

Chief Officer's Public Protection Group Report

Report by Chief Executive

Annual Report from Chief Officers Public Protection Group 2024/2025

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This report provides the Community Planning Partnership with an overview of the work of the Chief Officers Public Protection Group 2023/2024.

REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE CHIEF OFFICERS PUBLIC PROTECTION GROUP

2. The Chief Officers Public Protection Group provides strategic leadership, scrutiny and the oversight of quality assurance and improvement of public protection arrangements within East Renfrewshire. This is achieved by providing strategic direction on priorities concerning risk and clear expectations for partnership arrangements on the safe delivery of services that keep people and their communities safe. It ensures that partnership working within East Renfrewshire meets with national standards around risk management and in addition considers how effective the local planning arrangements are.
3. The core business of the group is as follows:
 - Child Protection
 - Adult Protection
 - Violence Against Women
 - Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Offender Management (specifically Sex Offenders and potentially dangerous offenders)
 - Alcohol and Drugs Partnership

MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTION

4. The group is chaired by the Chief Executive of East Renfrewshire Council and has the following core members:
 - Chief Executive East Renfrewshire Council
 - Chief Officer Health & Social Care Partnership
 - Nurse Director NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
 - Divisional Commander of Police Scotland G Division (East Renfrewshire)
 - Chief Social Work Officer and East Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee Chair
 - East Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee Independent Chair

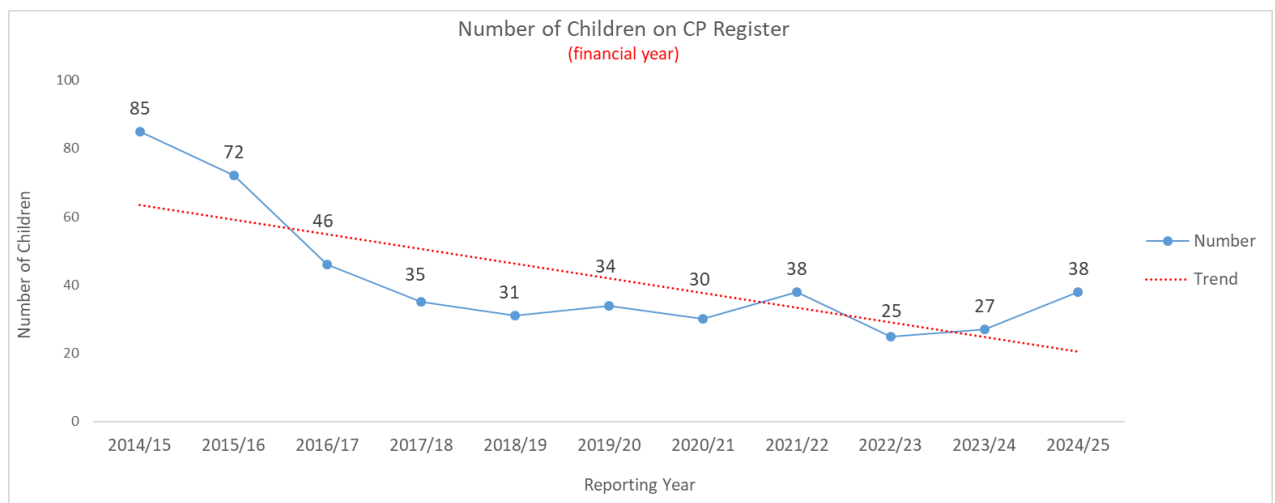
5. In addition, there are associate members that may be called upon by the core group to attend when needed. These include:
- The Lead Officers for Public Protection (child, adult, MAPPA and violence against women / girls).
 - The Lead Officer for Prevent.
 - The locality Reporter (SCRA) and the Director of Education.

The group meets bi-annually in May and November.

6. A summary of the functions of Chief Officers Public Protection Group are as follows:
- Provide leadership and accountability across all public protection arrangements within East Renfrewshire.
 - Coordinate strategic developments within public protection.
 - Approve annual plans, scrutinise self-evaluation of public protection activity and approve associated improvement plans.
 - Review and direct improvements on performance and audit.
 - Provide direction to chairs and members of Child Protection Committee, Adult Protection Committee and Violence against Women / Girls on local priorities.
 - Approve and consider the learning from Significant Case Reviews and be provided with assurance that the improvements and actions required are in place across the local authority.
7. Public protection arrangements require agencies and partnerships to work together strategically, operationally, and effectively and this is supported through robust planning and quality assurance processes. Partners are required to provide significant commitment and contributions through the Child Protection Committee, Adult Protection Committee, MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group and Violence against Women / Girls, by contributing to the development of strategic plans and measures that identify and mitigate risk as well as promoting best practice. Alongside these statutory plans the Chief Officers are provided with regular data, quality assurance and improvement activity that assures that people and communities are kept safe from harm.
8. Our responsibility to keep people protected and safe from harm is fundamental to the work of the HSCP and underpins the other strategic priorities set out in our strategic plan. Our plan recognises that everyone has the right to live in safety and be protected from neglect, abuse and harm. We respond to the identified key risk areas and new risks and vulnerabilities as these emerge, taking actions with our partners to prevent and respond and learning from each other to improve the ways we support and protect vulnerable people.

SUMMARY OF AREAS OF ACTIVITY 2024/2025

9. Our staff have continued to respond in a timely and effective manner to support individuals at risk of harm creatively in a person centred, asset-based approach to help increase self-efficacy.
10. Additional funding was provided to deliver the Transforming Trauma Programme (NTTP) and the Newly Qualified Social Worker pilot, although the latter has now ceased.
11. There has been continued rollout out of the Level 2 and 3 training across the wider workforce, including relevant partners across the Council and Health and Social Care Partnership.
12. Public protection activity has continued to increase, with significant growth in referrals experienced across the partnership:
 - Child Protection registrations have increased by 41%.
 - The graph below highlights the number of children subject to child protection registrations from 2014/15 until 2024/25.
 - Adult Support and Protection referrals have increased by 4%.
 - Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) referrals increased by 16%.



13. The Supporting People Framework has been fully embedded across the East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership and is now applied to all new and existing cases. This framework ensures that support is prioritised for individuals with the most significant needs. It reflects a strong commitment to equity, transparency, and sustainability in service delivery.
14. The implementation of Supporting People Framework has been resource intensive and required a refocusing of workers across the partnership. We can offer assurance however that the staffing of our public protection and initial

response teams has been considered a priority in ensuring our timely response to concerns and in meeting increasing demands.

Child Protection

15. Oversight and scrutiny of child protection activity is maintained via the Child Protection Committee, its subgroups and the Child Protection Committee Business / Improvement plan. This includes regular updates in relation to audit activity and National Minimum dataset.
16. The Child Protection Committee continues to develop a robust self-evaluation framework to critically examine data, audit outcomes, and implementation findings, ensuring these insights effectively inform future planning and improvement activity. This approach provides a strong understanding of the critical issues and needs facing our children and young people at risk of harm, as well as the challenges and support requirements of our workforce.
17. We have continued support of the implementation of the Signs of Safety approach, which focusses on relationship-based practice as well as keeping the child and their network at the centre of all assessments and plans. There has been a refresh of our Signs of Safety Programme, identifying areas where staff require additional support to consolidate their knowledge and skills.
18. We have continued to provide training and development for all frontline workers and managers in Signs of Safety.
19. We are now moving towards a self-sustaining Signs of Safety training model whereupon our staff will lead and deliver appropriate training to multi agency partners.
20. As part of North Strathclyde Partnership, we are now considered a Pathfinder following a successful application via Scottish Government Bairns' Hoose Team.
21. 100% of our joint investigative interviews are conducted using the Scottish child interview model. By March 2025, 80% of our interviews took place in our Bairns' Hoose.
22. There is assurance that concerns in relation to children are easily reported by the public through the Council's website and signposted to the appropriate point of contact.

Adult Protection

23. Through oversight and scrutiny of Adult Protection Committee, its subgroups and improvement activity; monthly quality assurance reviews confirm that activity is consistently delivered to a good or very good standard.
24. The 2023–2025 improvement plan has been completed, and a new plan for 2025–2027 has been developed, focusing on chronologies, self-evaluation, and

multi-agency collaboration. Updated procedures and forms have been adopted to align with the national dataset.

25. A comprehensive training programme has been delivered, including:
 - Council Officer and Second Worker training.
 - Risk assessment and investigative interviewing.
 - Forums for officers and managers to discuss legislation and practice.
26. These courses are provided both as a part of our Public Protection Development Programme, but also as bespoke session for partners and providers to support their improvement.
27. Data use has been enhanced through a national dataset and dashboard, enabling trend analysis and strategic planning. Data is routinely shared across agencies and reported to the Scottish Government, with ongoing discussions about reporting frequency.
28. The Adult Support and Protection Committee's work aligns with national public protection priorities, including learning from reviews, workforce support, information sharing, and continuous improvement through the Quality Improvement Framework and national self-evaluation initiatives.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

29. The Justice Service continue to engage with our colleagues within the Community Justice Partnership and ensured all Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) meetings are held in line with statutory responsibilities.
30. During 2024/25, work progressed at the national level on the revision of Moving Forward Making Changes to Moving Forward 2 Change (MF2C). Final preparations have been prepared for the rollout of Moving Forward 2 Change in June 2025.
31. In the absence of the Caledonian Programme, to keep women and children safe the Justice Team commenced preparations throughout 2024/25 to use a domestic-abuse perpetrator programme delivered by Respect.
32. MAPPA cases continue to be reviewed and monitored jointly by East Renfrewshire and the North Strathclyde MAPPA unit.

Violence against Women and Girls

33. There remains continued oversight and scrutiny of the Violence Against Women & Girls Partnership, subgroups and improvement activity, including data, audit and self-evaluation.
34. Domestic Abuse, Risk Assessment, MARAC and Safe and Together training continues to be delivered in addition to the provision of bespoke sessions for key partners.

35. Through our multi-agency approach we work collaboratively to deliver a significant range of actions to ensure an effective and sustainable approach to preventing, reducing and responding effectively to domestic abuse and all forms of violence against women and girls. This includes the implementation of Routine Sensitive Enquiry, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and Safe and Together practice ensuring a perpetrator pattern based, child centred, survivor strengths approach to working with domestic abuse.
36. We continue to strengthen the capacity of our services and action across the whole system to address the long-term effects of trauma and abuse experienced by women, children and young people.
37. Over the course of the last year 100 staff were trained across a range of organisations and disciplines in Domestic Abuse, Risk Assessment, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference and Safe and Together practice. We have implemented a series of in person and online training on the Domestic Abuse Homicide Timeline delivered by international expert Professor Jane Monkton Smith.
38. We have delivered comprehensive awareness and media campaigns to ensure victims are aware of the range of services and supports available and to raise awareness of gender-based violence.

Alcohol and Drugs Partnership

39. The Alcohol and Drugs Partnership continues to ensure a robust approach to improving outcomes for people at risk from alcohol and drug harm as well as identify opportunities for prevention and early intervention. The Alcohol and Drugs Partnership is currently preparing progress report on the Alcohol and Drugs plan and the eight strategic priorities.
40. There has been significant progress made in design and implementation of the recovery hub, due to open in 2026, initial designs developed with architects, and with community involvement from the recovery community.
41. The Alcohol and Drugs Partnership has established a Lived Experience Network which has been actively engaged in providing feedback and contributing to planning.
42. Recent Alcohol and Drugs Partnership development session agreed there would be enhanced focus on community wide prevention of alcohol harm, which will be informed by deeper data analysis, and how we provide early help for young people affected by alcohol and drug harms. This work will be progressed over coming months.

EXTERNAL VALIDATION

Child Protection

43. The 5th Anniversary progress update on implementation of The Promise in East Renfrewshire demonstrates the breadth and depth of implementation locally and the importance of the partnership in making this happen. The report is structured around the foundations of Voice, Care, Family, People, Scaffolding and indicates the partners who contribute to each area.
44. Amongst other areas of success, the report notes that East Renfrewshire continues to have one of the lowest rates of young people in secure care in Scotland and this has been sustained over a ten-year period. To maintain vulnerable high-risk young people at home in their community and safely requires the commitment of considerable resources along with ways of working with young people and their families that is relational based, and trauma informed.

Adult Protection

45. The Adult Protection Committee improvement plan 2023–2025 has been completed, and a new plan for 2025–2027 has been developed, focusing on chronologies, self-evaluation, and multi-agency collaboration.
46. Updated procedures and forms have been adopted to align with the national dataset.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

47. Audits of MAPPA cases were undertaken by the staff from the MAPPA unit, health, police and social work. Previous audits have highlighted robust risk management practice within East Renfrewshire and that information sharing between agencies was achieved, this being reiterated at a recent audit.

Violence Against Women and Girls

48. We work together with East Renfrewshire Women's Aid Service to provide direct support for women and children who have experienced domestic abuse.
49. The service reported significant change and improvement in women's safety and wellbeing outcomes with 92% of women assessed noting overall improvement in their outcomes.

Alcohol and Drugs Partnership

50. National Assessment of Progress on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards. Following the assessment of East Renfrewshire's evidence, we received highly positive feedback. In addition to receiving feedback that all ten standards are fully implemented, 3 standards were rated as Blue (which means improvement is "sustained and embedded").

51. The graphics below show East Renfrewshire's improvement over the last four years as well as performance in relation to other areas of Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

East Renfrewshire – Improvement 2022-2025

Reporting Year	MAT 1	MAT 2	MAT 3	MAT 4	MAT 5	MAT 6	MAT 7	MAT 8	MAT 9	MAT10
2022	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	not assessed in 2022				
2023	Green	Green	Provisional Green	Amber	Green	Amber	Provisional Amber	Amber	Provisional Amber	Provisional Amber
2024	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Provisional Green	Provisional Green	Provisional Green	Provisional Green	Provisional Green
2025	Blue	Blue	Green	Green	Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

Key

Blue - Sustained and embedded improvement over 2 years

Green MAT Standard met in year

Provisional Green MAT Standard expected to be met next year

Provisional Amber - improvements required

Amber - improvements required

**DISCUSSION POINTS**

52. It is recommended that the CPP Board:

- Discuss the high-level public protection activity outlined within the report and identify any areas for improvement to the Chief Officer Public Protection group on public protection partnership arrangements within East Renfrewshire.
- Agree the East Renfrewshire Chief Officer Public Protection group continues to provide annual updates to the CPP concerning public protection scrutiny and improvement activity that provides assurance that people and communities are being kept safe.

Report Author:

Raymond Prior,
 Head of Children Services and Justice, Chief Social Work Officer
 0141 451 0748
 Raymond.Prior@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk