



Fife Child Protection

child protection is everyone's job...it's our job

www.fifechildprotection.org.uk

It's Inspection time again

The 5th of March 2012 will see the arrival in Fife of the recently re-named Care Inspectorate to inspect and evaluate our child protection service. Our inspection will bring to a close the second round of the National Child Protection Inspection Program (CP2).

Preparation work for our inspection is already under way and is being tackled using proportionate "project management principles". A small management group representing all the partners has been drawn from the CPC to manage and quality control our written submissions and the inspection's logistical requirements. These individuals will also act as the single gateway for their service and should be contacted for advice about evidence submission or participation in "networks of support" or "single service peer group discussions" which a number of practitioners will participate in. Details of the service representatives can be found at the Fife Child Protection Website.

CP2 will examine our inter-agency service with the last full inspection (published April 2009) used as a

baseline by the Inspectors. The Inspection Framework and its Quality Indicators have changed since the first inspection with a great focus being placed on "outcomes". In other words what difference has our practice made to the safety and needs of each individual child? The framework can be found on the Fife Child Protection Website.

The Framework will still see Inspectors audit a significant number of case files held by all the partner services. These are identified by the Inspectors to ensure the sample provides them with an understanding of performance across Fife, across age groups and across the spectrum of risk.

Inspectors will then look to speak to you, the practitioners at 'networks of support' meetings - this is the name given to the practitioners involved with the individual child whose files have been read, or as a practitioner within a single agency focus group. These discussion groups will enable the Inspectors to secure evidence to combine their file audit findings be they positive or negative.

A more detailed understanding of the purpose of these events is available via the Fife Child Protection Website - www.fifechildprotection.org.uk so please ensure you take personal responsibility and prepare.

Current Developments

Fife partners will soon be participating in the Pilot of the Government Sponsored "National Risk Assessment Toolkit". This product has been developed by Garth Associates and they will deliver practitioner training to a small group of multi-agency staff in Fife during December 2011. It is hoped the pilot will after evaluation provide standardisation of risk assessment across the country.

A joint CPC/GIR short life working group have developed a Fife Inter-Agency Chronology Guidance. Their work will be evaluated on a small sample of files within the GIR environment before an anticipated roll out which will include child protection.

• inside this issue • inside this issue • inside this issue • inside this issue • inside this issue • inside this issue •

Inter-Agency
Child Protection
Guidance



Inter-Agency
Referral
Discussions



Protection
Team
Updates



Welcome

Welcome Back

The Police have recently appointed T/DCI Pauline McCallum as the Head of their Public Protection Unit based at Police Headquarters. Many of you will remember Pauline from her previous role as a police manager within the Family Protection Unit when it was located in Dunfermline. Pauline takes over from DCI Lee Dickson who has been appointed to a National post that will see him help design the public protection operational response for the new National Police Service.



New Head of Service

Dougie Dunlop has recently taken up the post of Head of Service for Children & Families and Criminal Justice with Fife Council.

Formerly the Head of Service for Children and Families and Criminal Justice Services in Argyll and Bute, Dougie brings a wealth of experience to Fife.



Stephen Moore, Executive Director said: "We are pleased to welcome Dougie and his family to Fife. Dougie brings a wealth of senior management experience which will serve us well as we continue to develop and improve our response to those who need our support."

Dougie has already been meeting with staff within the service he said: "My focus at the moment is to get up to speed with the tremendous amount of work being undertaken by the service, meet as many staff as possible and to get a feel for what the service is good at doing and where improvements can be made.

"We have a challenging time ahead with the budget setting process, preparations for the second Fife-wide Child Protection inspection and the continuing implementation of the reshaping Social Work Agenda. I am clear though that together as a team we can meet these challenges head on and continue to provide high quality services."

What's new in Child Protection

How far have we come?

Over the last three years as front-line staff you have all been asked to take on board a great deal of change in the way you deliver your practice. This has been the result of changes to the CPC organisational structure and within the services. This has come at the same time as many procedural and process changes that have taken place. The CPC again thank you for your patience and active support which has resulted in the quality of the service we now provide improving the outcomes for children that require our support.



To detail all of these changes would take up this entire Newsletter and more so please take a few minutes to visit the briefing page on the Fife Child Protection website (www.fifechildprotection.org.uk) where you can refresh your knowledge and understanding of the inter-agency developments that were driven by the challenging first Inspection.

Launch of Fife Inter-Agency CP Guidance

As you will all know the Child Protection Committee has recently published an updated version of the Fife Inter-Agency Child Protection Guidance. This reflects the changes to practice set out in The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2010.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to familiarise yourself with the changes please take the opportunity to do so **now** while it's at the front of your mind, visit www.childprotection.org.uk.

The Guidance will be formally launched at a development event, which is due to take place at Police Headquarters Glenrothes, at 2pm on 24th January 2012. For further details please check the CP website.

Inter-Agency Referral Discussion (IRD)

The Partnership now has in place the final elements to allow a daily IRD meeting to take place. The face to face meetings take place in Police Headquarters and allow managers from Social Work, Health and the Police to consider referrals, share information and make informed decisions.

The new practice also allows consistency of recording across agencies and importantly shared and informed decision making in regard to risk, needs, medical examinations and investigation route. The managers also use the meetings to scrutinise and close completed cases.

As the Independent Chair I took up the invitation to observe the process in action and must say I was impressed with the professionalism of the staff involved and more importantly the consideration given to securing the best outcome for the children involved.

This development of practice has in my view significantly enhanced our previous working practices and will achieve improved outcomes both at this stage of a child's journey through the protection system and for longer - term outcomes.

John Myles, Chair Fife CPC



Another Welcome

NHS Fife has recently appointed Consultant Paediatrician Dr Aysel Crocket. Aysel is the Designated Consultant & Lead Clinician for Child Protection in Fife. She is an experienced CP Practitioner and is a welcome addition to our child protection practitioner community.



Dr Crocket started her career as a scientist and completed her doctorate at Glasgow University. She carried out medical research in neurodevelopment, neuroanatomy and neurophysiology in Glasgow Cincinnati and Ohio, USA. She completed her medical degree in Glasgow and graduated in 1988, following a career already established with significant contributions to medical research.

Initially trained as a GP, Dr Crocket subsequently moved to Paediatrics. She has been a Paediatrician for 18 years and completed her training in Child Protection in Edinburgh. She was an active member of the weekly IRD Review Meetings, while working in Edinburgh and has been the Lead Paediatrician in Neurodisability in West Lothian. She is a member of the RCPCH Child Protection Committee and also the Child Protection Special Interest Group.

Aysel has joined the CPC and is an active member of SEAT MCN and has recently started a course in Forensic Medicine at Glasgow University leading to the Diploma in Forensic Medical Sciences.

Public Protection Update

Offender Management – The Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 provides some additional powers.

The new provisions allow for positive obligations Sex Offender Prevention Order (SOPO) conditions to be imposed as well as prohibitive conditions. This change in law is designed primarily to compel relevant offenders to be directed by the police and/or partners. For example, where an offender is not willing to take part in offender focussed work a SOPO condition may be sought compelling them to do so.

This is a very welcome approach as previously nothing could require an offender to undertake certain actions.

Another example would be a requirement if the police wanted to know if a relevant offender was living in the same household as a child under the age of 18, or wanted to have details of their leisure activities, employment, telephone numbers, or vehicles (and / or access thereto) they could apply for a SOPO with a condition that the offender notify the police of such circumstances and / or details.

Additional information and advice contact Ian Campbell the OMG Lead Officer at Ian.Campbell@fife.pnn.police.uk

→ also see **Adult Protection Update**

Adult Protection Update

- **Conference:** A recent conference entitled 'Can't Stand Up for Falling Down?' – How seamless and appropriately equipped are Fife services for addressing the needs of drunk and incapable adults? – was organised by the APC and the Alcohol and Drug Partnership. The Conference outcomes were promoted during Alcohol Awareness Week (14-20 November). A Summary Report of the Conference is available on FifeDirect.
- **Mobile Safe Zone:** One of the main conclusions from the 'Can't Stand Up for Falling Down?' Conference was the need to manage intoxicated people in a safe area. This issue will now be addressed in West Fife in the run-up to Christmas, with the introduction of the Dunfermline Street Pastors Mobile Safe Zone Vehicle.
- **New Training Packs** are now available on the Adult Protection website. The 'Working with the Fife Multi-Agency Adult Protection Guidance' training pack takes groups through case scenarios and asks questions that can be answered by using the guidance. The 'Introduction to Adult Support and Protection' Training Pack helps groups to understand the types of harm, our duty to protect and how to report a concern.
- **Fife Campaign wins National Award:** Fife's Adult Protection 'Act Against Harm' Campaign and 'Gonnae No Dae That!' Conference has received a Highly Commended Award in this year's Association of Social Care Communicators Awards.
- **Press info:** Adult Protection messaging recently linked in with International Day of Persons with Disabilities – reminding people of the importance of recognising and reporting harm; Older People's Day – local opticians Ferrier and Mackinnon gave away Adult Protection glasses cloths in each of their Fife branches; and Suicide Prevention week – highlighting that self-harm and self-neglect are the largest categories of reported harm.



Ready for winter?

Are you ready for winter? With the winter upon us we all need to make sure we are prepared for severe weather.

Last year we saw considerable disruption due to the snow and, while everyone pulled together and vital services were maintained, planning ahead will help us to be more organised.

There are a number of things we can all do now that will help to make sure staff know what to do and are kept safe.

Top tips:

- Check what your organisation's HR position is in relation to disruption to normal work patterns.
- Check business continuity plans.
- Think about what your personal plans are likely to be in the case of severe weather e.g. are you more likely to work from another office or from home. Check with your manager what is possible and have work prepared that you can do.
- Think about how you would manage your appointments, communicate, etc if you can't get in.

Keeping up to date

This year the Council is promoting the different communication channels the public can use to find out what's happening in Fife.



www.fifedirect.org.uk/winter
sign up for email or text alerts



m.fifedirect.org.uk
from your mobile phone browser



facebook.com/fifecouncil
twitter.com/fifecouncil



Kingdom FM - 95.2 & 96.1
Forth One - 97.3
Tay FM - 96.4 & 102.8



Sky - channel 539, press red
Virgin - press home, interactive



08451 55 11 99 automated update
08451 55 00 11 faults & repairs
08451 55 00 99 out of hours