



Fife Child Protection

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

www.fifechildprotection.org.uk

Child Protection Committee Moves Forward

I would firstly take this opportunity to introduce myself as Fife Child Protection Committee's first Independent Chair.

I have recently retired from a senior post with Fife Constabulary and have over my 35 years as a police officer undertaken a number of roles, which included management responsibility for child protection investigations and policy development.

During the later part of my time with Fife Police I was a seconded Inspector with HMIE. During this time I contributed to the developed the original quality indicators and the inspection framework and was part of the team that undertook the two pilot inspections.

I have taken up this post during a period of significant change.

Everyone should be aware of our inspection report published in April 2009 by the HMIE. Like myself I am sure you will be disappointed with much of the report's findings. These have cast a shadow over the many examples of good quality child protection work that is a daily feature within individual agencies as well as through our partnership working.

The shortcomings highlighted in the report however, set us some urgent challenges, which will need the collective effort of all of us to achieve successful improvement delivery.

The HMIE Inspection Team will return to Fife in February 2010 to conduct a follow through inspection. The Inspections timing has created a period of intense activity which will increase from now till the arrival of the inspectors.

I remind you of the 5 key recommendations, those in bold are the ones the Chief Officers have prioritised to ensure we have the capacity within our agencies and services to effectively deliver the required change.

I look forward to meeting and working with you over the coming months.



John Myles
Interim Independent Chair
Fife CPC

HMIE Inspection Recommendations

Individual services and the CPC had structures in place to identify and implement improvements in the protection of children in Fife. In doing so Chief Officers and the CPC should take account of the need to:

- improve the participation of children and families in key child protection processes and ensure they are more fully involved in decision-making about their lives;
- **improve guidance on information-sharing, related support and training and improve consistency across services;**
- **improve the processes to assess the risk and needs of individual vulnerable children and ensure assessments are sufficiently rigorous to identify the actions need to protect children;**
- improve planning to meet children's needs ensuring all children have sufficiently detailed plans which contain arrangements for monitoring and review; and
- **ensure that Chief Officers and senior managers direct and monitor the effectiveness of the CPC and key child protection processes.**

(Those highlighted in bold have been identified as priorities by Chief Officers)

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Inter Agency Training



Child Protection Register Award

Website Update



In Focus



I would like to introduce myself as the new Lead Officer for Child Protection in Fife.

In the past 18 years I have worked in a number of local authority areas, the majority of my time has been spent in the childcare sector. This has included periods in residential childcare, within Children and Families Teams, as a Planning and Performance Officer in childcare and most recently as the Team Leader for the Leaving Care Team.

My personal aim over the period of my secondment will be to assist to simplify and demystify the issue of child protection for many workers. I feel that agencies and staff have to be clear that we all have a role in child protection. Agencies and workers also have to know what their role is, what expectations are attached to that role and finally how do individuals action those responsibilities in an effective way. Only by addressing these issues can we hope to evaluate the impact of our services and satisfy ourselves that we are meeting the needs of individual children.

Although the recent HMIE inspection highlighted a number of areas that have to be addressed I feel that Fife has the structures in place and through the Child Protection Multi-agency Improvement Plan a clear direction of how we as agencies and individuals can contribute to improving the protection and quality of life for children in Fife.

I look forward to meeting you.

Steven Hatch

Training & Development

Fife Child Protection Committee has recently published their Annual Training Programme for 2009 – 2010.

This ambitious Programme of Inter Agency Child Protection Training Courses commenced in April 2009 and demonstrates the Child Protection Committee's continued commitment to staff training and development.

All courses continue to be provided free of charge to practitioners across Fife in the public, private and voluntary sectors. The courses themselves reflect nationally agreed training levels. All courses take place at the Auchterderran Centre, with the exception of the most specialised course, which is held at Playfield Institute in Cupar.

A number of the courses are delivered with other partnerships and agencies including Social Work Service, Fife Children's Rights Service, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and the Centre for the Vulnerable Child.

Garry Crosbie, Senior Manager, Education Service and Chair of the CPC Training Sub Committee, continues to oversee the development of further courses, including a Getting It Right in Early Years Course and a Child Protection Manager's Course.



Courses can be accessed via the Child Protection Website at www.fifechildprotection.org.uk

Wii Won

Children and young people were recently encouraged to enter a competition, accessing the Fife Child Protection website, to search for answers and comment on the website itself.

During this time, 468 children and young people entered the competition. 96 (20%) of them answered all eight competition questions correctly. Feedback was also good. The majority of those who entered the competition (376 out of a total of 468) had not entered the website before. The majority reported that the site was easy or very easy to navigate, found it a useful resource and would visit the website again.

The prize winners (selected at random) were Rory Strathie, Primary 7 Wormit Primary School and Sabina Ali, 1st year, Glenrothes High School. Gary Crosbie (Snr Manager, Education Service) presented them with their prizes.



Fife's Online Child Protection Register wins National E-Government Award

Fife's Online Child Protection Register has won a national E-Government Award (Local e-Government Excellence: Proven team-working or partnership activity which has delivered more than the sum of the parts) for its innovative solution to managing inter-agency child protection information. The National E-Government Awards are the UK's highest level commendation for the best e-Government and technology-driven services - services which, through innovative online delivery or IT implementation, have positively transformed the lives of citizens, local communities, business and stakeholder groups. The winners were presented with their awards

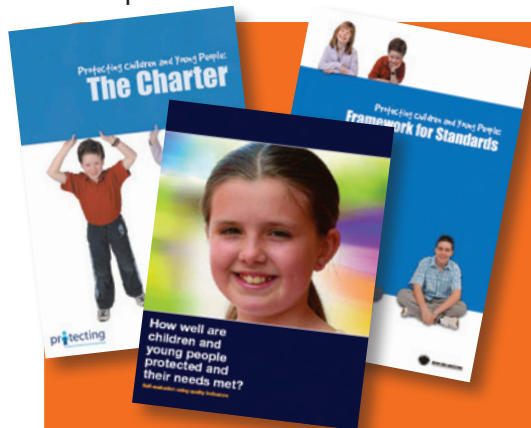
at a dinner in the City of London's Guildhall, on 20 January, by Minister Tom Watson MP, and Government CIO John Suffolk.

Following its implementation in early December 2007, the project and development team was shortlisted from over 80 entrants and nominated for the category "Initiatives that promote integrated working that improve services" in the prestigious Care Accolades 2008. The work was formally recognised on 13th June 2008 at the awards ceremony in Glasgow.

Following this success, the project was also chosen as one of two finalists from Scotland in the "Good Communications Awards" which were held in London.



These awards are given to local authorities that can demonstrate an effective partnership approach to delivering IT related services, and in turn better value to citizens. Although it didn't win on the night, the work was highly commended by the judging panel.



Summer Roadshows How Good Was Your Practice?

Last autumn between 5th August 2008 and 7th November 2008, a total of 17 inter-agency self evaluation seminars were held at Auchterderran Centre, Cardenden. A total of 1157 practitioners from 128 separate services/agencies across Fife attended.

Those attending were given the opportunity to self evaluate their own child protection practice and our collective child protection practice against the Children's Charter, Framework for Standards and the HMIE's Quality Indicators. Delegates took part in inter-agency table exercises and discussions which resulted in a large amount of information and data being collected.

Fife CPC will shortly be publishing the evaluation of these seminars but the initial findings are:-

- Overall the events were evaluated (on a five point scale ranging from Very Good to Very Poor) as GOOD;
- 830 (79%) of participants confirmed they felt more competent and confident as a result of these events;
- 630 (64%) of participants confirmed they would like further learning and CPD opportunities around child protection;
- 508 (79%) positive comments were made about the DVD – How Good is Your Practice?
- Majority of participants were front line practitioners;
- Majority of participants had regular and direct children contact with children;

- Majority of participants thought child protection was their job;
- Majority of participants thought their child protection practice could be better;
- Majority of participants had heard of the Children's Charter;
- Majority of participants had heard of the Framework for Standards;
- Majority of participants had not heard of the HMIE Quality Indicators;

Elizabeth Hartley, Consultant Researcher has now delivered her evaluation of these events and her report will be presented to Fife CPC shortly. Once published, the more detailed findings will be followed up and will inform our understanding and learning.

Fife Child Protection Committee



Who's Who?

Fife Child Protection Committee is the strategic partnership that oversees child protection policy developments and service delivery within Fife. Membership includes senior representation from the public, private and voluntary sectors across Fife.

Chair of Fife CPC

- John Myles

Chair of Quality Assurance Sub Committee

- Alistair Gaw
Senior Manager, Fife Social Work Service

Chair of Training Sub Committee

- Garry Crosbie, Senior Manager,
Fife Council Education Service

CPC Support Team

- Steven Hatch
CPC Lead Officer
- Melanie Durowse
CPC Quality Assurance and Development Officer
- Kath Collins
CPC Support Officer
- Nancy Hainey
CPC Support Assistant

You can contact the CPC Support Team at:

Auchterderran Centre
Woodend Road
Cardenden
KY5 ONE

E-mail:

fife.childprotection@fife.gov.uk

Telephone:

01592 583251

Committee Meetings

- Wednesday 7 October 2009
- Wednesday 2 December 2009

CPC Quality Assurance Sub Committee Meetings:

- Wednesday 30 September 2009
- Wednesday 25 November 2009

CPC Training Sub Committee Meetings:

- Friday 25 September 2009
- Friday 20 November 2009

Local Child Protection Groups

Dunfermline

Chair: Marilyn Maconachie
marilyn.maconachie@fife.gov.uk
Meetings to be held in the City Chambers, Dunfermline at 2.00pm on:

- Wednesday 02 September 2009
- Wednesday 04 November 2009

East Fife

Chair: Sophie Gwyther
sophie@efwa.org.uk
Meetings to be held in the Training Room, County Buildings at 2.00pm on:

- Monday 21 September 2009
- Monday 07 December 2009

Glenrothes

Contact: Chic O'Neill
chic.oneill@fife.gov.uk
Meetings to be held in Police Headquarters, Glenrothes at 9.30am on:

- Wednesday 18 November 2009
- Wednesday 3 February 2010

Kirkcaldy

Chair: Graham Milne
grahams.milne@fife.gov.uk
Meetings to be held at 3.15pm on:

- Tuesday 29 September 2009
- Tuesday 01 December 2009

Levenmouth

Chair: Nick Barber
Meetings to be held at 3.45pm in Methilhill Primary School on:

- Thursday 1 October 2009
- Thursday 26 November 2009

West Fife

Contact: Tracey McDougall
tracey.mcdougall@fife.gov.uk
Meetings to be held at 3.30pm in Town House, Lochgelly on:

- Thursday 26 November 2009

Child Protection Website goes from strength to strength

Fife Child Protection Website is now receiving thousands of hits on a monthly basis as children, young people, members of the public and practitioners log in to find out more about child protection. It continues to provide a very useful resource with a wide range of information for children, young people, parents, carers and practitioners. It also includes a large number of electronic links to other websites and the majority of CPC publications can be found and downloaded.

Child Protection Website:
www.fifechildprotection.org.uk

Child Protection Publications

Fife Child Protection Committee has developed a comprehensive library of publications both national and local. Local publications include posters, leaflets, policies and procedures. A list of publications is available on request and is being handed out at all training courses. If you need further information contact the CPC Support Team on 01592 583251.