



East Ayrshire
Child Protection Committee
Biannual Report 2021 to 2023



Contents

Forward by East Ayrshire Chief Officers Group	3
Independent Chair Child Protection Committee	4
Introduction	5
CPC Leadership & Management	7
Our Vision	9
Summary of CPC Activity 2021/23	10
Sub Group Activity	12
Child Protection Activity	14
How We Protect Children	16
Our Progress and Achievements	17
CPC Budget	27
Continuous Improvement and Self-Evaluation	28
Multi-Agency Learning & Development	30
Future developments and priorities 2024/27	32
Appendix A	34
Children and Young People’s Services Planning and Governance Arrangements Diagram	



Foreward

By East Ayrshire Chief Officers Group

The East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee Biennial Report for 2021-23 sets out the key role of the Child Protection Committee in ensuring the inter-agency response to the protection of East Ayrshire's children is cohesive, structured, and working towards continuous improvement.

This biannual report summarises some of the Child Protection Committee's achievements throughout the period under review. As a Chief Officer Group we recognise that we are on a journey of continuous learning and improvement.

We maintain close working relationships with agencies in the statutory, voluntary, and independent sectors and are determined to ensure we retain an outcome-focused approach to child protection matters.

As Chief Officers, we fully appreciate the challenge of ensuring East Ayrshire's children are safe as well as providing a platform from which all children in East Ayrshire can reach their full potential. We have continued to make progress towards achieving our aims since the publication of the last biennial report.

This report reflects on the successes and identifies our areas of further improvement. We extend our appreciation for the continuing efforts of all agencies in East Ayrshire working together to protect children and young people. This work is challenging and complex, however, it is an area in which we are committed to achieving excellence.

We endorse the contents of the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee Biennial Report 2021-23.



Chief Executive

East Ayrshire Council



Chief Superintendent

Police Scotland



Chief Executive

NHS Ayrshire & Arran



Independent Chair East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee

Child Protection Committees across Scotland produce Reports which sets out their priorities for the coming year. I am pleased to present East Ayrshire's biannual report summarising our multi-agency activity.

This report presents the findings from a range of single and joint self-evaluation activities which are focussed on keeping our most vulnerable children and young people safe and taking action to protect children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation. It sets out our key achievements, strengths and areas for further improvement.

The Child Protection Committee partners have worked together to achieve our improvement priorities for 2021/23 and I am pleased to report that we have achieved significant progress.

While the last two years brought many challenges, it has also highlighted a strong ethos of partnership working within East Ayrshire, which has been evident throughout ensuring service responses have been co-ordinated and directed to those in greatest need.

It has not been possible to achieve all that we set out to do, however, significant progress has been made, and through the continued hard work, commitment and dedication of all our staff we will continue to make a positive difference to improving the life chances of all children, young people and families living in East Ayrshire.



Moira McKinnon

Independent Chair



Introduction

Context



East Ayrshire is a diverse area covering some 490 square miles with a population of approximately 122,600 people spread over both urban and rural communities. Kilbarnock is the largest urban area with a population of around 46,600 and other settlements that range from less than a hundred people in some villages and rural areas to around 9,000 in Cumnock, the second largest town.

Many parts of East Ayrshire are prosperous, and it is a vibrant area in which to live, work and to visit and there are many opportunities for East Ayrshire children and young people; however, significant inequalities continue to exist within and between our communities. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 highlights that in East Ayrshire, the local share of most deprived areas has fallen by two per cent, going from 33 per cent in 2016 to 31 per cent in 2020. We also have

the seventh largest proportion of population, in Scotland, categorised as most deprived. This level of poverty is reflected in the fact that there are currently thirty two active foodbanks or 'larders' as they are sometimes known, in operation in East Ayrshire. This is an increase of 100% since the last CPC Biennial report (2020/21)

The impact of rurality on our population is significant also, with increased access to services an important focus for partnership working. This, coupled with our high levels of poverty and deprivation, has the potential to negatively impact on child wellbeing and poverty.

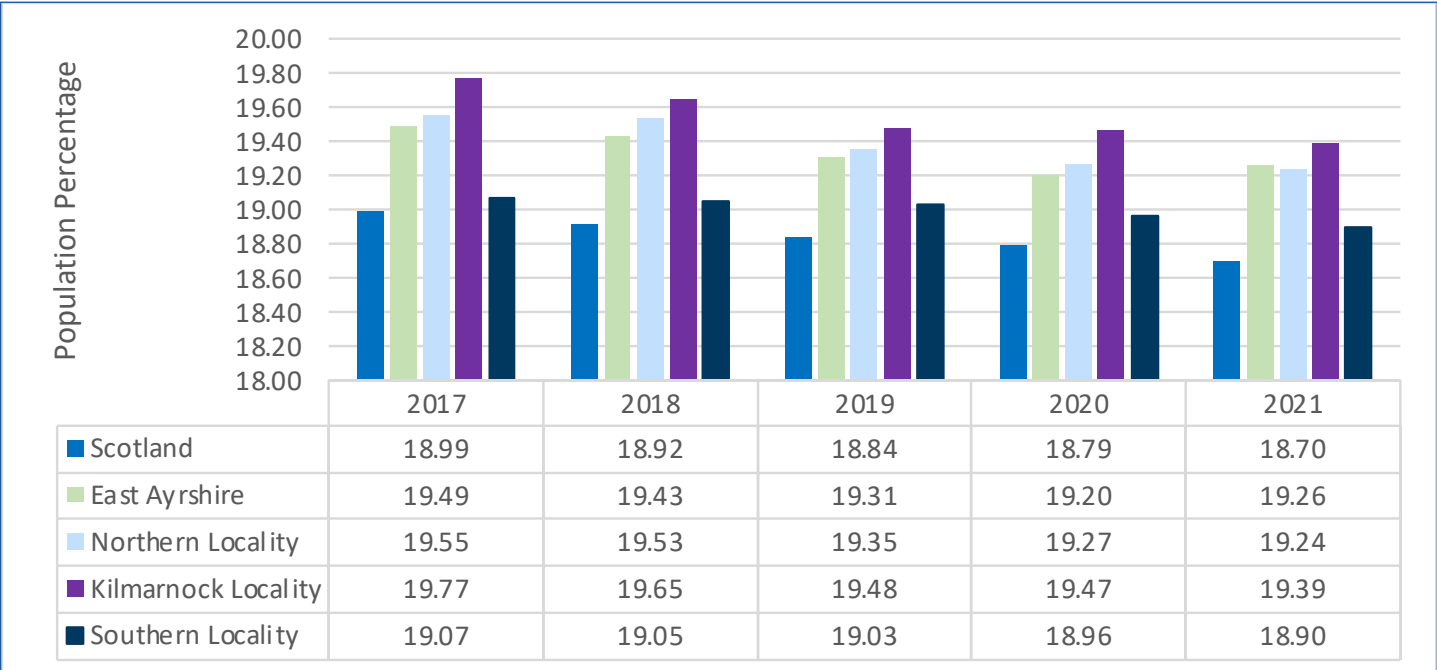
In addition, the impact of the high incidence of misuse of alcohol and drugs is considerable across many aspects of our communities, from the loss of individual talents, pressures on health services, the impact on children and families and implications for justice services and community safety.

Demographics

Table 1 - Midyear population estimates 0 – 18 year old

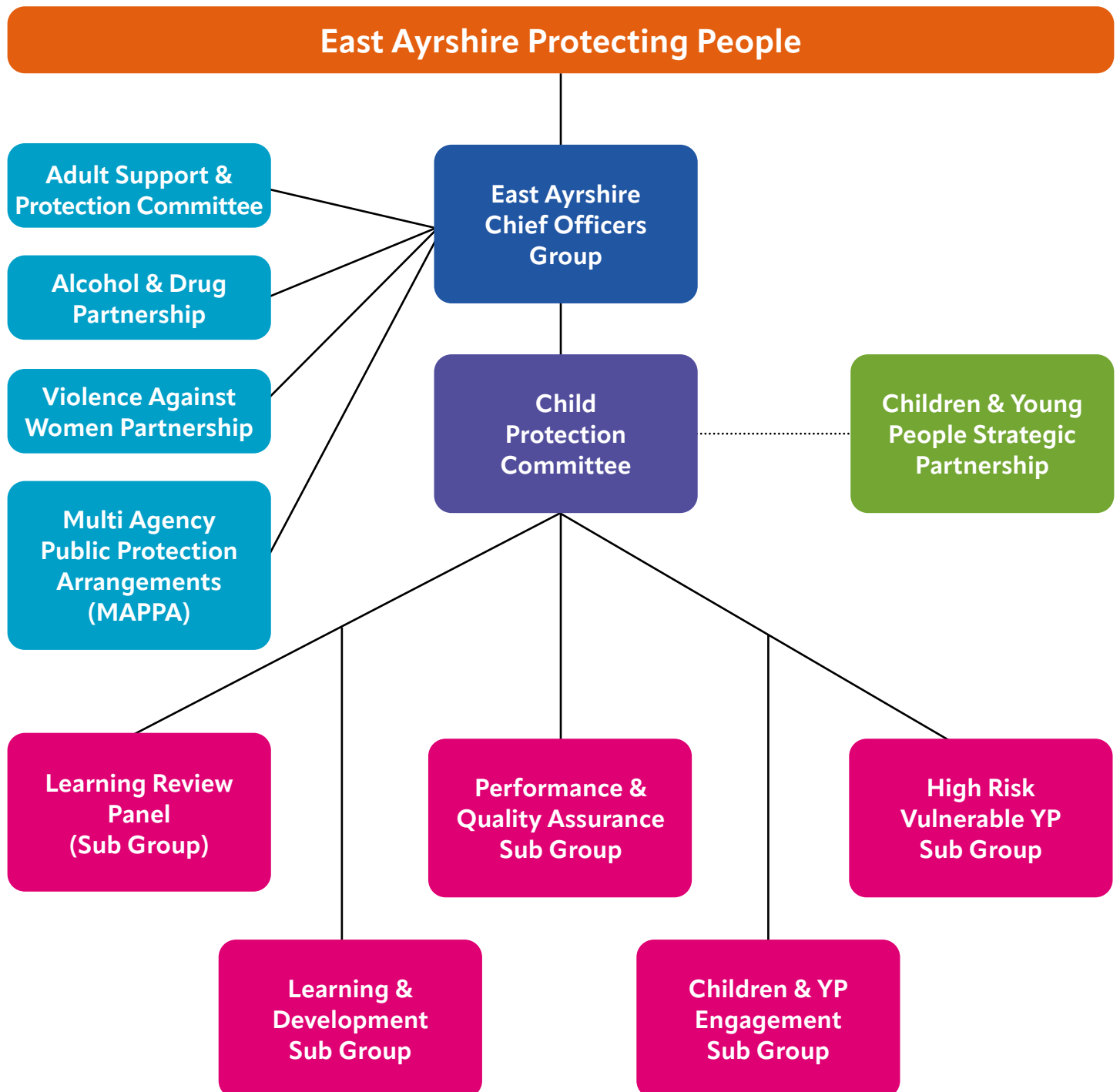
The National Records for Scotland note mid-year population estimates for 0-18 year olds have decreased year on year from 2017 to 2021 in Scotland as a whole but fluctuated in East Ayrshire. From 2017 to 2021, the mid-year population estimates for 0-18 year olds decreased by 0.23% in East Ayrshire and 0.29% in Scotland.

The population is projected to fall year on year in East Ayrshire with the largest decrease being projected between 2032 and 2036, when the population is expected to decrease by 0.7%. In contrast, the population in Scotland as a whole is expected to increase year on year with the largest increase being expected between 2024 and 2028 at 1.5%. Both the Northern and Southern localities are expected to see a decrease in population from 2024 to 2036 by 7% and 9.7% respectively. The population in the Kilmarnock locality is expected to increase by 3.8% in this time period.



CPC Leadership & Management Structure

CPC Structure 2021/23



Leadership

The East Ayrshire Child Protection CPC (CPC) is the key local body responsible for implementing and improving child protection strategy across and between agencies, bodies and East Ayrshire communities. The CPC have a crucial role in identifying and managing risk to children and young people, monitoring and improving performance and promoting the ethos that, "It's everyone's job to make sure I'm alright." Its role, local structures and membership, provide leadership and direction for the management of child protection services across East Ayrshire.

As illustrated above, the CPC is governed by the Chief Officers Group (COG) who have clear responsibilities set out in the [Protecting children and young people: Child Protection CPC and Chief Officer Responsibilities Guidance](#) published by the Scottish Government in February 2019. The East Ayrshire COG is well established as is the relationship between the COG and CPC. The structure also illustrates the connectedness through the COG of the CPC with the other strategic partnerships across East Ayrshire and with Ayrshire partners, namely APC, VAWP, ADP and MAPPA all working together under the banner of East Ayrshire Protecting People to take forward child protection policy and practice across the local area and across Scotland.

CPC Management and Strategic Links

The CPC adheres to the [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021](#). The CPC fulfils its core functions through the structure above and the multi-agency Child Protection CPC Improvement Plan 2022/23, which is referenced in this report. The CPC's membership has senior representatives from partnership agencies and an Independent Chair which ensures impartial oversight and scrutiny. The East Ayrshire independent CPC chairs meet on a regular basis to ensure alignment of systems and processes.

The CPC meets four times a year to discuss data, learning, national policy and business of continuous improvement. In addition to CPC business meetings, a CPC development session and CPC self-evaluation session are held each year. The CPC have also held an annual practitioner's forum since 2022 to ensure the experience and views of the multi-agency workforce are heard and influence the CPC improvement plan.

With the introduction of a new Independent CPC Chair as well as a new Lead Officer July/ August 2021, and the welcome of new CPC members during 2021 - 2023, the 2022 development sessions focused on a refresh and revision on what it means to be a CPC member, reviewing a shared vision and shared aims and objectives. Members then built on this in 2023 by considering a shared culture, connection and commitment to protecting children and young people across East Ayrshire. The 2023 self-evaluation session focused on the implementation of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland within East Ayrshire, creating a pathway for annual self-evaluation of CP practice across the multi-agency partnership as well as benchmarking on current successes and areas for continued development.

East Ayrshire COG, comprising the statutory agencies (EAC, NHS and Police Scotland), determine the budget and resource for the ongoing work of the CPC. This is required to meet staff costs, anticipated local expenditure to carry out the child protection work which includes learning reviews, priorities identified in this report and the CP Programme 2022/23 and moving forward 2024-27. Cost is also determined within the budget for commissioned Learning and Development training from Barnardos (Child Exploitation). The staffing complement for East Ayrshire CPC is the Independent Chair and Lead Officer.

Our Vision

Taking the foregoing local context into account, the vision expressed for all citizens of East Ayrshire in the Community Plan is that:

East Ayrshire is a place with strong, safe and 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 combined vision of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and the Child Protection CPC is:

'in East Ayrshire, children and young people grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential'

Therefore, our commitment to children and young people, their families and carers is to provide them with the support they need, when and where they need it, in order to help them achieve their aspirations and full potential at all life stages.



Summary of CPC Activity 2021/23

East Ayrshire & Pan Ayrshire Activity

Over the course of 2022/23 the CPC, and all those working across the partnership, have worked towards delivering on the many initiatives and improvements striving to make sure children and young people are safe and well across East Ayrshire.

East Ayrshire

- Development of the Cherishing Our Families Neglect Strategy
- Development of the Whole Family Approach (to GOCR) Practitioners Guidance
- Implementation of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021
- Implementation of Multi Agency Not at Home Protocol for looked after young people (Missing Young People)
- Development of Care and Risk Management Practitioners Guidance
- Continued implementation of the Safe & Together Model of assessment for Domestic Abuse
- Delivery of findings from joint South Ayrshire and East Ayrshire Significant Case Review
- Development of a joint ASP/ CP Quality Assurance Framework
- Implementation of the National Minimum Data set v2
- Establishment of the Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group
- Establishment of the High Risk Vulnerable Young Person Sub Group
- Planning and facilitation of Child Exploitation / NRM Managers session in conjunction with Barnardos and Glasgow City Council colleagues
- Planning and development of Child Sexual Exploitation Multi Agency Sessions for 2024 – in conjunction with Barnardos
- Support of the role out of Trauma Informed Contact and Care across EA Education establishments
- Development of the CPC Self Induction Handbook

Pan Ayrshire

- Development of the Pan Ayrshire Learning Review Guidance
- Development of the Pan Ayrshire Child Protection Procedure
- Implementation of the Scottish Child Interview Model and establishment of the Ayrshire JII Team
- Development of Pan Ayrshire Adult and Child Trafficking multi-agency Practitioner's Guidance
- Revision of the Pan Ayrshire Non-Disclosure Protocol
- Development of Pan Ayrshire Interagency Guidance Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019

Delivery on the EA CPC Interim Improvement Plan 2022/23

The 2022/23 plan was developed under the four key functions of the CPC: Strategic Planning, Continuous Improvement, Public Information & Communication and Annual Reporting.

At the conclusion of the 2022/23 plan, there were 25 completed actions equating to 55% of the plan. Of total actions, 49% will follow into the 2024/27 plan. This is due to ongoing implementation work streams, continuous improvement actions and the establishment of subgroups to allow the CPC to meet its core functions and requirements.



Subgroup Activity

Learning Review Panel Subgroup

What we have done

The Learning Review Panel was established in June 2022 following the development of the Pan Ayrshire Learning Review Guidance. Over 2022/23 the Learning Review Panel have had oversight of all Learning Review notifications which have come to the attention of the CPC. There are currently two Learning Reviews underway which began within the 2022/23 period covered. Findings are yet to be published.

What we will do next

The Learning Review Panel will continue to have oversight and monitor learning review activity on behalf of the CPC, reporting findings and providing recommendations for improvement work and how learning can be disseminated across the workforce.

Progress of 2022 - 23 Interim CPC Improvement Plan



55%

completed actions



49%

follow on actions

Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup

What we have done

As part of the CPCs ongoing improvement and development work, the multi-agency Performance and Quality Assurance subgroup was established in July 2022, the group provides oversight to self-evaluation and quality assurance work on behalf of the CPC. Across 2022/23 the subgroup focused on the establishment of clear governance and reporting routes for reoccurring self-evaluation and quality assurance work taking place across the partnership. This has included the direction of the Multi Agency Case File Audit Group, the multi-agency working group now aligned to the PQA group, as well as the return of annual multi-agency case file audit work which is aligned to the Adult Support and Protection multi-agency case file audit work. The group have also supported joint CPC/ subgroup development of an ASP/ CP Quality Assurance Framework (2023-24).

What we will do next

The group will continue to have oversight and reporting responsibilities of all quality assurance work to the CPC. Into 2024 the group are aligning other avenues of multi-agency improvement work, including the quality assurance and review of Interagency Referral Discussions.

Young People at Risk of Harm Subgroup

What we have done

The Young People at Risk of Harm (YPARH) subgroup (initially known as the High Risk Vulnerable Young Person Group) was established in June 2022. The purpose of the subgroup is to raise practitioner and agency awareness of the needs of young people who are considered to be at high risk of harm and exploitation, to improve current processes regarding care planning and to oversee practice and policy development. Across 2022/23 the group identified six key (crosscutting) areas of focus, child exploitation, online sexual abuse/ exploitation, trafficking, missing young people and drug and alcohol services, harmful sexual behaviours (CARM). Following a multi-agency practitioner's workshop in November 2022 it was determined that child sexual and criminal exploitation was an immediate need of focus. The YPARH subgroup progressed a suite of workshops, in collaboration with Barnardos and Glasgow City Council colleagues. The first session took place with social work managers in October 2023 with multi-agency workforce sessions scheduled for 2024.

What we will do next

The subgroup will continue to progress areas of work identified as being key to working with East Ayrshires most at risk young people. As noted six multi agency sessions are scheduled with Barnardos colleagues to focus on building awareness and confidence of the workforce with complex issues of child sexual exploitation. Work will begin in 2024 around contextual safeguarding processes and practices to ensure strong interagency connectedness across partners which focuses not only the child/young person but which understands the context of the child/young person's experiences and how agencies can work together to better understand contextual risk and safeguarding. Further multi agency consultation will take place moving forward to ensure the YPARH subgroup remain focused on progressing areas of work most needed and beneficial to practitioners.

Children and Young Person Engagement Subgroup

What we have done

Initial discussions began on the establishment of the Children and Young Person Engagement Subgroup in October 2023 with a recognition of the importance of capturing the voice and experiences of children and young people. The aspiration of this group is to ensure that the voices of children and young people in East Ayrshire are central to the work of the CPC.

What we will do next

Establishment of the group in 2024.

Learning and Development Subgroup

What we have done

Initial discussions began on the re-establishment of the multi-agency Learning and Development Subgroup in December 2023 with a recognition of the importance of capturing the multi-agency needs to the CPCs Learning and Development course calendar.

What we will do next

Establishment of the Learning and Development subgroup with a learning needs analysis undertaken to inform the trajectory of the groups work.

Child Protection Activity

Child Protection Data

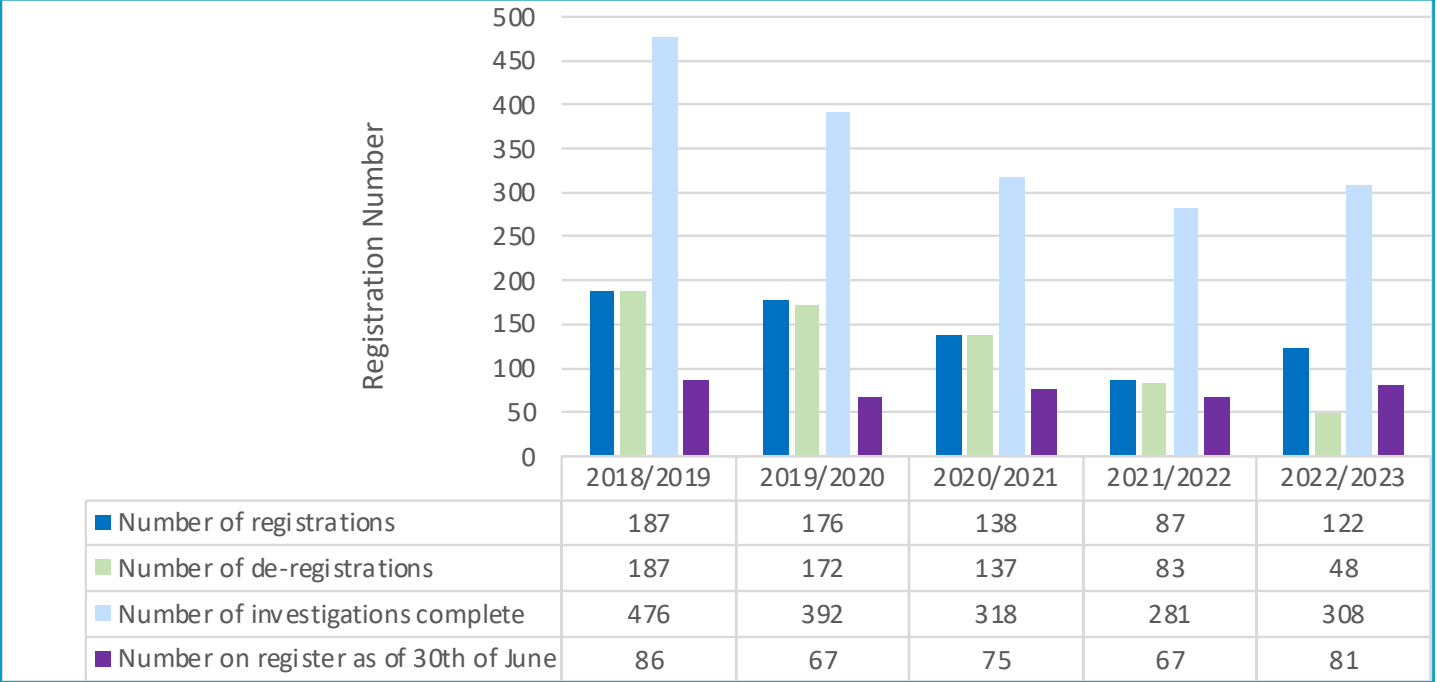
The number of child protection registrations has generally declined over the last five years, falling by 34.8% between 2018/19 and 2022/23.

The number of de-registrations has decreased year on year over the time period reported. The most significant decrease occurred between 2020/21 and 2021/22 when deregistration fell by 39.4%. Overall, deregistration has fallen by 74.3% between 2018/19 and 2022/23.

The number of investigations completed generally declined over the time period reported, falling continuously from 2018/19 to 2021/22 by 41%, followed by an increase of 9.6% from 2021/22 to 2022/23.

The number of children on the register as of 30th June has fluctuated over the last five years. The number increased by 20.9% between 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Table 2 - Child Protection Registration Rate, deregistration rate, pre-birth case conferences, conversion rate from case conferences to registration – East Ayrshire



The number of child protection registrations has generally declined over the last five years, falling by 34.8% between 2018/19 and 2022/23.

Table 3 - Age of Children on the Child Protection Register – East Ayrshire

Age	30th June 2021	30th June 2022	30th June 2023
0 - 4 years	24	25	38
5 - 9 years	24	22	20
10 - 15 years	22	19	19
16+ years	5	*	*
Unborn	0	0	*
TOTAL	75	*	81

Source: East Ayrshire Internal Recording System – Liquidlogic (1st July to 30th June). * = suppressed.

Overall age range figures of children and young people on the child protection register have remained relatively stable across the period 2021/23. There is a notable increase in the number of children aged 0 – 4 years old on the child protection register for the year 2023 in comparison to 2021/22, an increase of 58%. It is noted that there has been no 16+ year old young people placed on the CP register for 2022/23.

Table 4 - Initial/Pre Birth Case Conferences – Number

Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pre birth	28	*	23	20	23	-
Initial	224	*	160	125	109	-
Total	252	*	183	145	132	-

Source: East Ayrshire Internal Recording System – Liquidlogic (1st July – 30th June). * = suppressed.

The total number of case conferences has decreased by 47.6% between 2018 and 2022. The vast majority have been comprised of initial conferences.



How We Protect Children

Taking a collective and collaborative approach to working with the problems associated with child protection in East Ayrshire is the key to success for the CPC. By connecting partners together in a regular, meaningful and consistent manner ensures there is a good exchange of specialist knowledge, experience and best practice.

The CPC continues to be fully committed to driving forward the National Getting it Right for Every Child approach, with a view to: improving outcomes; supporting the wellbeing of the children and young people; and offering the right help at the right time from the right people. This approach is strengthened through the CPC's strong focus on continuous improvement and self-evaluation, ensuring services and supports for children and their families/carers are regularly reviewed and remain of the highest standard.

In working closely with the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, we have a more holistic approach and commitment when working with children, young people and their families/carers to:

- **Recognise the importance of people and relationships in our delivery of high quality services**
- **Develop Vibrant and Sustainable Communities**



Our Progress & Achievements

During the past two years, the CPC has been involved in or supported the drive forward of a wide range of initiatives, programmes, developments and process changes, with a view to improving and refining child protection matters in East Ayrshire. Evidence of this work includes the following –

Education

Within Education every school and Early Childhood Centre has a Child Protection Co-ordinator, with the responsibility to deliver a child protection presentation annually and follow the Education Scotland Safeguarding and Child Protection self-evaluation. They are brought together by the Education Manager for Children's Services and communicated with regularly through the weekly Head Teacher e-mail.

Trauma Informed Contact and Care

The Trauma Informed Contact and Care (TICC) initiative is a unique Police and Education early intervention safeguarding partnership which ensures a child/young person's school is notified prior to the start of a school day if there has been an incident of domestic abuse to which the child or young person has been exposed.

A test of change commenced in September 2021 and TICC was rolled out to all schools across Ayrshire from 1st April 2022. From January 2024 the initiative was rolled out to all Early Childhood Centre's.

Education staff follow the GIRFEC Child's Pathway and Team with the Family model with Request for Assistance (RFA) processes to ensure the child/young person receives an appropriate and proportionate response.

This initiative demonstrates Ayrshire's Police Division and Education Department's commitment to ensure we support the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and young people for a better outcome in life.

Safer Schools App

The Safer Schools Scotland app launched in East Ayrshire in March 2023, was developed by iNEQE Safeguarding Group, and funded by Zurich Municipal and is now available to download from Google Play or the App Store by parents and carers of children and young people attending all East Ayrshire establishments. The app, which was been designed by safeguarding experts to educate, empower, and protect school communities; provide news, a calendar for events, essential updates and information for parents and carers but also contains vital safeguarding information. The online safety centre ensures that parents and carers know how to safely support their child or young person's online activity including learning how to block, report and set safety and privacy settings on popular online platforms like Tik Tok and Snapchat. We have begun to explore how the app can be used to support other services in relation to safeguarding and communication sharing with parents and carers. At the end of session 22/23 we have over 12,000 adult account and look forward to launching with pupils in 23/24.

Health

Health Visiting and School Nursing

Activity over the period 2021 – 2023 consolidated much of the early work underway during 2018 – 2020. The homeless notification process is now fully implemented in partnership with Health, Education and Housing. This has supported early identification of families at risk of eviction and homelessness allowing services to intervene and provide support much earlier.

'BabyChat'

BabyChat was developed to support infant feeding initially but has developed over the last two years and has helped reduce the loneliness and social isolation of many of our new mothers and their babies. We have been able to increase the number of groups across East Ayrshire with a focus on the areas with greatest identified need.

The service now has a well establish clinical supervision model and we are now also implementing a model of Peer Group Clinical Supervision. Guidance and supervision agreements have developed allowing health visiting teams to lead on this reflective model of supervision to improve practice and learning in supporting our managing some of our more complex cases. All staff had to complete NES Supervision models prior to participating in this model. Tripartite supervision and supervision with line managers continues over and above.

Within East Ayrshire our Early Years teams continue to meet our Chief Executives Letter (CEL) 16 Commitments and ensure our children who become care experienced or looked after are all offered a health needs assessment within 4 weeks. We now offer all our Looked After and Accommodated children and young people an annual review health assessment to identify any new concerns or worries for that young person. We now have a notification process in place that allows us to be more confident and accurate in knowing who are care experienced population are.

Social Work

Safe & Together

Since the last Biennial Report 2018 – 2020 East Ayrshire continue to be invested in the implementation of Safe & Together, an assessment model designed to support professionals to improve their awareness and understanding of domestic abuse.

East Ayrshire, along with North and South Ayrshire, placed a successful bid with the Government (Delivering Equally Safe fund) to fund a Lead to implement the S&T Model. The appointment commenced in Sept 2022, which has allowed for the development of a multiagency strategic plan which intends to transform culture and practice responses to domestic abuse. This means risk and harm are understood more comprehensively, therefore allowing for more meaningful safeguarding and support to children and their families who are living with and have lived with domestic abuse. This is achieved by shifting the traditional accountability on the non-offending parent, and instead focusing this on the adult causing harm to address their behaviours.

The model provides a suite of internationally recognised tools, however, with feedback and learning from our practitioners and service users, localised guides and prompts to support language and practice change have been developed and are in circulation.

Practitioners from both Social Work and Children's Health services access Case Consultations to support the direct application of the model to practice, a shift from failure to protect narratives on mothers to increased assessment and intervention with the adults causing harm is emerging. Importantly, this leads practitioners to understand that children are not just exposed to domestic

abuse but are victims in their own right and should be supported in response to their experiences, feelings and longer term trauma.

The model aligns with current priorities and key practice developments including Trauma Informed Practice, The Promise and GIRFEC, while work has been underway to embed the model into specific domestic abuse processes, including MARAC.

Scottish Child Interview Model and the Pan Ayrshire Child Interview Team

Planning for the Pan Ayrshire Joint Investigative Interview Team began following invite from the Scottish Government to Chief Officers to participate in Phase 2 of the [Scottish Child Interview Model \(SCIM\) Pilot](#). The new SCIM model of joint investigative interviewing is a trauma informed approach which aims to improve the quality of children's evidence so that it can be used as evidence in chief with additional aim of improving children's experiences of child protection and court processes, and reducing the need for the child to repeat their experiences.

Following preparatory planning period of approximately 2 years, and successful recruitment of four social workers, four police partners and a team co-ordinator the Pan Ayrshire Child Interview Team went live on 18 July 2022 upon the successful completion of the intensive graduate qualification required to participate in the Scottish child Interview Model pilot.

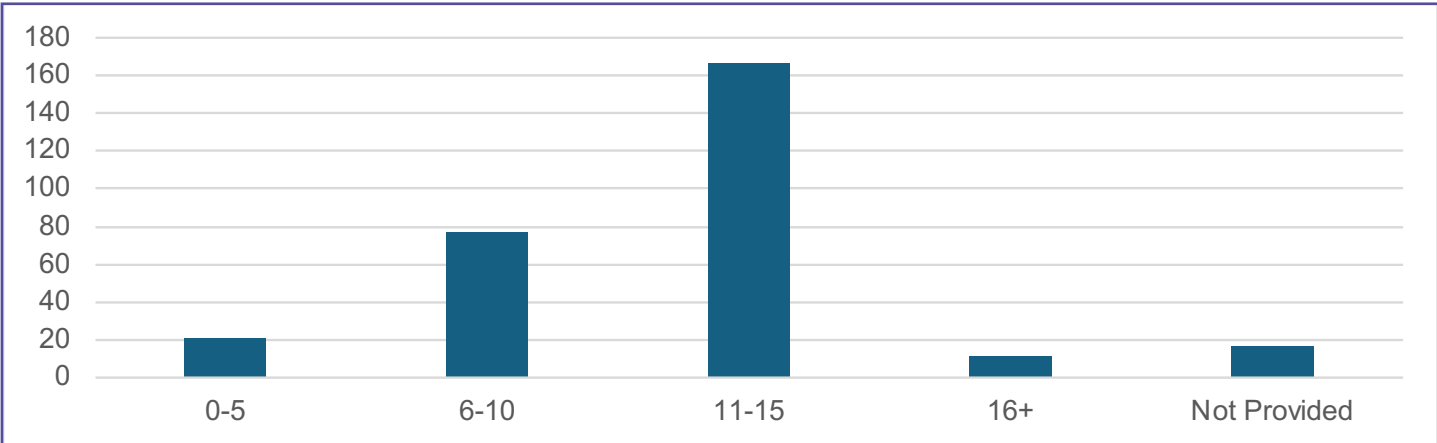
The work of the Child Interview Team is underpinned by the principles of the Scottish Child Interview Model and the GIRFEC approach. Taking a child centred approach to planning interviews has been vital in securing the best evidence and providing the necessary support for the child before and after their interview.

Since inception of the Child Interview Team, all child interviews, where requiring best evidence, has been undertaken by the team. From 18 July 2022 – 31 July 2023 the Child Interview Team have undertaken 294 interviews were carried out by the Child Interview Team. Of these interviews, 230 were recorded as conducted under the SCIM model, 18 under the Stepwise model and 42 police only.

Demographics of Interviews

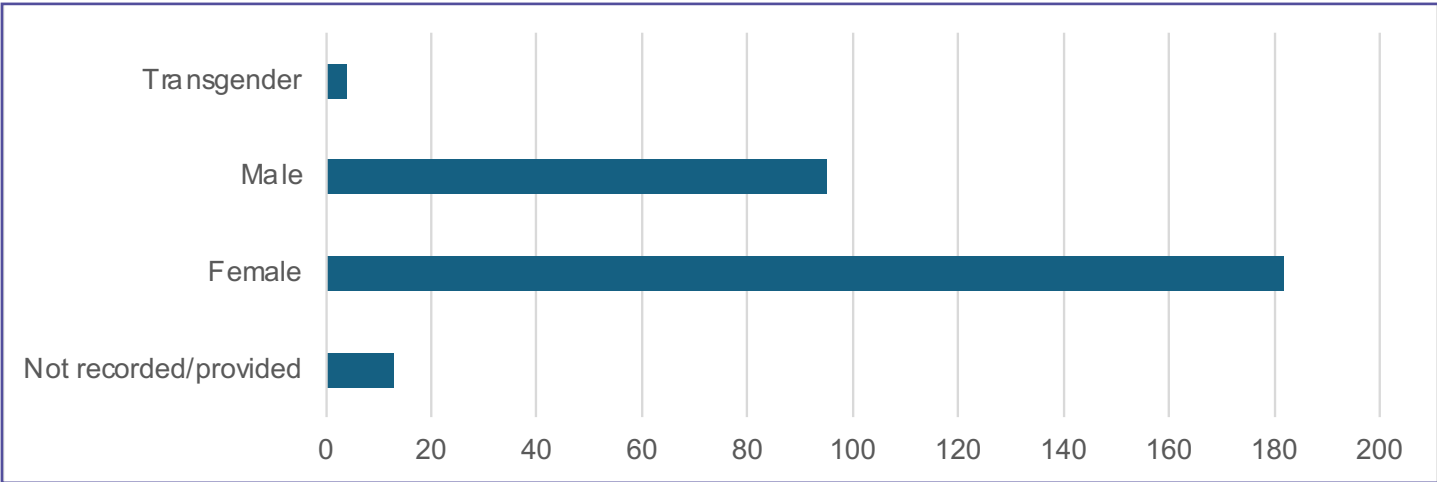
Age of Children & Young People

The age of the child or young person was not recorded on 17 occasions, with the youngest child interviewed being 4 years old and the oldest child was 17 years old.



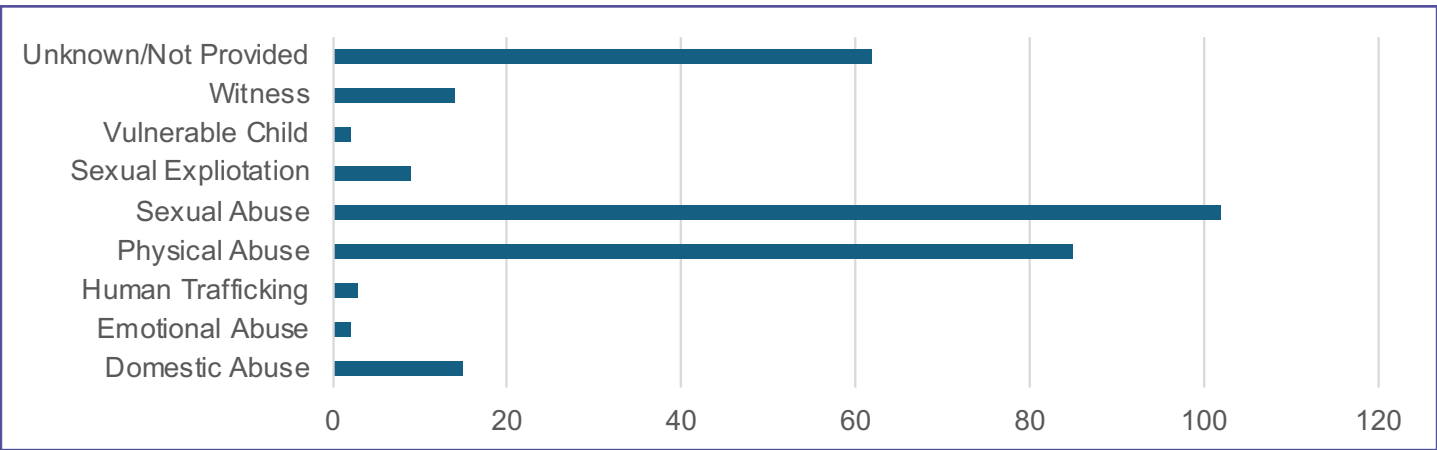
Gender

The data provided demonstrated that 182 interviewees were recorded as female and 95 as male, with 4 interviewees recorded as transgender. The gender of the interviewee was not recorded or provided on 13 occasions.



Primary Concern

The most common reason for interview on a Pan Ayrshire basis was for sexual abuse. The second most common reason for interview was for physical abuse. The concern was not recorded on 62 occasions and recorded as a witness on 14 occasions but no detail surrounding the nature of the investigation.



Child Friendly Scheduling Pilot

SCRA Ayrshire have piloted a Child Friendly Scheduling Pilot to ensure young people have more say in how and when their hearings take place to support better participation of young people in their hearings. In line with the findings of the Promise, that times of Hearings should be more flexible to fit around children's lives, 100% of children attending hearings within Ayrshire will have a choice about the date, time and location of their hearing (whether that be physical or virtual) by March 2023.

As part of this, Secondary School aged children in identified educational test sites in each of the local authority areas will be given the choice of participating from their school in 100% of the time, to ensure children and young people who choose to attend their hearing, minimise the impact of their attendance on their school day by March 2023.

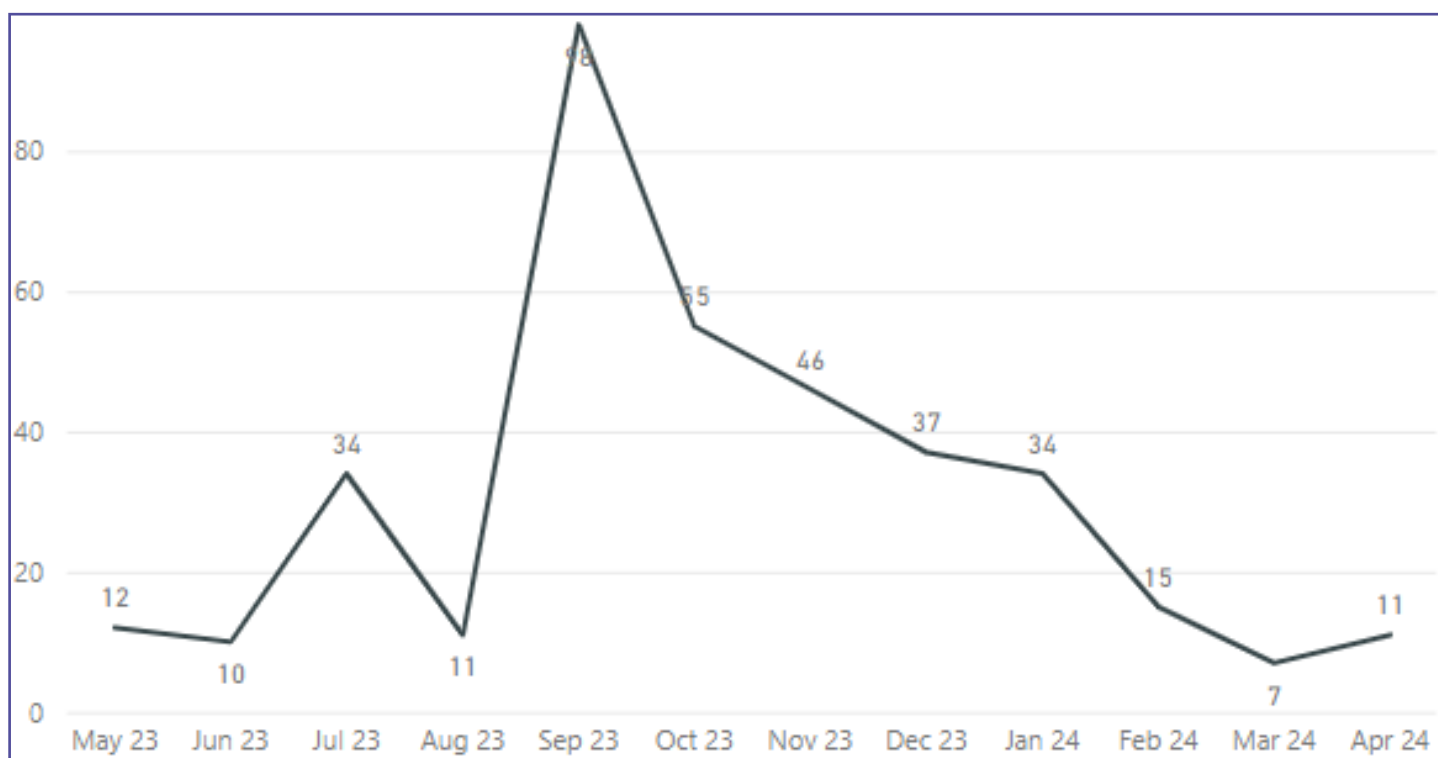
	YES	NO	TOTAL
Child received their preference on date	96.43% 27	3.57% 1	28
Children received their preference on timing	100.00% 30	0.00% 0	30
Children received their preference on location	100.00% 31	0.00% 0	31
Children received their choice of Model (eg. F2F or Virtual)	100.00% 29	0.00% 0	29
Child wants to participate in their Hearing from the identified school	7.69% 2	92.31% 24	26
Child wants to participate from the identified school and is arranged to do so	7.69% 2	92.31% 24	26
No preference	61.11% 11	38.89% 7	18

Offence Referrals

In September 2023 SCRA Ayrshire received an unprecedented spike in offence referrals, East Ayrshire received on average under 15 offence referrals per month. In September 2023 SCRA received 98 offence referrals.

This was taken to the WSWG for multi-agency consideration. SCRA met with Police Scotland to discuss this spike and partner agencies established a multi-agency short term working group to consider offence referral rates. A deep dive was undertaken by SCRA in respect of this spike of offence referrals in September 2023. This allowed SCRA to consider the dates of the incidents to identify any delay in referrals being made; and also identify any commonalities in terms of young people frequently coming into conflict with the law, locus of the incidents and the offence.

Discussions took place regarding the use of Early and Effective intervention as a disposal route for some young people as EEI did not see the same spike in referrals as SCRA did. Following these discussions SCRA have seen a decrease in offence referrals whereby EEI have seen an increase since discussions began and a continued steady referral number thereafter. The children who at one time could automatically have been referred to SCRA appear to now be being referred to EEI instead. As a result EEI have developed intensive support packages for a group of youths who frequently were coming into conflict with the law.



Vibrant Communities

Youth Action Team Roadshows

Vibrant Communities, in partnership with Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and NHS Ayrshire and Arran collectively delivered a series of workshops to all 7 Secondary Establishments in East Ayrshire. The workshops, delivered to all S1 pupils, were pertinent topics to educate and encourage young people to make reasoned decision and sensible choices when in the community with friends.

Workshops included:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Workshop
- Fire and Water Safety workshop
- Peer Pressure and Stigma Workshop
- Awareness of Alcohol and Drugs Workshop
- Youth Action Workshop

The roadshows were a great success and young people noted their learning and the impact the workshops had on them as shown below:

- 1372 young people participated in the roadshows
- 85% felt that were more confident
- 81% will feel safer in the community
- 96% more responsible when out in the community
- 76% felt they have improved their communication skills
- 92% increased skills and/or knowledge

The Youth Action Team Roadshows have become a vital engagement opportunity with young people in East Ayrshire to target young people and encourage active citizenship and responsible decision-making. From this young people worked towards the following education and youth outcomes:

- I know of action I can take to help someone in an emergency HWB2-42a
- I am learning to assess and manage risk, to protect myself and others, and to reduce the potential for harm when possible HWB2-16a
- I understand the effect that a range of substances including tobacco and alcohol can have on the body. HWB 2-38a
- Young People are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future
- Young People consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control

Child Protection/Safeguarding Coach Education

East Ayrshire Sports Council, which is administered by Vibrant Communities, continue to provide specific Child Protection themed coach education workshops throughout the year. These courses are designed for sports club coaches, volunteers and athletes to attend and gain an understanding of the theory behind safeguarding/child protection through a sporting lens and ensures that all their respective clubs have adequate procedures in place within their governance structures.

As well as this, East Ayrshire is one of the few local authorities that delivers child protection coach education courses specifically designed for you people to attend, meaning that young people/

athletes are gaining an understanding of this topic from an early age and play a vital role within the club structures in terms of identifying and dealing with any potential issues/concerns that they may have.

Between 2021 – 23 there were:

- **Child Wellbeing & Safeguarding attendees: 199**
- **Child Protection (14-18yrs attendees): 18**

Youth Conferences

The Vibrant Communities annual Youth Conferences take place every November and are designed to engage with all primary and secondary schools on subject matters that are pertinent to, and affecting young people throughout the authority and wider. 4 themed workshops are co-designed with young people and delivered to all participating schools over the two days of conferences. The topics delivered in 2023, which were agreed by the Children and Young Peoples Cabinet as important topics included:

- **The Vaping Crisis**
- **TikTok & Online Challenges**
- **Money Matters**
- **Expressing Yourself**

The two days of conferences were extremely successful with 356 young people participating. At the end of our conferences, all of our young people were encouraged to complete the evaluation form of, which 157 young people did. Feedback from those who completed an evaluation form that having participated in the Youth Conferences workshops noted:



Young Persons Mentor/Mentoring Development Officer (Care Experience)

The Mentoring team deliver term time wellbeing provision to support young people ages between S1 and S6 who are currently, previously or at risk of being care experienced.

Interventions include group and 121 supports focusing on wellbeing project areas such as; building and maintaining positive relationships, self-confidence and self-esteem, understanding emotions and life skills.

Throughout 2023/24, the Mentors have supported:

- 75 CE young people across
- 6 educational establishments
- 192 tailored support sessions
- 23 groups and 17 young people have benefitted from 1-2-1 support sessions
- 19 young people have achieved Dynamic Youth Awards so far, these awards are SCQF level 3

Annual National Playday Event

The National Playday event which supports the UNCRC is the biggest event in East Ayrshire during the summer calendar with over 6000 children, young people and families attending from not only across all our communities in East Ayrshire but much further afield. This annual event, as always, is a very successful event led by Vibrant Communities with various Council partners and third sector organisations participating in the event. Child protection and the rights of the child remain a key theme throughout the planning and delivery of the annual event.

Danger Detectives

Danger Detectives is a multi-agency 6-8 day event delivered in the month of May each year aimed at Primary 6 children and young people across all Primary establishments and SEN schools. This multi - agency partnership is led by Vibrant Communities and supported by Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, EAC Trading Standards, EALT Ranger Service and EAC Health & Safety section. This experiential learning event aims to reduce accidents amongst young people whilst building community resilience. It achieves this by creating a safe environment where young people can; become more aware of personal safety both in-doors and outside, learn how to react to dangerous situations, know what roles the emergency services play and how to seek help, make a contribution towards reducing both crime and accidents.

- 2022 - 1300 pupils across 38 primary and SEN schools attended
- 2023 – 1200 pupils across 35 primary and SEN schools attended

Home Link Support

From April 2021 – March 2022 the Home Link (HL) team providing tailored support where it was needed based on referrals to 193 children, young people and their families on a weekly basis including 6,591 phone calls, 539 garden visits, 982 supportive emails and 270 requests from parents/carers for further general wellbeing support. From April 2022 to March 2023, Home Link Team have continued to make progress across all 7 Education Groups with the team providing tailored support where it is needed most to 298 Children, young people and their families. Over this period of time 152 children and young people no longer require Home Link support. From those 298 children and young people, 226 (76%) were logged as having ASN, 207 (69%) were logged as in receipt of Free School meal entitlement and 45 (15%) children and young people were logged as currently or previously being Looked After.

Vibrant Communities ensures that all Staff and Volunteers are trained in Child Protection and other associated training. The training is reviewed annually.

Police

Not At Home Protocol

The Not at Home Protocol was introduced to the Ayrshires in 2021. This protocol holds its roots in the National Missing Person Framework for Scotland, The Promise and reflects the responsibilities asked of Police Scotland partners as Corporate Parents to Ayrshire's looked after children and young people.

Reflecting the aims of the Missing Person Framework for Scotland, the Not at Home protocol has two key aims:

- to prevent children and young people from going missing in the first place; and
- to limit the harm associated with children and young people going missing.

The protocol places emphasis on a multi-agency partnership working approach to the four key stages of the protocol which are Prevent, Respond, Support and Protect and recognises the needs for each missing child or young person require understanding and an individual response to missing episodes and ongoing support.

Awareness sessions were rolled out across East Ayrshire and partners across 2021 with supporting resources to aide the multi-agency response to our looked after children and young people who experience missing episodes.

Scottish Child Interview Model and the Pan Ayrshire Joint Investigative Interview Team

As already noted earlier in the report, within the Social Work summary, Police partners have been fully engaged with the Scottish Child Interview Model pilot hosted within East Ayrshire, and supporting Ayrshire partners where child victims and witnesses require to be interviewed. This work will continue as a key priority of work and will be monitored through the reporting of the CPC Improvement Plan 2024 – 27.

Trauma Informed Contact and Care

As already noted within the Education summary of activity, the Trauma Informed Contact and Care (TICC) initiative is a unique Police and Education early intervention safeguarding partnership which ensures a child/young person's school is notified prior to the start of a school day if there has been an incident of domestic abuse to which the child or young person has been exposed.

This initiative demonstrates Ayrshire's Police Division and Education Department's commitment to ensure we support the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and young people for a better outcome in life.

Campus Cops and Digital Resilience in Education

The Digital Resilience Safety Plan 2020 – 23 developed from CPC priorities identified from the 2018 – 2020 business plan. The online safety of East Ayrshire children and young people was recognised as a key priority and as such the education led, multi-agency digital resilience safety plan was developed. Police partners supported many aspects of this plan, with continued input and support moving forward from conclusion of the plan in 2023. Campus Cops have played a vital role in supporting the awareness of risks online and understanding to school age students on how to stay safe and what to do in the event of possible online harm or danger.

Digital resilience and safety is now a standing curriculum item in schools across East Ayrshire and as such Campus Cops continue their support to this multi-agency priority.

Budget

The Committee is resourced annually through:

- A dedicated budget to meet the costs of the Lead Officer, along with essential running costs;
- A separate budget to meet the costs of the Independent Chair, including necessary travel costs;
- Resources in kind which are dedicated to support key activities e.g. Multi-agency Learning & Development events etc; and
- Resources in kind which all partner agencies make available to fulfil the functions of the EACPC e.g. contribution to multi-agency file audit etc

The following is a summary breakdown of the Child Protection Committee's budget and actual costs 22/23.

	2021/22	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23
Description	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Salary costs	55,067.85	60,530.00	62,952.96	61,550.00
Committee Recurring Costs	10,587.63	10,9290.00	14,160.25	12010.00
NHS Contributions	-4,030.00	-4030.00	-4030.00	-4030.00
Police Scotland Contributions	-8248.00	-8280.00	-8248.00	-8280.00
Net Cost	53,341.48	59,140.00	64,799.21	61,250.00
Expenditure Gross	65,655.48	71,450.00	77,113.21	73,560.00

There has been an overall under-spend of £5,794,52 in 2021/22 primarily due to savings in commissioning of SCRs/ Learning Reviews and engagement activities due to coming out of Covid-19. There was an overspend of £3,553.21 in 2022/23, due to commissioned activities and Chair costs

Reviews of the CPC budget continue to ensure monies align with appropriate cost centres, in line with the changing requirements and Committee's projected needs.

Continuous Improvement & Self- Evaluation

Multi Agency Case File Audit

East Ayrshire CPC is committed to the continuous improvement of our multi-agency child protection arrangements which are underpinned and informed by our self-evaluation activity.

Moving on from Covid-19 in person self-evaluation activity and discussions did not take place until 2022. The Independent Chair and CP Lead Officer held a self-evaluation development session with CPC members in May 2022, followed by an engagement session with front line staff. This has become an annual activity which further informs the ongoing cycle of improvement and self-evaluation work across East Ayrshires CPC.

While the multi-agency case file audit did not take place in 2020, steps were taken to reintroduce this in 2021 with November 2021 audit cycle taking place online via MS Teams. This continued through 2022 with November 2023 being the first in person multi agency case file audit cycle since 2019. This three day event followed revisions made to the Care Inspectorate audit tool and was described as a success by multi agency participants.

Interagency Referral Discussion (IRD) Reviews

IRD monthly reviews continued on through 2021 – 2023 with the use of MS Teams. The group have met every 4 weeks to review a sample of identified IRDs from both the north and south of the authority.

From improvement work identified by the group, an IRD quality assurance group was set up late 2023 to consider arising issues, alignment with national work as well as pan Ayrshire and have revised templates for use by the audit group. Through 2024 the group will consider the development of local/ pan Ayrshire IRD training for those of the partnership who undertake IRDs.

The current pan Ayrshire IRD protocol continues to be reviewed, with current work to align pre-birth processes to the National Child Protection Guidance (2021, updated 2023).

Data & Evidence

The CPC retains an overview of management information from all key agencies relating to the protection of children and young people.

The Committee:

- has an overview of information relating to children and young people with their names listed on the Child Protection Register
- receives quarterly child protection data reports, which include analysis of trends
- identifies and address the implications of these data reports
- ensures that management information informs the inter-agency child protection strategy and provides an oversight for the East Ayrshire's Chief Officers Group

Self-Evaluation of the Implementation of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2021)

As part of the national self-evaluation exercise, East Ayrshire CPC members met in October 2023, and consulted with the Chief Officers Group November 2023 to complete the self-evaluation which informed CELCIS response to the Scottish Government. The exercise was identified as being a helpful tool to evaluate our progress of local implementation and as such the Committee agreed to hold this event on an annual basis until completion of the implementation of the national guidance and local CP Procedure.

Learning Reviews

The National Guidance for Child Protection Committees Undertaking Learning Reviews was published September 2021. Since publication the Learning Review Panel, on behalf of the CPC, have received five notifications for consideration of a learning review, with two meeting the criteria and progressing. Findings, learning and improvement work will be provided during 2024.



Multi Agency Staff Learning & Development

Multi Agency Training

During 2021 – 2023, the Multi Agency Children's Services Learning and Development worker delivered a total of 15 courses and these were attended by 694 participants. In addition to the core subjects such as Safe & Together briefings, 2 day course and 4 day courses, Child Protection, Working with Resistant Families, National Risk Framework, Neglect and CEOP. While Ms Willet delivered 51% fewer courses in comparison to 2018/202 figures, practitioner uptake rose by an incredible 98%.

The Multi Agency Children's Services Learning and Development calendar will continue to be reviewed to ensure there is alignment with workforce needs and emerging issues and themes for practitioners.



Calendar of CPC Activity 2022/23

The table below illustrates the CPC events of 2022/23 calendar.

February 2022	March 2022	April 2022
	CPC Business Meeting Pan Ayrshire Learning Review Guidance Published	
May 2022	June 2022	July 2022
CPC Development Session Multi-Agency Practitioner Forum MA Case File Audit	CPC Business Meeting Establishment of HRVYP Subgroup	Establishment of the PQA Subgroup Pan Ayrshire SCIM JII Team Go Live Post CPC PQA Subgroup
August 2022	September 2022	October 2022
HRVYP Subgroup PQA Subgroup	CPC Business Meeting Introduction of the MDSv2	Post CPC PQA Subgroup
November 2022	December 2022	Jan 2023
Child Exploitation MA Practitioners workshop (HRVYP) MA Case File Audit HRVYP Subgroup PQA Subgroup	CPC Business Meeting Post CPC PQA Subgroup	MA Neglect Workshop – Strategy Development
February 2023	March 2023	April 2023
EA Protection Chair and Lead Officer Development Session HRVYP Subgroup PQA Subgroup	CPC Business Meeting	Post CPC PQA Subgroup
May 2023	June 2023	July 2023
CPC Development Session HRVYP Subgroup PQA Subgroup	CPC Business Meeting	Post CPC PQA Subgroup
August 2023	September 2023	October 2023
PQA Development Session HRVYP Subgroup PQA Subgroup	CPC Business Meeting CPC Self Evaluation Development Session Post CPC PQA Subgroup	CPC Self Evaluation of the implementation of the National Guidance for Child Protection SW Child Exploitation/ NRM Day with Barnardos
November 2023	December 2023	Jan 2024
MA Case File Audit HRVYP Subgroup PQA Subgroup	CPC Business Meeting Publication of Pan Ayrshire Child Protection Procedure CPC Self Induction Handbook	

Future Developments and Priorities 2024/27

Next Steps 2024/27

Since the publication of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021, replacing the 2014 publication, the Committee have been actively evaluating and implementing the changes identified in the new guidance, much of these are threaded throughout this report. Undoubtedly there is still work to be done to implement some of the changes which will be informed by national developments. Areas which are not fully implemented will sit within our CPC Child Protection Improvement Plan 2024/27. We recognise that these changes need time to embed before we can fully evaluate the impact on improving outcomes for children and young people. We will continue to regularly self-evaluate our progress.

Our audit work and learning from Learning Reviews has identified the importance of strong multi agency partnership working and robust systems and processes to ensure our staff feel confident and competent in delivering services to all children and families in East Ayrshire. During 2024/27 we will explore new partnership frameworks such as Contextual Safeguarding and Signs of Safety to ensure the child and their family is at the centre of all our interventions and that we are able to evidence our services are delivering positive outcomes for children in East Ayrshire.

Priorities for the Next Three Years

The CPC has identified the following developmental work which is reflected in our improvement plan for 2024/27.



IMPLEMENTATION OF PAN AYRSHIRE CP PROCEDURES

Supporting the operational role out and embedding of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland and local CP Procedures



NEGLECT

Ensuring our workforce understand the impact of children growing up in neglect and the associated negative outcomes



CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING/ CHILD EXPLOITATION

Ensuring our workforce are confident and equipped to identify risk and harm for our children and young people in the community and in wider networks (away from home)



SAFE AND TOGETHER

Supporting the continued implementation of safe & together as the assessment model to working with families who are affected by domestic abuse and violence

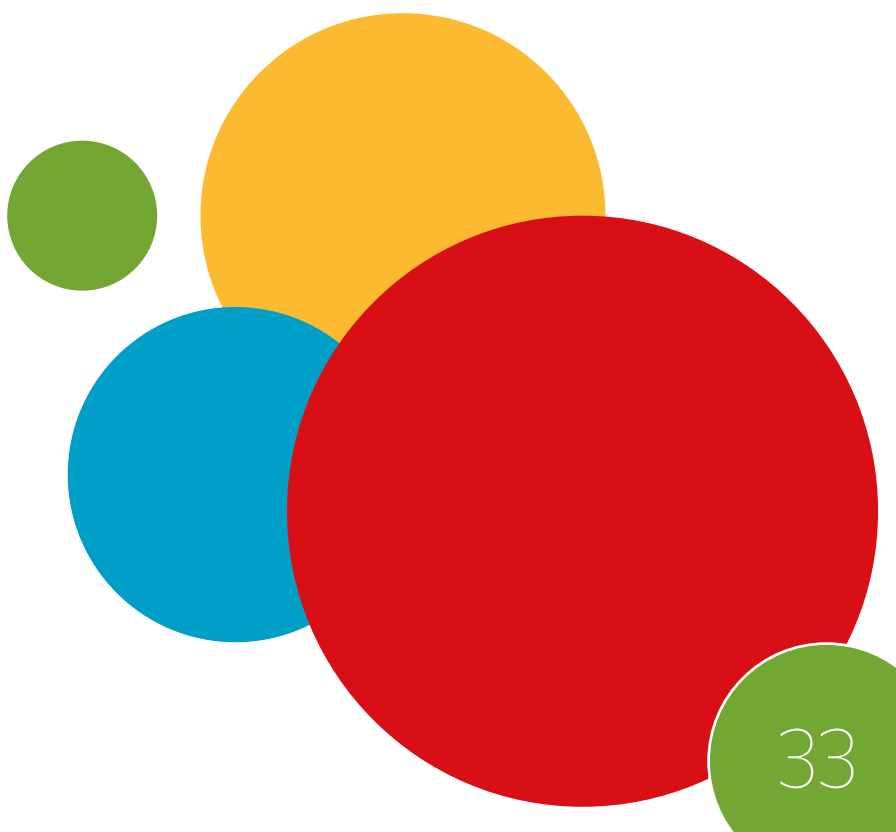


COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Developing a communication strategy for the engagement of EA children & YP with lived experience of CP processes while supporting with compliance of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (incorporated) Scotland Act 2024

Calendar of Planned Activities

Priorities	2023/24				2024/25			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Implementation of the Pan Ayrshire CP Guidance	➔							
Child Exploitation	➔							
Revised National Guidance for Child Protection & Learning Reviews 2021	➔							
Development of CYP and Public Communication & Engagement Strategies				➔				
Multi agency workforce learning needs analysis				➔		➔		
Sharing of findings from Learning Reviews and improvement plans				➔		➔		



Children and Young People's Services Planning and Governance Arrangements June 2023

