



A guide to

Fife Child Protection Committee



“child protection is everyone’s job...it’s our job”

www.fifechildprotection.org.uk

Fife Partnership...Strengthening Fife’s Future

Our Vision

“We want every child, young person and their families, particularly those in vulnerable circumstances, to live in a healthy, safe, home environment, within strong communities free from prejudice, poverty, exclusion and discrimination, to enable them to achieve their full potential and contribute positively to their communities throughout their lives”.

Our Values

“Children are best protected by identifying the strengths that exist for them at home, in their extended families, schools and in their communities, and by building on these strengths to enable them to continue to live within their communities wherever possible”.

Our Aim

“child protection is everyone’s job...it’s our job”

Introduction

In 2003 the former Scottish Executive (now Scottish Government) embarked on a three year child protection reform programme which transformed child protection services across Scotland.

In January 2005, they published Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committees which recognised the critical importance of child protection work and the vital strategic role Child Protection Committees had in the delivery of child protection services.

Fife Child Protection Committee, which has existed since the early 1990s, has been fully compliant with this guidance since 2005.

Fife Child Protection Committee operates locally in terms of the Child Protection Governance Arrangements in Fife which reflects the national guidance and sets in context our local governance arrangements, reporting arrangements, roles, remits, responsibilities and core business functions.

Fife Chief Officers' Public Safety Group

Here in Fife, we have a Fife Chief Officers' Public Safety Group which oversees wider public protection work – including child protection. Fife Child Protection Committee reports directly to the Fife Chief Officers' Public Safety Group, which meets regularly to scrutinise the work of the Child Protection Committee.

Members of the Fife Chief Officers' Public Safety Group are:-

- Chief Executive of NHS Fife
- Chief Executive of Fife Council
- Chief Constable of Fife Constabulary
- Authority Reporter of the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- Chief Social Work Officer of Fife Council

Fife Child Protection Committee

Fife Child Protection Committee is the single strategic multi – agency partnership in Fife which oversees the design, development, publication, implementation and evaluation of child protection policy and practice across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Annual Reports and Annual Plans

We meet no less than six times a year. In June each year we publish an Annual Report which sets in context the work we have completed in the previous business year and an Annual Plan which sets out the work for the coming business year ahead. Our business year runs annually from 1st April to 31st March.

We promote self evaluation, quality assurance and continuous improvement – aimed at providing better outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people.

We do so because:-

- We strongly believe that all children and young people in Fife and elsewhere have a right to be cared for and protected.
- We strongly believe that they should be able to grow and develop in a safe environment in which their rights and needs are respected.
- We strongly believe that children and young people should get the help they need when they need it.
- We strongly believe that the welfare of children and young people is paramount.
- We strongly believe that all practitioners must be competent and confident.
- We strongly believe that individually and collectively we must demonstrate leadership and accountability for our work and its effectiveness.
- We strongly believe in our Vision and Values and that “child protection is everyone’s job...it’s our job”

Who we are

Fife Child Protection is a multi – agency partnership with senior representation from the public, private and voluntary sectors across Fife. Our partners include:-

- Fife Council Social Work Service
- Fife Council Education Service
- Fife Council Community Services
- Fife Council Housing Service
- Fife Council Local Services Network
- Fife Constabulary
- NHS Fife
- Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration
- Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
- Fife Children’s Rights Service
- Voluntary Sector
- Armed Forces

Fife Child Protection Committee has two multi – agency Sub Committees:-



Quality Assurance Sub Committee

The Quality Assurance Sub Committee is a multi – agency group which meets every 8 weeks. It works on behalf of the CPC to develop and design strategy and policy around child protection issues, oversees its implementation and monitors and evaluates impact. The Quality Assurance Sub Committee designs and advises upon multi – agency self – evaluation processes in relation to child protection work in Fife, ensuring that these reflect the Quality Indicators and methods advocated by the HMle Services for Children Unit.

Training Sub Committee

The Training Sub-Committee is a multi – agency group which meets every 8 weeks. It works on behalf of the CPC to ensure the design, development and delivery of a multi – agency training programme. It promotes inter – agency communication, understanding and shared approaches to the child protection process through multi – disciplinary training and staff development. This includes the maintenance of appropriate links to individual service/agency staff training programmes and continuous professional development.

Links to other Partnerships

Fife Child Protection Committee also works closely with a number of other local partnerships including:-

- Fife Drug and Alcohol Action Team
- Fife Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership

What we do

Fife Child Protection Committee has nine separate business functions which are specified in the national guidance.

Public Information

Making sure that the people in Fife are given clear information about how children and young people are kept safe and who to contact if they have concerns about a child.

Policies, Procedures and Protocols

Making sure that all the services and agencies have policies and procedures in place that protect children and young people and keep these policies up to date.

Management Information

Knowing what is happening to children and young people in Fife, such as how many children are on the Fife Child Protection Register and using that information to make plans to keep them safe.

Quality Assurance

Making sure that the plans that are made for children and young people meet their needs and working to improve on them.

Promotion of Good Practice

Identifying what works well and what could be better for children and young people and learning from that.

Training and Staff Development

Ensuring that all staff have access to training opportunities to improve on their skills to help them to protect children and young people.

Communication and Cooperation

Helping services and agencies to talk to each other and to share information about children and young people who may be at risk.

Planning and Connections

Making sure that all the policies, procedures and plans for children and young people keep them safe and meet their needs.

Involving Children, Young People and their Families

Working with children and young people to find out how we can best help to protect them and ensure they get the help they need when they need it.

Key Publications

National

- Protecting Children and Young People: The Charter
- Protecting Children and Young People: Framework for Standards
- Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committees
- HMle Services for Children Unit: Self Evaluation and Quality Indicators Framework: “How well are children and young people protected and their needs met?”
- Protecting Children and Young People: Interim Guidance for Child Protection Committees for Conducting a Significant Case Review

Local

- Child Protection Governance Arrangements in Fife
- Fife CPC Inter-Agency Child Protection Guidelines
- Fife CPC Communication Strategy
- Fife CPC Inter-Agency Child Protection Training Strategy
- Fife CPC Inter-Agency Quality Assurance Strategy
- Fife CPC Annual Report
- Fife CPC Annual Plan

Links to other Plans

Fife Child Protection Committee's Annual Plan also links in with a number of other national and local plans including the:-

- Scottish Government and COSLA Concordat 2008 – 2009
- Fife's Community Plan: A Stronger Future for Fife
- Fife Council Single Outcome Agreement (SOA)
- Fife Children's Services Plan 2008 – 2009 and the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- Fife's Joint Health Improvement Plan 2007 – 2010
- Fife Council Plan 2007 – 2011

Child Protection Website

Fife Child Protection Committee has developed a child protection website.

Aimed primarily at children and young people, parents, carers and the wider community it contains information and advice on children's needs, children's rights, safe parenting and what to do if you are worried about a child.

It also contains information for practitioners on a wide range of child protection matters. Throughout the site there are many useful links to other organisations and publications which can be downloaded.

You can access the site at www.fifechildprotection.org.uk

Further Information and How to Contact Us

The Fife Child Protection Committee Support Team works Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and is based at:-

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