



EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

PRACTITIONER BRIEFING NOTE

NO 28

TOPIC: CLARITY SURROUNDING POLICE INFORMATION / INTELLIGENCE

BRIEFING: The Child Protection Committee commissioned a Significant Case Review in respect of Baby L, a 13 week old baby who had been seriously assaulted by her father, who was subsequently convicted of this offence. The independent report was made public in July 2017 (see CPC's webpage link [here](#) for the redacted report). The report had eight key findings. One of the findings posed the question below to the Child Protection Committee:-

Is there confusion amongst practitioners about the use of Police intelligence as part of risk assessment, which could result in meaningful information about risk not being included in the formal assessment intended to protect children?

In an effort to clarify the distinction between Police information and Police intelligence, for the benefit of multi-agency practitioners, the following update has been provided:-

Police Scotland regularly obtain and retain personal information relating to individuals who have come into contact with police whilst they are conducting their lawful duty of policing local communities. The information received must be General Data Protection Requirements (GDPR) compliant and can only be obtained and recorded on police systems if it requires to be held for a legitimate Policing Purpose. Policing purposes would relate to Protecting Life and Property, Preserving Order, Prevention and detection of crime, Apprehension and prosecution of offenders and any Duty or responsibility arising from common or statute law. Recognised policing purposes would also include police duties relating to the reduction of harm to any individual, where the harm is not related to a criminal offence.

Police Scotland share information with a number statutory partner agencies, under Information Sharing Agreements and Protocols, regarding child and adult protection and welfare however prior to

the sharing of this information the test of lawfulness, necessity, relevancy and proportionality is applied.

The information shared by police Scotland can relate to information which can be confirmed as factual such as a person's previous offending history and previous involvement with police however, other relevant information which may be shared is police intelligence based information. If police have assessed the intelligence to be relevant and have a bearing on the child protection/welfare issue under review the expectation is that this information will be considered by the receiving agency and where appropriate used within the context in which it was shared to inform risk within child protection and welfare assessments and decision making processes.

FURTHER

INFORMATION: For Further information please contact:

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