

# East Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee

Annual Report  
2019/2020



East Renfrewshire  
Child Protection  
Committee

# Chief Officers' Foreword

Lorraine McMillan, Chair of Chief Officer Group Public Protection

**East Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee and the East Renfrewshire Chief Officers Public Protection Group** are pleased to endorse this report which illustrates key partnership working by East Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee in the period 2019/2020.

During 2019/2020 we have achieved a number of key successes and the Chief Officers Public Protection Group have been reassured by the work undertaken to strengthen our practice and relationships with families.

As we now enter the second half of the implementation of the Signs of Safety model, we are satisfied to see a continued strengthen of relationship based practice in East Renfrewshire. Ongoing feedback from our children and families that this model is working for them and that it needs to be the mechanism by which we deliver our services.

As always, the Child Protection Committee continues to work alongside other public protection forums, including East Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee, Multi Agency Public Protection Agenda (MAPPA), Violence against Women and Girls Partnership (VAWG), Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) and Integrated Children's Services Planning (ICSP). We have continued to support Children's Services in the implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and in the continued use of the National Practice Model in "Getting it Right for Every Child" (GIRFEC).

The Chief Officers Public Protection Group have continued to provide strategic leadership scrutiny and the oversight of quality assurance and improvement of public protection arrangements within East Renfrewshire by:

- Providing the oversight, assurance and scrutiny of the Child Protection Committee Improvement/Business Plan;
- Reviewing data from the Child Protection Committee which has provided assurance concerning risk to children and young people; and
- Supporting the implementation of *Signs of Safety*, a strength based approach to working with children and their families who are involved in Child Protection.

During the second half of this reporting period, we were faced with unprecedented challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic and ensuing lockdown. The Chief Officers Public Protection Group would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to staff and managers who continued to deliver high quality and timeous frontline services for children and their families through what was a particularly challenging period. Whilst there has been some return to normality we know that the implications of the pandemic will be felt for some time yet.

We are pleased to present East Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee Report for 2019/2020 and endorse the accompanying Improvement Plan for 2020-2023. It will be distributed and made available to all key agencies and stakeholders and is a public document. The Report can also be accessed by contacting the Lead Officer: Child Protection.

# Foreword

*Kate Rocks, Child Protection Committee Chair*

As Chair of East Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee I am pleased on behalf of the Committee to present our Annual Report 2019/2020 and Improvement Plan 2020-2023.

Child Protection Committees in Scotland have a duty to produce an annual report as well as set out their business priorities for the following year. The following report describes how our Committee has fulfilled its functions and tasks during 2019/2020 and includes a progress update on our key priorities for 2019/2020.

This report also offers statistical information of our child protection activity for the year 2019/2020. Over the year we have had a sharper focus on how we collate, analyse and share our data, using the new National Minimum Dataset, supported by CELCIS – Centre of Excellence for Children's Care and Protection. The Child Protection Committee is using this data to better understand our core processes and business and from the intelligence gathered, it is informing improvements.

Our Continuous Improvement Subgroup has continued to oversee our self-evaluation processes, most significantly our bi-ennial multi-agency child protection case file audit in November 2019. The work of the Committee continues to support and contribute to the East Renfrewshire's Improving Children's Outcomes Partnership Group.

Our implementation of both Signs of Safety and Safer Together continues to show promising value for our children. During 2019/2020 we have focussed on developing key areas of our Signs of Safety approach and have seen an increased confidence our workforce.

For the latter part of this reporting period we have faced many challenges relating to the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown. However, our frontline staff and partners have demonstrated remarkable resilience, ensuring that minimal disruption to children, young people, families and carers. They have worked tirelessly to ensure that children and young people's wellbeing and protection needs are met. On behalf of the East Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee I would like to thank all our partners and staff for their commitment to partnership working during this period.

# Executive Summary

This report provides a high level summary of the East Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee activity in 2019/2020 and findings from our partnership audit and self-evaluation work.

## Key successes of 2019/2020

In response to the increases we have seen around domestic abuse and neglect:

- We have started delivering a robust training programme on Safe and Together which focusses on our approach to supporting families affected by domestic abuse.
- Our Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process is now well established with very good multi-agency representation.
- We have delivered a new multi-agency training on Understanding Neglect in Child Protection. This has been well evaluated and will be part of our ongoing child protection training programme.

We have continued with the implementation of our Signs of Safety and are now into our third year of this five year journey. Our practitioners have started to use this approach with families in all areas of our work.

## Challenges/Priorities

Our key challenges ahead are to continue to take forward year three of our five year implementation of the Signs of Safety approach, alongside the ongoing training and support for Safe and Together.

Furthermore, we will focus on our quality assurance of the implementation of Signs of Safety including seeking feedback from our children, young people and their families/carers. We also plan to focus on hearing from our frontline practitioners and staff. This feedback will help to shape the implementation plan moving forward.

We will support the North Strathclyde Pilot for the Scottish Interview Model for joint investigative interviews which will resume implementation in the coming months as the lockdown restrictions are eased.

In 2020/2021 we will implement the East Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee Improvement Plan 2020-2023 with a focus on:

- Response to and recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Focus on year three of the Signs of Safety implementation plan
- Ongoing development of the identification and interrogation of data as a Committee;
- Working with our advocacy partners to ensure that children, young people and their parents have access to advocacy support; and,
- The commencement of East Renfrewshire as a pilot site for the revised Joint Investigative Interviews training and model of delivery.

# Our Vision for Child Protection

*“We will work together with East Renfrewshire's children, young people and their families to ensure that they are valued, nurtured, inspired and empowered to reach their full potential”*

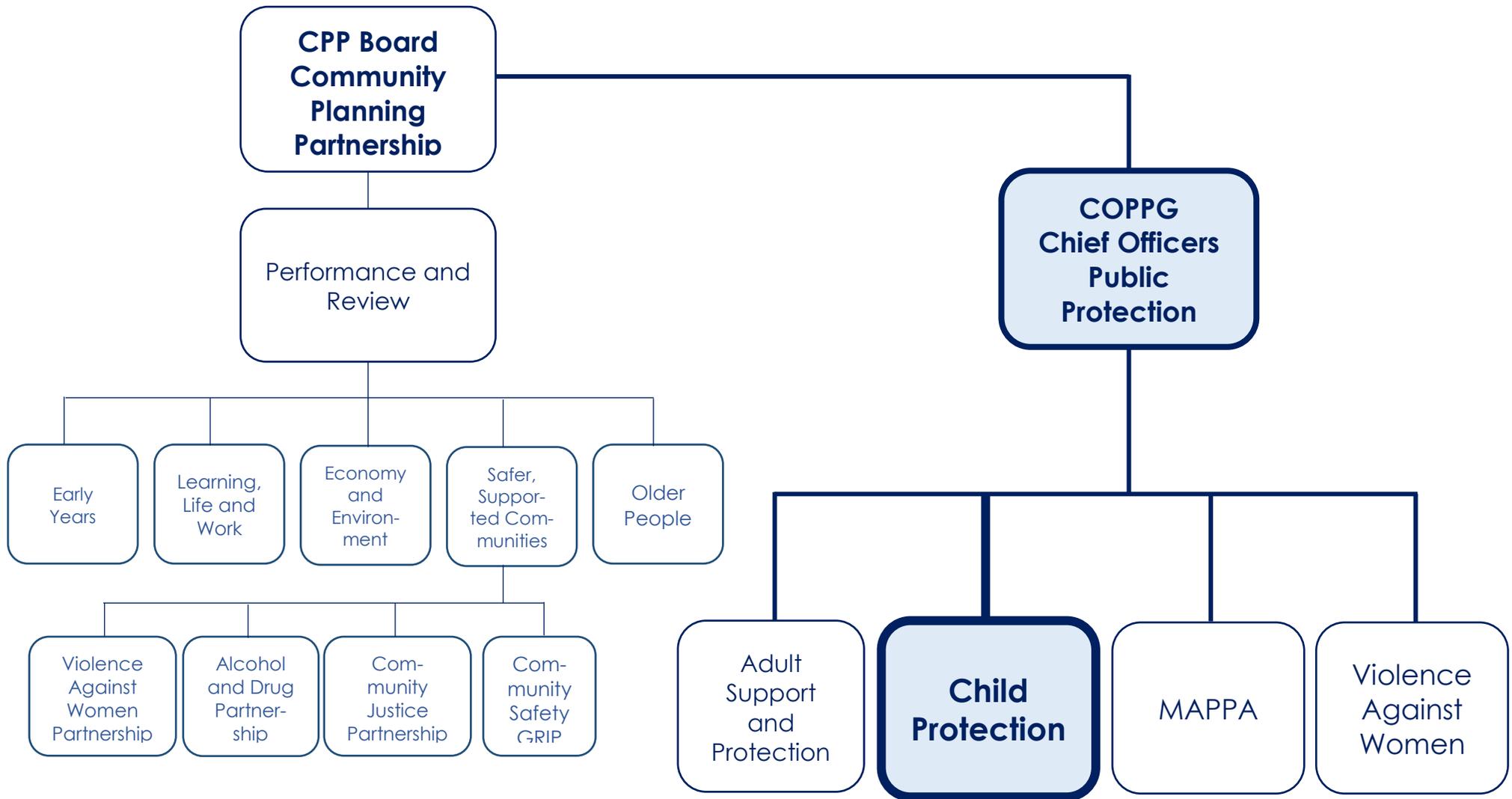
Our Children's Services Plan 2020-2023 is in development which will include a revised vision, aims and principles.

The Child Protection Committee continues to its role and functions as part of the wider Community Planning and Partnership arrangements. The Committee remains committed to supporting the development of practice and driving forward change to realise children's potential, guided by the Community Plan as outlined below:

<b>Community Plan Outcomes</b>	All children experience a stable and secure start to their lives and are supported to succeed Residents are fit and active, and have the skills for learning, life, and work Residents are safe and supported in their communities and homes
<b>Our Aims</b>	Our ambition for the children and young people is that they are Confident Individuals, Effective Contributors, Successful Learners, and Responsible Citizens
<b>Our Priority Groups</b>	Children in the early years (pre-birth to starting school) Children and young people with complex needs Children and young people in our care and those leaving care up until their 26th birthday Young people (12 to 18 years of age)
<b>The Wellbeing Indicators</b>	Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible, Included
<b>Our Guiding Principles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place children's wellbeing at the centre of thinking and action</li> <li>• Strengthen the capacity of families and communities to meet the needs of their children</li> <li>• Further enhance the skills and knowledge of universal services to meet low level need and address concerns at the earliest point</li> <li>• Provide proportionate, appropriate, and timely responses to each child's needs</li> <li>• Intervene early to ensure children get the help they need when they need it</li> <li>• Provide targeted support to those children in greatest need</li> <li>• Ensure that services work together to undertake holistic assessments of the needs of children and plan to meet identified needs in a co-ordinated way</li> <li>• Ensure we take account of ethnic, cultural, religious, and language needs of families</li> <li>• Involve children, young people and families in helping us plan the services that they need and help us evaluate their effectiveness</li> <li>• Provide services that are high quality and that the public, children, young people, and families have trust and confidence in</li> <li>• Make better use of existing and new resources</li> </ul>

# Our Structure, Context

The Child Protection Committee forms part of the wider context of public protection. Accountable to the Chief Officers Public Protection Group, the Committee reports on a 6 monthly basis.

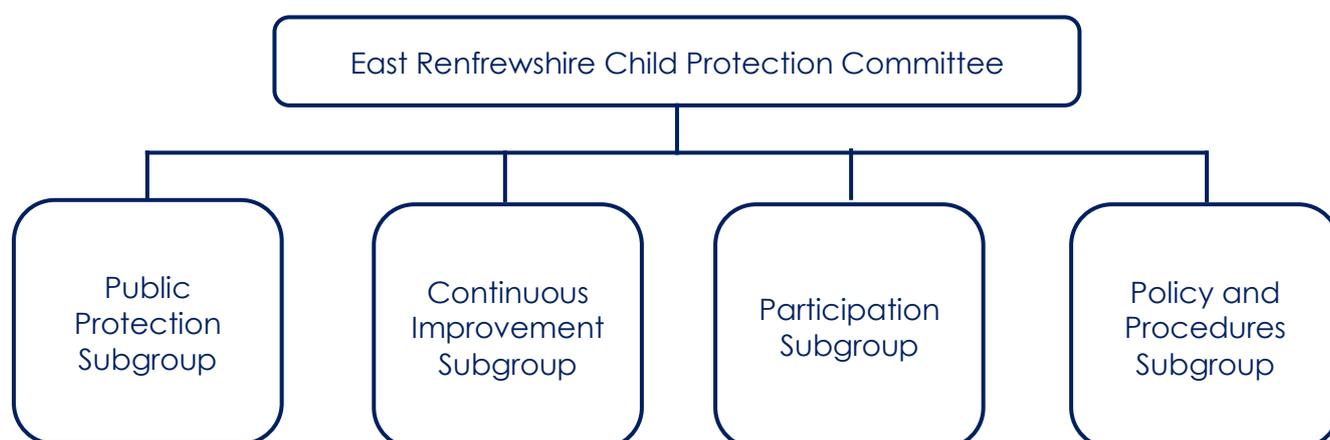


## Child Protection Committee – Who We Are

Representative	Organisation
Kate Rocks, Chief Social Work Officer and CPC Chair	Health and Social Care Partnership
Janice Collins, Head of Education and CPC Vice-Chair	Education
Lead Officer: Child Protection	Health and Social Care Partnership
Strategic Link Inspector	Care Inspectorate
Area Convener	Children's Hearings Scotland
Senior Community Worker	Corporate and Community Services
Procurator Fiscal	Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement	Chief Executives Office
Head of Sport and Physical Activity	East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust
Quality Improvement Officer: Child Protection	Education
Principal Education Psychologist	Education Psychology
Senior Housing Manager	Environment
Lead Officer: Adult Protection	Health and Social Care Partnership
Senior Manager: Intensive Services & Criminal Justice	Health and Social Care Partnership
Senior Manager: Children's Pathways	Health and Social Care Partnership
Learning and Quality Assurance Manager	Health and Social Care Partnership
Senior Manager: Community Social Work	Health and Social Care Partnership
Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinator	Health and Social Care Partnership
Lead AHP Advisor	Health and Social Care Partnership
Assistant Chief Nurse	NHS, Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Child Protection Advisor	NHS, Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Detective Superintendent	Police Scotland
Locality Reporter Manager	Scottish Children's Reporters Administration

## Child Protection Committee Subgroups

The Child Protection Committee subgroups structure is as follows:



A brief explanatory of each of the groups is provided below, alongside key activity.

### **Public Protection Subgroup**

This subgroup brings together key members from the Child Protection Committee and the Adult Protection Committee. This group meets on a quarterly basis to discuss cross cutting themes, including training. Key activity in 2019/2020 has included:

- Overseeing the second annual East Renfrewshire Public Protection Conference which took place on 25 November 2019
- Development of the East Renfrewshire Trafficking and Exploitation Multi-agency Practitioner Guidance
- Continued oversight of the Initial Contact Service for Adult Support and Protection and the arrangements for working with the Children's Services Request for Assistance Team
- Oversight of the Public
- Protection Development/Training Programme
- Continued strengthening of the links between CPC, APC, VAW and MAPPA
- Oversight of the introduction of MARAC

### **Continuous Improvement Subgroup**

The Continuous Improvement Subgroup is a multi-agency group established to oversee the Child Protection Committee's Improvement Plan as well as data, audit and self-evaluation activity. The subgroup meets on a quarterly basis. Key activity in 2019/2020 has included:

- Review of training, learning and development opportunities
- Review and monitoring of self-evaluation activity
- Oversight of the newly revised Interagency Referral Discussion protocol
- Oversight of the new National Minimum Dataset for Child Protection Committees
- Oversight of Signs of Safety implementation, including the development of revised assessment material

### **Participation Subgroup**

The Participation Subgroup is a multi-agency group representative of the service user groups across Children's Services. The subgroup meets on a quarterly basis. The purpose of the subgroup is to ensure that the views of children and young people and their families are clearly evidenced in the Committee's work. Key activity in 2019/2020 has included:

- Supporting the Child Protection Committee to consider the best forum to provide information to children, young people, their families and carers.
- Oversight of the participation activity across Children's Services
- Supporting the submission for the Part 1 – Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014: Rights Reporting Duties

### **Policy and Procedure Subgroup**

The Policy and Procedure Subgroup meets on a quarterly basis and includes multi-agency representation with the purpose of ensuring that policies, procedures, guidance and practice notes are in place to support practice and service delivery. Key activity in 2019/2020 has included:

- Taken a review of existing policies, procedures and guidance, prioritising guidance to be refreshed as well as identifying new areas of work
- Finalising the East Renfrewshire Trafficking and Exploitation Multi-agency Practitioner Guidance

- Oversight of the dissemination of all completed guidance

## **Key Partnership Structures**

### **Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People Group**

The Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People group is a multi-agency strategic group which has oversight of all Children's Services in East Renfrewshire. Working in close alignment with the Child Protection Committee, although with a wider strategic role, the remit of the group includes:

- Providing leadership in relation to the integrated children's services agenda;
- Promoting East Renfrewshire's shared vision for children and young people, across both universal and targeted services;
- Overseeing the implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and the new statutory duties as they relate to public bodies within the Community Planning Partnership;
- Overseeing the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Plan and the 3 yearly reporting requirements for the Scottish Government; and
- Promoting effective engagement and consultation with children, young people and families in planning, service delivery and evaluation.

## **Early Identification and Intervention**

Child protection activity within East Renfrewshire is supported within a context of early identification and intervention services. This helps to minimise the need for and mitigate the effects of children becoming involved in child protection processes.

### **The Request for Assistance team**

The Request for Assistance (RfA) team, now in its sixth year of practice, continues to ensure that children and their families receive a thorough and prompt response to any referrals and/or inquiries for a child or young person. The team is comprised of experienced social workers, an experienced Health Visitor and also benefits from the expertise of our third sector partner Children 1st who consider referrals under Section 12 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 for Family Group Decision Making (FGDM). The service is also now home to our Paediatric Occupational Therapy Service, ensuring a timely response to children and their families who require adaptations to their home to meet the physical needs of their children and our Domestic Abuse Coordinator, who oversees our Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) arrangements and provides support and guidance to victims of domestic abuse. The Request for Assistance team provides advice, guidance, assistance and interventions on a range of issues from child wellbeing to child protection.

From 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, the Request for Assistance team completed a total of 1138 initial assessments, with 20% requiring targeted intervention. These figures are consistent with the previous year's activity, dropping only by 1% in the total number of referrals.

Over the same period, the Paediatric Occupational Health Service has assessed and supported adaptations for 51 children over this reporting period. This includes children being discharged from hospital, major adaptations to family homes to accommodate children's physical needs and accessing of specialist equipment. Our Paediatric Occupational

Therapist, also supports the Resource Allocations Group for Children with Additional Support Needs making applications for financial support.

A key function for the team is to provide support to children, young people and their families alongside key partner agencies at the earliest opportunity. Sharing information and offering advice at these early stages promotes our preventative approach for children, young people and their families.

### **Family Group Decision Making**

The Family Group Decision Making Service provided by our third sector partner Children 1st supports families at an earlier stage, to avoid them unnecessarily entering the social work system. The provision of this service allows East Renfrewshire to meet our section 12 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 by promoting social welfare through the provision of advice, guidance and assistance. This year has seen a review of the service, with a focus being placed on referrals received directly from our partners in education, this offers an opportunity for families to work together with professionals to make decisions that focuses on managing their own plans to keep meeting their children's needs and prevent the need for statutory service involvement. Whilst the reviewed process is in its infancy, encouragingly the service has received 22 referrals, with 8 families progressing, preventing the need for statutory service involvement.

### **Family First**

The Family First role involves responding to notifications from partners with regards to early indicators that children and families may benefit from some additional help. The focus is on prevention and early intervention and supporting 'just coping' families who are not involved with formal services. One-to-one strength based and solution focused support for parents across East Renfrewshire is offered, encouraging families to participate in informal supports such as wider family or social networks, community groups and third sector organisations. This connected approach relies on collaboration and understanding of roles to ensure families can be supported early and prevents duplication of services.

Feedback from our exiting survey demonstrates that this approach is working effectively. Parents say they still feel in control of their lives during Family First intervention as they feel their views are truly heard and goals are built around this Family First intervention. 96% of families who completed a pre and post Family Wellbeing Scale showed improvement.

#### Family First outcomes

1. Prevent families reaching crisis point or targeted support with services
2. Build sustained, positive relationship with families
3. Support families to build capacity and achieve their aspirations
4. Navigate to, access and test new ways of working with partners
5. Link to services, communities and the third sector

### **Our Response to Domestic Abuse**

Domestic Abuse continues to be one of the most common reasons for referral to children's social work service. Over the course of this year there were a total of 443 referrals and 385 children affected by domestic abuse. This included 375 domestic abuse police concern reports a 14% increase on the same period last year. It is evident that a significant number of these children were exposed to domestic abuse on more than one occasion.

Domestic abuse is one of the most common features of all Interagency Referral Discussions (IRD) held in East Renfrewshire. Of the 180 IRDs held within this reporting period, 31% of these

listed domestic abuse as a significant factor and 41% of all child protection registrations identified domestic abuse as a primary or secondary risk factor.

We have a holistic approach which combines the process, safety planning and multi-agency approach of Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) with the Safe and Together model of intervention which is focussed on supporting the non-abusing parent whilst taking a perpetrator pattern based approach.

#### Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

MARACs are recognised nationally as best practice for addressing cases of domestic abuse that are categorised as high risk. Over the course of this year we successfully implemented MARAC in East Renfrewshire. In the first year of operation 86 high risk victims and 135 children were referred to MARAC. Of these figures: 78% of children referred were under the age of 12 years, 26 % under the age of 5 years (Includes Pre-Birth referrals) and 6 young people referred between the ages of 16 and 18 years.

Safe Lives carried out an independent observation of the East Renfrewshire Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference in February 2020. The observation report and findings were very positive highlighting a range of strengths in best practice, procedure and strategic oversight. This reflects the commitment by all agencies to share information to improve outcomes and keep victims of domestic abuse and their children safe.

## **Strength Based Practice Models**

### **Support for Families and Parenting**

Within East Renfrewshire, families and carers can access a range of high quality family and parenting programmes that are delivered across the localities. Joint working ensures that families receive early help that prevents concerns escalating to a level where statutory legislation would be required. Similarly, as the population of children and young people with complex needs increases, demand for advice and support from parents locally has risen too.

### **Psychology of Parenting Programme**

The Psychology of Parenting Project is aimed at improving the availability of high-quality evidence-based parenting programmes for families with young children who have elevated levels of stress and associated behavioural problems. In East Renfrewshire, Education and Health and Social Work staff have worked together to coordinate and deliver the programme over the last four years.

The programme is robustly evaluated after delivery with each family and child's experience individually measured across a range of outcome indicators. Forty-seven parents/carers, 78% of our reach/capacity, enrolled in Psychology or Parenting programmes during 2019. 52% of them were from a one parent family and 82% were from SIMD 1-3. Children registered by the parent/carer at this time represented, 27 (64%) boys and 15 (36%) girls. Twenty-eight (67%) of families successfully completed a pre and post Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire of which 27 (96%) revealed an improvement. Twenty-one (75%) of children started in the clinical range prior to engaging in POPP and successively 16 (76%) moved out of the clinical range, 9 (43%) into normal range and 7 (33%) moved into borderline.

## **Barnardo's Cygnet**

Barnardo's Cygnet Programme aims to improve outcomes for children and young people by increasing parental confidence in positively supporting behaviours associated with an Autism Spectrum Condition. This programme continues to be offered to parents within one year of diagnosis. During 2019/2020 eight programmes were delivered with 49 families attending the programme. Unfortunately two of these programmes interrupted by Covid-19 and have not yet been completed.

We are now delivering the updated Cygnet programme which is validated for 5-18 year olds. This allows us to provide a timelier offer to parents of children who have received an autism diagnosis pre-school. Previously, our delivery was limited to children over seven years. Parents continue to value the flexible option of daytime and evening attendance on this seven week programme. Over the past year we have had more parents seeking to attend the course together and an increasing number of requests that a similar support be available for siblings. One of the courses undertaken over the last year was tailored to families actively supported by Social Work. Feedback from this course identified significant benefit.

An evaluation of the Cygnet Programme was undertaken by two East Renfrewshire Educational Psychology Trainees. This included focus group participation and a review of course evaluation forms. Programme evaluation and feedback strongly indicates high parental satisfaction with the course content and methods of delivery. Similar feedback was obtained in a review undertaken by a Clinical Psychology Trainee. Feedback obtained is incorporated into the programme development plan.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Barnardo's have produced a version of the programme that can be delivered virtually. The effectiveness of the programme is enhanced by the relational aspect, networking opportunities and delivery within a safe confidential space. The benefits and practicalities of virtual delivery would require to be evaluated. However this is potentially an opportunity to be explored given ongoing requirements for social distancing.

### **Mellow Ability**

This year's Mellow Ability Group ran from January 2020 at Isobel Mair Family Centre and was attended by six mums all of whom have children with significant and complex additional support needs. The facilitating team was also joined by two previous Mellow Ability participants who, due to their own positive experience of Mellow Ability, were keen to support other parents in a similar situation. The Educational Psychology Service funded the training of two new facilitators – one from the Home Visiting Team and one previous participant from the Mellow Ability Dad's Group.

One parent was unable to continue attending due to personal circumstances and unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, group sessions could not continue. As such only half the sessions were completed. Four sessions have taken place remotely during the lockdown with good attendance from four out of five parents. This has brought its own challenges due to technology and parents having more limited time and space away from their children to join the sessions, however, all participants have valued the opportunity to keep in contact with the other participants and facilitators. We intend to continue virtual Mellow Ability sessions while planning how to bring the parents together again safely once the schools have returned. This will allow us to complete the programme and evaluate impact.

# Our Children, Young People and Families

## Population

The total population of East Renfrewshire is 95,530<sup>1</sup>. Children and young people (aged 0 – 18 years) are broken down as follows:

Age	Male	Female	Total
0 – 4	2656	2447	5103
5 – 11	4739	4469	9208
12 – 16	3207	3173	6380
17 – 18	1147	1090	2237
All Ages	11749	11179	22928

## Poverty and Deprivation

Previous measures in relation to poverty and deprivation by HMRC have been discontinued. **The figures above are from a measure that has now been discontinued by HMRC, the main measure used in the LCPAR is the below figures.**

The End Child Poverty Coalition (ECPC) produced the measures below, adjusted to take housing costs into account:

- Overall percentage of children living in poverty in East Renfrewshire was 15.8%. Using this measure the Barrhead ward has the highest percentage of children in poverty at 29.8% and Netherlee, Stamperland and Williamwood, the lowest at 6.5%; and,
- In terms of deprivation, East Renfrewshire ranks twenty third in Scotland in relation to the number of data zones in the worst 20%. Meaning that only 9 local authorities have fewer data zones in the worst 20%.

## Ethnicity

The figures are taken from the 2011 census:

- 89.3% of our resident population were born in Scotland
- 5.1% (4,618) were born in England
- 1.2% (1098) were born in Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland
- 0.6% (513) were born in other EU countries who were members in March 2001
- 0.3% (261) were born in other EU Accession countries April 2001 to March 2011
- 3.5% (3158) were born in other countries

In terms of ethnicity 5.9% of our population is from a non-white ethnic background with the Pakistani community being the largest group making up 3.1% of East Renfrewshire's population followed by the Indian community, making up 1.2% of the population.

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<sup>1</sup> This figure is based upon the 2019 midyear estimate.

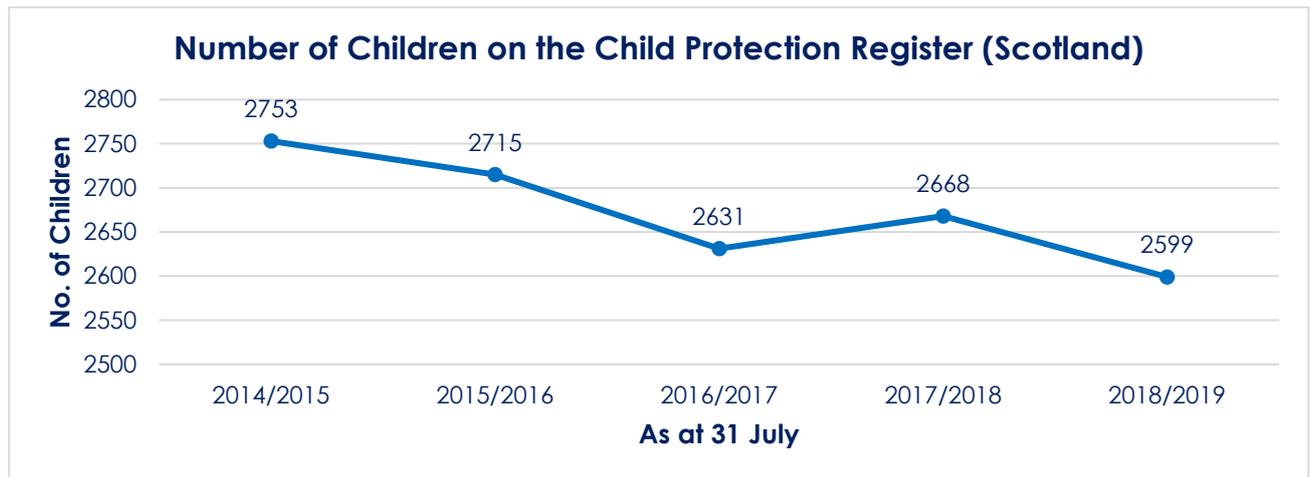
# Our Child Protection Information

The Committee considers key child protection information on a quarterly basis which is subject to further review and scrutiny by our Chief Officers Public Protection group.

## National and Local Child Protection Registration

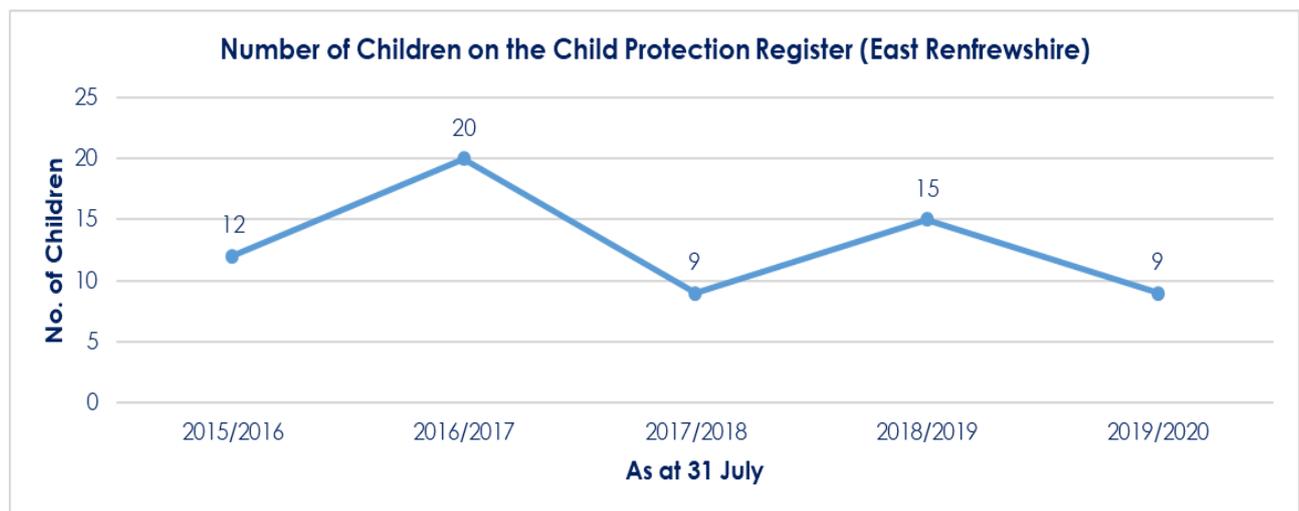
Below is the published data for child protection registration. Please note that due to Scottish Government reporting restrictions, only 2018/19 data is currently available for this section.

### National Data



At 31 July 2019, 16,614 children in Scotland were looked after or on the child protection register which is fewer 2% of the overall children's population representing a slight increase on the previous year following a longer pattern of decline.

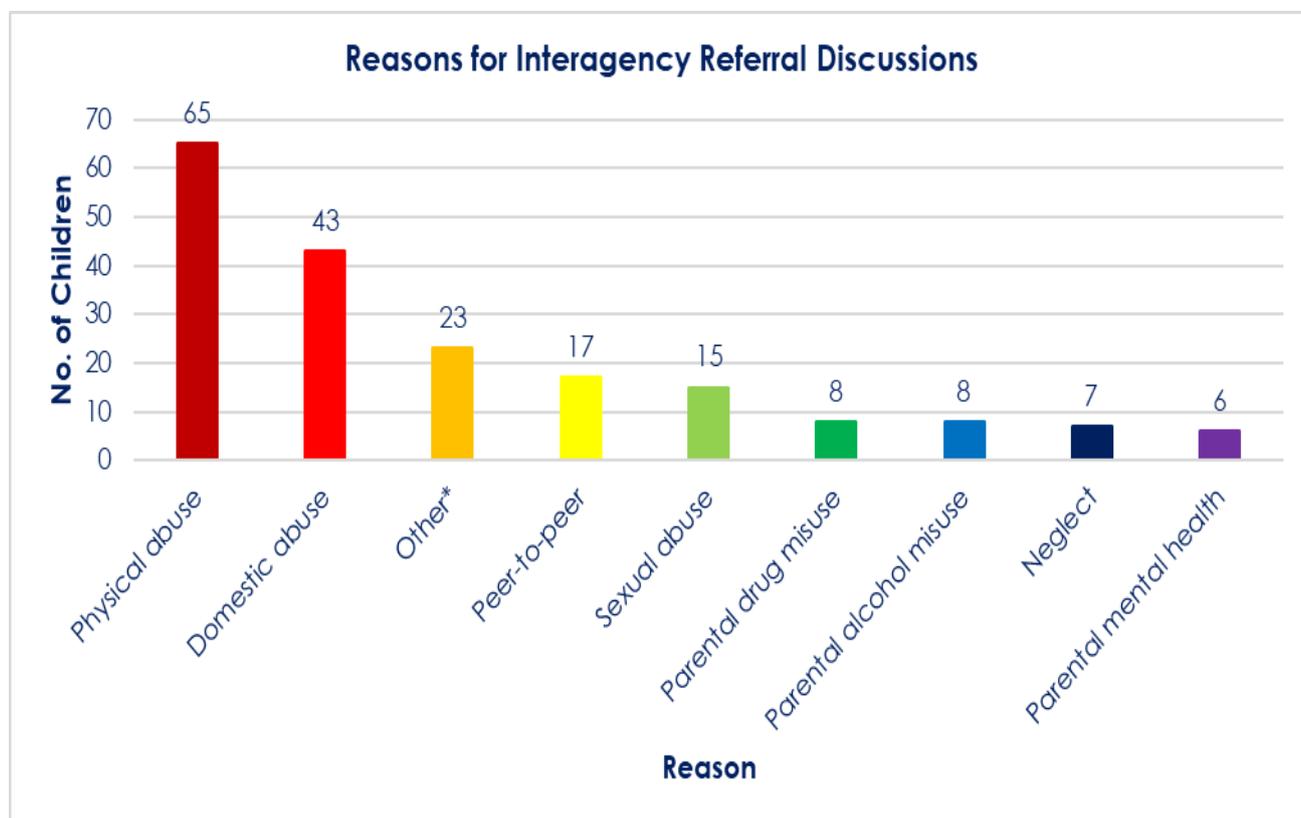
### East Renfrewshire Data



East Renfrewshire had 0.5% of children on the child protection register or looked after, below the national average. This has remained the same as 2018/2019. Low numbers can appear more sensitive to variation, however over the course of the last 5 years, there has been a consistency in the range.

### East Renfrewshire Interagency Referral Discussion

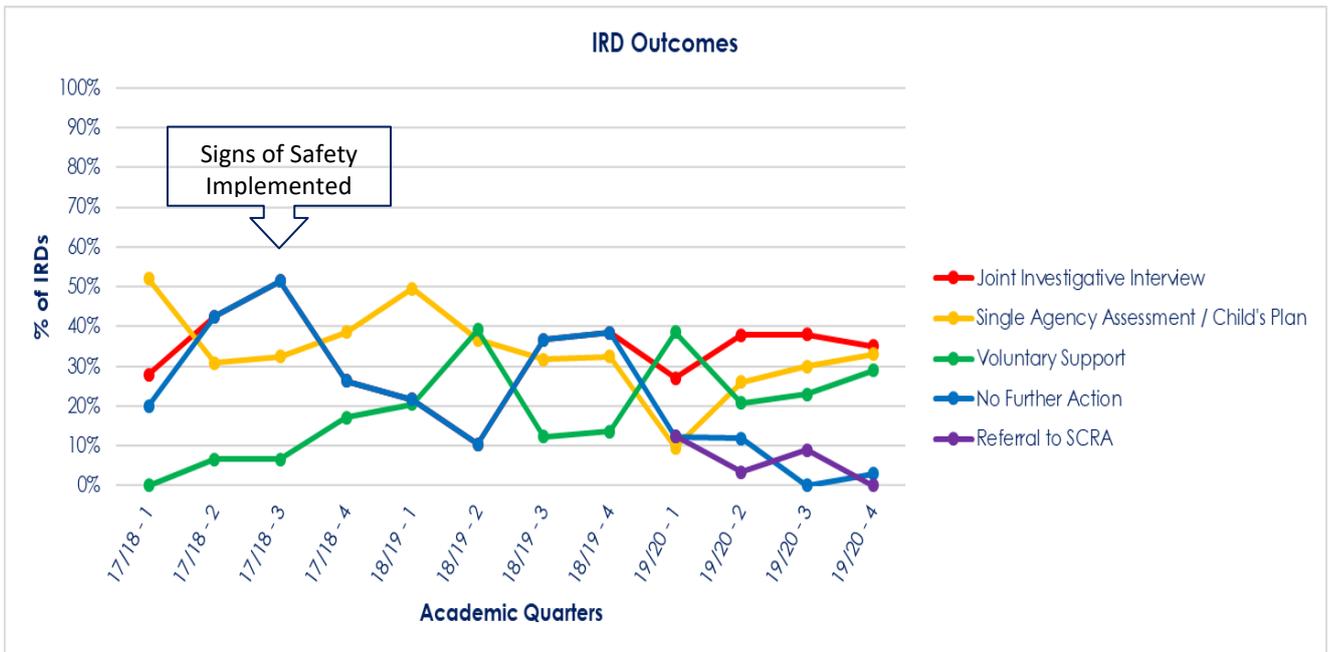
An Interagency Referral Discussion (IRD) is the initial multi-agency information sharing, assessment and joint decision making process to determine the need for further child protection measures. The total number of Interagency Referral Discussions (IRD) undertaken in 2019/2020 was 118 relating to 192 children. This is broadly consistent with practice in 2018/2019 demonstrating that we have embedded the IRD process and ensuring that all interim safety plans are multi-agency..



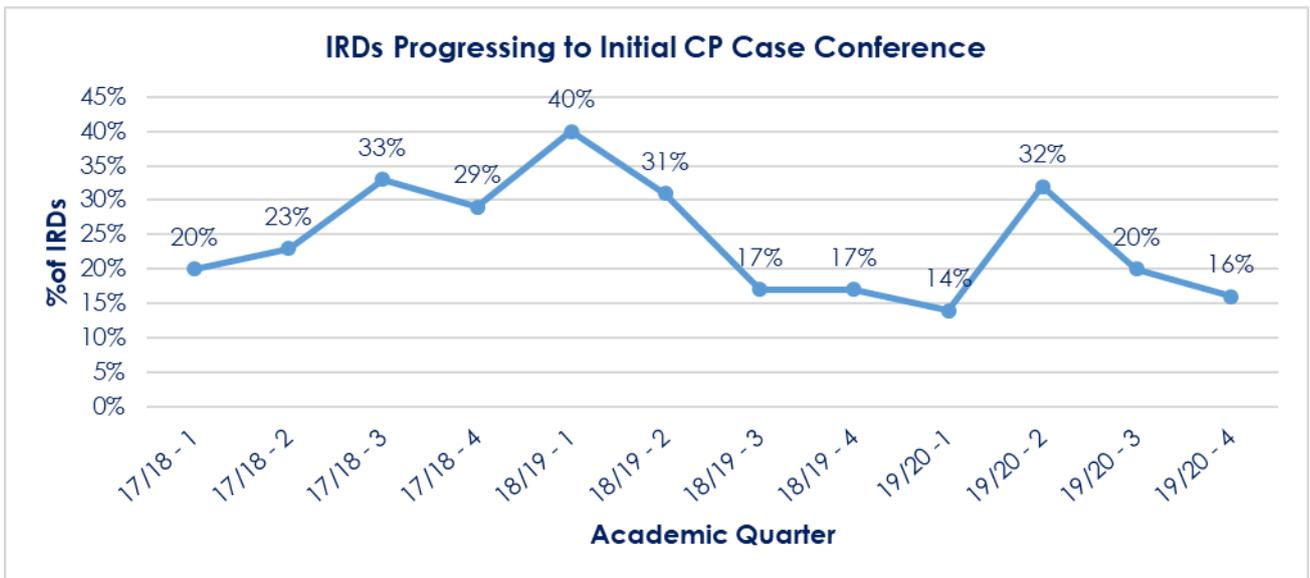
Our primary reason for undertaking an IRD in 2019/2020 is physical abuse, overtaking the primary reason of domestic abuse in 2018/2019.

\* The use of "other" here reflects an amalgamation of issues which we have addressed in smaller numbers. However as outlined below, these issues are reflective of the significant levels of complexity being addressed:

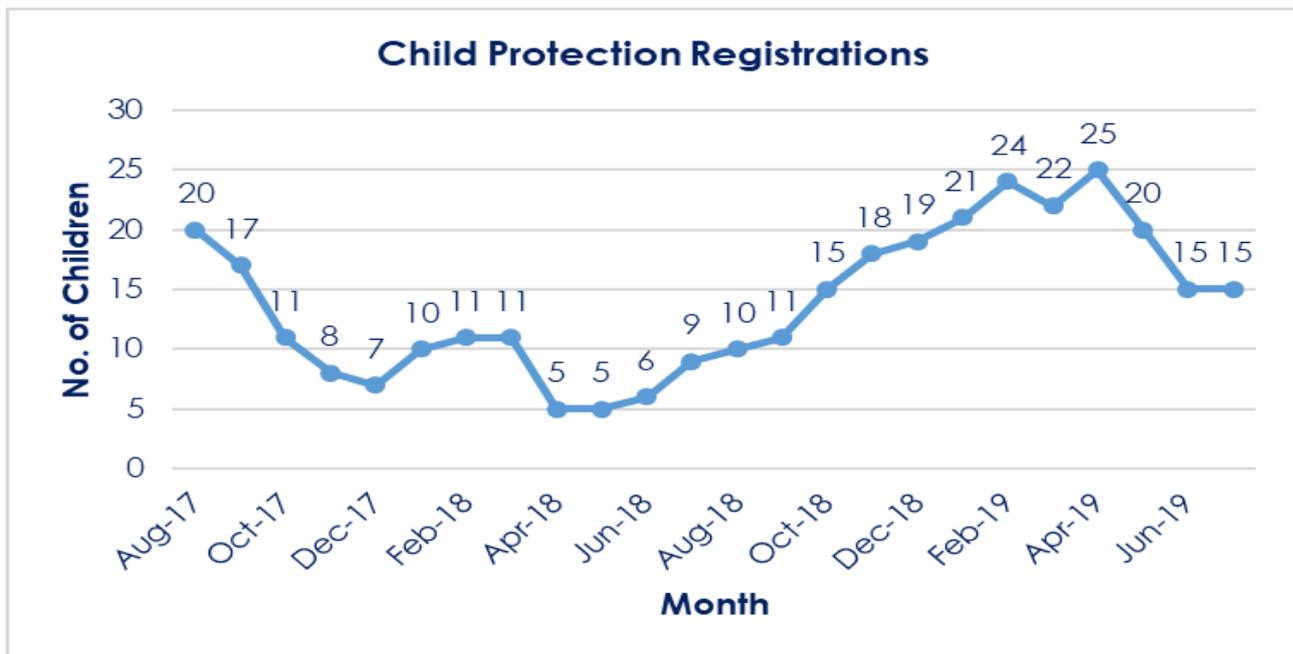
Child affected by disability
Child sexual exploitation
Child/young person alcohol misuse
Emotional abuse
Unaccompanied young people



Of the 192 children subject to Interagency Referral Discussions that took place over 2019/2020, 34% of these resulted in Joint Investigative Interviews and 24% in a single agency investigation. The remaining 42% of IRDs resulted in voluntary support, other legal measures or no further action.



In the year 2019/2020 there was an increase in the proportion of children subject to an Interagency Referral Discussion progressing to an Initial Child Protection Case Conference during quarter two, however this has decreased again in quarter three and four. At this early stage it is unclear whether the impact of Covid-19 has had any impact on this, however we anticipate that we will see an impact on the proportion of IRDs that process to Initial Child Protection Case Conference.



The total number of children on East Renfrewshire’s Child Protection Register over the period August 2019 to July 2020 was 31. This is marginally lower than 35 from 2018/2019 despite variations from month to month in 2019/2020.

**Child Protection Re-registrations**

During 2019/2020 we have undertaken analysis of our data in relation to child protection re-registrations. Less than five children were re-registered within in a two year period during 2018/2019. Any children or young people who are re-registered within a two year period are subject to a review of their care plan.

**Scottish Children’s Reporters Administration and Child Protection**

For East Renfrewshire in 19/20 Q1, covering the period 01/08/2019 to 31/10/2019, there were -

- **67** children/young people referred to the Children's Reporter
- **0** children/young people for whom Child Protection Orders were granted
- **20.4%** of the non-offence referrals were taken to a hearing by the Reporter
- **72** Children's Hearings held
- **7** Pre Hearing Panels held
- **91** children/young people with a Compulsory Supervision Order in place at the quarter end

For East Renfrewshire in 19/20 Q2, covering the period 01/11/2019 to 31/01/2020, there were -

- **68** children/young people referred to the Children's Reporter
- **1** children/young people for whom Child Protection Orders were granted
- **26.9%** of the non-offence referrals were taken to a hearing by the Reporter
- **70** Children's Hearings held
- **11** Pre Hearing Panels held
- **100** children/young people with a Compulsory Supervision Order in place at the quarter end

For East Renfrewshire in 19/20 Q3, covering the period 01/02/2020 to 30/04/2020, there were -

- **40** children/young people referred to the Children's Reporter
- **0** children/young people for whom Child Protection Orders were granted
- **27.6%** of the non-offence referrals were taken to a hearing by the Reporter
- **46** Children's Hearings held
- **2** Pre Hearing Panels held
- **100** children/young people with a Compulsory Supervision Order in place at the quarter end

For East Renfrewshire in 19/20 Q4, covering the period 01/05/2020 to 31/07/2020, there were -

- **43** children/young people referred to the Children's Reporter
- **0** children/young people for whom Child Protection Orders were granted
- **22.8%** of the non-offence referrals were taken to a hearing by the Reporter
- **21** Children's Hearings held
- **1** Pre Hearing Panels held
- **102** children/young people with a Compulsory Supervision Order<sup>2</sup> in place at the quarter end.

### **National Minimum Child Protection Committee Dataset**

The Child Protection Committee agreed to implement the dataset at the start of this reporting period. The dataset ensures an overview of the child protection processes and timescales as well as parental participation.

This information has been presented quarterly and has supported the Committee to focus discussions on areas of good practice and areas for improvement, strengthening its scrutiny and strategic governance functions.

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<sup>2</sup> CSO outcomes include those CSOs administratively continued for an additional 6 months under the Covid legislation

# Child Protection Committee Key Activity 2019/2020

## Key Activity 2019/2020

In our report for 2018/2019 we highlighted the following as key activity:

Key Activity	Update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued implementation of the Signs of Safety model in year 2 of the plan;</li> </ul>	Ongoing – five year implementation plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-agency case file audit taking place in November 2019;</li> </ul>	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further development of the identification and interrogation of data as a Committee;</li> </ul>	National Minimum Dataset implemented
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening the data collation to ensure that children are supported to access advocacy where this is appropriate; and</li> </ul>	Ongoing meetings with our advocacy provider
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewed learning from an external Significant Case Review</li> </ul>	Ongoing development of eating disorders guidance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The commencement of East Renfrewshire alongside neighbouring local authorities and Police Scotland as a pilot site for the revised Joint Investigative Interviews training and model of delivery.</li> </ul>	Ongoing – delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of impact of Covid-19 pandemic</li> </ul>	Development of a recovery plan

## Policies, Procedures and Protocols

In line with national guidance, the Child Protection Committee is responsible for developing, publishing and disseminating multi-agency procedures, protocols and guidance to support collaborative working across agencies and services.

### Trafficking and Exploitation Guidance

The East Renfrewshire Trafficking and Exploitation Multi-agency Practitioner Guidance was approved by the Child Protection and Adult Protection Committees in February 2020. The guidance has been developed to support front line practitioners and their managers who are working with children, young people and adults who may be suffering significant harm or at risk of suffering harm through trafficking and exploitation. It will enable identification and inform appropriate responses in relation to children, young people and adults' support and protection needs.

This guidance will sit alongside the East Renfrewshire Missing Persons Guidance which is in development and due for approval in 2020/2021.

## Self-Evaluation and Quality Assurance

During 2019/2020 a range of audit activity was undertaken on behalf of the Child Protection Committee.

### Multi-agency Self-Evaluation

Building on our multi-agency child protection case file audit, the Committee is contributing to the wider self-evaluation work as we continue to shift the balance of support to children, young people and their families to early help. This work will also build on the learning from the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Interagency Referral Discussion (IRD) Audits

A quarterly programme of IRD audit is now an established part of our continuous improvement programme for Child Protection. Unfortunately, our programme of audit which runs across the academic year has been impacted significantly by the National Lockdown and Covid restrictions. Moving forward from this, the programme of audit has been reinstated beginning April 2020.

Reassuringly, the mid-point IRD audit report (Quarter 1 & 2) continues to report significant strengths in our practice and provides us with the reassuring evidence that quickly identifies and timely respond to children at risk of significant harm:

- Our Initial Referral Discussion audit identified that 100% of the children subject to child protection investigation met the threshold for child protection.
- Initial Referral Discussion was assessed as good or above in identifying, analysing and making a decision for children about the risk of significant harm in over 90% of cases.
- Planning to reduce risk to children was assessed as good or above in 97% of cases.
- Early analysis suggests that changes to our IRD paperwork have improved the quality of recording around key decisions such as the requirement for medical examination.

The feedback is also shared with frontline practitioners. Some of the areas of improvement will be taken forward as part of the new Scottish Interview Model for joint investigative interviews.

### Joint Investigative Interview Audits

Throughout 2019 we have reviewed quarterly the quality of our Joint Investigative Interviews (JIIs), with the audit team comprising of Police (G Division), Social Work, Health, Educational Psychology, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and Speech and Language Therapy. The multi-agency audit team brings considerable skills and knowledge that is assisting us to improve the quality of the experience for children.

The audit programme is providing us with clear evidence of improvement in this area and both audits have identified significant strengths in systems, practice and reassuringly support's our relational based practice shift that we are building strong supportive relationships with children and their families. This is evident in the audit findings, which identified:

- Clear evidence of good practice across the interviews audited, these reflect the individual commitment of the interviewers and their natural abilities with children / young people
- That the manner and approach of the lead interviewers was sensitive to the child's age and ability across all interviews

- Lead Interviewers were child friendly, their tone was soft and they were able to relax the child in almost all interviews
- Rapport was attempted and of good quality across the interviews

As we move forward in piloting the Scottish Child Interview Model, a new process of evaluation, replacing the existing quarterly audit will be in place to support the North Strathclyde Pilot. This will include:

- Introduction of a standard Quality Assurance Tool
- Monthly JII Multi Agency Audits
- Feedback from SCRA / COPFS on ALL JIIs that are submitted for evidence
- The collation of feedback from children and families
- A formal system of peer evaluation and interviewer reflections
- A process to capture longer term outcomes for children within the child protection system

### **Multi-agency Child Protection Case File Audit**

This audit takes place every two years, with the most recent audit taking place in November 2019. The report was shared with the Child Protection Committee. Summary of the audit:

#### Methodology

- Reviewed 24 children and young people's case files. This was approximately a 10% of sample of all children and young people who were subject to a child protection investigation from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2019.
- The Audit team was made up of 12 representatives from health, police, education, educational psychology and social work.
- The Care Inspectorate Case File Reading Template was used.
- We sought feedback from three families as part of the audit. Their comments are included in the full report.
- A moderation team of four representatives from education, SCRA and social work moderated seven cases.
- The final audit report was approved by the Child Protection Committee (CPC) on 6 February 2020.

#### Audit Findings

##### *Strengths*

- The majority of assessments of risk and need scored good or above, however some did contain too much information meaning the concerns/risk/needs may be missed
- Where use of the Signs of Safety approach was evident there were comments that this was good and consistent with the stage of implementation of the model
- Case notes were mostly reflective of the contact and work undertaken with children and their families, including evidence of partnership working with parents and child. This included seeking and recording the child and the parents' views.
- Evidence of risk management through robust relationships built across the child's network, which is consistent with the Signs of Safety approach
- Evidence of consideration of risk to siblings where they were not the main focus of the child protection investigation in all cases where this was applicable
- Where children and young people were subject to registration, there was evidence of good analysis of future risk and re-emerging patterns
- The services is very good at responding to risk and ensuring children's safety, including planning for a caring and stable environment

- Relationships continue to be a strength for us, underpinning all our interactions with children and their families

#### *Areas for development identified*

- Where children's names are not placed on the child protection register the same rigour of safety planning, as that of children whose names are placed on the register, needs to be applied, including consideration of any future risks
- Evidence of senior managers oversight of child protection assessments and safety plans, especially where the child's name not placed on child protection register, should be more explicit
- Greater emphasis should be placed on keeping parents informed of the process and outcomes of child protection investigations, especially where the recommendation is unlikely to result in an Initial Child Protection Case Conference
- Clearer guidance in relation to the frequency and recording of Core Group Meetings
- Referrals to the Scottish Reporter's Administration should be considered and decisions recorded at every stage of the child protection process
- Evidence and outcomes of Joint Investigative Interviews should be more explicitly recorded on the child's file
- Recording of care / safety plans should be more explicit and consistent, recording outcomes across all dimensions of a child's life
- There should be a focus on independent advocacy for parents should be considered more consistently, especially where they have a learning difficulty or expressing concerns re the child protection process
- Children and young people should be offered independent advocacy
- The presence and quality of chronologies and other risk assessment tools varied across single agencies. These were not always reflected in the multi-agency chronology where present
- Further consideration needs given to how practice is supported in managing more complex concerns, in particular child sexual abuse

#### Next steps

- The initial learning from the audit was shared across the multi-agency staff groups.
- The CPC Continuous Improvement Subgroup is taking forward the areas for improvement/development
- This Improvement Plan will include learning and development opportunities across the thematic areas for improvement. However, it should be noted that the Improvement/Business Plan will also be focussing on recovery as lockdown restrictions over the coming months.

## **Education**

### Case File Audit

The Education service carried out a case file review to ensure that child protection files maintained by establishments reflect the highest standards of practice consistent with Standard Circular 57 and the National Guidance for Child Protection (2014). Quality Improvement Officers sampled at least one file in each establishment. In the absence of a current or recent child protection file a Looked After or Care and Welfare file was sampled as the same principles of file management apply. The review pro forma reflected an Education Scotland Advice Note on Safeguarding (2018) and included a set of wider considerations for schools. It also reflected Quality Indicator 2.1 Safeguarding and Child Protection from How Good is Our School 4.

The audit was curtailed by school closures due to Covid-19, and so most rather than all establishments were part of the audit. The case file review demonstrated that child protection files are being maintained to a consistently high standard, and that:

- All staff take part in regular professional learning and are confident in responding to any child protection or safeguarding issues;
- Senior leaders have been trained in safeguarding matters to a high level and demonstrate sound knowledge and understanding, acting as models of best practice for staff and the wider school community;
- Approaches to safeguarding and child protection are an important part of our self-evaluation and improvement activities;
- Adults know and understand the indicators that may suggest that a child/young person is suffering or is at risk of suffering harm.

### Child Protection Briefings

The lead officer for Child Protection worked with a Quality Improvement Officer to review and update the Child Protection presentation and accompanying notes. These are used by Child Protection Coordinators in all establishments during August in-service days to ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities regarding safeguarding and child protection. The presentation was delivered in all establishments and positive feedback has been received regarding the clarity and comprehensive nature of the presentation. Less experienced coordinators particularly appreciated the accompanying notes and suggested script.

### Training for Probationer Teachers

A half day training session was delivered to over 140 probationer teachers in October 2019. The aim was to support those teachers to understand their roles and responsibilities within safeguarding and child protection, and the multi-agency child protection process.

## **Improving Practice**

### **Signs of Safety**

Over 2019/2020 we have continued the implementation of the Signs of Safety model, led by the Chief Social Work Officer and the Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity). The model supports practice improvement, with a particular focus on developing relational interventions with children, young people, their families and carers in order to reduce risk and improve children's wellbeing.

Our key achievements for the second year of our five year implementation plan are:

- Continued commitment from Multi Agency Implementation Team
- The development of a multi-agency practice lead network, which meets quarterly with a clear focus of direct practice improvements
- Continued workforce training provided at different levels, advanced and generic for all staff groups including education, health, police and adult services.
- The implementation and application of revised processes and documentation, for Child Protection, Looked After Children, SCRA and Children with Additional Needs which complement the model.
- The application of the model in our Child Protection Case Conferences to ensure they are solution orientated, strength based and risk focused.

### Signs of Safety Launch

We held a launch of the Signs of Safety model on 5 November 2019. The launch brought together children and young people, their families and our key partners to formally introduce the model in East Renfrewshire. The event, which was facilitated by one of our young people, took attendees through the merits of the model, our successes to date and included a real life experience from one of our local parents. This affirmed our commitment to the model and our plans to extend this to all involved in planning for children, young people and their families.

### **Joint Investigative Interviews Pilot**

Police Scotland and Social Work Scotland, supported by the East Renfrewshire Chief Social Work Officer, have worked in partnership with the Scottish Government to take forward the recommendations of the Evidence and Procedure Review to improve the quality and consistency of Joint Investigative Interviews (JII) of children. A project team comprising police officers and social workers with experience of conducting and managing JIIs was established in November 2017.

The aim of the training is to create the conditions for securing best evidence from child victims and witnesses, and for interviews to be of a sufficiently high standard to be used as Evidence in Chief or hearsay evidence. Reforms to JII practice comprise an important part of the range of improvements being made to achieve the ultimate ambition of removing the need for children to give evidence in court. These improvements aim to reduce the potential for further traumatisation of child victims and witnesses and to support them to continue their journey to recovery.

East Renfrewshire is one of the first areas nationally to pilot and implement the learning from the new JII course. The North Strathclyde Partnership, comprising of four local authorities; East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire, two police divisions; K Division, G Division and 3rd sector partners, Children 1st aims to design a truly child centred, trauma responsive approach to Interviews with the best interests of children at the centre based on European Promise quality standards.

Together with a Children 1st' rights and participation support worker we have brought together a fully trained specialist JII Cadre (police & social work) and will be able to ensure that:

- The JII cadre will have advanced knowledge, skills and competencies and the required experience of forensic interviews to create the conditions for producing the best quality evidence and ensure the protection of the child. This partnership will be a best practice model based on shared resources and learning. This will provide risk sharing arrangements across authority, ensuring that the quality of the interventions are not compromised and are consistent in improving the experiences for children and their families who are subject to child protection processes.
- A fundamental principle of the partnership is for recovery that is trauma informed to be built into the process from the point of disclosure for children. Children 1st have considerable national expertise in delivery whole family trauma recovery.
- Having successfully completed the course, our cadre members are now equipped to apply the model to practice. A co-located JII Team, supported by a team coordinator, will be in place across the partnership and 2020/21 will see the application of the model in practice. This together with our partnership arrangements with Children 1st will see our vision of a truly child centred, trauma responsive approach to child interviews become a reality.

## **Safe and Together**

The Safe and Together Model provides improved safety planning for children and adults and improves the assessment and management of perpetrators. Multi agency training has been delivered to key staff across addictions, children and families, adult services, mental health, primary care, housing, education, children's hearing panel members and third sector

The East Renfrewshire Safe and Together Champions have been invited to speak and deliver a practice workshop at the first international European Safe and Together Conference. Training is planned to recommence in the second half of 2020/2021 via virtual/blended delivery to accommodate Covid-19 restrictions.

## **Health Visitor Supervision**

During 2018/2019 the Health Visiting service introduced group child protection supervision sessions facilitated by a Team Lead and CPU Nurse Advisor. This was additional to the triadic supervision sessions which clinicians access 8-12 weekly. This learning opportunity supports sharing a wider range of experience and practitioners have commented on the value of reflecting within this supportive environment and the different learning they can access when not personally involved in the case. This practice has been maintained during 2019/2020 with support from the NHS Child Protection Service. Latterly tripartite and group sessions have taken place via Microsoft teams. Now that we have embedded this practice within the team we plan more formal evaluation during 2020/2021

## **School Nursing**

The School Nursing resource aligned to the Youth Intensive Support Service (YISS) in July 2019. This afforded an opportunity to realign nursing capacity to enhance the support to care experienced young people in an integrated manner. This enriches support to vulnerable young people and allows for a more streamlined service, ensuring good communication with all partners from Health, Social Work, Education and 3rd Sector leading to early intervention where required. During 2020/2021, we will formally evaluate the School Nursing service working in partnership with the YISS.

During 2019/2020 the School Nursing Service received triadic supervision sessions with the Child Protection advisor with clinicians 8-12 weekly and are also able to discuss complex cases of LAC young people with social work managers within the YISS team. Due to Covid-19 tripartite supervision has taken place via Microsoft teams which we hope to formally evaluate during 2020/2021.

## **Learning and Development**

In order to ensure a skilled and competent workforce, confident in managing risk and uncertainty in child protection situations, multi-agency training as well as other learning and development opportunities are essential. This supports the workforce to build skills and knowledge as well as foster a common understanding and good working relationships, all of which are vital to effective child protection.

A Public Protection Development Plan was developed for 2019/2020 and shared with all relevant services and partners. Two new training courses were delivered based on identified training needs. These were Understanding Neglect in Child Protection and Impact of Parental Mental Health. The latter had to be adapted in order to deliver it online due to Covid-19. A third new training course, Child Sexual Abuse, was cancelled due to Covid-19 as this was not suitable to deliver in an online forum. Over the course of the year, 115

attendees from health, education, social work, police, Children's Hearing Panel Members and third sector partners benefitted from a range of training including:

- Child Protection Awareness
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Understanding Neglect in Child Protection
- Honour-based Violence
- Impact of Parental Mental Health

### **Multi-agency and Risk Assessment Conference Training**

Domestic Abuse Awareness and MARAC Briefings are now delivered in house by the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator in partnership with Women's Aid/ Health Visiting and School Nursing colleagues. Over ten dedicated risk assessment briefings have been facilitated across this reporting period, taking in delegates from the following; Housing, Social Work, Community Addictions Team, Adult Mental health, Psychological Services, Education and Family First.

Recent multi agency courses have been oversubscribed which has meant the use of a waiting list being employed. Early reviews of the Multi Agency MARAC and Risk Assessment Training Course has evaluated highly.

A review of the training opportunities offered has identified training needs across the authority with specific courses being developed for Home Care and Telecare Staff. There is a keen commitment to meeting the training demands across the authority and planning to accommodate Covid-19 restrictions is now underway.

### **Child Protection Committee (CPC) / Chief Officers Public Protection (COPP) Group Development Day**

Unfortunately the restrictions of Covid-19 meant that a development day could not be held during this reporting period. The work of the CPC and COPP has focused on recovery planning and will be covered in the section on Covid-19.

### **Significant Case Reviews**

There were no significant case reviews in East Renfrewshire during 2018/2019.

The Committee have taken the opportunity to review the learning points from external Significant Case Reviews, using this to improve practice in East Renfrewshire.

### **Public Protection Conference 2019**

East Renfrewshire held its second Public Protection Conference on Monday, 25 November 2019 in the Dalmeny Park Hotel. The conference was attended by over 134 delegates from services working across the public protection spectrum. The conference also launched the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign in East Renfrewshire.

The conference was successful in attracting a wide range of people from diverse organisations across the sector. The largest groups present were from Health Visiting, Social Work Children's services, Social Work Operational Adult Services and Third Sector organisations.

Delegates reported that their awareness and understanding of the issues discussed at the conference was improved by attending. Delegates on average rated the conference at 7 out of 10 in achieving this key aim.

The great majority of those who returned surveys reported that their knowledge of resources was improved by attending and that they now understood people's behaviour better. A smaller but significant number said they would change their approach to people and/or that they had identified areas for service improvement.

The venue and event administration were in general found to be very good although there were some complaints regarding the range of lunch options available.

## Participation

The multi-agency case file audit undertaken in November 2019 highlighted the positive working relationships between social workers and children/young people as well as their families. As part of the multi-agency case file audit, we approached a sample of parents from the cases selected. Feedback from these parents were as follows:



One parent in particular stated:

*"With Signs of Safety, it is really positive; everyone is working together towards the same goal. It is taking back some of the power we lost, it is more equal, Social Work are a lot more approachable and we feel more included in the decision-making, and have opportunities to voice our opinions. Before, it was like chalk and cheese, before it was 'us' and 'them'. Before, it felt like we were scrutinised and 'stripped naked', anything that 'they' (Social Work) didn't like became suspicious. Now, it is more open and less secretive. There should be some kind of support for parents/carers going through that process. It felt there was no support before, there was no communication or preparation for anything. Being able to have a say in our child's life makes such a difference, before, there was fear of the consequences they would get if they did anything 'wrong'."*

The ongoing implementation of Signs of Safety and the use of various tools to seek children and young people's views has further strengthened the relationship-based approach. Moving forward our implementation will focus on strengthen children, young people and their families' involvement in the development of the child's plan as well as supporting them to participate in family network meetings.

The CPC Participation Subgroup has continued to learn from wider consultation with children, young people and their families. All relevant feedback and information has been shared with the relevant planning and strategic groups as required.

## Public Information and Communication

The Committee has a dedicated website which is kept up to date with any activity and child protection developments in East Renfrewshire throughout the year. Our child protection procedures reflect the West of Scotland Child Protection Consortium and all other policies and procedures are published on the East Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee website. The Committee supported all communication plans of the CPC Scotland Communication Subgroup.

During the lockdown we also distributed 3,500 leaflets in the East Renfrewshire community to raise awareness of child of child protection and the importance of the community reporting any concerns.

During 2019/2020, the Committee supported a number of national campaigns including:

Month	Campaign	Organisation
March	Eyes Open Campaign – Covid-19 Lockdown	CPC Scotland
June	Eyes Open Campaign	CPC Scotland

## Covid-19

At the start of the lockdown period, all children's services have moved to agile working for most part and have implemented priority working based on child protection, vulnerability and health needs. Duty services have been maintained and an emergency response system put in place. Home visiting is continuing to take place where essential and has been supplemented by keeping in contact with children, young people and their families/carers through virtual platforms where appropriate.

We also worked closely with our Education colleagues to support children and young people to access the Education Hubs that remained open to support those who needed it.

The following key themes have been identified as early indications of impact on services:

- Impact on children and young people's physical and mental health
- Support for children and young people to re-integrate into nursery, school and community life
- Impact of limited or no support for children, young people and families during lockdown
- Supporting children, young people and families who have been displaced to re-unite
- Impact of parental anxieties, mental health, alcohol and/or substance misuse on children and young people
- Impact of bereavement during this challenging time
- Delays in various stages of processes
- Impact of financial hardship/poverty due to job losses

- Availability of substantive and temporary housing meaning that families could be living in unsuitable accommodation for longer periods until backlog is cleared
- Anticipated increase in referrals across Children's Services

The following has been identified as key priorities for recovery:

- Ongoing joint/partnership working to ensure that children, young people and families continue to receive the support they need when they need it
- Joint/partnership working to meet the anticipated increase of referrals as lockdown eases
- Children, young people and families' views and participation needs to be ensured, including access to advocacy support
- Focus on physical and mental health/wellbeing of children and young people
- Continued flexibility in relation to the use of technology and face-to-face meetings to support ongoing service delivery whilst maintaining social distancing.

## Priority Actions in 2020/2021

East Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee in 2020/2021 will initially focus ongoing response to and recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

### For 2020/2021, key activity will include:

- Continued implementation of the Signs of Safety model in year 3 of the plan;
- Supporting the new Scottish Interview Model Pilot;
- Ongoing development of the identification and interrogation of data as a Committee;
- Working with our advocacy partners to ensure that children, young people and their parents have access to advocacy support; and,
- The commencement of East Renfrewshire as a pilot site for the revised Joint Investigative Interviews training and model of delivery.

## Enquiries

For further information or enquiries regarding this report, please contact the Lead Officer: Child Protection.

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