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

Many people may be unaware of the range of 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 protect the people of East Ayrshire.
Child Protection Pack launched
The Child Protection Committee has launched its new Child Protection Pack which provides useful information for a number of different groups of people about keeping children safe.

The information contained within the pack is divided into sections for:

- children and young people – simple explanations are provided about what a child protection investigation is and what will happen if someone reports that they are worried about a child
- parents and carers - social workers and health professionals can issue information from the pack to anyone involved in the Child Protection investigation process to explain the different stages involved
- members of the public – information is provided on how to spot the signs of neglect, who to report any concerns to and what will happen next
- practitioners – information is given about training and resources that can be used to help practitioners to fulfil their responsibilities in relation to child protection

The leaflets are available to view online at http://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/SocialCareAndHealth/Protecting-people/Child-protection/ChildProtection.aspx

Become Share Aware
We tell our children to share, but online it’s different. In fact sometimes sharing online can be dangerous. That’s why the NSPCC is asking parents to be Share Aware and to keep children safe online.

East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is supporting the Share Aware campaign which is aimed at parents of children aged 8 – 12, the age at which they start doing more online and becoming more independent. It urges parents to understand more about online safety and to have conversations with their children about keeping safe.

The campaign includes two animations which have a serious message about the stories of two children who share too much about themselves online.

Little things mean a lot
It’s the ‘Little Things’ you can do when you foster a child that can make such a difference to their life - that’s the theme of a Council campaign being run just now to highlight the need for more foster carers in East Ayrshire.

The campaign focuses on the fact that you don’t need to own a big house to foster a child, you don’t need lots of money and you don’t even need to be married or in a relationship… it’s the little things that count. Reading children a bedtime story, taking them to the park, comforting them when they hurt themselves; it’s all these little things that can add up to bring about real and positive changes in a child’s life.

We asked some people in the public eye to tell us the ‘little things’ they remember from their childhoods. Lorraine Kelly sent us the letter below about her beloved teddy, while Donald Trump sent us best wishes for the campaign and told us: “I can remember following my father around at his construction sites. It was very exciting to me, to sit on a tractor, to see the process, to watch and to hear him in action. I would listen to him on the phone, negotiating, and it’s not a surprise to me that I became an excellent negotiator!”

Call 0800 434 6633, text ‘info’ to 80039 or visit www.fosteringandadoption.org.uk to find out more.

Schools’ survey
The East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee (CPC) has just completed a survey of children and young people which focused on safety, and online safety in particular.

3,661 pupils from Primary 4 to S2, with an almost equal split between boys and girls, completed the online questionnaire.

The main findings of the survey were:
- When asked what they thought child protection means, 57% felt that ‘it is about not having enough to eat or the right clothes for the weather, or not being looked after properly’
- Only 36% had seen information on child protection services but by far the biggest percentage, 76%, had found the information in school/nursery, with the internet second highest at 34%
- Over 95% stated they had access to the internet, with over 72% using it daily
- The majority (43%) indicated they spent between 1 and 5 hours online each day, with 21% using it for more than 5 hours
- The largest group (69%) indicated that they used an iPad or tablet to access the internet
- 76% indicated parents/carers either restricted what they looked at or how long they spent online but most, over 90% of those who answered this question, thought rules were okay
- Nearly 76% indicated they felt safe online whereas only 3.4% indicated they never feel safe and are always thinking about the dangers
- Interestingly, nearly 78% of respondents chose not to answer the question on what they thought was the biggest threat online but of those who did, bullying or harassment by friends or people they knew was the most prevalent (60%)
- Surprisingly, given this technological age, pupils indicated leaflets and posters were the best way for the CPC to get information about child protection over to children and young people

The inclusion of a question asking pupils ‘what helps you feel safe in school, in your community and at home?’ produced 2,904 responses. The software analysis tool advises that teachers were mentioned 750 times, friends 730 times, school 372, Mum 318, parents 265, adults 239 and police 129 times.

The survey results will now be used to inform the work of the Child Protection Committee and how it communicates information to children and young people.
**Family Partnership turns one!**

Parents, babies and staff gathered in Kilmarnock’s Grand Hall recently to celebrate the first birthday of NHS Ayrshire and Arran’s Family Nurse Partnership (FNP).

Ayrshire and Arran is the fifth health board in Scotland to have implemented the FNP which focuses on helping young women to have a healthy pregnancy and to feel confident about supporting their baby to grow, develop and learn.

So far the team has worked with more than 150 young parents and their families and is noticing some promising early signs in relation to increased breastfeeding, changes in smoking behaviour and increased involvement with dads.

For more information, contact Nicola Murphy, Family Nurse Partnership Supervisor, on 01294 323342.

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**Whole Systems approach**

Making our communities safer places, where children and young people are encouraged and valued even if they may make mistakes early on in their lives, is the aim of a Scottish Government initiative called the Whole Systems approach.

The approach is aimed at improving the way in which all multi-agency partners respond to and support under 18s who may become involved in offending behaviour.

 Rolled out nationally to all 32 local authorities in Scotland in September 2011, it is about identifying at the earliest opportunity when a child or young person is in trouble, and supporting them and their families. This support can range from diverting children towards more positive activities, or helping young people if they do have to appear in court to understand the process.

Whole Systems represents a major shift away from punitive measures towards using diversion wherever possible. Locking up young people is not effective in reducing reoffending. By providing the Children’s Panel and Courts with robust alternatives to custody, young people’s risks and needs can be addressed within the community.

Over the past 12 months within East Ayrshire, our Whole Systems Approach has made significant progress in developing how we divert children and young people from formal systems and address the issues which may contribute to offending behaviour. An event entitled ‘The Journey So Far’ was held in February in Kilmarnock which provided an opportunity to reflect on the progress made with multi-agency partners and maintain motivation for the journey still to come. [www.gov.scot/Topics/archive/law-order/crimes/youth-justice/reoffending](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/archive/law-order/crimes/youth-justice/reoffending)
Community Planning Awards success
Cumnock’s ‘Things Tae Dae’ group has won the Safer Communities Award at East Ayrshire’s Community Planning Awards.

The Adult Support and Protection Unit nominated the group, and Hurlford Age Concern, for the work that both organisations do to enhance community safety and wellbeing.

Things Tae Dae, a very active group of adults who all have a learning disability, were delighted to receive their award. They meet every week in Cumnock to craft, listen to music, play games or just have a blether in a welcoming and supportive environment. They have also been involved in raising awareness of Disability Hate Crime (read more in the next article) and in developing a Safe Place Scheme which helps people with learning disabilities to deal with any adversity including harassment or bullying that takes place when they are out in the community.

I Am Me
Raising awareness of Disability Hate Crime through the power of drama is the aim of community group ‘I Am Me’.

The group works with local young people and disability groups through a partnership with Police Scotland and PACE Theatre Company.

PACE has designed a hard hitting drama aimed at challenging attitudes and behaviours towards disabled people. A new Disability Hate Crime Training Pack 2015 and ‘I Am Me’ Film have been developed which can be used as a free resource by any school, group or staff base in Scotland.

The project is also working alongside Police Scotland to develop a ‘Keep Safe’ initiative aimed at working with local businesses to create safe areas for people feeling vulnerable in the community.

Following last year’s successful Disability Hate Crime Conference in Auchinleck, East Ayrshire Adult Protection Unit has been working alongside local organisations and Police Scotland to establish Safe Places in East Ayrshire, and on a pan-Ayrshire basis with the other two local authorities.

If you would like further information on the Safe Place Scheme, contact MAPS@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

National campaign raises awareness of adult protection
February saw the launch of the National Adult Support and Protection campaign which featured in newspapers, on social media and on a series of posters.

The campaign ran with the tag line - ‘Seen Something? Say Something’ - and encouraged members of the public to report any concerns they have about an adult who may be at risk of harm.

The three Ayrshire Adult Protection Units combined forces and launched a radio advert to coincide with the end of the national campaign, so that it could be extended locally.

The Scottish Government is in the process of evaluating the campaign and findings will be reported back to the East Ayrshire Adult Protection Committee.

The Adult Protection Unit would be pleased to hear your feedback or comments on the campaign. Email MAPS@east-ayrshire.gov.uk or visit www.actagainstharm.org
“The main purpose of my job is to ensure that the provision of alcohol and drug services is evidence based, effective, quality driven and fits strategically with East Ayrshire’s Community Plan as well as the Scottish Government’s national strategic direction in alcohol and drugs.

“To do this, the ADP meets regularly to ensure that we maintain a clear and consistent direction of travel. My job as co-ordinator is to ensure that decisions made by the ADP are implemented. I also keep the ADP abreast of the latest national policy direction and practical developments as well as any current research that will assist in discussion and deliberation.

“My job is really varied. It’s not just about providing services to those who have problems; it’s also about educating our young people about the risks of alcohol and drugs, or supporting a Police Scotland initiative to tackle illegal drug supplies, or providing leisure and recreation activities to support individuals in recovery from problems related to alcohol and drugs. So one day I might be reading Government reports, compiling agendas for meetings of the ADP and its service delivery group and advisory group sub groups, or contributing to the development of East Ayrshire’s Community Plan. On another day I might be out in our schools viewing the fantastic work that our young people have produced as part of a social responsibility project to protect the Rainforests of Columbia from the devastation caused by the production of cocaine, or meeting with a group of drug users in recovery who are giving back to their community by engaging in training or employment opportunities.

“In this age of scarce resources, the role of the ADP co-ordinator is to ensure that activity by partners is complementary, does not duplicate and provides best value. The role also contributes to the overall aim of ensuring that East Ayrshire will be a place with strong vibrant communities, with a healthy and responsible attitude to alcohol, where sustained recovery from problematic alcohol and drug use is a reality whilst ensuring that children and vulnerable adults living in East Ayrshire are safe and protected from the effects of other people’s alcohol or drug use.

“It is a real privilege to work in East Ayrshire, and although the job can be demanding trying to juggle the various roles, functions and demands of an ADP co-ordinator, all of the partners in the ADP as well as others that I come into contact with show a real willingness and commitment to improving the lives of people in East Ayrshire. This commitment and their hard work ensure that my job is made much easier.”
Crown Office sets out social media prosecution policy

“The rule of thumb is simple: if it would be illegal to say it on the street, it is illegal to say it online”.

That was the message from Lord Advocate Frank Mulholland QC recently following the Crown Office’s issue of guidelines on communications sent via social media.

Although the Crown Office stated that there is no danger to freedom of speech, they stressed that anyone who uses the internet to peddle hate or abuse, to harass, blackmail, or any other number of crimes, needs to know that they will be brought to justice where there is sufficient credible and reliable evidence and it is in the public interest to do so.

The four main categories of behaviour that prosecutors will distinguish between are:

- Communications which specifically target an individual or group of individuals, in particular communications which are considered to be hate crime, domestic abuse or stalking
- Communications which may constitute credible threats of violence to the person, damage to property or incite public disorder
- Communications which may amount to a breach of a court order or contravene legislation making it a criminal offence to release or publish information relating to proceedings
- Communications which do not fall into the first three categories but are nonetheless considered to be grossly offensive, indecent or obscene or involve the communication of false information about an individual or group of individuals which results in adverse consequences for that individual or group of individuals.


Recorded crime reaches 40 year low

Official Crime Statistics released in the last few months have shown crime to be at its lowest level overall since 1974.

The statistics show that:

- violent crime is down by 10% in 2013/14 (lowest level since 1974)
- the crime clear-up rate is the highest since comparable records began in 1976
- crimes of handling an offensive weapon, including knives, are down by 5% last year, a fall of 62% since 2006/07 and the lowest level since 1986
- the number of homicides (common law murder and culpable homicide) is down on the previous year from 65 to 61, half the number recorded in 2006/07. Following a decrease last year, death by dangerous or careless driving is up from 19 in 2012/13 to 37 in 2013/14
- crimes of fire-raising and vandalism decreased by 9%
- dishonesty crimes, including housebreaking, shoplifting and other thefts, are up by 1% but have been on a downward trend since 1991
- police recorded 501,821 offences in 2013/14. These include common assault, breach of the peace and motor vehicle offences. Scottish Government statisticians advise that the figure of 543,768 for 2012/13 is not directly comparable due to changes in the way the data is collated

More information and additional documents relating to the crime statistics can be found at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/TrendVol

Child Safety Week 2015

Child Safety Week is back from 1-7 June and it promises to be bigger than ever!

Pupils develop Protecting People superheroes

Provost Jim Todd recently judged a schools’ competition organised by Protecting People partners.

Following presentations from members of the Adult Protection team and partners about the importance of sharing their worries if they feel that they, or someone they know, is in need of help or protection, pupils were tasked with producing a poster, story, comic or leaflet which would help share the Protecting People message.

Joint first place winners were Lucy Glencorse, Andrew MacDonald and Abby Lauchlan from Annanhill Primary; Jordan, Kealey, Robbie, Brad, Gemma, Keelin, Rhys, Kenzie, Liam and Nathan from Park School and the winner of the Provost’s Award were Keigan McCrum and Shelly Farrell from Mount Carmel Primary.

As part of the presentation, pupils got to watch a three minute animation within which child characters perform ‘special acts of kindness’ that would turn them into Protecting People superheroes. The special act is about sharing worries about someone in need of help or protection with a trusted adult who can then take action to access help and support for the person at risk.

After watching the animation, pupils got to discuss the topics contained within it such as bullying, self-harm, domestic violence and neglect.

17 schools from across East Ayrshire got involved in the project and Protecting People sessions have now been delivered to over 1,250 pupils.
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 by the end of June 2015.

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