

HIGHLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE Biennial report



Introduction from Chair

Rebranding the CPC

Child Protection in Highland

Key Achievements

Priorities for 2018-2020



2016 - 2018

Message from the Chair

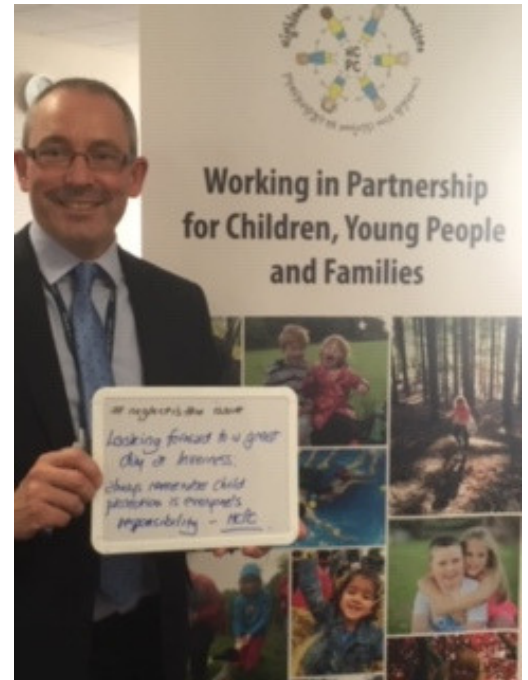
The Child Protection Committee has worked hard to develop our identity in 2016-2018 in order that partnership working in child protection across Highland is easily recognisable. We have developed a website to provide access to information and resources about child protection, and have invested in tools to help practitioners identify and work with neglect.

We have also made good progress in making communities aware of Child Sexual Exploitation and will continue to build on this work in 2018/19.

A review of Highland Child Protection Guidance will come to a conclusion at the end of 2018. This process has involved a range of consultation events with practitioners to ensure guidance is robust and user friendly.

Child Protection Guidance for Community Groups and Third Sector Organisations have also been developed and these launched in March 2018. Work with our Third Sector partners continues to develop through the Keeping Children Safe Sub-Committee.

Child Protection work is often challenging but the CPC remains committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for children and families in Highland through high quality training, support and leadership.



Whilst the CPC has continued to develop policy and practice issues, we have also been able to support prevention work in schools and communities including provision of sponsorship for Highland's Rock Challenge events.

I am proud of the progress the CPC has made in 2016-2018 and we will continue to build on this in 2018-2020.

Paul Brannigan launches new CPC logo

In March 2017, Hollywood Actor Paul Brannigan spoke to a packed Highland Council Chamber in Inverness to launch our year on Neglect. Paul spoke about his own childhood experiences of neglect and parental substance misuse, the people who helped him overcome the trauma he had experienced and how he achieved his dreams of becoming an actor. He also spoke about his role in mentoring young people through Celtic FC and other Scottish projects.



The CPC invited schools across Highland to take part in a competition to design its new logo. The aim of this was to raise awareness of the CPC amongst children and young people and to refresh our identity with a new logo and website.' The winner, Bodhan Campbell from Plockton primary school, was selected from over 400 entries and Paul presented prizes for him and the competition runners up. Schools who took part reported that this competition had given them opportunities to talk about child protection with students from 5 to 18.

CPC Website

In July 2017 the Child Protection Committee website was launched to provide a central point of reference for all child protection matters in Highland.

The website includes sections for children, young people and communities as well as training information and access to a range of child protection resources for practitioners. Published case reviews are made available on the website along with current policies and procedures.

Since launching, the website has had over 100,000 views and provides the main route for those booking training and seeking local support services.

Social media (@HighlandCPC) has also been used to promote public protection messages in relation to child sexual exploitation, substance misuse and neglect, and this is an area that will continue to develop in 2018/19

Website Subscribers: 285


Twitter Followers: 225

Site Users: 7,551

Site Views: 120,118

Highland Child Protection Committee

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Child Protection Learning & Development

Child Protection learning and development opportunities have evolved further over the past two years in response to feedback from participants, managers and learning from local and national case reviews.

The Training Team is now back to full capacity with training posts across Health, Education and Social Care to support the development and delivery of multi-disciplinary training courses. This has enabled a complete review of all course materials and an update to core child protection training to ensure a clear focus on risk assessment, analysis and management of risk.

The Team has continued to deliver training in relation to Child Protection, Highland Practice Model, Parental Substance Misuse, Child Sexual Exploitation and PREVENT enabling over 8000 training places to be taken up Highland wide between 2016 and 2018.

The Team were also invited to deliver sessions to the Children's Panel, SCRA, student nurses, local nurseries and many other groups.

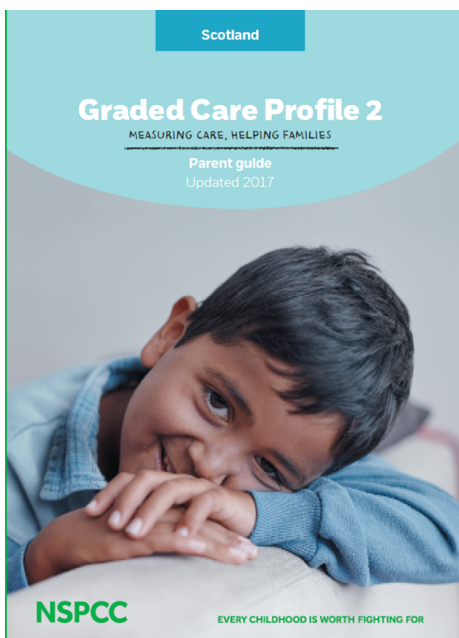
E-modules for Child Protection and the Practice Model, Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse and Child Sexual Exploitation have now been developed and are offered free of charge for all practitioners online. These have been accessed by over 400 practitioners in 2017/18.



Graded Care Profile 2

Throughout 2017, neglect was a key focus for the Child Protection Committee. Highland made the decision to implement the Graded Care Profile 2 due to the fact it is evidence based and has had positive outcomes for children in other parts of the UK. The tool also enhances those already available to practitioners within the Highland Practice Guidance.

Dawn Hodson and Samantha Kyriacou from the NSPCC delivered a Training for Trainers course to 18 practitioners from health, social care and education. Supported by the Training Team, GCP2 training is now rolling out across Highland. Methods for monitoring use and the impact of the Graded Care Profile are also being developed.



Using the SCIE Learning Together Model

In 2016/17 Highland trained 18 practitioners from across Highland in use of the SCIE Learning Together model. This is a systems based approach to undertaking case reviews. Supported by Sarah Peel and the SCIE Team in London, Lead Reviewers in Highland have been working towards formal accreditation to use the model more widely.

In 2017/18, two Significant Case reviews were completed using the SCIE model, involving over 30 practitioners from across Highland. The 7 minute briefing model has also been developed to share learning from the case reviews and encourage discussion within local teams. Executive Summaries are published on the CPC website and the briefing is shared with nominated leads for dissemination in local areas.



Analysis of Case Reviews

In January 2018, the Child Protection Committee commissioned Dr Sharon Vincent from Northumbria University to undertake an analysis of case reviews in order to draw out key learning themes both locally and nationally. In March 2018 Dr Vincent presented her Findings to **160 delegates** from partner agencies across Highland at the Child Protection Committee Conference in Eden Court Theatre, Inverness. This was followed by a number of consultations with front-line practitioners, managers and Committee members to consider the findings and develop a response.

The review highlighted areas of good practice such as information sharing and early identification of concerns. However, many of the themes arising from this analysis are similar to those regularly found across case reviews and will be used to shape the work of the Committee in coming months. Some of the themes are easily addressed through learning and development opportunities e.g. awareness of non/disguised compliance and an understanding of processes, procedures and tools such as the national risk assessment framework. Other themes require a targeted approach over a period of time and will be addressed within the Quality Assurance Sub-Committee Improvement Plan.

The learning can be grouped into 6 key areas:

Keeping the child's needs at the centre

Building effective relationships with children and families

Developing robust plans for children

Good communication and information sharing

Effective and timely intervention

Strong leadership, management, support and supervision

These six themes will be used to update and develop a three year programme of work for the Child Protection Committee

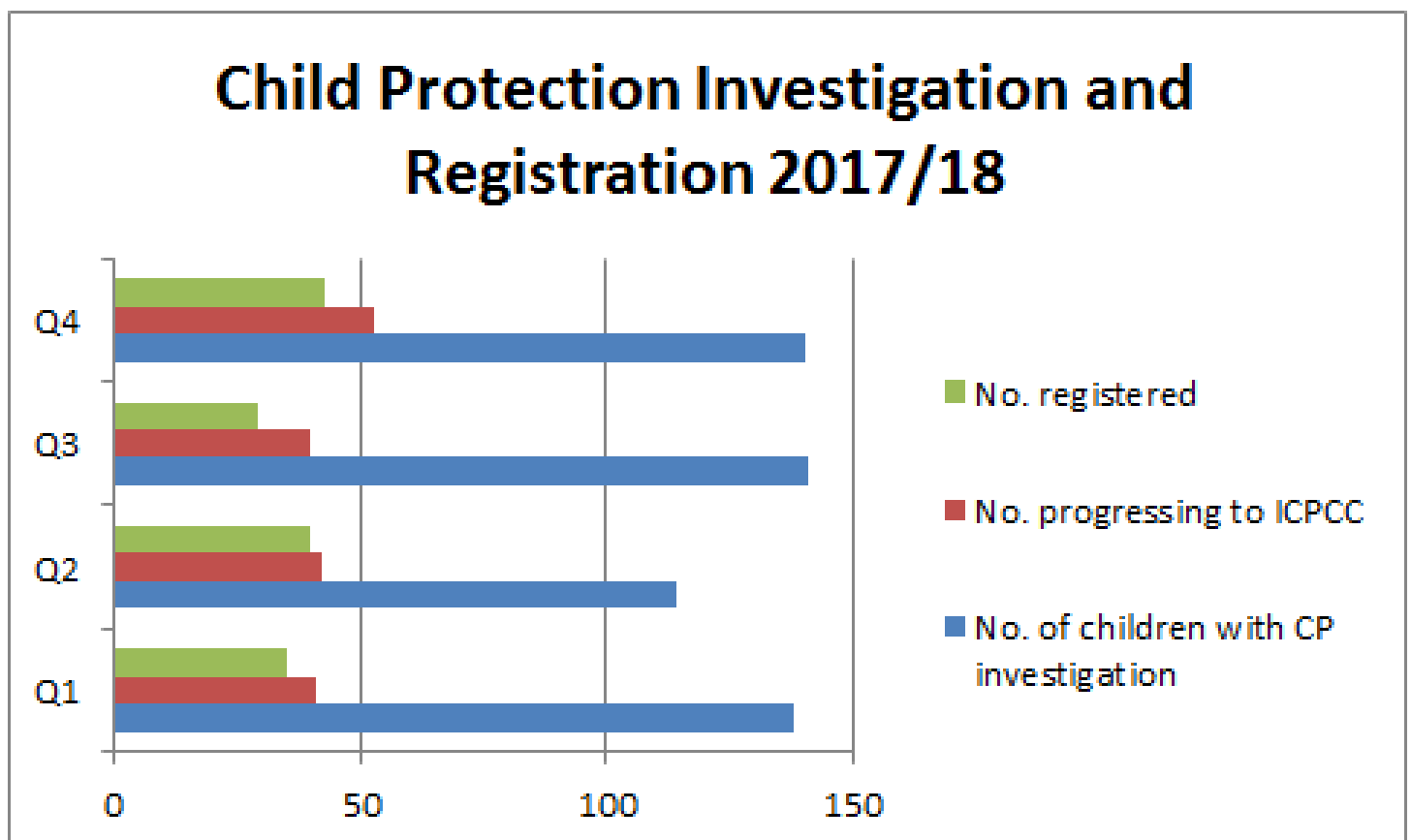
Child Protection Data

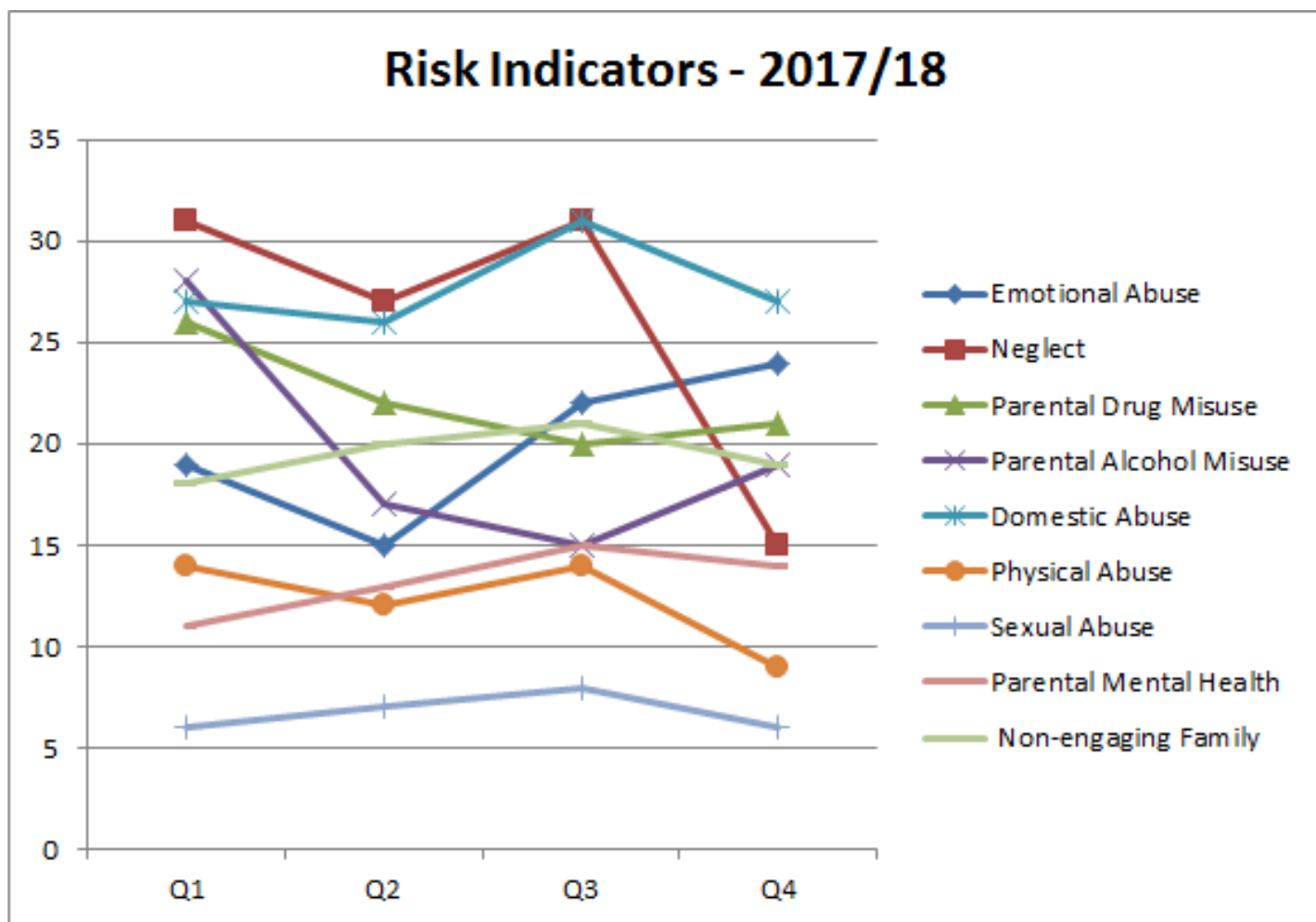
The Child Protection Committee has worked with partners in the Central and North Scotland Child Protection Consortium to develop a common data set to review and compare local child protection information. Highland's data has remained relatively consistent during this period and where there are trends appearing, the Quality Assurance Sub-Committee will consider these.

The total land mass of Highland is 25,659 square kilometres, which covers a third of Scotland, including the most remote and sparsely populated parts. We have the 7th highest population of the 32 authorities in Scotland at around 234,000, with a slightly higher percentage of children, and higher proportions in all of the age groups above 45 years. This population is broadly equally divided across urban areas, small towns, rural areas and very rural areas. Outwith Inverness and the Inner Moray Firth there are a number of key settlements around the area including Wick and Thurso in the far north, Fort William in the south west and Portree in the west. These towns act as local service centres for the extensive rural hinterland which makes up the bulk of the region.

15% of children in the Highlands are growing up in poverty, compared to the Scotland wide figure of 20%. In Inverness Central 29% of children live in poverty, and in Cromarty Firth the rate is 25%. Around 2,000 children live in severe poverty – 6% of all children in the region (Save the Children 2012). Further demographic information about children is available in the integrated children's services plan, www.forhighlandschildren.org

The number of children on the child protection register is slightly below the national average (2.02 per 1000 population). Approximately a third of investigations resulted in an Initial Child Protection Planning Meeting and of these, 83% resulted in Child Protection Registration. Indicators of risk in terms of domestic abuse, neglect and substance misuse remain the primary reasons for registration.





Trends in child protection

The Quality Assurance Sub-Committee will continue to monitor trends in 2018/19 in order to identify further areas for consideration through the Committee's audit cycle.

The CPC works closely with the Alcohol and Drug Partnership in Highland to develop policies and initiatives to support children and families affected by parental substance misuse. This work is driven through the Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse Sub-Committee. The analysis of case reviews found alcohol was prevalent in over half of the cases studied. This is something the Quality Assurance Sub-Committee will monitor and revisit through the audit cycle.

It is hoped that the Graded Care Profile 2 will help families address early indicators of neglect. The Committee will continue to review trends in relation to neglect to see if the training and toolkit has any impact on data.

Domestic abuse has also seen an increase over the past 2 years which could indicate a better awareness of issues affecting children in homes where domestic abuse features. The CPC are currently working with the Violence Against Women Partnership to explore the feasibility of implementing the Safe and Together Model.

Message from Chief Officers



In 2017/18 the Highland Public Protection Chief Officer Group was established to ensure clear leadership in public protection across NHS Highland, Highland Council and Police Scotland North Division.

The Public Protection Chief Officer Group considers the findings from case reviews, inter-agency issues and wider links within the public protection partnership.

As Chief Officers we give a continued commitment and support to the work of the Committee in providing scrutiny and support for child protection practice across statutory and third sector services. We acknowledge the challenges of child protection work in Highland and extend our thanks to all those delivering front-line services for children, young people and families. In 2019-20 we look forward to progressing a range of initiatives in order to continue to improve outcomes for children and deliver high quality services for all.

Chief Superintendent George MacDonald, Police Scotland

Key Priorities 2018-2020:

In 2018, the Committee will continue to implement findings from local and national case reviews and develop audit work, whilst encouraging a reflective practice culture across Highland. We will provide practitioners and managers with tools, support and high quality training to ensure child protection work is robust and effective for Highland's children and families.

In particular, the Committee will focus on the following priority areas:

- Roll out GCP2 to help practitioners assess the quality of care of a child
- Implement Viewpoint to establish the views of children & young people
- Establish the views of families involved in child protection
- Provide support for children and families affected by domestic abuse
- Provide support for practitioners working with parental substance misuse
- Develop Quality Assurance Framework and Audit Cycle
- Update Learning & Development Plan to include more masterclass events
- Deliver Child Sexual Exploitation improvement plan
- 2019 Conference - 'Who Sees the Child? Keeping the child at the centre'
- Involve Young People in the work of the Child Protection Committee

A copy of the Highland Child Protection Committee Improvement Plan can be found [here](#)

Child Protection Committee Biennial Report 2018