Welcome to the first online newsletter from the East Ayrshire Protecting People partners.

Many people may be unaware of the sterling work which is carried out within East Ayrshire between several different partners to protect children, young people, adults and women at risk.

We hope you will find this newsletter useful in keeping you updated on the work of the East Ayrshire Protecting People partners and also of wider issues, available resources and initiatives that are in place to help protect the people of East Ayrshire.
New education resource from CEOP

‘Exploited’ is the latest education resource from the Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre’s (CEOP) Thinkuknow programme.

Based around an 18-minute film, Exploited helps young people learn how to stay safe from sexual exploitation by identifying the features of an exploitative friendship or relationship and giving clear information about how to report abuse and access support.

Practitioners working with young people can download it for free at: www.eac.eu/thinkuknowresources

CEOP also provides training and education resources for practitioners to use with children and young people to increase their understanding of online safety. Registration on the Thinkuknow website provides access to a range of education resources for 5-16s. www.eac.eu/thinkuknowregistration

Digi Dan

Police Scotland has launched a campaign to raise awareness about online safety for children.

Character ‘Digi Dan’ is available for young people at www.digidan.co.uk with his top tips for staying safe online. There’s also a quiz as well as Digi Dan’s ibook to download and advice for older children too.

Child Safety Week

Child Safety Week runs in Scotland this year from 2 - 7 June with a ‘Safety Heroes’ theme.

Organised by the Child Accident Prevention Trust, the week aims to raise awareness about how it’s the small things that families and practitioners do every day that make the biggest difference to keeping children safe from serious injury and death in accidents.

Visit www.eac.eu/childsafetyweek

New e-safety review tool for schools

A new ‘360 degree safe Scotland’ online tool has been launched for schools so that they can review their e-safety and develop action plans to bring about further improvements.

Visit www.360safescotland.org.uk
Talk PANTS to help keep children safe

Getting parents to talk to their children about protecting themselves from sexual abuse is the theme of an eye-catching new campaign by the NSPCC called ‘The Underwear Rule’.

The NSPCC is advising parents of children aged from 5 to 11 to tell their children that ‘privates are private’ – using the acronym ‘PANTS’. The Underwear Rule is a simple way for parents and children to talk about the issue of sexual abuse without using scary words or mentioning sex.

A child-friendly guide and other useful advice for parents is available at www.nspcc.org.uk.

Getting help and advice – for professionals working with children

Reporting grooming or other illegal behaviour
If you want to report someone who is behaving suspiciously online towards a child, you should call 999 in an emergency or otherwise on 101. Alternatively, you can make an anonymous call to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Reporting criminal content online
If you stumble across criminal content online, report it to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF). Criminal content in the UK includes child sexual abuse images, criminally obscene adult content as well as non-photographic child sexual abuse images. www.iwf.org.uk.

Online content which incites hatred on the grounds of race, religion and sexual orientation should be reported to True Vision, which tackles all forms of hate crime, including those on the grounds of disability and transgender identity. www.report-it.org.uk.

Reporting inappropriate media content
If you want to make a complaint about an advert, TV or radio programme, film, newspaper or magazine article, video game or other type of content that you think is unsuitable for children to see or hear, report it through ParentPort. www.parentport.org.uk.

Online safety helpline
The UK Safer Internet Centre offers support, advice and mediation with online safety issues to professionals who work with children. www.saferinternet.org.uk/
Tel: 0844 3814772 (calls charged at local rate).

Safer Internet Day

‘Let’s create a better internet together’ was the theme of this year’s Safer Internet Day (SID) on Tuesday 11 February.

Organised by the UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC), the day aimed to promote the safe and responsible use of online technology and mobile phones for children and young people.

Councillor Tom Cook, Spokesperson for Improving Community Safety at East Ayrshire Council, said: “With ever younger children living online these days, Safer Internet Day was a really important opportunity to encourage children and young people to think about how they are able to play a part in keeping themselves safe when using internet enabled devices such as laptops, tablets and mobile phones.

“It was also a chance for parents, carers and teachers to keep the lines of communication open with children and young people and to get everyone talking about how to be safe online.”

www.eac.eu/saferinternetday
Learning more about hate crime

In April, the East Ayrshire Adult Protection Unit commissioned the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disabilities to deliver a conference on Disability Hate Crimes. 134 people attended the workshops and conference in Auchinleck and learned what constitutes a hate crime and how to report it. Everyone attending received an ‘Easy Read Guide to Disability Hate Crime’ which was produced by Central Advocacy Partners.

At the conference Police Scotland informed delegates about Third Party Reporting, what it means and where it was available which is covered in more detail in this newsletter.

When the conference evaluations have been studied, a small group of those involved will be brought together to discuss any issues raised. They will look at any practical steps that can be taken to assist anyone experiencing hate crimes and ensure that those who carry out hate crimes are reported to the police.

Third party reporting

As part of the ongoing Hate Crime Campaign, Police Scotland are keen to promote the use of Third Party Reporting.

In some cases victims or witnesses of Hate Crime do not feel comfortable reporting the matter directly to the Police and may be more comfortable reporting it to someone they are familiar with.

To ensure all victims or witnesses are able to report Hate Crimes, Police Scotland works in partnership with a wide variety of partners who perform the role of 3rd Party Reporting Centres. Staff within 3rd Party Reporting Centres have been trained to assist a victim or witness in submitting a report to the police and can make such a report on behalf of the victim or witness.

In East Ayrshire, the following are all 3rd Party Reporting Centres:

**Victim Support**
19 John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock KA1 1HW

**Millbank**
14 Lugar Street, Cumnock KA18 1AB

**Dalmellington Area Centre**
33 Main Street Dalmellington KA6 7QL

**Drongan Area Centre**
Mill O shield Road, Drongan KA6 7AY

**Stewarton Area Centre**
Avenue Street, Stewarton KA3 5AP

**The Gateway**
Foregate Square, Kilmarnock KA1 1LU

**Barrhill Centre**
Bank Avenue, Cumnock KA18 1PQ

**Ayrshire College**
Kilmarnock Campus, Holehouse Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7AT

**Ayrshire College**
Caponacre Industrial estate, Cumnock KA18 1SH

**Ayrshire LGBT Online**
Online only - by email: ayrshirelgbt@hotmail.co.uk

Or report it anonymously to CrimeStoppers

**CrimeStoppers**
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime
**Tackling financial harm**

Financial harm remains high on the list of types of harm that people within East Ayrshire and nationally are reporting. Those causing harm range from family members, friends and carers to bogus workmen and telephone scammers. One of the Adult Protection Committee’s objectives is to reduce this type of harm by working with Police Scotland, Trading Standards, banks and the business community to raise awareness of the devastating effect that financial harm can have on those who are targeted. [www.eac.eu/boguscallerleaflet](http://www.eac.eu/boguscallerleaflet)

A joint Trading Standards Scotland and Police Scotland campaign was launched in February 2014 which urges victims, potential victims and their families and friends to call their local trading standards service immediately if they have suspicions about someone who has come to their door. East Ayrshire Council is also currently piloting a Telephone Call Blocker that will allow people to block calls from unwanted or unrecognised numbers. If you already have a community alarm service, there is no extra cost to trial the call blocker. Anyone in receipt of Social Work Services can use the equipment that is available from the Smart Support Service for three months without charge. Just speak to your Social Work contact or local Duty Team to assist.

**Reporting scams**

If you have been scammed, ripped off or conned, you can report this to Action Fraud online or call 0300 123 2040.
[http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/)

**Working together to protect adults in East Ayrshire**

The Adult Protection Committee arranged a Multi Agency Self Evaluation which showed that Social Work, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue and NHS Ayrshire and Arran are working well together to protect adults in East Ayrshire. During the audit, adults who had been involved in the Adult Protection process were interviewed and their experiences were considered alongside the views of staff from all of the agencies involved.

The findings have identified 14 recommendations which will be taken forward by the Adult Protection Committee. The full report with the recommendations can be found at: [www.eac.eu/adultprotectionreport](http://www.eac.eu/adultprotectionreport)
What we do...

In each issue of this newsletter we’ll be focusing on the work of representatives from some of the many agencies involved in ‘Protecting People’. In this first issue, we meet Paula Brennan, a Domestic Abuse Advocacy Worker with East Ayrshire Women’s Aid.

Paula

“Helping women at a point of crisis in their life is the main purpose of my job.

“The Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service works with survivors of domestic abuse from a point of crisis, offering short to medium term intensive support to identify risk and to help ensure their safety.

“We mainly receive referrals from criminal justice, however we particularly want to identify women who are not reporting to the Police but have maybe disclosed abuse to other agencies, as we’d like to be able to provide the same service to them. We would also be keen for agencies to make referrals to us on behalf of the woman, as this can help overcome the initial fears she may have about accessing support.

“We can meet with women in their own homes, or anywhere else in the community that they may feel comfortable. We are also keen to carry out joint visits with other agencies with the woman’s consent, such as Police, Social Work and Housing.

“Multi-agency working is a large part of this role, and forms the basis for managing the risks a woman may face. When women are at the point of crisis, many agencies can be involved and this can be quite daunting for them, which sometimes causes them to close down and disengage from services. We at the Advocacy Service aim to provide one voice to all the different agencies.”

Referrals can be made either by post, phone or email to:

Paula Brennan  Domestic Abuse Advocacy Worker  East Ayrshire Women’s Aid, 10 Croft Street, Kilmarnock KA1 1JB

T: 01563 546420  M: 07739 796538  E: advocacy@eastayrshirewomensaid.org.uk
Inspiring Change
A free conference showcasing approaches to tackling violence against women in East Ayrshire.

Thursday 5th June 2014, 9.30am - 4.00pm
The Boswell Centre, Well Road, Auchinleck

Learn more about violence against women in East Ayrshire.
Share ideas and approaches.
Connect with other individuals and organisations.

Workshop topics include:
• Reporting rape and sexual assault
• Are you a bystander?
• Empowering approaches with women who have experienced domestic abuse
• Working with children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse
• Managing risk
• Involving men
• Preventing sexual violence
• Supporting survivors of childhood sexual abuse

Who should attend?
Elected members, managers, practitioners, planning/policy staff working in East Ayrshire including: East Ayrshire Council Service Departments, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Police Scotland, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, SPS Prison Services (including Kilmarnock Prison), Further Education Colleges, South West Scotland Criminal Justice Authority and Independent Sector Organisations.

To request a booking form:
phone Morag Mullen on 01563 536001
email morag.mullen@eastayrshiewomensaid.org.uk

Facilitated by:
East Ayrshire Women's Aid
for women, children & young people

Harmful traditional practices
There are particular forms of violence, known as ‘harmful traditional practices’, which have been committed primarily against women and girls in certain communities for so long that they are considered as part of accepted cultural practice.

Forced marriage: one or both parties do not (or, in the case of some adults with learning or physical disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved.

‘Honour’ crimes: physical or psychological violence committed in the name of ‘honour’ predominantly against women for actual or perceived immoral behaviour, which is deemed to have shamed their family or community.

Female genital mutilation: procedures that include the partial or total removal of the external female genital organs for cultural or non-therapeutic reasons. The practice is medically unnecessary, extremely painful and has serious health consequences.

Victims of forced marriage and “honour” based violence often experience abuse within the relationship. Rape, physical, emotional and psychological violence, forced pregnancy and restrictions on freedom of dress, behaviour and lifestyle are common. The presence of domestic abuse may also mean that dependent children are at risk of serious harm. If you suspect this, you should follow local child protection procedures and seek a multi-agency response to increasing safety for those affected.

https://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage
http://www.domesticabuse.co.uk/
www.eac.eu/fgmleaflet
What we do...

In each issue of this newsletter we’ll be focusing on the work of representatives from some of the many agencies involved in ‘Protecting People’. Here, we meet Catrina O’Neil, Health and Wellbeing Coordinator.

Catrina

“For over twenty years I worked as a Science and Guidance Teacher in secondary schools in Glasgow and Kilmarnock. Just over two years ago I was seconded to the role of Alcohol and Drugs Education Coordinator. My main role was to work with Education, Council, NHS and Third Sector staff to enhance East Ayrshire Council’s Alcohol and Drugs education programmes for staff, pupils, parents and carers.

“My post has now been extended and as the Health and Wellbeing (HWB) Coordinator I work with colleagues to provide the best possible HWB programmes in our educational establishments.

“As part of my work, I regularly provide face to face training for all educational staff, create E-Learning modules and attend school parents’ nights to raise parents’ and carers’ awareness of substance misuse.

“We are also currently putting bids together to secure external funding for Parenting Skills and Sensible Drinking projects. I work closely with the Campus Police Officers, Third Sector and Vibrant Communities staff in projects such as White Ribbon, Mentors in Violence Prevention and No Knives Better Lives. I am also working in partnership with Education and NHS staff to create a 3-18 Relationships and Sexual Health programme and in the area of mental health, again I am working with various partners to create programmes for staff, pupils and parents.

“More recently, owing to my science background, I was asked to coordinate the East Ayrshire ‘Science on the Menu’ programme which gives primary school children the chance to explore the world of the science and technology of food, so my job is certainly varied!”

No alcohol, no risk

Historically there has been much debate about what pregnant women should be told about alcohol use during pregnancy. We know that drinking alcohol during pregnancy can cause harm and there is no known safe level of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. The only way to be 100% sure of delivering clear, consistent advice is to give the message ‘No Alcohol, No Risk’.

Over the past three years, midwives in Ayrshire have consistently been giving this message to pregnant women, and the Alcohol and Drug Partnership has built on this by reinforcing the message and increasing awareness of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Going forward, this initiative now aims to extend the focus of education from predominantly midwifery service staff to a wider range of disciplines to include:

- the development of new information resources relating to alcohol, pregnancy and FASD
- an associated public campaign
- the development and distribution of Point of Sale information for off-sales premises

Further information on FASD is available at www.nofas-uk.org/index.html

T: 01563 555654   E: catrina.oneil@east-ayshire.gov.uk
E-cigarette warnings

A new hazard for children is the sweet-tasting, highly toxic liquid nicotine being sold as e-cigarette refills. If a toddler opens an e-cigarette or e-cigarette refill there is the potential that they could die from ingesting a very small amount of liquid.

This potential toxicity concern has been highlighted by two recent admissions to the Children’s Hospital Emergency Department in Belfast following ingestion of liquid from e-cigarettes.

Since e-cigarette refills are not medicinal products they may not be child proof and the health warnings from the tobacco manufacturers may not always be sufficient to highlight the seriousness of the potential risk, particularly to children.

For more information, visit: www.eac.eu/ecigarettes

www.eac.eu/newtobaccorules

Also in relation to e-cigarettes, the Electrical Safety Council is issuing advice to users of e-cigarettes following a number of reports of chargers exploding whilst in use. The charity, along with the Trading Standards Institute (TSI), has issued the following guidance for charging e-cigarettes while they look more closely at the problem:

- Follow the instructions provided by the manufacturer carefully
- Heed any warnings supplied with the product
- Ensure that e-cigarettes are not left charging for long periods of time
- Do not leave e-cigarettes plugged in overnight or while you are out of the house
- Look for the CE mark that indicates chargers comply with European Safety standards

Reporting Scams

If you have been scammed, ripped off or conned, you can report this to Action Fraud online or call 0300 123 2040.

http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/

Beat Doorstep Crime

Doorstep crime is a heinous crime that targets those most vulnerable in our communities. Police Scotland have recently launched a national campaign aimed at driving down doorstep crime and East Ayrshire Council is working in partnership with Police Scotland to raise awareness and to help stop vulnerable people being targeted.

Bogus callers

Bogus callers attempt to gain access to people’s homes or obtain personal details by posing as officials, for example, as council staff, meter readers, charity collectors or police officers. They generally target older people trying to steal cash and valuables.

Rogue traders

Rogue traders are cold callers, claiming to be workers offering to make repairs or carry out work on people’s property. They charge inflated prices for shoddy or unnecessary work. The Beat Doorstep Crime campaign is raising awareness of the dangers through national and local media advertising.

www.eac.eu/beatdoorstepcrime
Children & Young People Bill passed
The Children and Young People Bill was passed in February this year and its provisions include:

- New duties will be placed on Ministers and the wider public sector to promote children’s rights, as well as increased powers given to Scotland’s Children’s Commissioner

- Improved provision of advice and help when needed for children and families, including providing a ‘named person’ for each child - usually their health visitor or head/senior teacher - available as a single point of contact

- Counselling and other support will be provided for vulnerable children and their families

For more information on the Bill: www.eac.eu/cypbill

Meet Sid
Young people who have lived in care have had their ideas turned into virtual reality through a computer game called ‘Far from Home’.

The Care Inspectorate worked with young people from the voluntary organisation Who Cares? Scotland and the Aberlour Childcare Trust to come up with the idea for an online adventure game where players land in a warped world and work their way through a maze of multiple choice questions.

Featuring Sid the Alien, the game is designed to help youngsters explore issues of trust and the consequences of making a poor decision as well as helping them understand their rights.

www.meetsid.co.uk.

Self harm guidance booklet available
Multi-agency guidance has been developed by the three Ayrshire councils and partner agencies to support staff who are involved in providing a caring and appropriate response to children and young people, especially those who may be at risk of deliberate self-harm or have thoughts of suicide.

To read the booklet, visit www.eac.eu/selfharmguidance
Foster Care Fortnight

With Foster Care Fortnight coming up in May, the need for foster carers in East Ayrshire is greater than ever.

East Ayrshire Corporate Parenting Team (Fostering & Adoption) is looking for people who can care for single children or sibling groups from birth to 16 years.

Although there is a minimum age requirement of 21 to become a foster carer, there is no maximum age limit. You don’t have to be married either - single people and same sex couples can apply. Fostering can even be a full-time occupation and lots of people earn a living fostering children full time.

If you’ve ever thought there could be room in your life to foster a child, call 0800 434 6633 or visit www.fosteringandadoption.org.uk.

SUDI toolkit available

SUDI [Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy] Scotland has produced a toolkit which provides useful information for professionals.

Many organisations play a role in investigating SUDI, but as it occurs rarely, some professionals may be involved in only one case. The toolkit offers a support resource and guides professionals through their role in the process.

Visit www.eac.eu/suditoolkit

Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation

Following media reporting on several high profile cases in which young people were sexually exploited and abused, the West of Scotland Child Protection Consortium, in partnership with Barnardo’s Scotland, developed a Practitioners’ Resource Pack: Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation. In addition, a learning/development toolkit is being prepared for practitioners to make them fully aware of the variety of situations that children and young people could find themselves in, and to give them the knowledge and tools to deal with this matter in the most appropriate and timely manner.

The Practitioners’ Resource Pack: Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation can be viewed through the following link: www.eac.eu/childsexualexploitation

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If you have any suggestions for articles that could feature in the next edition of the Protecting People newsletter, please email caroline.gordon@east-ayrshire.gov.uk.

If you are worried about someone’s safety or need advice, call:

**Police Scotland**
*Telephone* 101 (or 999 in an emergency)

**Social Services (Kilmarnock)**
The Johnnie Walker Bond, 15 Strand Street, Kilmarnock KA1 1HU
*Telephone* 01563 554200
*Email* social.work@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

**Social Services (Cumnock) (Children & Families)**
Rothesay House, Greenholm Road, Cumnock KA18 1LH
*Telephone* 01290 427720
*Email* social.work@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

**Adult Protection**
**Kilmarnock** 01563 528011
**Cumnock** 01290 421444
**Galston** 01563 503400
**Dalmellington** 01292 552900

**Emergency Social Work Service**
*Telephone* 0800 328 7758

**Note:** The Emergency Out of Hours Social Work Service is available after 5pm until 9am, Monday to Friday and throughout the weekend, including public holidays. You will be put through to the Ayrshire Social Work Out of Hours Response Service. A qualified Social Worker will assess the circumstances referred.

**East Ayrshire Women’s Aid**
*Telephone* 01563 536001

**Break the Silence**
*Telephone* 01563 559558