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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Health and Social Care Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> January 2016</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Brian Moore Chief Officer Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>SW/03/2016/SMcA</b>
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>CPC Annual Report</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Health and Social Care Committee of the work of Inverclyde Child Protection Committee for the year 2014-15 and the ongoing priority areas of focus for 2015/16.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Inverclyde Child Protection Committee oversees the design, development, publication, distribution, implementation and evaluation of all Child Protection policy and practice across Inverclyde. The attached report demonstrates how Inverclyde Child Protection Committee has fulfilled its functions under the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014) related to continuous improvement of policy and practice, strategic planning in the context of the wider public protection, public information and communication during the period 2014-2015.
- 2.2 The report demonstrates how Inverclyde Child Protection Committee has delivered its core functions and progressed with key priority areas during 2014/15. 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 The Health and Social Care Committee is 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.

**Brian Moore  
Chief Officer  
Inverclyde HSCP**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Scottish Government annual social work statistics for children's services August 2013 to July 2014 highlighted that since 2000 there has been a steady 41% increase in the number of children on the child protection register in Scotland. The report notes that in 2014, there had been the largest year on year increase since 2009 with an increase of 9% requiring child protection registration. It should be noted that the figure on which this is based is the number of children on the child protection register at a single point in time (31st March up to 2010 and 31st July for 2011-2014). Inverclyde seen an increase of 12.5% between 2013 and 2014 which is slightly higher than the national percentage change.
- 4.2 At 31 July 2014, there were 2,882 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 0-15 was 3.2. The Inverclyde rate for the same date was 2.0. This is lower than our comparator authorities of West Dunbartonshire (2.6), North Ayrshire (4.6), Renfrewshire (2.6) and East Ayrshire (2.3) but higher than North Lanarkshire (1.2).
- 4.3 The most common concerns recorded in Inverclyde were domestic abuse and parental drug misuse at over 75% followed by emotional abuse, neglect and parental alcohol misuse, all at over 50% of registrations. Parental substance misuse (including alcohol and drug misuse), parental mental health problems and domestic abuse are all priority areas within ICPC Improvement Plan.
- 4.4 An annual report has been produced as a public record of the work of Inverclyde Child Protection Committee
- 4.5 Some of the individual pieces of work highlighted in the annual report for 2014/15 are:-
- We Care, We Listen, We Act Public Information Campaign
  - Evaluation of Communication Activity
  - Annual Review of Child Protection Management Information from across partner agencies
  - Self-Evaluation Case Review – A closer look at neglect
  - Guidance on facilitated multiagency discussion in complex cases
  - Multiagency Guidance on responding to forced marriage and the risk of forced marriage
  - Annual Child Protection Conference on the theme of 'Promoting Recovery – therapeutic and community based approaches'
  - Multiagency training programme
- 4.6 Inverclyde Child Protection Committee aims to continue to fulfil their core functions in 2015/16 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.

4.7 Priority areas of focus for 2015-2016 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
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Review of processes for listening to the voice of the child in child protection
- The GIRFEC / Child Protection Interface

4.8 Since March 2015 there have been significant developments in relation to delivery of the Child Sexual Exploitation improvement plan. Action is being taken under each of the national themes, prevention, intervention, disruption and recovery. Examples of specific developments include delivery of a multi-agency staff training programme and the introduction of the Inverclyde vulnerable young person’s operational group to help identify those at risk of exploitation and work collaboratively to ensure their safeguarding and wellbeing. The 2016 Child Protection Committee conference and the public awareness campaign will both focus on the theme of child exploitation. Impacts are already being seen as a result of this strategic focus on Child Sexual Exploitation. It is intended to bring a full report on this strand of the work of the Child Protection Committee and partners to a future meeting of the IJB Board.

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

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

### FINANCE

5.1 Financial Implications:

There are no proposals for any change in the Child Protection Committee support budget for 2015/16.

One off Costs

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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

### LEGAL

5.2 There are no legal issues within this report.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

5.3 There are no human resources issues within this report.

**EQUALITIES**

5.4 There are no equality issues within this report.

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
X	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**

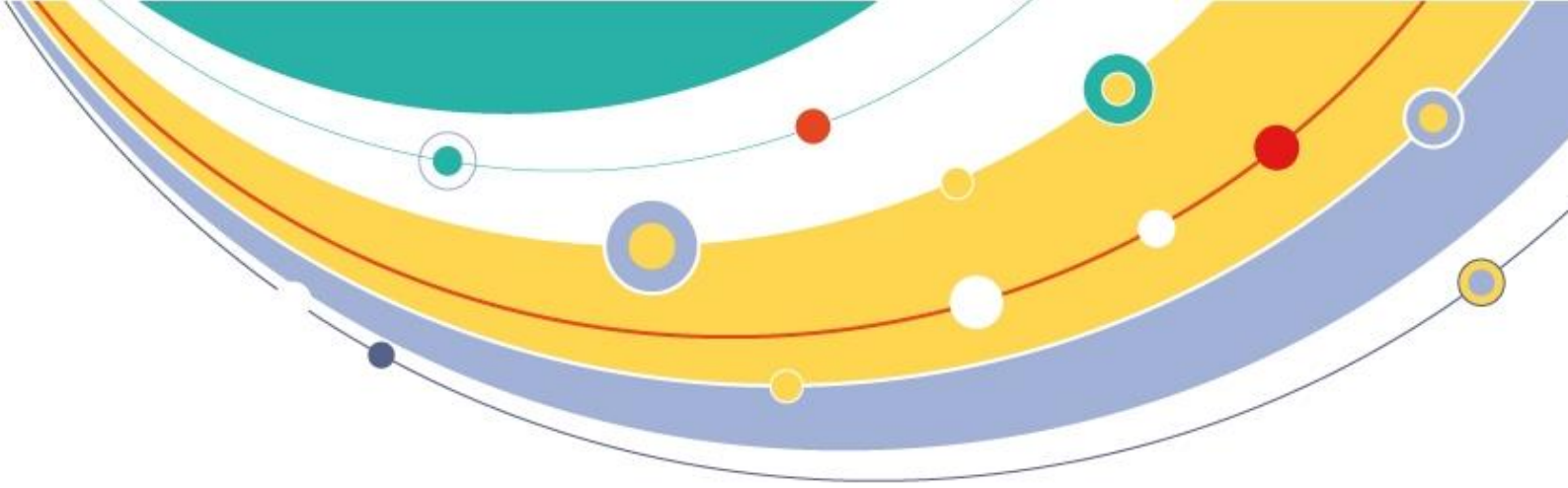
5.5 There are no repopulation issues within this report.

**6.0 CONSULTATION**

6.1 This report has been prepared by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) after due consultation with Inverclyde Child Protection Committee and Inverclyde Public Protection Chief Officer’s Group.

**7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.



Inverclyde Child Protection Committee

**ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15  
&  
IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014/16**

**We Care, We, Listen, We Act**



*Sharing Responsibility - Protecting Children*

Report available to download from  
[www.invercydechildprotection.org](http://www.invercydechildprotection.org)

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## 1.0 PREFACE

I am very pleased to present the 2014 -2015 annual report and improvement plan for Inverclyde child protection committee.

Child Protection Committees across Scotland produce an Annual Report and set out their priorities for the coming year. The following report describes how our Committee fulfilled its function and tasks during 2014-2015 as set out in guidance issued to Child Protection Committees. The improvement plan has been implemented with key areas being progressed by the work carried out by the CPC and various subgroups, which is detailed throughout the report.

As a partnership, we recognise the improving outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people are dependent on collaborative working across the partnerships. Securing better outcomes for our vulnerable children and young people will not be without its challenges, with the rise in the vulnerable child and young person population and midst a backdrop of austerity; 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 Getting it Right for Every Child, recognising the importance of this agenda in protecting our most vulnerable children. We are working with partners to ensure the development of the named person service and the single child's planning process takes into account effective mechanisms that are already in place to protect children from harm. 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 79,860, of whom 16% are children under 16 years and a further 4% are young people aged 16-18 years<sup>1</sup>. By 2037 the population of Inverclyde is projected to be 65,014, a decrease of 19.4 per cent compared to the population in 2012. The population aged under 16 in Inverclyde is projected to decline by 31.6 per cent over the 25 year period.

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.

Public service delivery is particularly challenging in the context of deprivation and depopulation.

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'

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<sup>1</sup> National Records of Scotland Mid 2014 Population Estimates  
<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/population-estimates/midyear-2014/14mid-year-pe-cahb-publication-correction.pdf>

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 ongoing work in Inverclyde is focussed on developing parenting skills to ensure the next generations living in this area are happy, supported and safe.

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'<sup>2</sup>.

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 (ICPC) 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.

## **Getting It Right for Every Child**

Inverclyde Child Protection Committee operates within the legislative and policy framework governing the delivery of children's services. The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) policy agenda and the related legislative elements of Children and Young People (Scotland) Act (2014) relating to the named person service and the single child's plan are having and will continue to have a significant impact on the way services for children are delivered including services for children at risk of significant harm.

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<sup>2</sup> National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014

The principles underpinning GIRFEC are fully embraced by the Child Protection Committee and inform our response to the needs of children and their families living in the Inverclyde Area. As a partnership, we recognise success is dependent on collaborative working and effective teamwork. We are resolute in our approach to improving services by ensuring they are designed, developed and delivered around the needs of children, young people and their families, building on an already strong commitment to continuous improvement.

The successful implementation of GIRFEC is our shared task and we recognise the need to work together effectively to achieve this objective. We believe we are making good progress but are not complacent in this regard. We have focused on the need to support a shift in culture that breaks down professional barriers and places the needs of children at the centre of our decision making processes.

Partners across the authority are working towards the introduction of a single plan to ensure that children are not subjected to multiple assessment and care planning processes and to the formal introduction of the named person service for all young people. We will continue to advance this agenda at all levels in our organisations.

### 3.0 Child Protection Statistics

Scottish Government publishes annual social work statistics for children's services covering the period 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> July (drawn from data provided by individual local authorities). The most recent report available covers the period from August 2013 to July 2014<sup>3</sup>. This data forms the basis of this section of the ICPC annual report.

The Scottish Government report highlighted that since 2000 there has been a steady 41% increase in the number of children on the child protection register in Scotland. The report notes that 2014 saw the largest year on year increase since 2009 with an increase of 9%. It should be noted that the figure on which this is based is the number of children on the child protection register at a single point in time (31<sup>st</sup> March up to 2010 and 31<sup>st</sup> July for 2011-2014). Inverclyde saw an increase of 12.5% between 2013 and 2014 which is slightly higher than the national percentage change.

At 31 July 2014, there were 2,882 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 0-15 was 3.2. The Inverclyde rate for the same date was 2.0. This is lower than our comparator authorities of West Dunbartonshire (2.6), North Ayrshire (4.6), Renfrewshire (2.6) and East Ayrshire (2.3) but higher than North Lanarkshire (1.2) who are also a comparator authority.

National statistics show that children continue to be placed on child protection registers at younger ages. On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014 more than half of children on the child protection register in Scotland (53%) were aged under five. This mirrors the local picture where on the same date, 52% 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.

Since 2012 multiple concerns have been 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 on the following page outlines the concerns identified for children in Inverclyde placed on the child protection register between 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014. Scottish statistics for those on the Child Protection Register on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014 are provided for comparison.

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<sup>3</sup> Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland, 2013-14 (Published March 2015)

## Areas of Concern for Children on Child Protection Committee

Areas of Concern	Children Inverclyde (number and % of all children registered 14-15)	Scotland (% of children on register at 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2014)
Domestic abuse	39 (78%)	1073 (37%)
Parental alcohol misuse	28 (56%)	640 (22%)
Parental drug misuse	38 (76%)	603 (21%)
Non-engaging family	14 (28%)	621 (22%)
Parental mental health problems	19 (38%)	735 (26%)
Children placing themselves at risk	0	60 (2%)
Sexual abuse	7 (14%)	218 (8%)
Child exploitation	0	13 (0.5%)
Physical abuse	8 (16%)	669 (23%)
Emotional abuse	32 (64%)	1121 (39%)
Neglect	31 (62%)	1013 (35%)
Other concerns (NB: parental offending behaviour, history of poor parenting)	33 (66%)	432 (15%)
Average number of Areas of concern per child	5.0	2.6

The most common concerns recorded in Inverclyde were domestic abuse and parental drug misuse at over 75% followed by emotional abuse, neglect and parental alcohol misuse, all at over 50% of registrations. Parental substance misuse (including alcohol and drug misuse), parental mental health problems and domestic abuse are all priority areas within ICPC Improvement Plan.

Children placed on the Child Protection Register in Inverclyde have on average 5 areas of concern identified per child. This is significantly more than the national average of 2.6 concerns per child. Within Inverclyde there is no limit to the number of areas of concern that can be identified during child protection conferences.

Within Inverclyde there were 101 children subject to case conferences between August 2013 and July 2014 (an increase of 44.3% from the previous year). These conferences resulted in 68 children being placed on the child protection register. Within Inverclyde therefore 67% of children who attended a case conference were placed on the child protection register.

## 4.0 Fulfilling Functions

The functions of the child protection committee are continuous improvement, strategic planning, public information and communication<sup>4</sup>. 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 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

### 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

- Reported on the public awareness ‘Speak Out’ campaign that was delivered in March 2014 to Child Protection Committee and CHCP (now HSCP) Committee
- Developed and delivered the ‘We Care, We Listen, We Act’ public awareness campaign, involving children and young people in the development of the campaign design through a poster competition and follow on activities.
- Revised the remit of the Communications sub group following a review by ICPC.
- Maintained our website for the general public and professionals, achieving an average of just over 6,000 visits per month during 2014-15.
- Continued to contribute to the development of the national website for public awareness about child protection and related issues <http://withscotland.org/public>
- Undertaken and reported on an evaluation of communication activity with members of the public and professionals using an online survey tool.
- Updated our core information materials targeted at the general public.
- Initiated a review of 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.

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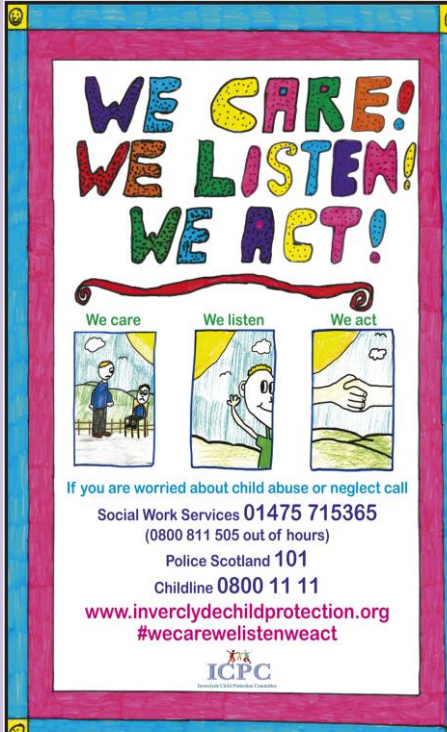
<sup>4</sup> National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014

## We, Care, We Listen, We Act



**We care We listen We act**


If you are worried about child abuse or neglect call  
Social Work Services **01475 715365**  
(0800 811 505 out of hours)  
Police Scotland **101**  
Childline **0800 11 11**  
[www.inverclydechildprotection.org](http://www.inverclydechildprotection.org)  
[#wecarewelistenweact](https://twitter.com/wecarewelistenweact)



**WE CARE!  
WE LISTEN!  
WE ACT!**

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[#wecarewelistenweact](https://twitter.com/wecarewelistenweact)



The campaign took place during March 2015.

The key message of the campaign was that children and young people have the right to be safe and protected from harm and that young people themselves can play a part in supporting their friends and speaking to someone if they are worried about what is happening to them.

In order to involve as many young people as possible an Inverclyde wide schools poster competition was held in October / November 2014. The pupils who produced the winning designs were involved throughout the development and as part of the promotion of the campaign.

Inverclyde Child Protection Committee also produced a set of guidelines to make children, young people and their parents think more about how they could help keep others safe.

The promotion of the campaign involved direct activity targeted at children and young people through schools alongside a wider marketing approach and media strategy with a combination of print, online, outdoor and social media based approaches.

Schools were supplied with posters and red wrist-bands printed with the campaign slogan for distribution to all pupils. Head Teachers were provided with information on the background to the campaign and encouraged to support the promotion of the campaign during school assemblies and with classroom activities.

A qualitative evaluation is planned in order to assess the impact of the campaign for young people. This will be complemented by analysis of website and twitter statistics.



## **Evaluation of Communications Activity**

A consultation on public awareness materials and the general approach to communication with staff and members of the public was undertaken in 2014/15.

This found that while some members of the public appeared comfortable to access information online or via a phone helpline most reported they would definitely read a poster or pick up a leaflet and all respondents reported that information should continue to be made available in leaflet format.

Approximately 90% of professionals who responded had seen Inverclyde Child Protection Committee materials and referred to them for their own information, and those who commented on the style and content generally expressed positive views. A lower but still significant proportion had given materials to a client or member of the public.

Gaps identified in the information provided on child protection included, listening and talking to children about things that worry them, impact of parental mental health problems and impact of parental drug and alcohol problems.

Supplying leaflets and information resources directly to staff in their workplace was a preferred route of communication for many. A significant proportion of staff were happy to download information materials from the website or receive information via electronic newsletters. The most commonly preferred route to access professional updates on child protection was however through attendance at training or a briefing session.

Priorities for 2015/16 will be

- Develop and deliver a public awareness campaign focussed on Child Exploitation
- Reprint and distribute child protection poster based on Speak Up design
- Complete the 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.

During 2014/15 we have

- Revised the format of statistical reporting to ensure quarterly activity reports are produced timeously for consideration by CPC.
- Produced an annual management information report identifying key findings and recommendations for further action
- Completed and reported on a multiagency case evaluation specifically examining issues of neglect.
- Completed and reported on an audit of adherence to child protection timescales resulting in an amendment of local and West of Scotland timescales to bring them into line with National timescales.
- Participated in a police led retrospective investigation of potential Child Sexual Exploitation concerns and reported on the local findings.
- Undertaken and reported on snapshot audits of attendance and submission of reports to child protection meetings (March & September 2014).
- 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 (7 children from 4 families) and on all cases where a child or young person has been re-registered within 1 year of being deregistered (1 child).
- Undertaken and reported on a review of local practice in relation to undertaking Joint Investigative Interviews with recommendations for both police and social work.
- Undertaken and reported on a survey of adult services adherence to National Child Protection Guidelines.
- Undertaken and reported on a survey of service provision for children affected by parental substance misuse.
- Undertaken an audit of caseloads in HSCP Children and Families Services and Alcohol and drug services to provide basic information on children affected by parental substance misuse.
- Facilitated a joint session between Child Protection Committee and SOA6 'Best Start in Life' group to explore issues in relation to self-evaluation and the Services for Children Inspection
- Developed recommendations and action plan in response to significant case review which was concluded in March 2014 and reported regularly on progress.
- Facilitated Child Protection Committee discussion on Child Protection and Disability and Child Sexual Exploitation and identified local priorities for action.

### **Annual Management Information Review**

The main findings from the 2013/14 annual management information review were:-

- 1 The percentage of referrals to Reporter where the decision was to convene a Children's Hearing was low at only 14%. As a result it was agreed to undertake a case review looking at the outcome of cases on the Child Protection Register with a recommendation for a supervision requirement.
- 2 An increase in registrations from a low of 17 on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013 to a high of 44 on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 was recorded. Analysis was carried out on numbers of child protection registrations following the reported low numbers of children on the Register in 2012/13. This analysis also considered the subsequent increase in registrations. No concerning issues or changes in practice were identified.
- 3 An increase in number of children on the Child Protection Register for over 24 weeks was recorded in the final quarter of 2013/14. Case reviews were undertaken for all cases where a child's name remained on the Child Protection Register for over 52 weeks (four cases involving 7 children) and a review of the findings from these audits was undertaken.

The review concluded that there was no indication that the period of registration for any of the children was longer than required given the individual circumstances of each case and that significant and appropriate supports were available to all children and families reviewed.

### **A Closer Look at Neglect – Self-evaluation Case Review**

Self-evaluation activity was undertaken involving an intensive multiagency case review of 8 cases where concerns of neglect had been identified.

The review concluded that the immediacy of response under child protection was robust and demonstrated clear initial planning that supported a reduction of risk. The involvement of children and families in the selected cases was very good and in the majority of cases there was strong evidence that the child's needs were being met with the support of services, and that multiagency working including the use of core groups was effective in ensuring needs continued to be met. This was particularly evident for the babies in the sample where, as a result of pre-birth assessment, risk was identified and plans were in place to manage this risk following the birth of the child. These plans were found to have been effective in meeting the needs of newborn babies.

Consideration of the findings of the review led however to reflections on practice around five core issues, evidence based assessment, assessment of parental motivation to change, child protection plans, longer term planning and response to accumulative concerns of neglect. Actions are being progressed in response to these reflections.

Priorities for 2015/16 will be

- Continue to review child protection related management information from all agencies and identify implications for practice
- Continue to undertake regular multiagency case file review activity and identify implications for practice
- Undertake specific focus self-evaluation activity on
  - Interface between child protection processes and Children's Hearing System
  - Child Protection Medicals

#### *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 2014/15 we have

- Contributed to the maintenance and review of the West of Scotland Multiagency Child Protection Procedures
- Contributed to the consultation on Police Scotland Standard Operating Procedures on Underage Sexual Activity
- Contributed to the consultation on the National Guidance on Significant Case Reviews
- Contributed to the ongoing development of West of Scotland Guidance on working with resistance.
- Considered the implications of the 2014 update of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland.
- Published practitioner guidance for those working with families with adult mental health and child protection or child welfare needs.
- Approved and published Guidance on Child Protection for Registered Social Landlords
- Developed and published practitioner guidance on forced marriage.
- Developed and secured approval for a Multiagency Working in Complex Cases process.
- Reviewed the Domestic Abuse Protocol.
- Developed new guidance for practitioners working with children affected by parental substance misuse.

### **Multiagency Working in Complex Cases**

A process has been developed and endorsed by ICPC for the use of a facilitated multiagency discussion in the following situations

- 1 Where there is complexity and specific expertise is required to understand the issues presented by the case
- 2 Where there is significant professional difference that cannot be resolved within the core group
- 3 Following situations where there has been professional difference or confusion of roles and responsibilities.

The aim of the discussion will be to promote understanding between professionals, identify barriers to effective collaboration, encourage reflection, scrutiny and evaluation, gain access to new ideas and information and develop practice based on research and expert evidence.

The discussion may be facilitated by a colleague from a partner agency who is not involved in the case but has particular expertise in the issues of concern and /or who has skills in facilitation or it may be more appropriate to engage a facilitator from outwith any of the partner agencies.

### **Forced Marriage**

A Forced Marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of children/young people/adults at risk, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress may be from parents, other family members and the wider community.

During 2014/15 Inverclyde Child Protection Committee, working with Inverclyde Adult Protection Committee and the Violence Against Women Multiagency Partnership, developed and published multiagency guidance on responding to forced marriage. The aim of this guidance is to assist staff from all agencies to respond appropriately to situations of forced marriage / risk of forced marriage by providing information and advice on good practice. Also included in the guidance is a list of local agency leads who can support staff responding to situations of forced marriage and a list of resources and contacts who may be able to provide specialist advice and guidance.

A briefing session was delivered for key staff from across partner agencies and follow up awareness raising activity is planned for 2015/16.

Priorities for 2015/16 will be

- Complete the development, secure approval and implement local guidelines in relation to Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse.
- Review the following
  - Arrangements for Child Protection Medicals
  - Guidance on Child Trafficking
  - Local Guidance on Conducting Significant Case Reviews
- Complete the development of a West of Scotland Toolkit on working with Resistance
- Develop and implement a local operational model to respond to concerns of Child Sexual Exploitation.
- Revise local procedures for applying for Child Protection Orders.

#### *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 2014/15 we have

- Delivered a core multiagency training programme including the introduction of a child protection update seminar which was delivered to over 100 participants.
- Delivered awareness sessions on the MARAC process (for the review of cases where there is high risk from domestic abuse), Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Developed and delivered our 7<sup>th</sup> annual multiagency conference on Promoting Recovery:- Therapeutic and Community Based Approaches
- Produced an annual evaluation report on the training delivered to provide information on effectiveness and relevance to improving practice.
- Developed a training plan on child sexual exploitation awareness for delivery in 2015/16
- Undertaken a review of the Inverclyde Child Protection Practitioner's Forum and produced a plan for development of this forum.

### **Multiagency Training Programme**

Inverclyde Child Protection Committee delivers an annual programme of multiagency training and development opportunities. This includes core courses including a ½ day child protection awareness course delivered eight times over the year and a full day course on the law and court skills delivered in Greenock Sheriff Court. Child Protection updates and training on priority issues within child protection are also included in the programme.

During the year 2014/15 there was a total of 25 training sessions across 12 different courses were delivered by Inverclyde Child Protection Committee with a total of 563 participants attending (excluding the Annual Conference).

Evaluation of each of the twelve courses indicated that for each course 98% or more of the participants learnt something they could use in practice. An average of 79% of participants rated the courses they attended as very good with 21% rating the courses they attended as good.

### **Promoting Recovery:- Therapeutic and Community Based Approaches**

The Child Protection Committee Conference for 2015 took place at the Beacon Arts Centre in Greenock. In total 126 individuals attended, drawn from a range of agencies (including the voluntary sector). In selecting speakers and workshop providers it was hoped to inspire staff as speakers and facilitators shared their personal and professional experience of promoting recovery from childhood abuse, neglect and other childhood adversity.

99% of participants reported that the conference had met the aim of increasing knowledge and understanding of a range of approaches that can be used to support and nurture children and young people who have suffered as a result of abuse and/or neglect

100% of participants reported that the conference had met the aim of encouraging them to reflect on how key elements of these approaches can be used in practice

At the end of the conference a challenge was issued to participants to

***‘Consider the opportunities that present themselves every day to aid recovery’***

Priorities for 2015/16 will be

- Continue to deliver a programme of core training and learning opportunities
- Develop and deliver new learning opportunities on the issues of
  - Parental Mental Health
  - Child Protection and Disability
  - Child Sexual Exploitation
  - Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse
- Develop and deliver our 8<sup>th</sup> annual multiagency conference on child exploitation
- Support the development of the Practitioner's Forum

### 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 priorities and other key elements of the child protection committee work plan are reported regularly to the ICPC and Inverclyde Public Protection Chief Officer Group.

The Child Protection Committee priority areas for improvement in 2014/16 include

- Multiagency Self Evaluation
- Children Affected by Domestic Abuse
- Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse
- Children Affected by Parental mental health problems
- Underage Sexual Activity / Child Sexual Exploitation
- Children's Voice / Participation in Child Protection

#### 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 2014/15 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
- Developed joint working with the Alcohol and Drug Partnership through the work of a joint sub group 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 the mentors in violence prevention programme, forced marriage, FGM and domestic abuse screening processes.
- Secured representation on CPC from registered social landlords and local GPs.
- Contributed to the work of the GIRFEC Planning groups to ensure the needs of children at risk of significant harm are considered within the wider development of the named person service and child's planning arrangements.
- Worked closely with the Children's Rights Officer to ensure child protection related issues are considered from a children's rights perspective

## 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 2015/16 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 has been updated to reflect developing priorities for Inverclyde Child Protection Committee. It outlines five priority areas for improvement. It is underpinned by the ongoing work of the Child Protection Committee and sub groups which is outlined in sub group work plans and the minutes of CPC meetings.

**Planning for improvement**

**CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

**IMPROVEMENT PLAN April 2014 – March 2016  
(updated April 2015)**

**Theme - SAFE**

<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Where are we now?</b>	<b>Where do we want to be?</b>	<b>How will we get there?</b>	<b>How will we know?</b>	<b>Who will be involved/lead?</b>
<b>1 Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse (CAPSM)</b>	<p>An ICPC multiagency Protocol was published in 2008 and updated in 2010. Refreshed GPR 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>	The level of risk experienced by children affected by parental substance misuse is reduced as a result of the intervention of services.	<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 multiagency training to meet identified needs</p> <p>Investigate unmet need for services</p>	<p>Audit report and recommendations considered by CPC 2014/15 (completed)</p> <p>Revised guidelines published 2015/16</p> <p>Training needs identified 2014/15 (completed) Delivery of training 2015/16</p> <p>Report 2014/15 (completed)</p> <p>Service development proposals 2015/16</p>	CAPSM sub group

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><b>2 Participation in Child Protection</b></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 and workers regarding young people’s 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 produced 2015/16</p> <p>Evaluated and reported as part of multiagency case reviews. (completed for 14/15 and ongoing in 15/16)</p>	<p>Performance Management Sub group</p>

<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Where are we now?</b>	<b>Where do we want to be?</b>	<b>How will we get there?</b>	<b>How will we know?</b>	<b>Who will be involved/lead?</b>
<b>3 Children Affected by Domestic Abuse</b>	<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"> <li>• Practice guidance</li> <li>• Multiagency screening process</li> <li>• ASSIST service</li> <li>• MARAC process</li> <li>• Cedar service</li> </ul> <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 (completed)</p> <p>Annual Reports and monitoring data (awareness raising completed and referral data monitored)</p> <p>Documented evidence of participation of service users (children and young people)</p>	<p>Violence Against Women Multiagency Partnership</p>

<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Where are we now?</b>	<b>Where do we want to be?</b>	<b>How will we get there?</b>	<b>How will we know? (including time-scales)</b>	<b>Who will be involved/ lead?</b>
<b>4 Children affected by parental mental health problems</b>	<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 (scheduled April 2015)</p> <p>Report back to Child and maternal health strategy group and to CPC 2014/15 (completed)</p> <p>Report back to CPC 2015/16</p>	<p>Joint Children's Services &amp; Adult mental Health services working group</p>

<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Where are we now?</b>	<b>Where do we want to be?</b>	<b>How will we get there?</b>	<b>How will we know?</b>	<b>Who will be involved/ lead?</b>
<b>5 Multi-Agency Self Evaluation of Child Protection outcomes and activity</b>	<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 etc.</p>	<p>Report to CPC 2014/15 (outcomes review completed) Minutes recording involvement (completed)</p> <p>4 specific focus activities reported 2014/15. (completed) 3-4 specific focus activity reported 2015/16 Report to CPC 2014/15</p> <p>Routine reporting to CPC (completed for 2014/15)</p>	<p>Performance Management sub group</p>



<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Where are we now?</b>	<b>Where do we want to be?</b>	<b>How will we get there?</b>	<b>How will we know?</b>	<b>Who will be involved/lead?</b>
<b>6 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) [added 2015]</b>	<p>During 2013 and 2014, CPC partners participated in a scoping, screening and investigation operation led by Strathclyde Police / Police Scotland.</p> <p>The CPC has adopted the West of Scotland Practitioner Resource on Child Sexual Exploitation for use in Inverclyde.</p> <p>A CPC sub group was established in December 2014 to drive this agenda forward. This strategic group has representation at a senior manager level from a wide range of partners.</p> <p>The Strategic group are developing a detailed action plan to identify and respond to local need.</p>	<p>Services take effective action to prevent Child Sexual Exploitation, protect and support the recovery of children and young people who are at risk of abuse or are abused through sexual exploitation, and disrupt and prosecute those who perpetrate this form of abuse.</p>	<p>Taking account of findings from local and national investigations, recommendations from the Scottish Government Action Plan on CSE, and the work of the national CSE working group, identify where Inverclyde's response to CSE should be adapted or enhanced to ensure it meets the needs of those at risk.</p> <p>Plan, deliver and evaluate a programme of action to meet priority areas of need in relation to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• Intervention</li> <li>• Disruption</li> <li>• Recovery</li> </ul>	<p>Priority action plan for 2015/16 agreed by Strategic Group by June 2015.</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring of progress by Strategic Group.</p> <p>Audit and review of cases where child sexual exploitation is an area of concern.</p>	<p>Child Sexual Exploitation Strategic Group</p>



## 6.0 APPENDICES

**Appendix 1** Members of Inverclyde Child Protection Committee as at 31 March 2015

Membership	Agency
Sharon McAlees (Chair)	Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership
Angela Edwards (Vice Chair)	Inverclyde Council: Education and Communities
Dr Catherine Addiscott	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
John Arthur	Inverclyde Council: Education and Communities
Sandra Boyle	Mindmosaic (representing the 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector)
Pamela Brady	COPFS
Nichola Burns	Police Scotland
Jane Cantley	Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership
Karen Gleed	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Elsa Hamilton	Inverclyde Council: Education and Communities
Anne Jamieson	Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership
Dr Brian Kelly	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Samantha King	Barnardo's Nurture (representing 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector)
Gerard Malone	Inverclyde Council: Legal Services
Bob McLean	Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership (Social Work Services) (representing Inverclyde Alcohol and Drugs Partnership )
Aine McCrea	Inverclyde Community Health & Care Partnership

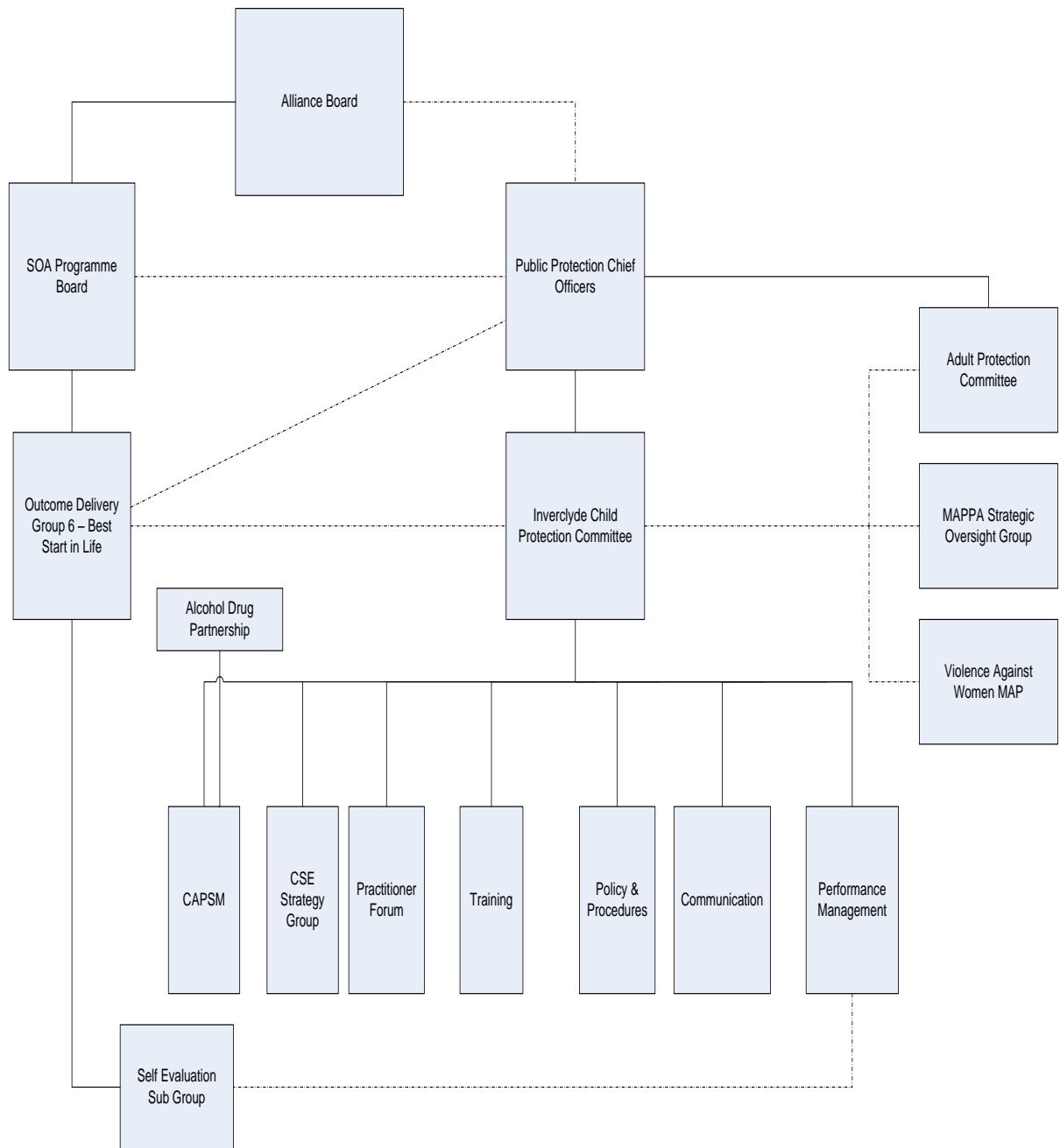
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Kenneth Ritchie	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
Jane Wallace	Riverclyde Homes (representing local housing associations)
Susan Mitchell (in attendance)	Inverclyde Child Protection Committee

**Appendix 2** Members of Inverclyde Public Protection Chief Officers Group as at 31 March 2015

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

### 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
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