



South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board

Report by Director of Health and Social Care Partnership to
Community Planning Board Meeting of 24 January 2019

Subject: Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2017-18 and Priorities 2018-19

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is for the Community Planning Board to note the content of the Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2017-18 and Priorities 2018-19.

2 The Board is to:

- 2.1 note the content of the Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2017-18 and Priorities 2018-19.**

3 Background

- 3.1 The South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee (CPC) is the local strategic planning partnership which is responsible for delivering continuous improvement in protecting children in South Ayrshire. Its work includes the design, development, dissemination and evaluation of inter-agency child protection policies and procedures. It has a responsibility to promote awareness of child protection to the local public and promote good practice within and across agencies, as well as leading on training and development.

4 Progress

- 4.1 This Annual Report on the work of South Ayrshire's Child Protection Committee (CPC) shows continued progress on the development and effective implementation of policies, procedures and systems designed to minimise the risk of harm to children. It also highlights a continuing commitment to the training of professionals and staff in all agencies across the sectors, thus ensuring that staff have the knowledge and skills to recognise and effectively deal with potential and actual abuse.
- 4.2 During the period covered by this report (1st August 2017 to 31st July 2018) there has been a continuing downward trend in the number of children on the Child Protection Register. In 2016-17 the number of children registered was 60. In 2017-18, the number decreased to 44.

- 4.3 The CPC has continued to work in partnership with the Adult Protection Committee, the Violence Against Women Multi-Agency Partnership and the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group. Areas of progress include an evaluation of High Risk Pregnancy Protocols and Pre-Birth Assessments which highlighted areas for improvement. Also, South Ayrshire's 'Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Strategy 2017-2020' was approved.
- 4.4 Learning from previous activity has continued to be a priority for the CPC and during the period of this report, there has been a range of self-evaluation and quality assurance activity.
- 4.5 David Cumming stood down as Independent Chair of the Child Protection Committee at the end of 2017-18 and has been replaced by Professor Paul Martin CBE.
- 4.6 Professor Martin's appointment provides an opportunity for the CPC to review the work that it has undertaken in recent years, to further build on strengths and to address areas that have been identified for improvement. This will include the creation of four new inter-agency sub-groups which will support the work of the main Committee in areas such as communication and awareness raising, self-evaluation, training and policy and practice. These sub-groups will be shared with the Adult Protection Committee.

5 Next Steps

- 5.1 The priorities identified for 2018-19 are included in the CPC Annual Report 2017-18 and will form part of the CPC Business Plan for 2018-19 and future years. A Business Planning session for the CPC is organised for 4th February 2019.
- 5.2 Priorities include:
- Report findings of Significant Case Review
 - Multi-agency audit for domestic abuse and parental mental health as Child Protection risk factors
 - Explore the reasons for the higher proportion of children aged 0-4 on the Child Protection Register.
 - Explore the reasons for parental/carer alcohol misuse as the most prevalent area of concern for children on the Child Protection Register
 - Quality Assurance and Self-Evaluation Activity progress report.



Annual Report 2017-18 and Priorities 2018-19

November, 2018

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Executive Summary

This Annual Report on the work of South Ayrshire's Child Protection Committee (CPC) shows continued progress on the development and effective implementation of policies, procedures and systems designed to minimise the risk of harm to children. It also highlights a continuing commitment to the training of professionals and staff in all agencies across the sectors, thus ensuring that staff have the knowledge and skills to recognise and effectively deal with potential and actual abuse.

During the period covered by this report (1st August 2017 to 31st July 2018) there has been a continuing downward trend in the number of children on the Child Protection Register. In 2016-17 the number of children registered was 60. In 2017-18, the number decreased to 44.

The CPC has continued to work in partnership with the Adult Protection Committee, the Violence Against Women Multi-Agency Partnership and the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group. Areas of progress include an evaluation of High Risk Pregnancy Protocols and Pre-Birth Assessments which highlighted areas for improvement. Also, South Ayrshire's 'Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Strategy 2017-2020' was approved.

Learning from previous activity has continued to be a priority for the CPC and during the period of this report, there has been a range of self-evaluation and quality assurance activity.

David Cumming stood down as Independent Chair of the Child Protection Committee at the end of 2017-18 and has been replaced by Professor Paul Martin CBE.

Professor Martin's appointment provides an opportunity for the CPC to review the work that it has undertaken in recent years, to further build on strengths and to address areas that have been identified for improvement. This will include the creation of four new inter-agency sub-groups which will support the work of the main Committee in areas such as communication and awareness raising, self-evaluation, training and policy and practice. These sub-groups will be shared with the Adult Protection Committee.

It is intended that this renewed focus on these areas will lead to improved quality assurance for local communities and for governance groups through continuous improvement and clear outcomes, linked to effective business planning.

The Priorities for the coming year are included at the end of this document.

The 2017-18 membership of the South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is included as an Appendix to this report.

1. The Work of the South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee

1.1 Background

The South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee (CPC) is the local strategic planning partnership which is responsible for delivering continuous improvement in protecting children in South Ayrshire. Its work includes the design, development, dissemination and evaluation of inter-agency child protection policies and procedures. It has a responsibility to promote awareness of child protection to the local public and promote good practice within and across agencies, as well as leading on training and development.

As described in the [*National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland \(2014\)*](#) the functions of the Child Protection Committee are continuous improvement, strategic planning, public information and communication. The work of the South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is reflected in local practice and aims to meet local and national needs in keeping children safe.

1.2 Vision, Mission, Values and Aims

The following vision, mission, values and aims guide the work of the CPC and have been designed to have a positive impact on the quality of child protection work, the outcomes delivered for children and their families and provide an effective framework for service delivery.

Vision Statement

The South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is committed to working together to protect South Ayrshire's children from abuse and neglect.

Mission Statement

It's everyone's job to make sure that children in South Ayrshire are safe from abuse and neglect. We will strive to ensure that the protection of children is a responsibility that is shared by all our staff and with the community.

Values

- Respect
- Equity
- Child-centred
- Collaboration

Aims of the South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee

The work of the APC can be summarised by means of the following:

- Children are protected by timely and effective action.
- Children are listened to and respected.
- Children understand what to do if they are concerned about their own or others safety and protection from abuse and neglect.
- Our staff are confident and competent in protecting children from abuse and neglect.
- Agencies, individually and collectively, demonstrate leadership and accountability for their work and its effectiveness in keeping children safe from abuse and neglect.
- The public understand what to do if they are concerned about the safety and protection of children from abuse and neglect.
- Collaboratively we ensure continuous improvement by evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of our services.
- We provide an integrated approach to identifying, intervening and providing ongoing support to protect children at risk of harm from abuse and neglect.

1.3 Leadership, Governance and Accountability

Local Governance Arrangements

The South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is one of several partnerships which have responsibility for public protection. The others include:

- South Ayrshire Adult Protection Committee.
- South Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership.
- South Ayrshire Violence against Women (and Children) Partnership.
- Multi-agency Public Protection arrangements.

Chief Officers Group

The CPC reports to the Chief Officers Group for Public Protection (COG). The COG comprises the Chief Executives of South Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran and the Commander for Police Scotland. The COG also comprises the Executive Group for reporting purposes to the Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

Supported by the CPC Chair and its members, the COG drives forward an extensive work plan and routinely evaluates its work to ensure there is a clear focus on continuous improvement and accountability. Members of both the COG and the CPC

strongly support the GIRFEC agenda ensuring children, young people and their families get the help they need when they need it.

South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership

The South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership which comprises community based health and social care services for adults and children, is governed by the Integration Joint Board (IJB). The IJB Chief Officer is also the Director of the Health and Social Care Partnership. The Chief Social Work Officer provides professional advice on all Social Work services and practice to the IJB, South Ayrshire Council, the Chief Officers Group and the Child Protection Committee. The IJB is supported by a Performance and Audit Committee and by a Health and Care Governance Committee.

CPC Sub Committees

Over the last year, the CPC's work has been underpinned by three standing sub-groups:

- Public Information and Engagement
- Data and Quality Assurance
- Learning and Development

The sub-groups are structured to support delivery of the CPC's Improvement Plan. Although set for the period 2016-19, this is very much a 'living' document and is reviewed and updated as necessary.

In 2015, the CPC entered into collaboration with South Ayrshire Adult Support and Protection Committee (APC) and South Ayrshire Multi-Agency Partnership (MAP) for Violence against Women and Children to ensure we have a cohesive and consistent approach across services in respect of dealing with sexual exploitation. This work is taken forward through the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group.

The CPC is directly linked to the South Ayrshire Children's Services Planning Group through regular meetings of the respective chairs and the Chair of the Children's Services Planning Group is a member of the Child Protection Committee.

1.4 The Work of the Child Protection Committee

The Child Protection Committees has a key role to play in the continuous improvement of child protection policy and practice.

The CPC is fully committed to improving outcomes for children and young people in South Ayrshire. It continues to ensure quality assurance is a fundamental part of its improvement processes with evaluation of child protection cases led by the Data and Quality Assurance Sub-Group. This Group coordinated a range of multi-agency child

protection audit and evaluation activities based on local and national issues and implemented actions and outcome measures as a result.

Following the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), the South Ayrshire CPC works to improve outcomes and the wellbeing of children and young people by ensuring that they get the support that they need at the right time.

Policies, procedures and guidance

The South Ayrshire CPC ensures that:

- all partners have in place their own up-to-date child protection policies, procedures and other relevant materials;
- services and agencies have robust whistle-blowing policies in place and that these are sufficiently disseminated and understood by all practitioners and managers;
- child protection policies and procedures are developed around existing and emerging key issues, where there is agreement that this is required; and
- the CPC's own inter-agency child protection guidance is reviewed to reflect national and local policy developments, including GIRFEC and the arrangements for the management of Child's Plan.

Self-Evaluation

Self-evaluation is key to ongoing improvement. The CPC evaluates how well services for children and young people are performing and identifies the best way to improve services through the application of quality assurance processes.

Promoting good practice

The Child Protection Committee has a responsibility to identify and promote evidence-based policy and practice developments, encourage learning from effective policy and practice publications and identify areas that need to be strengthened.

The CPC has robust mechanisms in place for the identification, consideration and undertaking of Significant Case Reviews (SCRs) and the corresponding learning from these, on an individual or multi-agency basis, as appropriate.

Learning and development

Multi-agency training is an essential component in building common understanding and fostering good working relationships, which are vital to effective child protection. Child Protection Committees help develop and deliver such training and this is supported by the CPC Learning and Development sub-group.

Public information and communication

The CPC ensures that the public are aware of Child Protection issues within South Ayrshire.

The CPC listens to children, young people, families, communities and employees to routinely produce and disseminate public information about protecting children and young people. All local information and links to national publications are published on the [CPC website](#). A feature of the work of the CPC is ensuring that information is up-to-date, relevant and easily accessible to meet the needs of partners and communities. This work is supported by the Public Information and Communication Sub-Group of the CPC.

2. Child Protection Committee: Improvement Plan Priorities 2016-19

The priorities set out by South Ayrshire's CPC Improvement Plan are:

- ✚ Effective Strategic Planning: Communication, Collaboration, Co-operation and Governance.
- ✚ Ongoing Continuous Improvement:
 - Policies, procedures and protocols;
 - Self-evaluation, data and performance management and quality assurance; and
 - Staff learning and development and promoting good practice.
- ✚ Public Information and Engagement: Awareness Raising

Progress on each of the Strategic Objectives is reported below:

2.1 Strategic Planning: Communication, Collaboration, Co-operation and Governance

Priorities:

- The protection of children is the key priority in integrated public protection planning and delivery in South Ayrshire, with particular emphasis on children affected by parental or other carer domestic abuse, substance abuse, mental health or criminal offending behaviour and child sexual abuse and exploitation;
- a continuing focus on service delivery and presumption of integrated working to ensure children are being kept safe and their wider well-being is being met; and
- the promotion of early and effective intervention to support children so that they do not reach the intervention point for a child protection response.

Progress:

In November 2016, the CPC conducted its annual strategic review. As part of the review it considered the findings from the Joint Inspection of Services for Children (October 2016) and has incorporated these into its Improvement Plan 2016-19. The CPC implement improvement actions to permit a clearer focus on being able to understand and improve on the effectiveness of inter-agency response to child protection.

In November 2017, CPC members participated in a facilitated reflective learning session which resulted in a review of the CPC Improvement Plan. Improvements were identified which included the need to further strengthen the relationship

between the CPC and key strategic groups involved in the delivery of services affecting children and young people. Key achievements were also highlighted:

- There were clearer relationships, responsibility and accountability with the wider children's service agenda.
- The new Data and Quality Assurance Sub-Group had started to provide improved qualitative and quantitative information on the effectiveness of the joint response to child protection.
- The CPC's Improvement Plan is on the Performance Management System (Pentana) to help improve reporting arrangements. It has been cross referenced with related actions in the Inspection Action Plan.

The CPC supported partners in developing individual and joint service plans to ensure that the protection of children was prioritised and incorporated into plans for children's services and, also, for those adult services where there is a direct or indirect link to children. For example, the IJB Strategic Plan was refreshed to cover the period 2018-2021 and has identified the protection of vulnerable children as a key strategic objective.

The CPC continued to work closely with South Ayrshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) to ensure that children affected by parental and others substance misuse are appropriately supported. This improvement agenda work is taken forward through the work of the ADP's Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse (CAPSM) sub-group

The CPC continued to strengthen its joint work with South Ayrshire Multi Agency Partnership (MAP) on Violence Against Women and Children thus ensuring that there is a clear focus on supporting children affected by domestic abuse and improving the response to sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and stalking.

- In October 2017, the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group delivered a briefing session to the Elected Members who are on the MAP to inform them of the work that is being taken forward.
- In March 2018, the Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group carried out a Strategic Review to evaluate the work that has been done and to set priorities for the coming year under the themes of Prevention, Response and Recovery.

The CPC continued to develop opportunities for collaborative working on a pan-Ayrshire basis. This facilitated the sharing of expertise and makes best use of collective resources.

- Collaboration with the three CPC areas and the three Ayrshire Multi-Agency Partnerships (MAP) on Violence Against Women and Children took place to develop and deliver a pan-Ayrshire event for school-age children in November 2017 to improve the understanding and the response to sexual exploitation and abuse. This brought together around 80 secondary school

age young people from across the three local authorities to receive inputs to help improve knowledge and understanding about sexual exploitation and abuse and its impact.

2.2 Continuous Improvement

Priorities:

- Continuing self-evaluation including audit activity that is linked with the wider services for the children's agenda. An emphasis on risk identification and management remains a core element.
- Improving performance and management information reporting to become more outcomes focused and incorporate reporting on the performance framework for services for children.
- Delivering an inter-agency child protection learning and development programme that meets the needs of the workforce and improves practice.
- Identifying and promoting good practice and learning and ensuring that this is shared within South Ayrshire and beyond.

Progress

Post deregistration guidance was developed and it outlines the responsibilities and practice considerations for practitioners who form the Team Around the Child when a child is removed from the Child Protection Register. The guidance details the expected frequency for multi-agency meetings and the process for highlighting areas of concern with the Named Person or Lead Professional.

A High Risk Pregnancy (HRP) and Pre-Birth Assessment Evaluation (PBA) was completed in December 2017. Ten cases were subject to review and chosen by random selection whereby a Pre Birth Assessment (PBA) had been initiated. Caution was required when interpreting the data, given the small sample size. The aim was to identify areas good practice within the HRP process and also areas of practice that would benefit from improvement.

The following areas for improvement were identified:

- continue to identify and address any training needs;
- review and amend the Pre-Birth Assessment Form to include the date that the referral was received by the Safeguarding Midwifery Team and the gestation at that time; and
- the completed PBA Screening "Decision Form" to be evident within the health records.

In August 2017, South Ayrshire's Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Strategy 2017-2022 was approved. The long term objectives are to see reduced levels of sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure that high quality support is provided to victims. To help ensure a cohesive and consistent approach across services, a Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group was established, reporting to the

South Ayrshire Multi-Agency Partnership (Violence against women and children) (MAP), Adult Protection Committee (APC) and Child Protection Committee (CPC). This short-term Group will take forward the South Ayrshire Sexual Exploitation Action Plan.

The Action Plan has four areas of focus:

- children, young people and adults at risk;
- staff;
- communities; and
- support.

It was recognised from the statistics around reasons for registration that the impact of parental mental health issues is a key component in children being added to the Child Protection Register. Therefore, an audit was undertaken to review the parents of the children on the Register and identify if they were known to Adult Services with the aim of identifying how Children and Families Social Work and Adult Mental Health Services could work together to support parents and families. In summary, the work to date has improved communication across the services and has demonstrated some practical solutions which have been put in place particularly across Child and Adult Social Work Mental Health Services. It is hoped that this will lead to staff feeling more confident and supported in dealing with issues around parental mental health and lead to fewer children on the Child Protection Register.

The Care Inspectorate carried out a progress review in early 2018 following a joint inspection in 2016. An area of improvement highlighted in 2016 was to deliver specific and measureable improvements in the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable groups of children and young people through effective children's services planning and the work of the Child Protection Committee. The Care Inspectorate were encouraged by the joint self-evaluation work that the CPC had led since the inspection in 2016. In particular, work to review the effectiveness of practice in relation to high-risk pregnancies was helping partners demonstrate improving outcomes for vulnerable babies and very young children. More recent work examining practice at key stages of the child protection process, while still at an early stage of implementation, was also seen as encouraging. The Care Inspectorate advised that this should provide the Child Protection Committee with real-time information about the effectiveness of practice and the impact of this on children involved in the child protection system.

Routine self-evaluation activity to consider the quality assurance and effectiveness of the inter-agency response to child protection continued. A programme of senior management oversight was established in 2018 which involves internal detailed case reviews where it appears children have not received the help they need when they need it. Lessons are shared across management and action identified which leads to improvement in individual cases and more widely. An extensive review of the effectiveness of Child Protection and Looked After processes was completed in 2018 with subsequent report, detailed action plan and updates of improvements being shared with the service leaders, including Chief Executives. This enables informed planning and improvements to take place.

A new internal training programme has taken effect from 2018 which incorporates self-evaluation as a standard activity and recording and reporting on outcomes. The information is used to adapt and change training.

A new governance meeting has been developed to provide additional oversight to complaints and QA information, involving the Director of the HSCP and all services.

A key function of the South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is to prepare and deliver an extensive programme of multi-agency child protection learning and development opportunities. The training is available to all agencies both statutory and non-statutory that support children, young people and families. The CPC delivered a range of core and specialist child protection training. Employees working in South Ayrshire are able to participate in the inter-agency continuing professional development programme (CPD) designed to reflect best practice and needs. The range of courses enables a focused and targeted approach that leaves practitioners more confident and competent when carrying out work in more specialised areas of child protection. CPD courses delivered in 2017-18 are summarised in the table below:

Table 1 - Courses delivered over the past year.

Training delivered from 1 st Aug 2017 – 31 st July 2018	
Course	Number of attendees
Child Protection Training – 5 day	27
Introduction to Understanding Child Sexual Exploitation	22
Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	21
Difficult, Dangerous and Evasive Families	28
Domestic Abuse Awareness	8
Effects of domestic abuse on a child and young person	16
Child Protection - Roles and Responsibilities	34
Linking, Matching and Sustaining Placements	6
Promoting Equality – Pan-Ayrshire	5
Understanding Neglect	53
Mental Health Awareness in Child Protection	21
Disability Awareness in Child Protection	4
Looking After Children with Sexually Harmful Behaviour	12
Working with Neglect (Train the Trainer)	20
Working with Neglect (Train the Trainer – Senior Managers)	11
Secure Accommodation Screening and Legal Briefing	20
Child Development and Trauma	4
Providing Effective Supervision	4
Young People, Sexual Exploitation and Risky Behaviour	4
It's Still Me	5

Neglect is extremely damaging to children in the short and long term, it affects all aspects of a child's development This course is essential CPD for anyone who is involved in working with children and families. The neglect tool is a validated tool and will be used within training to support an increased and shared understanding of neglect.

The co-ordination and delivery of the Neglect Toolkit Train the Trainers took place in June 2018. Staff across Social Work, Health, Education and Housing attended and have committed to delivering training in 2018/19. Senior Managers across a range of services attended a briefing session following the training and committed to supporting their staff deliver training to adopt the validated Neglect Toolkit.

2.3 Public Information and Engagement: Raising public and staff awareness and feedback

Priorities:

- To raise public awareness - ensuring children and the wider public know what to do if they are worried about the safety of a child.
- To embed a systematic approach to involve children, young people and families in service design and evaluation.

Progress

The CPC website serves as a comprehensive information source on Child Protection in South Ayrshire.

Children and young people have been involved in looking at the range of ways in which core child protection messages are conveyed. The CPC has listened to their suggestions about ways in which it might improve its approaches in getting its message across. Following this, the variety of resources available and distributed to schools and other places frequented by children and young people was extended.

The CPC's Vision, Values and Aims have been reviewed and agreed and new posters were printed and widely distributed to promote the message of the CPC.

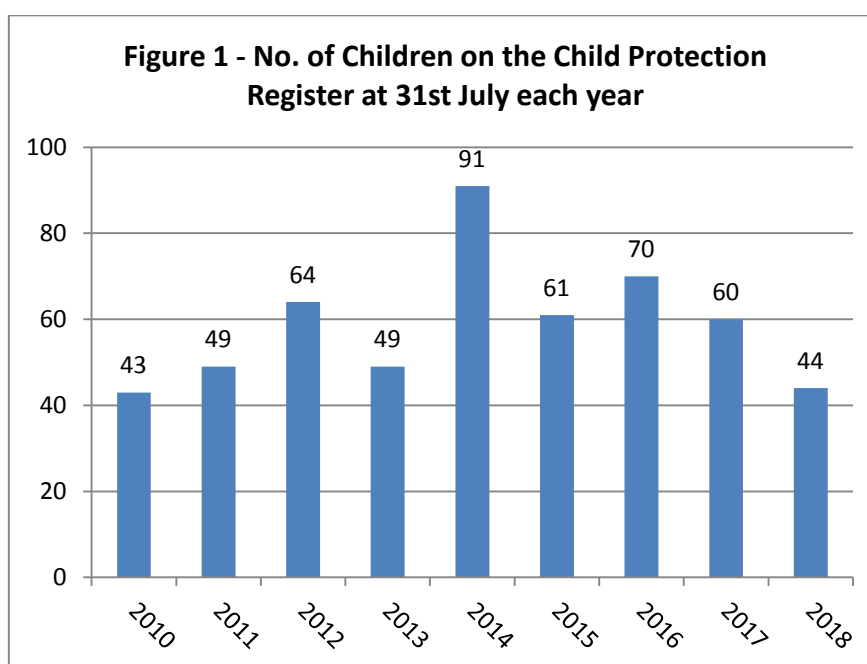
Radio broadcasts of Child Protection messages took place on 153 occasions via local radio stations during October 2017. New resources (stencils and stickers) have been tested in two schools and will be issued to all primary school clusters for use at the start of school year 2018/19.

3. 2017-18 Child Protection Information

The CPC continues to refine and improve the range of quality assurance and performance data available. Performance and quality assurance data and reporting are being further developed in 2018-19 to make it one of the key drivers of continuous improvement in the area of Child Protection.

Number of children on the CP register

On 31st July 2018, in South Ayrshire, there were a total of 44 children from 41 family groups on the Child Protection Register.

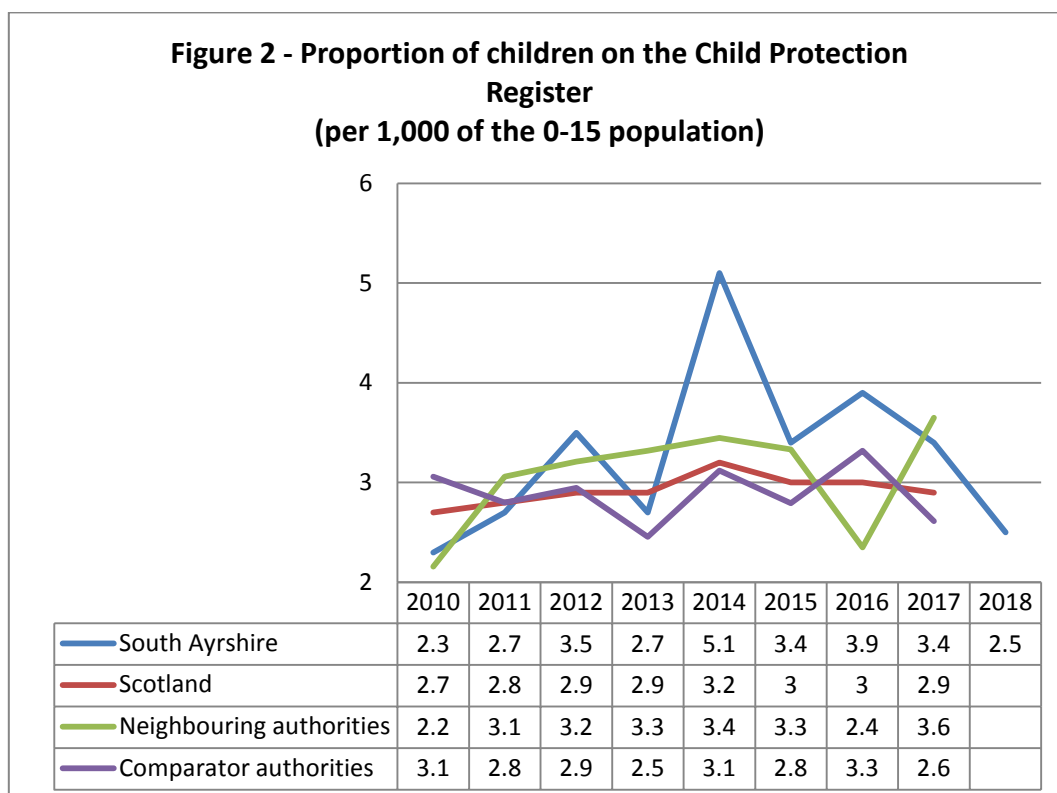


Children are placed on the Child Protection Register when there are significant concerns for their safety. Children on the register will be the subject of close monitoring and support with a multi-agency plan to effect changes to reduce risk. If the risks to a child cannot be managed with their remaining at home, alternative care arrangements are considered. Once it is assessed the level of risk has reduced sufficiently, the child's name will be removed from the Register.

Comparator information for 2017/18 will not be available until April 2019. The national average for Scotland on 31 July 2017 was 2.9 per 1,000 children. The figure in South Ayrshire was 3.4 per 1,000 children. On the same snapshot date the position in comparator authorities ranged from 2.2 per 1,000 children (Scottish Borders) to 3.3 (Dumfries and Galloway).¹ The position in neighbouring authorities

¹ Comparator authorities are Angus, Argyll and Bute, Dumfries and Galloway, Highland and Scottish Borders.

were: East Ayrshire 4.7 and North Ayrshire 2.6 per 1,000 children.² By 31st July 2018, the figure in South Ayrshire had reduced to 2.5 per 1,000 children.



Further analysis of child protection activity found the following key points and conclusions.

Profile of age of children on Register as at 31.07.18

- 52% of registrations are for unborn babies or children under four years of age.
- The majority of children on the Child Protection Register are aged 0-4 at 45%. This is a higher percentage than the national figures across Scotland for 2017 which is 19% for those aged 0-4.

In order to reduce this, a validated Neglect Framework has been adopted to ensure all agencies that have contact with children understand and share thresholds of acceptable care and conditions. The intention is to train all relevant staff by the summer of 2019. This programme raises awareness, increases the chance of concerted action across services and ensures earlier action; it aims to reduce the number of younger children escalating through the system and coming into child protection processes.

The Team Around the Child system is being strengthened through peer reflection, additional monitoring and Quality Assurance Officer support, taking

² Neighbouring authorities are East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire.

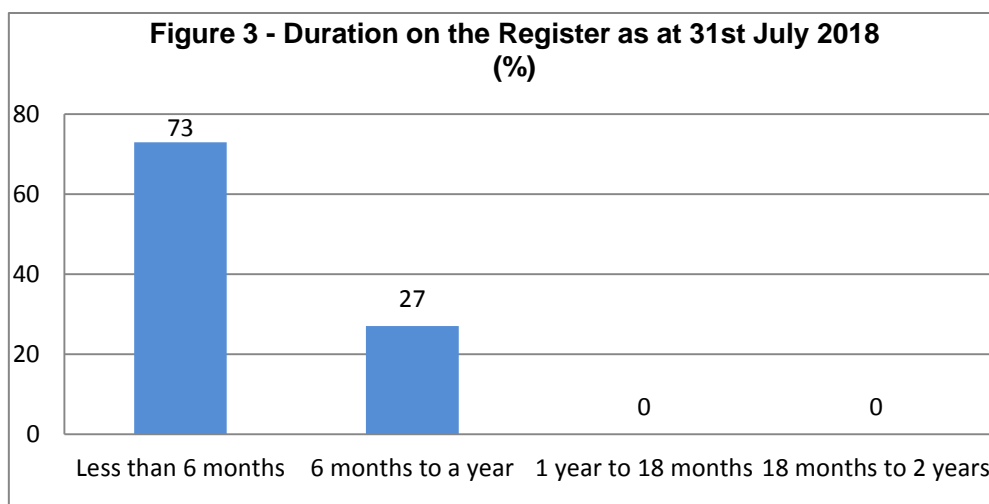
account of the increasing complexity of cases entering the system and supporting health colleagues to recognise and address risk to young children.

Registration activity

- 94 children were considered no longer to be at risk of significant harm and de-registered during the year.
- Over the past two years, no children were re-registered on the Child Protection Register within 12 months of being deregistered.

Profile of Time on register

- Of the children on the Child Protection Register on 31st July 2018, 73% had been on the register for less than 6 months and 27% for 6 -12 months.



Areas of concern (risk factors) – significant prevalence

- Parental/carers alcohol misuse is the most prevalent area of concern for children who are registered.
- Non-engaging families is the second most prevalent area of concern.
- Parental neglect and mental health have also been highlighted as areas of concern.

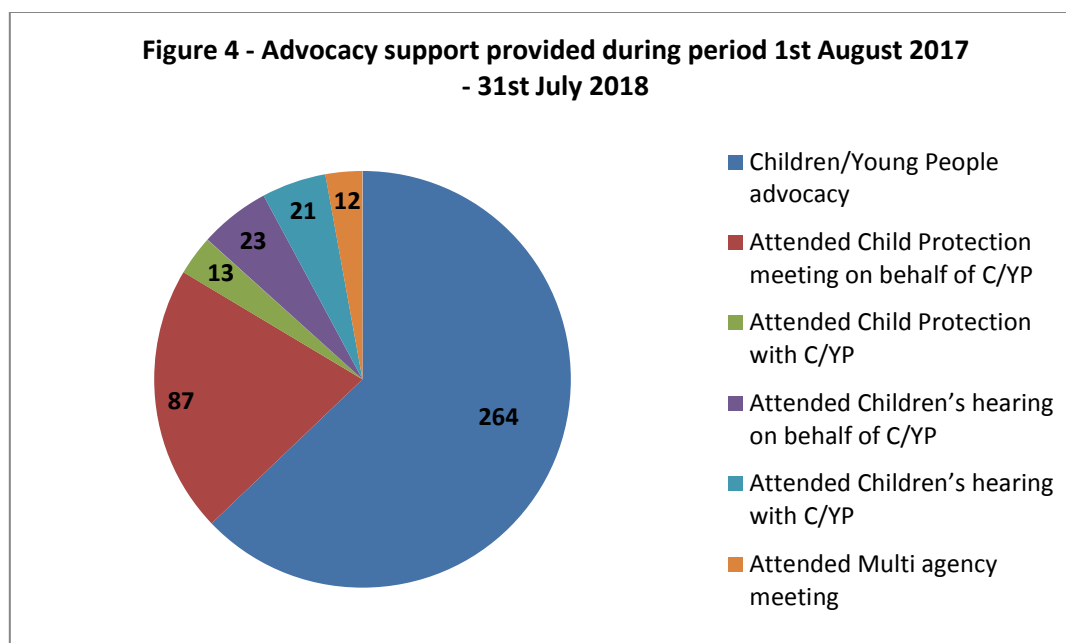
Keeping children informed and involved in key processes

Table 2 – Percentage of child protection meetings where the views of the child were recorded 2017-18

	Meeting Type	
	Initial Case Conference	Review Case Conference
% of child protection meetings where the views of the child are recorded	100%	100%

During the course of child protection meetings active consideration is given to seeking and securing the views of the child who is involved and they are provided with relevant information on an age appropriate basis.

South Ayrshire HSCP continue to record high levels of success in seeking and securing the views of children and young people involved in key processes. All children aged 5 years and above, where child protection proceedings have been considered, are offered advocacy services from Barnardo’s Hear 4 U.



Barnardo’s Hear 4 U provided 264 advocacy sessions and further direct support by supporting children and young people to 156 meetings or attending on their behalf.

Advocacy support was provided in a variety of forums including Children’s Hearings, Child Protection meetings and Multi-Agency meetings.

4. Child Protection Committee – Forward Plan

The items identified below are a summary of the items which have been highlighted in this report and that form part of the CPC Business Plan for 2018-19 and future years:

Item/Description	Responsible Lead	Due By
Report on training developments planned in 2018-19.	Associate Nurse Director (Sub-Group Chair)	31.03.19
Development of Risk Assessment identification and training	Associate Nurse Director (Sub-Group Chair)	31.03.19
Significant Case Review – Report findings	Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice	31.03.19
Quality Assurance and Self-Evaluation Activity progress report.	Chief Social Work Officer	31.07.19
Quality Assurance audit of Child Protection cases report and action plan.	Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice	31.07.19
The Sexual Exploitation Joint Action Group to report on progress on priorities	Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice	31.07.19
Improve access to Independent Advocacy	Director of Health and Social Care	31.07.19
Explore the reasons for the higher proportion of children aged 0-4 on the Child Protection Register.	Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice	31.07.19
Evaluation report on Neglect Tool to assess risk.	Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice	31.07.19
Report on work to raise public awareness of CP	Communication Manager (Sub-Group Chair)	31.07.19
Report on engagement and involvement of children and young people with the work of the CPC.	Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice	31.07.19
Multi-agency audit for domestic abuse and parental mental health as Child Protection risk factors.	Superintendent, Police Scotland (Sub-group Chair)	31.07.19
Explore the reasons for parental/carer alcohol misuse as the most prevalent area of concern for children on the Child Protection Register	Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice and ADP Co-ordinator	31.07.19

New sub-group arrangements, that are designed to support the CPC and APC governance requirements, are being implemented. They are reflective of structures and approaches elsewhere across Scotland. They propose an integrated approach

to the CPC improvement agendas, understanding that the core public protection principles are common but need applied sensitive to the communities covered by the services.

There will be four sub-groups that will service the agendas of both the Child Protection Committee and the Adult Protection Committee and the memberships will be integrated. The sub-groups are:

- Policy, Practice and Improvement
- Service Evaluation
- Learning and Education
- Communication and Engagement

HSCP Planning & Performance
14th November, 2018

Appendix 1 - Child Protection Committee Members 2017-2018

Member	Designation
Professor Paul Martin	Independent Chair (appointed May 2018)
David Cumming	Independent Chair (2017-18)
Kenny Leinster	Formerly Head of Community Health and Care and Chief Social Work Officer, South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
Douglas Hutchison	Director of People and Depute Chief Executive, South Ayrshire Council
Paula Godfrey	Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services, South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
Lesley James	Senior Manager Children's Services until February 2018
Safaa Baxter	Interim Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services, South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
Jayne Miller	Senior Manager, Children's Health, South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
Wendy Harrington	Interim Senior Manager, Children's Services, South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
Jackie Hamilton	Interim Senior Manager, Children & Families, South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
Alan Mulrooney	Locality Reporter Manager, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
Marina McLaughlin	Child Protection Advisor, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Colin Martin	Superintendent (Operations), Police Scotland
Rosemary Robertson	Associate Nurse Director, South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
Kevin Quinn	Former Co-ordinator, South Ayrshire CPC