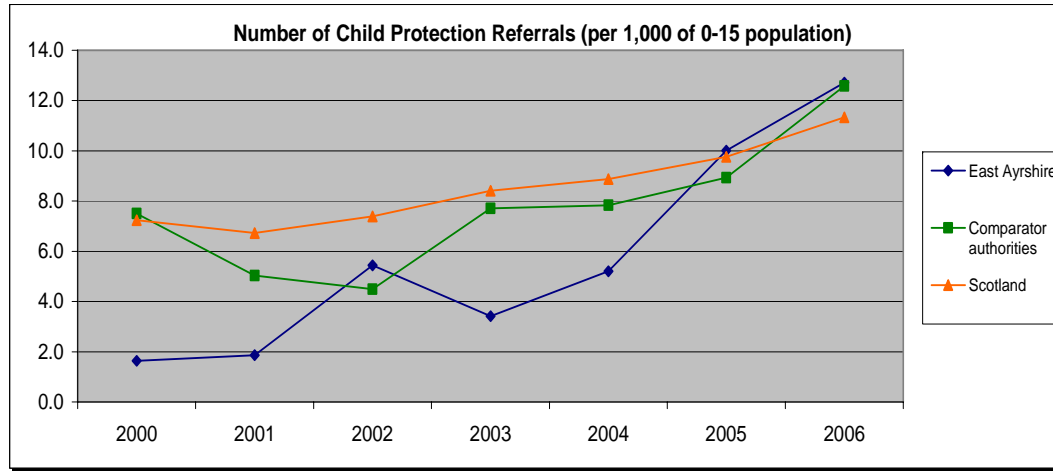
Inverclyde ▼

Clackmannanshire ▼

North Ayrshire ▼

[no comparator] ▼

[no comparator] ▼



* The rate (per 1,000 pop 0-15) is 12.7. This is similar to the comparator average rate of 12.6, and greater than the Scotland average rate of 11.3

	2000			2001			2002			2003			2004			2005			2006				
	number	rate	% change	number	rate	% change	number	rate	% change	number	rate	% change	number	rate	% change	number	rate	quartile	% change	number	rate	quartile	
East Ayrshire	40	1.6	12.5%	45	1.9	188.9%	130	5.4	-38.5%	80	3.4	50.0%	120	5.2	90.8%	229	10.0	2	24.5%	285	12.7	2	
Comparator Authorities:																							
Inverclyde	170	10.0	-50.0%	85	5.1	-41.2%	50	3.1	130.0%	115	7.2	-13.0%	100	6.4	2.0%	102	6.7	4	116.7%	221	14.7	1	
Clackmannanshire	150	14.7	-26.7%	110	10.8	-9.1%	100	10.0	65.0%	165	16.8	-3.0%	160	16.8	-11.3%	142	15.0	1	-11.3%	126	13.3	2	
North Ayrshire	95	3.4	-15.8%	80	2.9	12.5%	90	3.3	38.9%	125	4.7	16.0%	145	5.5	44.8%	210	8.0	3	35.7%	285	11.1	3	
[no comparator]																							
[no comparator]																							
Comparator authorities	415	7.5	-33.7%	275	5.0	-12.7%	240	4.5	68.8%	405	7.7	0.0%	405	7.8	12.1%	454	8.9		39.2%	632	12.6		
Scotland	7,201	7.2	-8.1%	6,619	6.7	8.4%	7,172	7.4	12.0%	8,033	8.4	4.1%	8,366	8.9	9.2%	9,133	9.8		15.3%	10,527	11.3		

Some figures given to the nearest 5 to preserve confidentiality

Cells containing the symbol * represent between 1 and 4 children. They have been excluded to preserve confidentiality

The increase in the number of referrals in Aberdeen City from 2001-02 to 2002-03 was due to a clarification of what is counted as a referral.

2005/06 referrals data are not comparable to previous years due to definitional change on form (see background notes)

Source: Scottish Executive, Childrens Statistics
Population figures source: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk>

Children on the Child Protection Register

In table 5 figures illustrated on page 15 show the total number of children on the Child Protection Register in East Ayrshire, against local authority comparators along with the Scotland figure.

- Numbers of children registered has increased year on year representing a total increase of 32% from the 2003 figure.
- The number of child protection referrals in East Ayrshire in 2006 was 45 (an increase of 12.5% from 40 in 2005)
- The comparator authorities show an increase of 35.7%, while the Scotland figures show an increase of 6.1%

The Child Protection Committee and the Performance and Audit Sub Group will prioritise the following action:

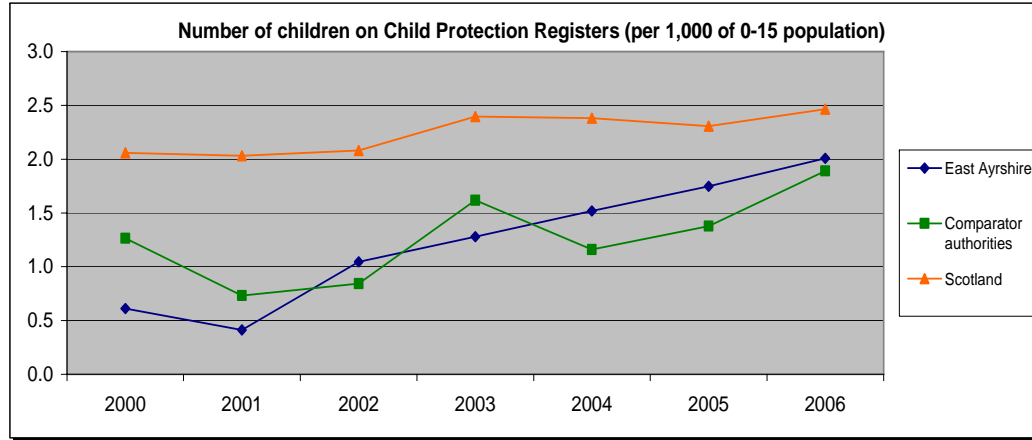
- We will monitor quarterly and evaluate whether current resources are adequate to support the numbers of children placed on the register.

Child Protection: On Child Protection Registers

Table 5

select comparators:

- Inverclyde ▼
- Clackmannanshire ▼
- North Ayrshire ▼
- [no comparator] ▼
- [no comparator] ▼



* The rate (per 1,000 pop 0-15) is 2. This is similar to the comparator average rate of 1.9, and similar to the Scotland average rate of 2.5

	2000			2001			2002			2003			2004			2005			2006			
	number	rate	% change	number	rate	% change	number	rate	% change	number	rate	% change	number	rate	% change	number	rate	quartile	% change	number	rate	quartile
East Ayrshire	15	0.6	-33.3%	10	0.4	150.0%	25	1.0	20.0%	30	1.3	16.7%	35	1.5	14.3%	40	1.7	3	12.5%	45	2.0	3
Comparator Authorities:																						
Inverclyde	10	0.6	0.0%	10	0.6	100.0%	20	1.2	75.0%	35	2.2	-85.7%	5	0.3	600.0%	35	2.3	2	0.0%	35	2.3	2
Clackmannanshire	20	2.0	-50.0%	10	1.0	50.0%	15	1.5	100.0%	30	3.1	0.0%	30	3.1	-66.7%	10	1.1	4	150.0%	25	2.6	2
North Ayrshire	40	1.4	-50.0%	20	0.7	-50.0%	10	0.4	100.0%	20	0.7	25.0%	25	0.9	0.0%	25	1.0	4	40.0%	35	1.4	4
[no comparator]																						
[no comparator]																						
Comparator authorities	70	1.3	-42.9%	40	0.7	12.5%	45	0.8	88.9%	85	1.6	-29.4%	60	1.2	16.7%	70	1.4		35.7%	95	1.9	
Scotland	2,050	2.1	-2.4%	2,000	2.0	0.9%	2,018	2.1	13.4%	2,289	2.4	-1.9%	2,245	2.4	-3.9%	2,157	2.3		6.1%	2,288	2.5	

Some figures given to the nearest 5 to preserve confidentiality

Cells containing the symbol * represent between 1 and 4 children. They have been excluded to preserve confidentiality

The increase in the number of referrals in Aberdeen City from 2001-02 to 2002-03 was due to a clarification of what is counted as a referral.

Source: Scottish Executive, Children's Statistics
Population figures source: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk>

Table 6: Category of Primary known or suspected abuser of those subject to a case conference

	2004					2005					2006				
	East Ayrshire	Inverclyde	Clackman nanshire	North Ayrshire	Scotland	East Ayrshire	Inverclyde	Clackman nanshire	North Ayrshire	Scotland	East Ayrshire	Inverclyde	Clackman nanshire	North Ayrshire	Scotland
Natural Mother	37	24	15	36	1625	51	N/A	12	55	1185	82	11	33	69	1381
Natural father	15	14	9	11	1015	31	N/A	*	14	524	30	*	5	15	559
Step parent	8	*	7	5	133	9	N/A	0	*	67	9	0	*	11	107
Parent's cohabite	*	0	6	8	175	10	N/A	*	5	119	*	0	5	6	174
Other relative	9	0	*	*	203	7	N/A	*	*	124	15	0	*	*	114
Other person known to child/family	5	*	*	*	149	8	N/A	0	*	96	13	0	5	8	117
Other person not known to child/family	*	0	0	0	51	0	N/A	0	*	29	0	0	0	0	9
Child him/herself was known/suspected perpetrator	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	*	0	0	6
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	0	N/A	0	0	1159	*	53	0	*	1529
Total	78	43	40	64	3351	116	N/A	19	85	3303	154	65	52	115	3996

(Source: Scottish Executive CP Return)

*represents figures less than 5 that have been suppressed for confidentiality

In 2005/06 there was a new category in the primary known suspected abuser of 'child him/herself was known/suspected partner

Prior to 2005/05, in category of risk/abuse 'failure to thrive' included child known/suspected perpetrator

2005/06 figures may have been affected by the definitional change in counting child protection referrals

Table 6 provides a detailed breakdown of the primary or known suspected abuser:

- In East Ayrshire, the highest increase was recorded within the total Natural Parent (mother/father) categories; rising from 52 people in 2004 to 92 in 2005 and 112 in 2006.
- The total numbers subject to a case conference in 2005 was 116 (an increase of 49% from 78 in 2004), 2006 shows a further rise of 154 (an increase of 33% from the 2005 figure).
- Between 2005 and 2006 the nationally figures show an increase of 21%

The Child Protection Committee and the Performance and Audit Sub Group will ensure the following action:

- Further develop quarterly Child Protection Committee reporting to monitor and target services in the areas most needed for example; parenting services and addiction services.

Table 7: Main category of abuse/risk identified of those subject to a case conference who were registered on the Child Protection Register

	2004					2005					2006				
	East Ayrshire	Inverclyde	Clackman nanshire	North Ayrshire	Scotland	East Ayrshire	Inverclyde	Clackman nanshire	North Ayrshire	Scotland	East Ayrshire	Inverclyde	Clackman nanshire	North Ayrshire	Scotland
Physical Injury	17	13	10	20	741	17	N/A	*	8	628	25	8	15	8	779
Sexual abuse	12	0	5	*	234	8	N/A	0	6	226	21	*	0	12	301
Emotional abuse	*	*	10	0	434	8	N/A	*	0	376	13	0	12	0	442
Physical neglect	21	6	6	21	1015	29	N/A	0	18	1035	40	39	7	54	1243
Failure to thrive	*	*	0	*	16	0	N/A	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	6
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	0	N/A	0	0	18	0	*	0	0	20
Total	54	25	31	43	2440	62	N/A	5	32	2294	99	48	34	74	2791

(Source: Scottish Executive CP Return)

*represents figures less than 5 that have been suppressed for confidentiality

Prior to 2005/05, in category of risk/abuse 'failure to thrive' included child known/suspected perpetrator

2005/06 figures may have been affected by the definitional change in counting child protection referrals

The table 7 details the main categories of abuse/risk in respect of children who were subject to a case conference and registered on the Child Protection Register.

- The numbers registered following a case conference shows that in East Ayrshire there were 54 children registered in 2004 rising to 62 in 2005, an increase of 15%. In 2006 figures of 99 represent an increase of 60% on the 2005 figure.
- Nationally, the figures show an increase of 22% between 2005 and 2006.
- Physical neglect has seen the highest abuse/risk category over the three year trend period.

The Child Protection Committee and the Performance and Audit Sub Group will pursue the following actions:

- Further develop quarterly Child Protection Committee reporting to monitor and target specific service areas, including adult services, where children are at risk such as parents with addiction issues.
- Undertake an analysis of training needs across all agencies, including Adult Services, for staff working in specific areas where a child could be considered to be at risk or abused. Training can then be targeted on an individual or multi agency basis to ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in respect of ensuring children's protection.

EVALUATION AND INSPECTION

All of the Child Protection work in East Ayrshire is subject to scrutiny by a range of external audits and inspections by agencies such as Audit Scotland, the Care Commission, Social Work Inspection Agency and Her Majesty's Inspectorate Education (HMIE). This informs future planning.

HMIE is currently rolling out a programme of Child Protection inspections using a scoring system measured against the Quality Indicators for Services to Protect Children and the Framework for Standards. As part of this process each agency will undertake a self evaluation exercise which will involve senior managers, operational managers and practitioners who work directly with Children and Young People across East Ayrshire. The findings of the self evaluation will provide a measure on current performance levels and highlight areas for service improvement. Such evidence will be used to inform subsequent audits and inspections carried out by the external bodies as mentioned above.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Wider multi agency partnerships and structures

On a broader context the work of the Child Protection Committee is informed by the guiding values and principles of the broader East Ayrshire Community Plan with its vision that "East Ayrshire will be a place with strong, vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs". The Committee's work also contributes to and is informed by the Children and Young People Service Plan 2005-2008 which aims to provide every child in East Ayrshire with the best start in life by providing children and young people and families with choices which allow them to maximise their potential. Consequently the planning actions set within the Community Plan, the Children and Young Peoples Service Plan and the Child Protection Committee Business Plan are interconnecting and inform important strands of planning and performance work.

In this way we ensure that children's services are feature highly on the agenda of relevant partnership forums such as the East Ayrshire Council Learning Partnerships. The overall aim of these Learning Partnerships is to integrate the delivery of children's services and to improve social and educational outcomes for children and young people. This approach has been commended in inspection reports by her Majesty's Inspectors for Education (HMIE).

The Partnerships are one of the main planning mechanisms used to deliver the objectives within the children's service planning process. There are nine partnerships in total with eight of these being geographical communities based on the catchments area of a secondary school establishment. The ninth is a faith community based around the faith secondary school which covers the whole authority. Each learning partnership operates with a linked social work team manager and social work assistant who work as part of a core support team. This provides innovative opportunities to plan better, to monitor the effectiveness of local service delivery and, by placing the young person at the centre of all that we do, provide a network of integrated services which will provide enhanced support to young people in East Ayrshire who need it. This helps prevent duplication of effort and streamlines our integrated approach with our wider planning partners.

Local Context

In East Ayrshire we have a history of successful partnership working. It has long been recognised by the public, by private and community sector agencies in the area that working in partnership is the way to ensure good quality of life for those who live here and also for those who work in and visit East Ayrshire. The Child Protection Committee is the primary forum for developing and implementing child protection strategy across and between agencies in East Ayrshire

Strategic leadership and direction within Child Protection Services is achieved through our Partnership Agreement and Joint Statement of Assurance which has continued to successfully implement the Child Protection Reform Agenda.

This has included a reconfiguration of our multi agency Child Protection Committee arrangements when the Committee was re-constituted in April 2005 following the publication of "Protecting Children and Young people: Child Protection Committees" (Scottish Executive). Partner agencies include Council Departments, such as Education and Social Services and Neighbourhood Services, the NHS, Police, the Reporter to Children's Hearings and also the voluntary sector who provide a service to children, young people and their families.

Child Protection Guidelines

As part of the duties emanating from the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 (the 1995 Act) East Ayrshire Social Work services receives reports about children who may have been abused or may be at risk of abuse. These children may have been referred by relatives, neighbours, professionals or other sources. Social Work staff have the lead responsibility of deciding when there is a need to initiate a child protection investigation and the subsequent steps to follow.

The East Ayrshire Child Protection Guidelines provide clear guidance to practitioners from all disciplines on their responsibilities in relation to such investigations, including the need to pursue urgent statutory intervention or the need to convene a multi-disciplinary Child Protection Case Conference.

Clearly the primary responsibility for ensuring the protection of all children, even those named on the Child Protection Register, rests with parents. However Social Work, Education, Health, the Police and staff from other partner agencies are committed to working together to ensure the safety of the most vulnerable children within the context supporting families to fulfil their individual responsibilities.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Through strategic planning structures and partnership working the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee seeks to continuously improve child protection work and secure better outcomes for children, and in particular vulnerable children, at a local level. This requires the Child Protection Committee to address the nine key strategic themes and functions outlined by the Scottish Executive:

- Public Information
- Policies, Procedures and Protocols
- Management Information
- Quality Assurance
- Promotion of Good Practice
- Training and Staff Development
- Communication and Cooperation
- Planning and Connections
- Listening to Children and Young People

In East Ayrshire the Child Protection Committee and its sub groups have made considerable advancements in addressing the Evaluation and Inspection Agenda. We continue to build on our successes from previous years coupled with recent developments made in 2004/05. The following is a summary of plans that are currently being pursued and key achievements already in place addressed under the Scottish Executive's nine key functions of the Committee.

Public Information

The Committee's Public Engagement and Information Sub Group has primary responsibility for producing and disseminating public information about child protection. It has a remit to:-

- focus on the continuous development of public information;
- establish a response process for enquiries by members of the general public which will include what may happen when they make a referral;
- ensure that the work of East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is informed by the perspective of children and young people, their families and the community;
- ensure that public information is available and accessible to the residents of East Ayrshire;
- ensure that the work of East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is promoted within the local media and communities we serve;

Key Achievements

Through the Public Engagement and Information Sub Group the Child Protection Committee has overseen the preparation and distribution of a range of publicity materials. These include:

- Two information leaflets "Information for Parents, Carers and other relevant people" and "Information for Service Providers" have been prepared and will be launched in September 2006.
- A public information poster has been developed by the Police service.
- A Domestic Abuse poster campaign in community and public venues across East Ayrshire is currently in place.
- A Logo competition involving primary school children was undertaken in Spring 2006. A logo for the Child Protection Committee will be available by September 2006.
- A Safe Parenting Handbook is being developed and commissioned in partnership with the Child Protection Committees for North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire.
- A Child Protection Committee web-site will be launched in September 2006. This web-site will be hosted by East Ayrshire Council.

Polices, Procedures and Protocols

The Child Protection Committee and its four sub groups all play a key role in developing and updating child protection polices procedures and protocols. All partners ensure that these are widely disseminated across agencies through sub group meetings, team meetings and awareness training events. The Committee also takes advantage of the technologies available such as; the Internet, Intranet and e-mail. These facilities enable further distribution of child protection polices procedures and protocols to a wider stakeholder audience.

Key Achievements

Several policies, procedures and protocols have been implemented in the past year. In particular;

- The “Child Protection in East Ayrshire Joint Statement of Assurance” has been published and widely circulated to key personnel.
- Caleb Ness Inquiry Report- The Committee developed a joint response to this and other enquiry reports to ensure the lessons learned from these were communicated within East Ayrshire and actions taken to ensure the Child Protection procedures were the most effective they could be.
- A Protocol has been developed in partnership with social work and health to address the issue of children who are named on the Child Protection Register who may be removed from their general practitioners register.
- The implementation of the NHS Ayrshire and Arran led “Inter-Agency Child Protection Protocols For High Risk Pregnancies” and the “Inter-Agency Child Protection Protocol For Information Sharing When Neo-Nates Demonstrate Symptoms of Neo-Natal Abstinence Syndrome”
- The current East Ayrshire Child Protection Guidelines agreed by the Child Protection Committee in 2001 are now being reviewed in partnership with all of the West of Scotland Child Protection Committees.
- In the interim several Child Protection Practice Notes are being developed to provide staff with guidance in respect of specific practice issues.
- In respect of national issues the Committee have continued to receive relevant papers and articles on child protection matters of national significance, circulated by the Committee Chair, to inform policy and practice.
- The recommendations of the Scottish Executive’s Audit and Review of Child Protection - “It’s Everyone’s Job to Make Sure I’m Alright” have been fully responded to with a range of measures in place to address improvements in child protection practice within East Ayrshire.
- “Getting it Right for Every Child – Phase 2 of the consultation on the Children’s Hearing System” As part of our partnership working, we have undertaken a full consultation exercise.
- The policies and recommendations arising out of the Scottish Executive reports “Getting Our Priorities Right” and “Hidden Harm” in relation to children and families affected by problem drug and alcohol use are being addressed.
- In addition an Addictions Officer (Child Protection) has been appointed to offer specific support to pregnant women who have been identified as problem drugs users and to undertake risk assessments in respect of the expected child.
- A Protocol has been developed and agreed for the management of case files during future H.M.I e inspection.

Management Information

The Committee's Performance and Audit Sub Group has a specific remit to:-

- Agree, implement and review mechanisms for self auditing inter agency work against the Framework for Standards.
- Contribute to the preparation for the integrated of inspection of child protection services.
- Have mechanisms in place to ensure the promotion of good practice and address issues of poor practice, including systemic reviews of significant cases.
- Co-ordinate the preparation of inter-agency audit reports and provide critical analysis through these reports.
- Have an overview of management information from all member agencies about their work to protect children and young people, including analysis of trends or gaps in service provision.

Key Achievements

- A Pan Ayrshire Integrated Assessment Framework is being developed to achieve an electronic framework which will streamline and improve the way partner agencies work in addressing the needs of children and young people. This will include the scoped linking of agencies' IT systems.
- Social Work services will implement the Child Protection component of its SWIFT data base. This will enhance data collation which can then be made available to the Child Protection Committee, partner agencies and the public.
- A quarterly statistical report on Child Protection activity and registration is presented to the Child Protection Committee. This allows any trends and issues to be identified and informs inter-agency discussion about ways to improve the effectiveness of practice.
- A review of the initial Child Protection 1 Form is being undertaken to improve the information compiled in relation to Child Protection activity.
- A Chronology of Significant Events format is being developed which will be integrated into core case records. This is already established in all case files where the child is named on the Child Protection register.
- Health Assessments for Children Involved in Child Protection have been developed and enabled through the Child Protection Committee.

Quality Assurance

The Child Protection Committee and all four supporting sub groups have a quality assurance role. A "Taking a Broad Look" seminar was run in 2005, involving the Performance and Audit Sub Group, to consider the HMle child protection quality indicators in order to facilitate a more focused self evaluation and to:

- Introduce practitioners to the Quality Indicators on which practice and services will be measured.
- Ascertain practitioners and managers perception of good practice in relation to quality indicators.
- Ascertain practitioners and managers perception of gaps in services and practice preventing achievement of Quality Indicators.

The information gained has informed our action plan for 2006-2007 and what we need do to develop our quality assurance mechanisms. This information will inform the full self evaluation exercise arising from the Seminar.

Key Achievements

- A series of workshop meetings have been held in respect of the HMle Quality Indicators to review the quality indicators and highlight key issues for service improvements. These have informed the Business Action Plan for the year ahead.
- Self evaluation exercises have already been undertaken through the Performance and Audit Sub-Group in respect of two of the Child Protection Quality Indicators; Indicator 3.2 "Information Sharing and Recording" and Indicator 4.3 "Participation of children, young people, families and other relevant people in policy development". A format for recording self evaluation has now been agreed and will inform a continuous process of self evaluation.
- In August 2005 staff from the partner agencies Social Services, Housing Services and Strathclyde Police concluded a Sex Offenders Audit of those registered sex offenders within East Ayrshire who were subject to compulsory supervision by Social Work. The analysis of the Audit concluded that practice across the authority was generally positive with areas for practice improvement also being highlighted.

Promotion of Good Practice

The East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee Practitioners Sub Group aims to inform the development of policy and good practice. This Sub-Group has the lead responsibility for the organisation and facilitation of the Practitioners Forum. This Forum meets on a quarterly basis and has a membership of over 50 delegates drawn from all the partner agencies of the Child Protection Committee. These delegates are asked their views on current operational and practice issues across all agency sectors and subsequently feedback areas for improvement to the Child Protection Committee for consideration. The remit of the group is to:

- Disseminate inter-agency policies and procedures to operational staff from all relevant areas.
- Comment on child protection policies and procedures as requested by the Child Protection Committee.
- Identify practice and policy issues in relation to child protection and inform the Child Protection Committee of these.
- Support the work of the established Practitioners' Forum in informing quality assurance.

Key Achievements

- The Practitioner Forum contributes to the sharing of knowledge, understanding and expertise across the individual professions
- A presentation has been delivered to the group to share knowledge and understanding of the Health Visitor role within a child protection context. The presentation will be made available to other groups through the Internet and Intranet.
- Quarterly Update Reports are given with two pronged reporting between the Child Protection Committee and the Practitioner Group on the progress of the Forum.
- Sharing perspectives from different agencies, awareness raising and areas where practice can be improved.
- The Forum provides critical comment and feedback on national and local policies, procedures and protocols as requested by the Child Protection Committee.
- The establishing of the Child Protection Committee Web-Site in September 2006 will enhance the opportunity for practitioners to share information, knowledge and skills.

Training and Staff Development

The Training Sub Group is responsible for developing interagency training and development. The group:

- Ensure that lessons learned from relevant reports, legislative changes or research directly inform training and staff development
- Have an over view of single agency child protection training and consider the need for inter-agency training.
- Plan, commission, review and quality assure inter-agency training and staff developments for staff from the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee area.
- Provide and disseminate an annual programme of inter-agency training.
- Identify and report training requirements on a multi agency basis
- Monitor training attendance and outcomes

Child Protection Training has continued to be targeted and delivered across a broad range of Council Service Departments and Partner Agencies including Social Work, Education, Housing, Health and Police. It has included specialist training for both Social Work Staff and those from Partner Agencies working in Child Protection; as well as inter agency training aimed at increasing awareness.

Key Achievements

- The appointment of two Training Officers who will further develop the training needs audit and identify a programme of interagency training.
- The Training Sub Group has developed a four-tiered strategic approach to the delivery of future training.
- The sponsorship of specific briefing sessions to raise awareness and understanding of specific issues, which have included the outcomes of the Child Death Inquiries.
- Basic child protection training for newly qualified social work staff has been delivered in December 2005.
- Inter-agency workshops on the High Risk Pregnancy Protocol have been delivered in 2005.
- Key staff from Health and Social Services have been trained in the delivery of training on "Getting Our Priorities Right". Following on from this a programme of training in relation to "Getting Our Priorities Right" and "Hidden Harm" and issues of parental substance misuse is planned for 2006.
- East Ayrshire Council has commissioned Children 1st to deliver a programme of briefings to all its staff, some 6,000 employees, on "Protection" basic awareness. This will address the need for all staff to be vigilant to the potential need for protection of children, older people or vulnerable adults with whom they may come in contact during their work.

Communication and Co-operation

The Child Protection Committee and all four of its subgroups have a responsibility to ensure effective two way communication and co-operation between agencies. In this way continuous improvement in the implementation of national and local policy requirements can be clearly demonstrated.

Key Achievements

- The Child Protection Committee Web-Site which will be launched in September 2006 will enable access by all professionals to information in respect of the work of the Committee and broader policy, practice and research information which becomes available
- Procedures, agreed protocols and practice notes which are currently being developed will also be made available on the Web-Site
- The Practitioners Forum will enhance the sharing of knowledge and understanding across the individual professions. There is a clear expectation that delegates to the Forum will not only inform the development of practice but will also share their own learning with their peers in their own workplace.
- Child Protection Reform Programme – a joint and multi agency response was agreed in relation to the programme including implementation of the Scottish Executive guidance in respect to Child Protection Committees
- An Information Sharing Protocol has been developed as part of the integrated assessment and information sharing system
- A Communications Protocol was initiated by the Child Protection Committee that improved communication systems between Social Work, the Hospital Service and Police, for occasions when a young person, under the influence of substances, attended casualty, and child protection was an issue.

Planning and Connections

The Child Protection Committee partners fully recognise that effective communication and co-operation are central elements to successful interagency planning and working. The four sub-groups to the Child Protection Committee are integral to this process and it is through their collaboration that action plans have been achieved which clearly set out specific objectives, measurable outcomes, and detailed action with realistic and timely deadlines.

Key Achievements

- The Child Protection Coordinator has supported the work of the Child Protection Committee and its four sub-groups
- The development of the Business Plan for 2006-07 (Appendix 1). This plan will be subject to continuous evaluation and review by the four sub- groups in the coming year.

Listening to Children and Young People

The Child Protection Committee is determined that the views of children and young people are listened to and responded to appropriately. This applies at both an individual case level and at a broader policy and practice development level. To this end each of the four Sub-Groups have a pivotal role in ensuring that both policy and professional practice can demonstrate continual improvement in how well children and young people are listened to.

- Self evaluation will continuously focus on this issue in critically evaluating professional practice
- Practitioners will be asked to inform how best to improve professional practice in this important area
- The views of young people will be sought in respect of policy developments
- Priority will be given to meeting the training needs of professionals to develop their skills in communication with children on an individual basis

Key Achievements

- Through the Public Engagement and Information Sub Group a link has been established with Dialogue Youth The link with Dialogue Youth which will assist in obtaining young peoples' views on the production of leaflets and the development of the Child Protection Committee web-site
- Agreement is in place to commission a voluntary organisation to undertake consultation with young people who have been involved with agencies as a result of Child Protection processes.
- Pro-formas which seek to ascertain the views of children and young people at Initial and Review Child Protection Case Conferences will be introduced in September 2006
- There is a continued commitment to Social Work staff and Police officers undertaking Joint Investigative Interview Training
- Training will be made available on a multi-disciplinary basis in relation to working with children who have been sexually abused.
- Through the Public Engagement and Information sub Group two further information leaflets specifically for children are in the process of being drafted in consultation with Children and Young People.

Conclusion

This Annual Report and Business Plan demonstrates that there is a full commitment from the East Ayrshire Children Protection Committee, its sub groups and partner agencies to continuously aim to improve services to vulnerable children and young people.

Effective partnership working is vital if the Child Protection Committee is to continue to build on the achievements and successes within the child protection agenda. This will be achieved by implementing the Business Plan objectives which have been compiled for the coming year, as attached in Appendix 1.

The Business Plan objectives will be measured against the Scottish Executive Child Protection Framework for Standards Guidance and HMle Quality Indicators Self Assessment.

The Committee will regularly inform partners and stakeholders on the outcomes of this plan through the appropriate Committee cycles and within the wider planning and reporting channels for Children's Services and Community Planning and through its Web-Site.

The East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee believes that this Annual Report illustrates the absolute commitment of all its partners to ensure that services to vulnerable children become demonstrably more joined-up and child-focussed. The Committee is committed to the continuous improvement of services which promote the protection of children and young people in East Ayrshire.

APPENDIX 1

BUSINESS PLAN - ACTIONS FOR 2006/07

This section sets out the business plan actions for the coming year which have been drawn up and been agreed by the supporting sub groups and subsequently endorsed by the Child Protection Committee.

Action Plans

The actions are summarised in line with the 9 key strategic functions as set by the Scottish Executive and comprise a set of key objectives, what we are going to do, when will we do it by, the resource required and how will we know when we have done it.

Quality Indicators and Framework for Standards

Our objectives will be measured against the Quality Indicators for Self Assessment for Child Protection and the Framework for Standards Guidance. Each action plan shows the association between the relevant quality indicators and standards.

Reporting our Progress

Our progress will be regularly reported to the following:

- Child Protection Committee (Ref Appendix 2)
- Chief Officers Group (Ref Appendix 2)
- Social Work Committee, East Ayrshire Council
- Education Committee, East Ayrshire Council
- Child Protection Action Team, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

The Committee will also publish its progress and achievements on the Council's Internet and Intranet site and also to the wider citizens of East Ayrshire through the departmental Standards and Quality Report.

PUBLIC INFORMATION - ACTION PLAN 2006 -2007

Objective	What are we going to do?	When will we do it by?	Resources Required	How will we know when we have done it?
Increase knowledge of child protection issues within communities, including children and young people	Development of age appropriate leaflets for children Parents/carers Service providers	June 2006 Work is being taken forward to September 2006	Costs of printing East Ayrshire Council Design	Recorded increase in the number and proportion of child protection referrals received from members of the public, their representatives and children themselves.
	Development of Awareness Raising posters	Autumn 2006	Costs of printing East Ayrshire Council Design	Posters Produced
	Ensure that leaflets are distributed throughout East Ayrshire	Autumn 2006	Costs of printing East Ayrshire Council Design	Child Protection Committee posters and leaflets available in wide range of places
Increase knowledge of the work of the Child Protection Committee	Development of EA Child Protection Committee web page with hyperlinks to member agency website and other relevant bodies and organisations' web sites	September 2006.	Staff time for development and design	Web Page live
	Development of an EA Child Protection Committee Logo which is easily identifiable	September 2006.	East Ayrshire Council Design team time	Clearly identifiable logo for East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee developed
	Develop a regular column in relation to East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headlines magazine (East Ayrshire Residents) • Eastwords East Ayrshire Council Staff • Dialogue (NHS Ayrshire and Arran) • The relevant police magazine 	Autumn 2006	Performance and audit group time to write the articles	East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee issues raised in staff magazines

PUBLIC INFORMATION - ACTION PLAN 2006 -2007

Objective	What are we going to do?	When will we do it by?	Resources Required	How will we know when we have done it?
Increase knowledge of the work of the Child Protection Committee	Have a press release in relation to the new Child Protection Committee and the Web page and leaflets	September 2006	Cost of venue and refreshments	East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee web-site and logo launched
Develop a network for consultation and engagement with children and young people and the general public	Establish links with East Ayrshire Youth Forums and be proactive in seeking other links	Sustained development	Child Protection Co-ordinator and Public engagement and Information Sub Group time	Links established between East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee and Youth Forum established
	Establish links to East Ayrshire resident survey to gain the views of East Ayrshire residents (this group is currently being developed and the process are still to be negotiated and decided)	December 2006	Public engagement and Information Sub Group members time	Links established with residents forum

PUBLIC INFORMATION - QUALITY INDICATORS AND FRAMEWORK STANDARDS MET

Quality Indicators	Framework Standards
<p>2. How effectively do agencies and the community work together to keep children and young people safe?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Public awareness of the safety and protection of children and young people 	Standard 7 Agencies work in partnership with members of the community to protect children
<p>4. How good is operational management and protecting children and young people and meeting their needs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.3 Participation of children and young people, families and other relevant people in policy development 	Standard 6 Professionals and competent and confident

POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS - ACTION PLAN 2006 - 2007

Objective	What are we going to do?	When will we do it by?	Resources Required	How will we know when we have done it?
Ensure that child protection policies and procedures within East Ayrshire are informed by the views of constituent agencies.	Practitioners sub group to provide comments on and where appropriate suggest amendments to child protection policies and procedures as requested by the Child Protection Committee	As and when required.	Administration costs, staff time to attend and facilitate forum	Child Protection policies and procedures within East Ayrshire are informed by current practice
	Through work of sub group and practitioners forum practice and policy issues will be highlighted to East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee for consideration	As and when required	Administration costs, staff time to attend and facilitate forum	Child Protection Committee aware of practice issues in relation to Child Protection in East Ayrshire

POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS - QUALITY INDICATORS AND FRAMEWORK STANDARDS MET

Quality Indicators	Framework standards
4 How good is operational management and protecting children and young people and meeting their needs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1 Policies and Procedures 	Standard 6 Professionals and competent and confident
5 How good is individual and collective strategic leadership? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.1 Values, vision and aims • 5.2 Leadership and direction • 5.3 Leadership of people and partnerships • 5.4 Leadership of change and improvement 	Standard 8 Agencies, individually and collectively demonstrate leadership and accountability for their work and effectiveness

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION - ACTION PLAN 2006 - 2007

Objective	What are we going to do?	When will we do it by?	Resources Required	How will we know when we have done it?
Maintain an overview of management information from all member agencies about their work to protect children and young people, including analysis of trends or gaps in service provision	Development of process of collating management information from all member agencies	June 2006. Work is being taken forward to Autumn 2006.	Staff time to gather statistics, Performance and Audit Sub Group members time to develop a process for collation	Clear evidence of a wide range of information around agencies activity in protecting children.
	Development of process of analysing trends in the statistical management information collated	June 2006. Work is being taken forward to Autumn 2006.	Performance and Audit Sub Group members time to develop a process for analysing	Mechanism in place to assist understanding and analyse information.
	Use statistical management system to evidence effectiveness of current services and highlight any gaps.	July 2006	Performance and Audit Sub Group time	Service development plans are made based on management information.
	Strategic planning of children's services will consider the outcomes of the analysis of management information	November 2006		Improvements in children's services and ensure better and more integrated services for children in East Ayrshire
Development of an integrated chronological system of recording of significant events for children in East Ayrshire	Develop a method for ensuring that an integrated chronological history is contained in each child's file	Summer 2006	Staff time to develop	Chronology is available in each child's case records.
	Implementation of the integrated chronological history into all files	Phased programme beginning May 2006	Staff time to disseminate information and roll out programme	Children's files containing a integrated chronological history of significant events

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION - QUALITY INDICATORS AND STANDARDS MET	
Quality Indicators	Framework standards
<p>4 How good is operation management in protecting children and young people and meeting their needs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1 Polices and Procedures • 4.2 Operational planning 	<p>Standard 6 Professionals and competent and confident</p>
<p>5 How good is individual and collective strategic leadership?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.1 Values, vision and aims • 5.2 Leadership and direction • 5.3 Leadership of people and partnerships • 5.4 Leadership of change and improvement 	<p>Standard 8 Agencies, individually and collectively demonstrate leadership and accountability for their work and effectiveness</p>

QUALITY ASSURANCE - ACTION PLAN 2006 -2007

Objective	What are we going to do?	When will we do it by?	Resources Required	How will we know when we have done it?
Develop mechanisms to support the inspection process as required HMle.	Develop and action plan to support the inspection process	May 2006. (In place June 2006)		Agencies prepared for inspection and procedures in place to support the process.
	Ensure that all agencies are aware of and prepared for integrated system of inspection of child protection services beginning with seminar for managers and rolling out to all staff	2006 and continue on rolling programme basis	Staff time to present briefings. Venue, refreshments, photocopying	Agencies aware of inspection and prepared
Self evaluate child protection services in East Ayrshire.	Undertake a self assessment on areas agreed using the framework agreed to ensure that in practice it is working effectively.	Begin February 2006 and carry out programme of self evaluation. Now in process.	Quality improvement staff time	Knowledge of the quality of child protection service provision in East Ayrshire.
Construct and implement action plans from self assessment to improve services for children in East Ayrshire	Ensure that the areas for improvement as a result of self evaluation are transferred into improvement plans	Ongoing from April 2006		
	Ensure that the work highlighted in improvement plans are completed and result in better services for children in East Ayrshire	Process of continuous improvement		Improvements in children's services and ensure better and more integrated services for children in East Ayrshire
Receive, co-ordinate and provide analysis of interagency audit reports from other areas as published	Receive and review interagency audit reports, discuss their outcomes and provide analysis which includes examples of good practice and plans for improvement for Child Protection Committee	As and when required	Performance and Audit Sub Group time	Agencies aware of outcomes of inspections in other areas.

QUALITY ASSURANCE – QUALITY INDICATORS AND FRAMEWORK STANDARDS MET

Quality Indicators	Framework standards
<p>4 How good is operational management and protecting children and young people and meeting their needs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1 Policies and Procedures 	<p>Standard 6 Professionals and competent and confident</p>
<p>5 How good is individual and collective strategic leadership?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.1 Values, vision and aims • 5.2 Leadership and direction • 5.3 Leadership of people and partnerships • 5.4 Leadership of change and improvement 	<p>Standard 8 Agencies, individually and collectively demonstrate leadership and accountability for their work and effectiveness</p>

PROMOTION OF GOOD PRACTICE - ACTION PLAN 2006 -2007

Objective	What are we going to do?	When will we do it by?	Resources Required	How will we know when we have done it?
Organise a multi agency Practitioners Forum four times a year	Practitioners sub group to facilitate, monitor and review the running of the practitioners forum	Forum now established with future programme in place	Sub group members time, Administrative support, Costs per forum.	Operational practitioner's forum within east Ayrshire.
	Ensure appropriate administrative and financial support for the running of the forum	October 2006	Administrative support, Costs per forum.	
Ensure a robust system is in place for information sharing between the practitioners forum, the practitioners sub group and East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee	Ensure that the Practitioners forum is informed about the work of East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee	Maintained on a quarterly basis.	Sub group members time, Administrative support, Cost per forum	Effective two way communication system established
Ensure a robust system is in place for information sharing between the practitioners forum, the practitioners sub group and East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee	Ensure the views of the forum are collated and forwarded to the Child Protection Committee	Quarterly reporting cycle in place	Sub Group Chair's time, Administrative support	Child Protection Committee fully appraised of the issues raised by the forum
	Encourage the development of a process of practitioner forum members sharing information in relation to the forum's work with colleagues.	In place	Sub-group members' time, Administrative support, Cost per forum, Staff time to attend.	

PROMOTION OF GOOD PRACTICE - QUALITY INDICATORS AND FRAMEWORK STANDARDS MET	
Quality Indicators	Framework standards
4 How good is operational management and protecting children and young people and meeting their needs? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4.1 Policies and Procedures	Standard 6 Professionals and competent and confident
5 How good is individual and collective strategic leadership? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.1 Values, vision and aims• 5.2 Leadership and direction• 5.3 Leadership of people and partnerships• 5.4 Leadership of change and improvement	Standard 8 Agencies, individually and collectively demonstrate leadership and accountability for their work and effectiveness

TRAINING & STAFF DEVELOPMENT - ACTION PLAN 2006 - 2007

Objective	What are we going to do?	When will we do it by?	Resources Required	How will we know when we have done it?
Develop a four step inter-agency training programme covering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic awareness, • foundation, • Investigation & Assessment and Prevention & Recovery • Advanced/Specialist 	Agree extent of staff group to be trained in Basic Awareness training, commission a service provider, roll out to staff	Begin to roll out Summer 2006. Scheduled for August / September 2006 in partnership with Children 1 st	Costs of commissioning service plus administration costs	All staff aware of responsibilities in relation to child protection
	Foundation agreement of modules to be developed. Commission modules from outside agencies and development of module in relation to law and communication	Begin to roll out Autumn 2006.	Costs of commissioning service plus administration costs	Inter-agency staff working with children and their families have access to variety of child protection training options
	Ensure that the interagency CP training plan is easily accessible and disseminated across all agencies within East Ayrshire	Autumn 2006.	Costs of printing and dissemination	Staff aware of training availability
Ensure that the work of EA Child Protection Committee training sub group is consistent with the national child protection training developments via Child Protection Strategic Training Group (CPSTG)	Ensure that the workings of the sub group are up to date with the CPSTG developments	Maintain national links.	Child Protection Coordinator and Child Protection Training Officer's time	Training plan consistent with national developments.
Ensure that lessons learned from relevant reports, legislative changes or	Ensure that training sub group are aware of developments and that training is reviewed	Continuing review and development of training provision	Staff time	Child protection training up-to-date and referencing most recent reports and policy

TRAINING & STAFF DEVELOPMENT - ACTION PLAN 2006 - 2007

Objective	What are we going to do?	When will we do it by?	Resources Required	How will we know when we have done it?
research directly inform training and staff development	and supplemented to ensure that staff are aware of the developments.			changes
Review and evaluate the current training plan to ensure continuing to meet needs	Develop a process to annually review the training programme or when requested by the Child Protection Committee	September 2006	Training sub groups members time	Child protection training regularly reviewed and appropriate to staffs needs.
	Agree benchmarks training will be evaluated against and a mechanism for the evaluation of courses by participants.	Autumn 2006	Training Officer	Workable tool in place to receive the views of course participants
	Evaluations to be analysed strategically	Reviewed quarterly.	Training Officer	Future training plans to be influenced by the views of participants and meeting the needs of staff
Monitor training attendance	Develop a system for collating data in relation to child protection training attendance to enable monitoring.	June 2006. Work is in progress.	Administration and Training sub groups members time	Monitoring system in place and information easily extracted to enable strategic planning.
	Provide participants with a certificate of attendance	Established for all training inputs	Administration	Staff members able to evidence the training they have completed

TRAINING & STAFF DEVELOPMENT - QUALITY INDICATORS AND FRAMEWORK STANDARDS MET	
Quality Indicators	Framework standards
4 How good is operational management and protecting children and young people and meeting their needs? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4.4 Recruitment and retention of staff• 4.5 Development of staff	Standard 6 Professionals and competent and confident
5 How good is individual and collective strategic leadership? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.1 Values, vision and aims• 5.2 Leadership and direction• 5.3 Leadership of people and partnerships• 5.4 Leadership of change and improvement	Standard 8 Agencies, individually and collectively demonstrate leadership and accountability for their work and effectiveness

COMMUNICATION & CO-OPERATION - ACTION PLAN 2006 - 2007				
Objective	What are we going to do?	When will we do it by?	Resources Required	How will we know when we have done it?
Promote effective communication and co-operation both within and between professionals	Ensure the implementation of the East Ayrshire Information Protocol		Staff time	Information Sharing Protocol is being implemented by all Child Protection Committee Partners
	Child Protection Committee Web-site to be developed as part of the communication strategy to ensure relevant information is available for professional members of the public and children and young people	Oct 2006	Child Protection Committee Information Budget	Web-site online and updated
	The Practitioner Forum to be maintained and developed to facilitate inter agency communication	Annually	Staff time	Practitioner Forum established and informing strategic planning at Child Protection Committee
	Multi agency training will assist in improving communication (Year on Year increase in the scope of CP Training available)	Annually	Input from Practitioners Sub Group	Child Protection training calendar being delivered

COMMUNICATION & CO-OPERATION - QUALITY INDICATORS AND STANDARDS MET

Quality Indicators	Framework standards
<p>2. How effectively do agencies and the community work together to keep children and young people safe?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1 Public awareness of the safety and protection of children and young people 	<p>Standard 7 Agencies work in partnership with members of the community to protect children</p>
<p>2 How good is the delivery of key processes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1 Involving children, young people and their families in key processes • 3.2 Information sharing and recording • 3.3 Recognising and assessing risks and needs • 3.4 Effectiveness to planning to meet needs 	<p>Standard 4 Agencies and professionals share information about children where this is necessary to protect them</p> <p>Standard 5 Agencies and professionals work together to assess needs and risks and develop effective plans</p>
<p>4 How good is operational management and protecting children and young people and meeting their needs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.4 Recruitment and retention of staff • 4.5 Development of staff 	<p>Standard 6 Professionals and competent and confident</p>
<p>5 How good is individual and collective strategic leadership?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.1 Values, vision and aims • 5.2 Leadership and direction • 5.3 Leadership of people and partnerships • 5.4 Leadership of change and improvement 	<p>Standard 8 Agencies, individually and collectively demonstrate leadership and accountability for their work and effectiveness</p>

PLANNING AND CONNECTIONS - ACTION PLAN 2006 - 2007

Objective	What are we going to do?	When will we do it by?	Resources Required	How will we know when we have done it?
Ensure that there are clear links between the Child Protection Committee and other strategic planning structures	Improve level of communication between Child Protection Committee and other planning mechanisms e.g. Children's Services Planning/Community Planning Partnership/ADAT	June 2006. Minutes and Reports have been available in the public domain since June 2006	Staff time	Systems will be in place between Child Protection Committee and other planning structures Minutes sent to appropriate partners Minutes and Reports available to public
Agree budget and funding arrangements for 2006-2007 and beyond	Discuss and agree with partner agencies long term funding arrangements for the Child Protection Committee	September 2006	Staff time	Minuted agreement

PLANNING AND CONNECTIONS - QUALITY INDICATORS AND STANDARDS MET

Quality Indicators	Framework standards
4 How good is operation management and protecting children and young people and meeting their needs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1 Policies and Procedures 	Standard 6 Professionals and competent and confident
5 How good is individual and collective strategic leadership? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.1 Values, vision and aims • 5.2 Leadership and direction • 5.3 Leadership of people and partnerships • 5.4 Leadership of change and improvement 	Standard 8 Agencies, individually and collectively demonstrate leadership and accountability for their work and effectiveness

LISTENING TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY - ACTION PLAN 200 - 2007

Objective	What are we going to do?	When will we do it by?	Resources Required	How will we know when we have done it?
Ensure that children are being asked their views by Service Providers, that they are being recorded and inform decision making	Establish procedures to ensure that within the relevant agencies children are being asked their views and that they are being recorded and inform decision making	This should be evidenced in day to day practice and recording	Staff time	Children's views being recorded by relevant agencies
	Consult with children and young people regarding public information to be produced and web-site	August 2006	Staff time through the Public Information and Engagement sub group	Endorsement of material produced by young people
	Ensure views of children and young people are obtained if they are subject of a child protection process	Evidenced in day to day practice and recording	Staff time	Children and young peoples views and wishes are evidenced in reports and minutes

LISTENING TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY - QUALITY INDICATORS AND STANDARDS MET

Quality Indicators	Framework standards
<p>1. How effective is the help children and young people get when they need it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1 Children are understood and listened to • 1.2 Children and young people benefit from strategies to minimise harm • 1.3 Children and young people are helped by the actions taken in immediate response to concerns • 1.4 Children and Young peoples needs are met 	<p>Standard 1 Children get the help they need and when they need it Standard 2 Professionals take timely and effective action to protect children Standard 3 Professionals ensure children are listened to and respected</p>

LISTENING TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY - QUALITY INDICATORS AND STANDARDS MET

<p>2. How effectively do agencies and the community work together to keep children and young people safe?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2.1 Public awareness of the safety and protection of children and young people	<p>Standard 7 Agencies work in partnership with members of the community to protect children</p>
<p>4. How good is operational management and protecting children and young people and meeting their needs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4.3 Participation of children and young people, families and other relevant people in policy development	<p>Standard 6 Professionals and competent and confident</p>

Appendix 2

Membership of Child Protection Committee

The East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee currently has representation from:

Executive Head of Social Work East Ayrshire Council (CHAIR)
Lead Director (Child Protection) NHS Ayrshire and Arran (VICE CHAIR)
Superintendent Strathclyde Police (VICE CHAIR)
Head of Quality Improvement, East Ayrshire Council
Head of Housing, East Ayrshire Council
Senior Manager Children & Families, East Ayrshire Council
Head of Community Support, East Ayrshire Council
Senior Procurator Fiscal
Authority Reporter SCRA
East Ayrshire Children's Panel Chair
Lecturer in Social Work Paisley University
Designated Doctor (Child Protection) NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Designated Nurse (Child Protection) NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Detective Inspector, Family Protection Unit Strathclyde Police
General Manager East Ayrshire Community Health Partnership

Membership of the Chief Officer's Group

The Chief Officers' Group is lead by:

Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council (CHAIR)
Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Chief Superintendent, Strathclyde Police

Also in attendance:

Executive Head of Social Work / Chair of the Child Protection Committee
Lead Director (Child Protection), NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Superintendent, Strathclyde Police
Depute Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services, East Ayrshire Council
Senior Manager, Children and Families and Criminal Justice, East Ayrshire Council

Appendix 3

NATIONAL LEGISLATION STRATEGIC PLANNING

This section provides a summary of some of the key national legislation and policy planning frameworks the Child Protection Committee requires to function.

Relevant Legislation

The key legislative base for Child Protection in Scotland remains the **Children (Scotland) Act 1995**. This Act places a duty on local authorities to protect and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and includes a range of legislative duties and processes to enable all local authority services to promote welfare and ensure that children rights and needs are effectively addressed.

Local Government Act 2003, part 2 sets the context of Community Planning. It places a duty on a range of agencies, including health boards and police, to co-operate with the process. Part 3, of the act deals with the power of well being. This sits alongside Community Planning and allows a local authority to do anything to promote well-being with the local authority's area.

Scottish Executive Guidance

A range of guidance also is in place to enable community planning partners to respond to the care and protection of children and young people. These include:

- **For Scotland's children – better integrated children's services. Scottish Executive 2000.** – This guidance sets out the framework for improved partnership working and integration of children's services, including joined up child protection assessment and intervention.
- **“It's everyone's job to make sure I'm alright – Report of the Child Protection Audit and Review Scottish Executive 2002** – This guidance set out a range of recommendations for the improvement of child protection activity including the setting of standards and revision of the remit and membership of the Child Protection Committees.
- **Report Of The Caleb Ness Inquiry Executive Summary And Recommendations 2003** – This report made a number of additional recommendations to improve child protection responses from partners.
- **Protecting Children and Young People – Framework for Standards Scottish Executive 2004** This document has been developed for children and young people, their parents and for all adults and agencies that work with children in Scotland to ensure that the outcomes of the Charter for Protecting Children and Young People is being addressed.
- **Protecting children and Young People: Guidance in respect to Child Protection Committees Scottish Executive January 2005** – This guidance has been developed to set out clear expectations from Child Protection Committees, including their function; activity and outcomes. This report and business plan sets out how we plan to work locally in accordance with the national guidance.
- **Getting Our Priorities Right – Making it work together Scottish Executive 2001** – Policy and practice guidelines for working with children and families affected by problem drug use.

- **Hidden Harm Scottish Executive 2004** – The Scottish Executive’s response to the UK Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drug (ACMD) report “Hidden Harm” published in 2003. This response covered not only issues identified about the impact on children of parental drug use, but also those related to parents with alcohol problems.
- **Hidden Harm – Next Steps Scottish Executive 2006** – Highlights the progress made and further action required to address the impact on children of parental drug and alcohol misuse.
- **Getting It Right for Every Child Scottish Executive 2005** – Consultation on the Children’s Hearing System focussing on how to improve and integrate the delivery of children’s services.