

# Highland Child Protection Committee

## Newsletter

Autumn 2018  
Issue 1

### Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter. The Child Protection Committee aims to share learning and good practice with practitioners across Highland, as well as highlighting key issues in child protection. The CPC is keen to make the newsletter useful for everyone. If you are aware of documents, policies or articles which may be of interest to practitioners or communities please let us know.

We hope to produce this newsletter on a quarterly basis and would welcome any relevant contributions. If you would like to provide an update on any key child protection issues, new initiatives, information on training courses, or an overview of the services you provide for children and young people please submit this to us at: [CP.Training@highland.gov.uk](mailto:CP.Training@highland.gov.uk) NB: articles should be 75-125 word max.

This first edition brings you articles on current issues and training opportunities including bruising in non-mobile children, parental substance misuse and domestic abuse, roll out of the Graded Care Profile and PREVENT. We hope you find the content of interest.

DCI Vince McLaughlin, Chair

### About the Child Protection Committee

The Scottish Government requires that every area in Scotland has a Child Protection Committee in place. The Committee is a strategic partnership that oversees child protection policy and practice across the statutory and third sector.

The CPC is responsible for:

- Strategic Planning
- Child Protection Procedures
- Public Awareness
- Learning and Development

The Interagency Child Protection Guidelines are produced by the Child Protection Committee to help practitioners and managers understand roles and responsibilities in relation to child protection. These are currently under review and are available on the website within the Resources section.

The Committee meets on a quarterly basis to consider a range of issues relating to child protection including local and national priorities. In 2018/19 key priorities for the Committee include:

- Sharing learning from case reviews
- Sharing good practice
- Roll out of Graded Care Profile
- Implementation of Safe & Together
- Supporting children and families affected by parental substance misuse
- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation
- Seeking the views of parents/carers
- Seeking the views of children
- Develop a Communications strategy

For more information about the CPC or for contacts in child protection, including how to report child protection concerns please visit [www.hcpc.scot](http://www.hcpc.scot)

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The current Chair of the CPC is DCI Vince McLaughlin, Police Scotland and the Vice Chair is Sandra Campbell, Head of Children's Services, Highland Council Care and Learning Service.

You can contact the Child Protection Committee by emailing: [CP.Training@highland.gov.uk](mailto:CP.Training@highland.gov.uk)



## Graded Care Profile

Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) is a tool developed by the NSPCC to help practitioners assess and evidence neglect. It is an assessment tool that measures the quality of care being given to a child. The tool helps professionals identify signs of neglect and areas where a family may need additional help and support.

Neglect is often complex and difficult to evidence. Personal and professional 'thresholds', parental factors and relationships can mean the quality of assessments are sometimes variable and often difficult to undertake.

This tool is research and evidence based and Highland is now licensed to use it. In order to receive the tool, practitioners must attend the GCP2 training.

The training is a 1 day course that helps practitioners familiarise themselves with the GCP2 and have an opportunity to practice using the tool.

### Who should attend?

This training is for key professionals who have regular and direct contact with children and families and a responsibility for undertaking or contributing to assessments.

The training is particularly targeted at Health and Social Care practitioners within the Family Teams and they will receive priority places. There is no cost to attend the training and places can be booked through the training calendar on the website [www.hcpc.scot](http://www.hcpc.scot)

Practitioners who don't undertake assessments but wish to know more about the Graded Care Profile can attend a **briefing session**. Dates will be available on the website from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2018.



## Child Protection Guidance for Community Groups

Did you know that all community groups using Highland Council premises for activities should have a child protection policy in place? This should be reviewed and updated regularly (we would recommend annually) to ensure correct contact details etc. are available.

The Keeping Children Safe Sub-Group of the Child Protection Committee has

developed a toolkit for community groups and third sector organisations.

The toolkit contains pro-forma policies and statements which can be completed and printed out for use by Committees, staff and volunteers of groups or organisations.

The toolkit also contains hints, tips and links to useful resources in relation to a

range of child protection issues.

The toolkit is available free of charge and can be downloaded from [www.hcpc.scot](http://www.hcpc.scot)

Hard copies are also available from the CPC Office. Please email [CP.Training@highland.gov.uk](mailto:CP.Training@highland.gov.uk)

*"Child Protection is Everyone's Responsibility"*

## Bruising in Non-mobile babies

The CPC have recently published a new policy on bruising in non-mobile babies. This includes all children under 6 months and older children not yet crawling/pulling to stand etc.

Bruising in non-mobile children is very unusual.

***Only 1 in 5 infants who are starting to walk by holding onto furniture (cruising) has bruises.***

In cases where a non-mobile child with a bruise is seen by staff, further advice must be sought.

There must be a multiagency discussion in relation to any non-mobile child with bruising or significant injuries.

The full policy can be found at: [www.hcpc.scot](http://www.hcpc.scot)

## Child Protection Training

The Child Protection Committee would advise anyone who, as part of their job is likely to come into contact with children should attend a minimum of one child protection training course in each 3 year period. This training should be undertaken as soon as possible upon employment but no more than six months after employment start date.

*You should discuss with your line manager, agency training co-ordinator or child protection advisor which level of introductory training is suitable for your role and responsibilities.*

Everyone in Highland is able to access free child protection training appropriate to their roles and responsibilities.

The Committee offers a range of courses including:

- Child Protection: Basic Awareness
- Recognition and Response in Child Protection
- Developing Competence in child protection
- Graded Care Profile
- Working Towards Positive Outcomes

Training is also available on Adverse Childhood Experiences, Child Sexual Exploitation and PREVENT.

In addition, the Committee puts on an Annual Conference and a range of Master classes with themes based on feedback from practitioners.

Keep an eye on the website for upcoming events!



## Care and Learning Alliance – E-Learning opportunities now available

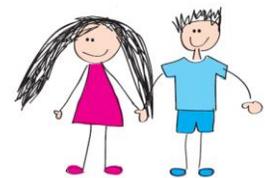
The CPC has been working with the Care and Learning Alliance (CALA) to develop a range of child protection e-learning programmes which are now available through the [CALA E-learning zone](#)

The child protection courses available include An Introduction to Child Protection which would normally cost £10 per person. However, staff working in Highland with children and families are able to access the course free of charge by requesting

a voucher code from the CPC. Simply email [CP.Training@highland.gov.uk](mailto:CP.Training@highland.gov.uk) and ask for the code. You will be sent directions about how to access the site and complete the training.

Other Child Protection courses available through the site include Child Sexual Exploitation and Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse.

These courses are available free of charge for everyone and accessed directly through the [E-learning zone](#)



Highland Child Protection Committee  
Comairdraidh Dìon Chloinne na Gàidhealtachd

Aela Campbell, Plockton Primary, Age 7

## Safe & Together

The Safe & Together™ Model is a suite of tools and interventions designed to help professionals become domestic violence-informed.

This child-centered model derives its name from the concept that children are best served when we can work toward keeping them safe and together with the non-offending parent. This is often a challenging and complex area for practitioners to navigate with families.

*The Model provides a framework for partnering with non-offending parents and intervening with domestic violence perpetrators in order to enhance the safety and wellbeing of children.*

The Model does not require additional resources within teams but aims to support practitioners in their existing work with families. Specialist training, advice and resources are provided.

Developed in the United States, the Model has been implemented in Edinburgh and across the Army Welfare Service with positive results for children and parents.

In 2018/19, the Child Protection Committee will work with the Violence Against Women Partnership to explore ways of implementing the Safe and Together Model in Highland.

Visit the Safe and Together website to find out more:

<https://safeandtogetherinstitute.com/>

## PREVENT



### What is Prevent?

Prevent is about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism. Prevent is one strand of CONTEST, the UK Government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

### What is terrorism and extremism?

Terrorism is the unlawful use of violence or a threat of violence to support a belief or ideology. Extremism is the use of extreme behavior to support a belief or ideology. Not all extremism is harmful or criminal, but sometimes those who behave in an extreme way can go on to become terrorists.

### What does PREVENT do?

PREVENT responds to the ideological challenge we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views. It provides practical help to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support.

### Prevention is better than cure

Extremism is not illegal so anyone identified through Prevent is not automatically criminalised. Prevent is about local agencies working together to identify ways of preventing people from supporting terrorism or becoming terrorists, before any crime is actually committed.

### Local focus

The main focus in Highland is to help people, to prevent them from being drawn into terrorism or extremist violence. We can do this by working together in our communities to support people who are vulnerable to radicalisation; by giving people the skills to challenge any extremist views they may encounter; and by sharing any concerns we may have about a group or individual. Key Prevent partners include: local authorities, NHS, schools, colleges, universities, Police Scotland and community organisations.

For further information, guidance on how to share concerns and training on PREVENT visit the CPC website – [www.hcpc.scot](http://www.hcpc.scot)



## Child Protection Committee 'Round Up'

The first half of 2018 has been a busy time for the Committee. This section has just a few items you may be interested in.....

In January, we commissioned an analysis of case reviews in order to identify common areas for improvement as well as examples of good practice in Highland. Dr Sharon Vincent, University of Northumbria carried out the research and reported her findings to 140 practitioners at the Annual CPC Conference held in Eden Court in March. The review identified some areas of good practice including:

- ▶ Staff recognise concerns at an early stage
- ▶ Staff are confident in sharing concerns
- ▶ Good examples of integrated working to create plans for children is evident

Some areas for improvement included:

- ▶ Information sharing and recording across agencies could be improved – remember 'if it's not written down, it didn't happen'!
- ▶ Practitioners should be clear how to escalate concerns where risk is still considered
- ▶ Practitioners need to be aware of the *rule of*

*optimism* when working with families

- ▶ Information gathering is good but analysis of the information could be improved
- ▶ *Disguised compliance* is apparent in a number of cases – how can we identify and respond to disguised and non-compliance?

*In October/November 2018 the Committee will be delivering roadshow sessions across Highland to share the learning from case reviews and discuss key issues with local practitioners. Please look out for dates in your area and come along and contribute to the discussion.*

### Finally.....

The Committee was once again delighted and proud to support Rock Challenge in Highland and congratulates all the schools who took place this year. There were some fantastic themes and performances and Highland schools took 4 of the 5 winning places at the National finals held in Dundee in June 2018. Well done to everyone involved.