
Report To:	Community Health & Care Partnership Sub-Committee	Date:	8th January 2015
Report By:	Brian Moore Corporate Director Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership	Report No:	CHCP/01/2015/SMc
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Subject:	Child Protection Committee Annual Report		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update members on the work of Inverclyde Child Protection Committee for the year 2013-14 and the priority areas of focus for 2014/16.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The attached report describes how Inverclyde Child Protection Committee fulfilled its functions of continuous improvement, strategic planning, public information and communication during 2013-2014.
- 2.2 The report demonstrates that Inverclyde Child Protection Committee has delivered its core functions and progressed with key priority areas during 2013/14. This has been achieved through the work carried out by the CPC itself, various subgroups and short life working groups and the actions of individual members and the agencies they represent.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report and acknowledge that Inverclyde Child Protection Committee has continued to pursue its functions to ensure high standards are maintained in the face of increasingly challenging economic and social circumstances, demonstrating a continued commitment to strive for excellence in the protection of children.
- 3.2 Members are asked to endorse the improvement plan priorities for Inverclyde Child Protection Committee for 2014/16

Brian Moore
Corporate Director
Inverclyde Community Health & Care
Partnership

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At 31 July 2013, there were 2,681 children on the child protection register in Scotland. On this date there were 27 children on the child protection register in Inverclyde. The national rate of children on the child protection register per 1,000 population aged 0-16 was 2.9. The Inverclyde rate for the same date was 2.0. This is similar to our comparator authorities of West Dunbartonshire (2.2) and North Lanarkshire (1.5) but lower than East Ayrshire (2.8) and North Ayrshire (3.8) who are also comparator authorities.
- 4.2 An annual report has been produced as a public record of the work of Inverclyde Child Protection Committee.
- 4.3 Some of the individual pieces of work highlighted in the annual report for 2013/14 are:-
- Speak Out Public Information Campaign
 - Using the Citizen's Panel to seeking the views of the public
 - Annual Review of Child Protection Management Information from across partner agencies
 - Audit of Attendance and Submission of Reports to Child Protection Meetings
 - Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Audit of the Implementation of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland
 - Annual Child Protection Conference – Promoting Attachment in a Nurturing Inverclyde
 - The work of the Child Protection Practitioner's Forum
 - Review of Self Evaluation and Performance Management Arrangements

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Inverclyde Child Protection Committee aims to continue to fulfil its core functions in 2014/15 and beyond through the work carried out by the CPC, subgroups and short life working groups and the actions of individual members and the agencies they represent
- 5.2 Priority areas of focus for 2014-2016 have been identified as:_
- Improving outcomes for children affected by Parental Substance Misuse
 - Improving outcomes for children affected by Domestic Abuse
 - Improving outcomes for children affected by Parental Mental Health Problems
 - Further development of multi-agency self-evaluation of child protection activity alongside wider self-evaluation of services for children
 - Review of processes for listening to the voice of the child in child protection

Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation have been added as an additional area of focus has been added since the publication of the Annual Report and Improvement Plan

- 5.3 Inverclyde Child Protection Committee will implement, monitor and review work to achieve the improvements in the priority focus areas above.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

6.2 N/A.

Human Resources

6.3 N/A

Equalities

6.4 None at this time, although recognition will be given to the wider and associate equalities agenda.

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

√

YES (see attached appendix)

NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

6.5 N/A

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 Findings from the 2013 Citizen's Panel informed decisions regarding the focus of public awareness work.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 N/A

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Inverclyde Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2013/14 & Improvement Plan 2014/16.



Inverclyde Child Protection Committee

**ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14
&
IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014/16**

Sharing Responsibility – Protecting Children

Sharing Responsibility – Protecting Children

**Report available to download from
www.invercydechildprotection.org**

A summary version of the report is also available

CONTENT

1.0 PREFACE.....	4
2.0 CONTEXT.....	4
3.0 CHILD PROTECTION STATISTICS	7
4.0 FULFILLING FUNCTIONS	10
4.1 PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION.....	10
4.2 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT	12
4.3 STRATEGIC PLANNING.....	18
5.0 CONCLUSION.....	19
6.0 IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014-2016	21

1.0 PREFACE

I am very pleased to present the 2013 -2014 annual report and business plan for Inverclyde child protection committee.

Child Protection Committees across Scotland produce an Annual Report and set out their Business priorities for the coming year. The following report describes how our Committee fulfilled its function and tasks during 2013-2014 as set out in guidance issued to Child Protection Committees. The Business plan has been fully implemented and key areas are being progressed by the work carried out by the CPC and various subgroups, which are detailed throughout the report.

As a partnership, we recognise the improving outcomes for our most vulnerable children are dependent on collaborative working across the partnerships. As a result we have worked closely this year with other partnerships to further strengthen our collaborative links. We believe across some strategic groups we have made good progress but we are not complacent in this regard. Securing better outcomes for our vulnerable children will not be without its challenges, with the raise in the vulnerable child population and midst a backdrop of the recent recession; staffs across agencies are being pressed to find more ways of doing things differently. We recognise that change and progression can spawn opportunities for innovation.

Inverclyde's CPC fully embrace the principles underpinning GIRFEC recognising the importance of this agenda in protection our most vulnerable children. The partnership and its constituent members embrace the principles and will continue to contribute to the development of a change in culture, systems and practice as we go forward. I would like to thank the committee members and the dedication of the constituent subgroups of the CPC for their continued commitment to ensuring that our vision for children across Inverclyde is realised.

Sharon McAlees

Chair of Inverclyde Child Protection Committee

2.0 Context

Inverclyde is located in West Central Scotland with 61 square miles stretching along the south bank of the River Clyde. The main towns of Greenock, Port Glasgow and Gourock sit on the Firth of the Clyde. The towns provide a marked contrast to the coastal settlements of Inverkip and Wemyss Bay which lie to the South West of the area and the villages of Kilmacolm and Quarriers Village which are located further inland, and offer a further dimension to the area's diversity, particularly in social, economic and physical terms.

A strong sense of community identity exists within Inverclyde and to local neighbourhoods in particular. Local citizens are rightly proud of their area, and its history which is steeped in centuries of maritime and industrial endeavour.

The authority has a population of approximately 80,310, of whom 15% are children under 15 years and a further 6% are young people aged 15-19 years¹.

Statistics from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) tell us that Inverclyde has particular problems in regard to deprivation and poverty.

- In SIMD 2012, 14 (12.7%) of Inverclyde's 110 datazones were found in the 5% most deprived datazones in Scotland, compared to 17 (15.5%) in 2009.
- In SIMD 2012, 44 (40%) of Inverclyde's 110 datazones were found in the 15% most deprived datazones in Scotland, compared to 42 (38.2%) in 2009.

In our most deprived and disadvantaged areas, people face multiple problems, such as high levels of worklessness, ill health, fear of crime, poor educational achievement, low aspirations, low levels of confidence, low income, poor housing and environment. The resulting poverty and deprivation limits opportunities and choice.

'Getting it right for every Child, Citizen and Community' is the Community Planning Partnership vision for Inverclyde. To deliver this vision, the Inverclyde Alliance, has agreed, with its communities, a number of strategic local outcomes. One of which is 'A nurturing Inverclyde gives all our children and young people the best possible start in life'

¹ ONS Midyear Population Estimates 2013

Partners in Inverclyde Child Protection Committee recognise that parents' interaction with children in the first years of life is critical in developing relationships and laying the foundations for positive physical and mental health development. The development of children's brains in the early years is crucial to how they grow to be safe, healthy, active, nurtured (and nurturing), achieving, respected, responsible, and included throughout their lives. Attachment is a core part of this development and work currently underway in Inverclyde is looking to develop parenting skills to ensure the next generations living in this area are happy, supported and safe.

There is evidence that exposure to high levels of parental stress, neglect and abuse can have a severe effect on brain development. There are clear gaps between the development of children who live with such stresses and those being brought up in less stressful households. These children face many risks and improving early years support is key to improving child protection.

Partnership approaches are being developed around supporting children in their early years, and helping to build resilience in vulnerable children and young people, to try to break the cycle of deprivation in particular areas.

The work of Inverclyde Child Protection Committee is set within this context while not losing sight of the need for targeted services to respond to the needs of children who are identified as being at risk of, or have experienced significant harm. Chief Officers and senior managers continue to have a 'clear responsibility to deliver robust, co-ordinated strategies and services for protecting children and to provide an agreed framework to help practitioners and managers achieve the common objective of keeping children safe'².

Child Protection Committees are locally-based, interagency strategic partnerships responsible for the design, development, publication, distribution, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of child protection policy and practice across the public, private and wider third sectors in their locality and in partnership across Scotland. Within Inverclyde the Child Protection Committee (CPC) reports to the Inverclyde Public Protection Chief Officer Group who are represented on the Community Planning Partnership. Membership of both Inverclyde Child Protection Committee and Inverclyde Public Protection Chief Officer Group is given in Appendices 1 and 2.

² National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014

3.0 Child Protection Statistics

Scottish Government publish annual children's social work statistics covering the period 1st August to 31st July (drawn from data provided by individual local authorities). The most recent report available covers the period August 2012 to July 2013³. This data forms the basis of this section of the child protection committee annual report.

This Scottish Government report highlighted that over the last decade the number of children on the child protection register in Scotland fluctuated but overall increased by 31 per cent between 2001 and 2013 (from 2,050 in 2000 to 2,681 in 2013). The number of children registered appears to have plateaued between 2012 and 2013.

At 31 July 2013, there were 2,681 children on the child protection register in Scotland. On this date there were 27 children on the child protection register in Inverclyde. The national rate of children on the child protection register per 1,000 population aged 0-16 was 2.9. The Inverclyde rate for the same date was 2.0. This is similar to our comparator authorities of West Dunbartonshire (2.2) and North Lanarkshire (1.5) but lower than East Ayrshire (2.8) and North Ayrshire (3.8) who are also comparator authorities.

National statistics show that over the last 13 years there has been an increase in the proportion of younger children on the child protection register. On 31st July 2013 more than half of children on the child protection register in Scotland (55%) were aged under five. This mirrors the local picture where between Jan 13th – Dec 2013, 68% of children placed on the child protection were aged 5 years and under.

In line with Scottish Government CP statistics there are no apparent strong gender pattern of children on Inverclyde's child protection register.

³ Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland, 2012-13 (Published March 2014)

Since 2012 multiple concerns can be recorded at each case conference (rather than just the main category of abuse), meaning that the total number of concerns is larger than the total number of registrations. The table below outlines the concerns identified for children registered as a result of a case conference held between August 2012 and July 2013.

Areas of Concern	Children Inverclyde (number and % of all children registered 12-13)	Scotland (% of children on register at 31 st July 2013)
Domestic abuse	72 (44%)	888 (33%)
Parental alcohol misuse	47 (29%)	531 (20%)
Parental drug misuse	33 (20%)	667 (25%)
Non-engaging family	29 (18%)	548 (20%)
Parental mental health problems	36 (22%)	600 (22%)
Children placing themselves at risk	4 (2%)	56 (2%)
Sexual abuse	6 (4%)	208 (8%)
Child exploitation	0	13 (0.5%)
Physical abuse	29 (18%)	537 (20%)
Emotional abuse	70 (43%)	1,027 (38%)
Neglect	45 (28%)	1,029 (38%)
Other concerns (NB: parental offending behaviour, history of poor parenting)	38 (23%)	289 (11%)
Average number of Areas of concern per child	2.5	2.75

The most common concerns recorded in Inverclyde were domestic abuse and emotional abuse at over 40% of registrations, followed by parental alcohol misuse, neglect, parental mental health problems and parental drug misuse all with 20-30% of registrations. Parental substance misuse (including alcohol and drug misuse), domestic abuse and parental mental health problems are all priority areas within

Inverclyde Child Protection Committee Improvement Plan. Emotional abuse is commonly found alongside and related to other areas of concern such as domestic abuse.

Within Inverclyde there were 69 children subject to case conferences (initial, pre-birth and transfer in) between August 2012 and July 2013 which resulted in 47 children being placed on the child protection register. Within Inverclyde therefore 68% of children who attended a case conference were placed on the child protection register. This compares to a figure of 76% nationally.

The main abuser (as recorded at case conference) was the parent⁴ in 83% of cases in Inverclyde. This is comparable to the national figure of 80%.

Of the 54 children in Inverclyde who were removed from the child protection register between August 2012 and July 2013 the reason for deregistration was recorded as reduced risk / improved home situation in 80% of cases. In the remaining 20% of cases the child was deregistered as they were with other carers.

Future Inspections

In September 2011, Scottish Ministers asked the Care Inspectorate to take the lead in developing Joint Inspection of Services for Children, based on a set of requirements:

- A design based on Getting it Right for Every Child;
- A strong user focus; and
- A coordinated approach, which demonstrates duty of cooperation within the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

In response, the Care Inspectorate has developed a coordinated approach to future scrutiny. The proposed new model will therefore encompass a wide range of services working directly with children and their families and include universal provision, as well as the more targeted and specialist services. It will take a multi-agency and strategic approach and in doing so will not evaluate the effectiveness of individual services but focus on the effectiveness of integrated working to improve outcomes for children.

⁴ Including natural parents and step parents but not parent's co-habitee

4.0 Fulfilling Functions

The functions of the child protection committee are continuous improvement, strategic planning, public information and communication⁵. These are fulfilled through the work of a number of sub groups and short life working groups along with the actions of individual members and the agencies they represent. Appendix 3 illustrates the subgroup and governance structure of Inverclyde Child Protection Committee.

4.1 Public Information and Communication

The child protection committee is responsible for ensuring there is accessible public information to raise awareness of child protection and what action should be taken if an individual has concerns about a child. This not only relates to the public but also to staff within and across agencies who need to be clear about their roles and responsibilities when they have concerns that a child or young person is at risk of harm.

The child protection committee also have a role to play in ensuring children, young people and their families are involved in discussions and decision making within the child protection system.

This year we have

- Undertaken an evaluation of the public awareness ‘Speak Out’ campaign that was delivered in March 2013
- Delivered a repeat of the public awareness Speak Out campaign in March 2014 with additional elements including the use of infomercials on local radio.
- Maintained our website for the general public and professionals achieving an average of just under 5,000 visits per month during 2013-14.
- Linked our local website to the national website for public awareness about child protection and related issues <http://withscotland.org/public> and contributed to the development of this national website
- Gathered the views of the general public regarding child protection through our summer 2013 citizen’s panel and reported on the findings
- Updated our information for families involved in the child protection system.
- Continued to facilitate the use of ‘Viewpoint’, a computer based tool to gather and present the views of children and young people, for those attending Child Protection Conferences.
- Contributed to the ongoing development of a children and young people’s participation strategy for Inverclyde

⁵ National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014

Speak Out Campaign



The campaign took place during the month of March 2014.

The marketing approach taken was a 'blanket' advertising campaign, with a combination of print, online, outdoor and radio advertising to ensure the messages reached as wide an audience as possible.

The campaign attracted national as well as local media interest with BBC Scotland recording a piece for radio and TV news. The campaign was also featured on the public messages page of the 'With Scotland' website.

During the campaign Inverclyde Council sent out 37 tweets with messages in relation to the campaign using #speakout. Each tweet reached at least 4,742 followers of Inverclyde Council. In total there were 65 re-tweets with the announcement of the launch reaching over 20,000 followers.

Citizen's Panel

Child protection questions were included in the summer 2013 Citizen's Panel.

The findings indicate positive progress in all issues covered by the survey including-; reporting concerns; issues that would prevent individuals reporting concerns; confidence that necessary action will be taken if they were to contact an agency with a concern; and important factors in protecting children from abuse and neglect.

Key Findings

The proportion of people who were either very confident or fairly confident that the necessary action would be taken if they were to contact an agency with a concern about child abuse or neglect rose from 68% in 2011 to 79% in the 2013 survey

The role for friends, neighbours, carers and passers-by in reporting concerns was seen as very important by 79% of respondents, an increase from 33% in 2011. This is a very encouraging finding which suggests the message that members of the public have an important role in child protection is being promoted successfully.

Priorities for next year will be

- Plan develop and deliver a public awareness campaign aimed at young people
- Review and refresh child protection public awareness core publications
- Review and refresh the child protection committee website
- Undertake an online survey to gather the views of staff and the general public on current and future communication activity
- Review the 'Viewpoint' tool

4.2 Continuous Improvement

Continuous improvement and the promotion of good practice are achieved through the linked functions of self-evaluation, development and review of policies, procedures, protocols and guidance, and facilitating learning and development of staff.

4.2.1 Self-Evaluation

The child protection committee recognises that self-evaluation is central to continuous improvement of services which in turn helps improve outcomes for children. Self-evaluation encompasses a range of activities including reflective practice and supervision, review and analysis of management information, case file audits and closer focus exercises to evaluate specific aspects of practice or service delivery.

This year we have

- Continued to review and report on child protection related management information from all agencies on a quarterly basis
- Produced an annual management information report identifying key findings and recommendations for further action
- Undertaken and reported on a review of the number of Child Protection Registrations 2012/13
- Undertaken and reported on a snapshot audit of attendance and submission of reports to child protection meetings (September 2013)
- Undertaken and reported on multiagency case reviews on all cases where a child or young person has been on the register for more than 52 weeks or has been re-registered within 1 year of being deregistered (total of 3 cases)
- Planned and initiated a multiagency case evaluation specifically examining issues of neglect
- Produced a final report on the delivery of recommendations identified in the Inverclyde Inspection of Services to Protect Children 2011 and considered the priorities for improvement identified by the Care Inspectorate in the national report on the second round of Inspections of Services to Protect Children.
- Qualitative audit of applications for child protection orders.

Annual Review of Management Information

The review of 2013/13 Management Information reported in summer 2013 and resulted in further audit activity or practice review around the following issues

- 1 A decrease in the number of child protection referrals, conferences and registrations resulted in further analysis and audit activity being undertaken and reported.
- 2 A decrease in the number of referrals made to Social Work by Education services resulted in further analysis being requested.
- 3 A reduction in the number of Comprehensive Medical Assessments being undertaken led to a decision to undertake audit activity as part of the scheduled review of the procedure for arranging child protection medicals
- 4 Low number of Joint Investigative Interviews led to further audit activity being undertaken.

Audit of Attendance and Submission of Reports to Child Protection Meetings

A snapshot audit of attendance and reports submitted to Child Protection Conferences was undertaken for the month of September 2013. This reported good attendance from parents, police, health, education and social work. A change in practice within the divisional Public Protection Unit resulted in a significant increase in police attendance with 100% attendance recorded during September 2013. Issues identified for further attention were the low level of attendance and submission of reports by GPs and the low number of parents who submitted written reports to Child Protection Conferences.

Priorities for next year will be

- Continue to review child protection related management information from all agencies and identify implications for practice
- Undertake regular multiagency case file audit activity
- Undertake specific focus self-evaluation activity on
 - child protection medicals,
 - joint investigative interviews,
 - child sexual exploitation
 - the views of young people and families on their involvement in child protection process

4.2.2 Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Guidance

There needs to be clear and robust single and multiagency policies, procedures and protocols in place to support staff within and across agencies in carrying out their responsibilities to safeguard and protect children. A function of the child protection

committee is to encourage constituent services and agencies to have in place their own policies and procedures and to maintain and review multiagency child protection procedures for use across all agencies. It is also a function of the child protection committee to ensure multiagency procedures, protocols and guidance are developed around key issues where there is agreement that this is required.

During 2013/14 we have

- Contributed to the maintenance and review of the West of Scotland Multiagency Child Protection Procedures
- Developed practitioner guidance for those working with families with adult mental health and child protection or child welfare needs.
- Contributed to the development of the West of Scotland Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation
- Reviewed the following
 - Information Sharing Protocol
 - FGM guidance on best practice
 - Gambling Act 2005 Policy on Protection of Children
- Completed and reported on an audit of implementation of National Guidance on Child Protection in Scotland 2010.
- Reviewing guidance for practitioners working with children affected by parental substance misuse.

Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation – A Practitioner’s Resource Pack

Sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse, in which a young person is manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act. This could be as part of a seemingly consensual relationship, or in return for attention, affection, money, drugs, alcohol or somewhere to stay. The young person may think that their abuser is their friend, or even their boyfriend or girlfriend but they will put them into dangerous situations, forcing the young person to do things they don’t want to do. The abuser may be male or female; they may physically or verbally threaten the young person, or be violent towards them. They will control and manipulate them, and try to isolate them from friends and family. Child Sexual Exploitation is first and foremost a child protection concern and as such normal child protection procedures apply.

The resource pack has been developed by Barnardo’s working on behalf of the West of Scotland Child Protection Consortium and is designed for practitioners who are unfamiliar with CSE and need information on what they should do if they have concerns about a child or young person. It is designed to enable practitioners to recognise the signs of CSE and give them the confidence they need to confront it.

Implementation of National Guidance on Child Protection in Scotland 2010

An audit was completed and the findings confirmed that the majority of actions required for full implementation of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2010 had been completed with plans in place to implement those actions not yet completed.

As part of this audit a review was undertaken to benchmark the implementation of the time scales of the Child Protection National Guidance against a sample group of children whose names were on the Child Protection Register in Inverclyde on a given date. The report identified the following areas where adherence to timescales was good.

- 1 Pre-Birth Child Protection Conferences taking place no later than 28 weeks pregnancy
- 2 Circulation of minutes from child protection conferences within 15 calendar days
- 3 Initial core groups held within 15 calendar days
- 4 First review conference held within three months of the initial Child Protection Conference

The review identified that recording of information on social work information systems could have been improved as could the mechanism for approval of child protection plans and steps have been taken to address both these issues

Priorities for 2014/15 will be

- Complete the development, secure approval and implement local policies / procedures or guidelines in relation to:-
 - Guidance for staff on underage sexual activity
 - Children Affected by Parental Mental Health Problems
 - Forced Marriage
- Review the following
 - Domestic Violence Protocol
 - Arrangements for Child Protection Medicals
- Contribute to the development of a West of Scotland Toolkit on working with Resistance

4.2.3 Learning and Development

By promoting good practice through the delivery of a learning and development programme the child protection committee supports the multiagency workforce to effectively protect children.

During 2013/14 we have

- Developed and delivered a multiagency training programme including new training programmes on risk assessment and child protection and learning from a Significant Case Review
- Produced regular evaluation reports on the training delivered to support analysis of training delivered and its effectiveness and relevance to improving practice.
- Delivered briefing sessions on the Children’s Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011 and Child Sexual Exploitation
- Developed and delivered our 6th annual multiagency conference on promoting attachment
- Produced and disseminated a local briefing paper and supporting tools on the implementation of the National Framework for Child Protection Learning & Development in Scotland
- Undertaken a scoping exercise to inform the development of a learning and development programme focussed on Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse
- Facilitated meetings of the Inverclyde Child Protection Practitioner’s Forum

Promoting Attachment in a Nurturing Inverclyde

In total 116 participants from a wide range of agencies and services attended the 6th Annual Child Protection Committee Conference which took place in February 2014.

Aims of the conference :-

- 1 Increase participants knowledge and understanding of current thinking on attachment and attachment based practice
- 2 Encourage participants to reflect on how they can promote attachment in their practice

99% of participants reported that the conference had met both these aims and 88% of participants rated their overall satisfaction with the conference as very good with the remainder rating their satisfaction as good.

Qualitative comments suggested that participants had found the conference thought provoking and practically useful.

I found both keynote speakers and workshops to be very good with lots of ideas and reinforced my belief in how I work.

[I found useful] ...the opportunity to find the real meaning of attachment and to consider the impact of this for us in schools.

Practitioner's Forum

Inverclyde Child Protection Practitioner's Forum considered the issue of poverty and child abuse and neglect.

"The most compelling explanation of why there appears to be a relationship between poverty and child abuse lies in the evidence of how parenting can be affected by material circumstances. While most parents living in poverty parent adequately, a higher proportion of parents living on low incomes have an authoritarian parenting style than other parents, a style typified by being demanding and directive and less responsive to child's needs. The evidence seems to suggest that this style of parenting can arise when an individual is under stress, caused or exacerbated by living in poverty. While there are many routes to inadequate parenting, often unrelated to economic circumstances, it seems that the stress associated with material disadvantage may hasten the journey". Child Poverty Action Group (2012).

It is estimated that 24% of all children in Inverclyde live in poverty⁶. Almost all members were able to cite examples from their practice where families were under increasing economic stress and where real and significant impacts on child wellbeing were being identified. While these were for the most part not reaching a child protection threshold members could clearly see the potential that in some families the stress could lead to concerns of abuse or neglect particularly where there were other vulnerability factors also in place.

Examples were collated and reported to CPC along with examples of action being taken locally and suggestions of what more could be done.

Priorities for 2014/15 will be

- Deliver a revised programme of training and learning opportunities
- Develop and deliver new learning opportunities on the issues of
 - Parental mental health
 - Child protection and disability
 - Child sexual exploitation
 - Harmful cultural practices
- Develop and deliver our 7th annual multiagency conference on trauma recovery and healing
- Develop and pilot key elements of a learning and development plan focussed on Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse
- Review and develop the role of the Child Protection Practitioners Forum

⁶ End Child Poverty February 2013

4.3 Strategic Planning

Strategic planning for child protection sits within the wider strategic planning arrangements for Inverclyde and encompasses the functions of collaboration, co-operation and making links with other planning fora. The child protection improvement plan is encompassed within the Single Outcome Agreement delivery plan, outcome 6 'A nurturing Inverclyde gives all our children and young people the best possible start in life'.

Progress on the child protection improvement plan and other key elements of the child protection committee work plan is reported regularly to the Child Protection Committee and Inverclyde Public Protection Chief Officer Group.

Child Protection Committee Improvement Plan

The Child Protection Improvement plan for 2012-2014 included the following key focus areas

- Multi Agency Self-Evaluation
- Implementation of 2010 National Guidance on Child Protection
- Children affected by Parental Mental Health Problems
- Children Affected by Domestic Abuse
- Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse
- Underage Sexual Activity
- Children's Voice in Child Protection (added September 2013)

The plan has been updated and the 2014-2016 Child Protection Improvement Plan is included as an appendix to this report.

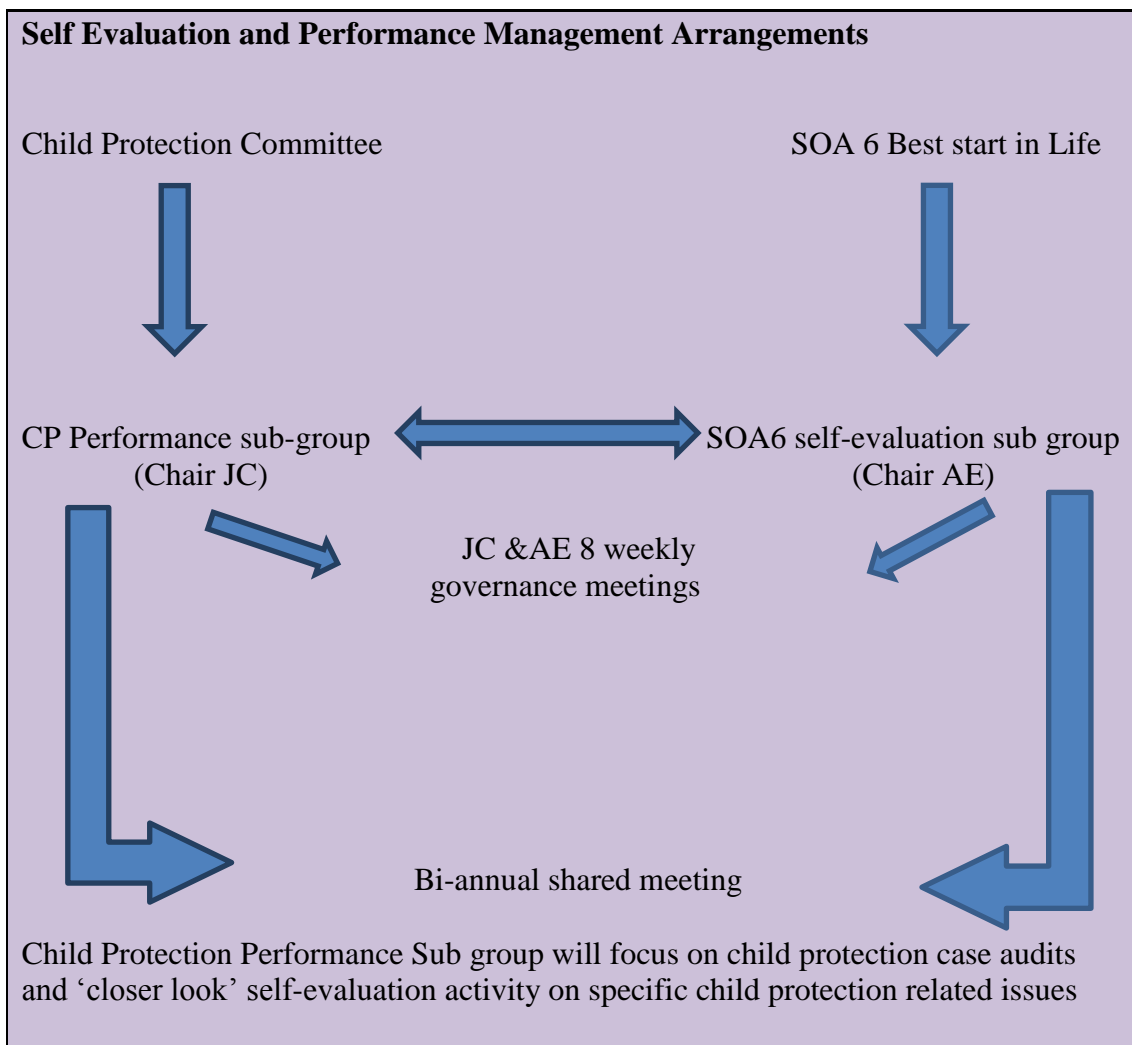
4.3.1 Collaboration, Co-operation & Making Links with Other Planning Fora

The child protection committee works closely with strategic groups at both a national and local level to make sure that the protection of children in Inverclyde does not stand alone but is central to policy planning and development.

During 2013/14 we have

- Contributed to the work of
 - National Child Protection Committee Chair's Forum
 - National Child Protection Committee Lead Officer Group
 - West of Scotland Child Protection Consortium
- Reviewed and revised our self-evaluation and performance management arrangements jointly with key representatives from SOA6 (Best Start in Life) delivery group to develop a comprehensive approach self-evaluation of services for children in Inverclyde.
- Established a joint working group reporting to both Child Protection Committee and the Alcohol and Drug Partnership to focus on improving outcomes for Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse

- Continued to work in close collaboration with the Violence Against Women Multiagency Partnership on issues including forced marriage, FGM and domestic abuse screening processes.
- Worked in close collaboration with the Adult Protection Committee and local Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to develop a linked guidance on child and adult protection for RSLs staff.
- Contributed to the work of the GIRFEC Planning group to ensure the needs of children at risk of significant harm are fully considered within the wider
- Worked closely with the Children’s Rights Officer to ensure child protection related issues are considered from a children’s rights perspective
- Regular collaborative with the local Child and Maternal health strategy group.



5.0 CONCLUSION

Inverclyde Child Protection Committee continues to pursue its function to provide strategic leadership and develop practice to ensure high standards are maintained in the face of increasingly challenging economic and social circumstances. The achievements summarised in this report and the programme of work for 2014/15 demonstrates our continued commitment to strive for excellence in the protection of children.

6.0 IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014-2016

The Improvement Plan is presented below. It outlines five priority areas for improvement. It is underpinned by the ongoing work of the Child Protection Committee and its sub groups which is outlined in annual sub group work plans and the minutes of CPC meetings.

Planning for improvement

CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

IMPROVEMENT PLAN April 2014 – March 2016

Theme - SAFE

Focus Area	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there?	How will we know?	Who will be involved/lead?
1 Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse (CAPSM)	<p>An ICPC multiagency Protocol was published in 2008 and updated in 2010. Refreshed GOPR guidance was published by Scottish Government in 2013.</p> <p>A CPC / ADP sub group was established in 2013 to drive this agenda forward. This working group has developed an action plan with the following focus areas</p>	<p>The level of risk experienced by children affected by parental substance misuse is reduced as a result of the intervention of services.</p>	<p>Undertake audit activity to provide an overview of the scale and nature of CAPSM within Inverclyde</p> <p>Review and revise multiagency procedure for assessing and managing CAPSM cases</p> <p>Develop a multiagency CAPSM training programme</p> <p>Investigate unmet need for services</p>	<p>Audit report and recommendations considered by CAPSM working group 2014/15</p> <p>Revised guidelines published 2014/15 Impact evaluated 15/16</p> <p>Delivered by September 2015</p> <p>Report 2014/15</p>	<p>CAPSM sub group</p>

Focus Area	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there?	How will we know?	Who will be involved/ lead?
<p>2 Children's Voice in Child Protection</p>	<p>HMIe, reporting in 2011 rated the QI 'Children are listened to and respected' as excellent. This finding is reflected in the findings of multiagency case file audits.</p> <p>Children and young people who are 5 years and over are given the opportunity to complete CP8 for initial and Viewpoint for review conferences</p> <p>6 monthly data reports have been produced however these show a decline in the use of Viewpoint by children attending Child Protection Review Conferences.</p>	<p>All children are given the opportunity, support and encouragement to contribute their views during CP processes</p> <p>Young people's views are used to inform development of child protection services</p>	<p>Gather and report on the views of young people regarding their contribution to CP meetings and update tools and processes</p> <p>Monitor and evaluate the contribution of children and young people to Child Protection meetings and decisions</p>	<p>Report 2014/15</p> <p>2015/16</p>	<p>Performance Management Sub group</p>

Focus Area	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there?	How will we know?	Who will be involved/lead?
3 Children Affected by Domestic Abuse	<p>Domestic Abuse was an area of concern in 56% of new Child Protection registrations in the year 2013.</p> <p>Comprehensive spread of services and processes in place to support to victims of domestic abuse and their children (statutory and voluntary sector) including :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice guidance • Multiagency screening process • ASSIST service • MARAC process • Cedar service <p>There is a lack of documented evidence that the views of children and young people are influencing service developments.</p>	<p>The level of risk experienced by children affected by domestic abuse is reduced as a result of the intervention of services.</p> <p>Children who have experienced domestic abuse will be offered a service that meets their need for support.</p>	<p>Raise awareness of the MARAC and increase referrals</p> <p>Raise awareness of and increase referrals to the CEDAR service.</p> <p>Specialist Services working with children affected by domestic abuse contribute to the development of a Youth Participation Strategy.</p>	<p>MARAC information sessions delivered and referral data routinely reported 2014/15</p> <p>Annual Reports and monitoring data</p> <p>Documented evidence of participation of service users (children and young people)</p>	<p>Violence Against Women Multiagency Partnership</p>

Focus Area	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there?	How will we know? (including time-scales)	Who will be involved/lead?
4 Children affected by parental mental health problems	<p>Parental Mental Health was an area of concern in 37% of new child protection registrations in 2013.</p> <p>Practitioner guidance has been developed and the need for joint learning and development opportunities has been recognised.</p> <p>Inverclyde working group established to consider perinatal mental health issues</p>	<p>Staff working in adult mental health services and those working with children and their families are skilled and confident in providing effective and consistent support to children affected by parental mental health problems and their families.</p>	<p>Develop deliver and evaluate multiagency learning opportunities</p> <p>Produce recommendations to improve perinatal mental health and the protection of unborn children and babies.</p> <p>Review of the SNIPS process including the contribution of the perinatal mental health service.</p>	<p>Delivery commenced 2014/15</p> <p>Report back to Child and maternal health strategy group and to CPC 2014/15</p> <p>Report back to CPC 2015/16</p>	<p>Joint Children's Services & Adult mental Health services working group</p>

Focus Area	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there?	How will we know?	Who will be involved/lead?
5 Multi Agency Self Evaluation of Child Protection outcomes and activity	<p>HMIE evaluated Self Evaluation as very good in 2011.</p> <p>The CPC adopts a focussed approach to self-evaluation in relation to child protection outcomes and activities.</p> <p>SOA6 sub group will undertake wider self-evaluation activity in relation to services for children.</p>	<p>Systems are rigorous, systematic, embedded and transparent.</p> <p>A collective approach is taken to improvement in services to protect children.</p> <p>Case reviews and other self-evaluation activity informs and improves practice</p>	<p>Review audit process and outcomes</p> <p>Continue to widen the pool of trained staff involved in multiagency self-evaluation.</p> <p>Specific focus self-evaluation activity to be undertaken on up to 4 areas per year identified through routine audit and monitoring.</p> <p>Single agency self-evaluation activity based on child protection quality indicators scoped and reported</p> <p>Monitor implementation of recommendations from the SCRs, case audits and other self-evaluation activity.</p>	<p>Report to CPC 2014/15</p> <p>Minutes recording involvement</p> <p>4 specific focus activity reported 2014/15. Further 3-4 specific focus activity reported 2015/16</p> <p>Report to CPC 2014/15</p> <p>Routine reporting to CPC</p>	<p>Performance Management sub group</p>

6.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Members of Inverclyde Child Protection Committee as at 31 March 2014

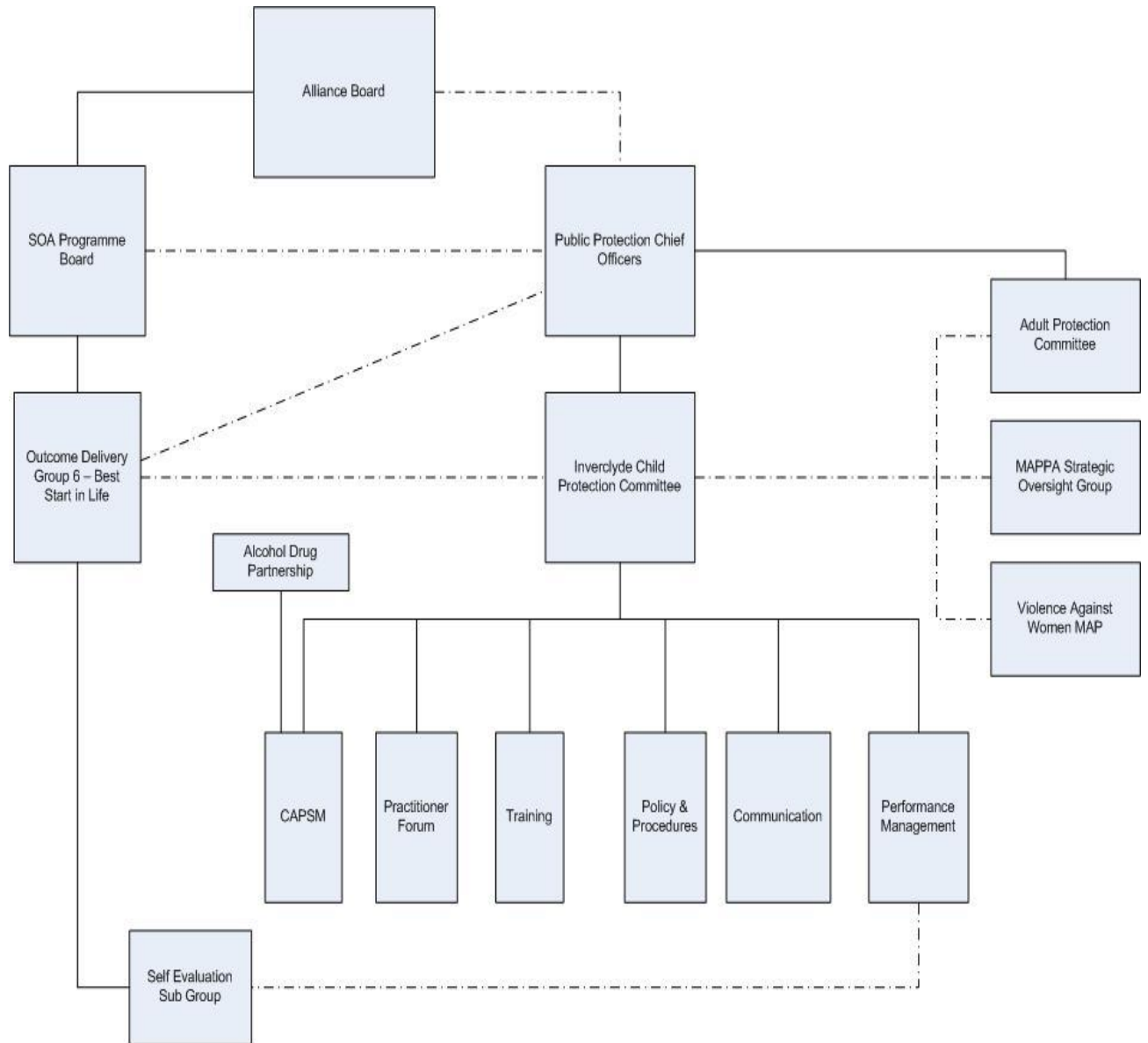
Membership	Agency
Sharon McAlees (Chair)	Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership
Angela Edwards (Vice Chair)	Inverclyde Council: Education and Communities
Anne Jamieson	Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership
Bob McLean	Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership (Social Work Services) (representing Inverclyde Alcohol and Drugs Partnership)
Dr Brian Kelly	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Dr Catherine Addiscott	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Elaine Patterson (up to 19 th March - retirement) Gerry Malone thereafter	Inverclyde Council: Legal Services
Elsa Hamilton	Inverclyde Council: Education and Communities
Jane Cantley	Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership
John Arthur	Inverclyde Council: Education and Communities
Kenneth Ritchie	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
Lindy Scaife	COPFS
Nan Smith	Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership
Nichola Burns	Police Scotland
Sandra Boyle	Mindmosaic
Susan Mitchell	Inverclyde Child Protection Committee

Appendix 2 Members of Inverclyde Public Protection Chief Officers Group as at 31 March 2014

Membership	Agency
John Mundell (Chair)	Chief Executive, Inverclyde Council
Brian Moore (Vice Chair)	Director, Inverclyde Community Health Care Partnership
Alan Speirs	Divisional Commander, Police Scotland
Patricia Cassidy	Corporate Director Education & Communities
Hugh Clark	Convener Adult Protection Committee
Kenneth Ritchie	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
Rosslyn Crocket	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board
Sharon McAlees	Inverclyde Community Health Care Partnership

Appendix 3

Governance Structure of Inverclyde Child Protection Committee



Representation between key local planning groups linked to Inverclyde Child Protection Committee is listed below

Alliance Board & Public Protection Chief Officer Group	John Mundell
SOA Programme Board & Public Protection Chief Officer Group	John Mundell
SOA6 Outcome Delivery Group & Public Protection Chief Officer Group	Patricia Cassidy
SOA6 Outcome Delivery Group & Inverclyde Child Protection Committee	Sharon McAlees
SOA6 Self Evaluation Group & CPC Performance Management sub group	Jane Cantley
Alcohol and Drug Partnership & Inverclyde Child Protection Committee	Bob McLean
Violence Against Women Multi-Agency Partnership & Inverclyde Child Protection Committee	Jane Cantley
Adult Protection Committee & Inverclyde Child Protection Committee	Bob McLean
MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group & Child Protection Committee	Sharon McAlees