

01 Background - In September 2021 Scottish Government launched the revised National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland. This replaced the previous non-statutory Guidance of 2014. To implement the new National Guidance, Edinburgh and our neighbours in East, Mid and West Lothian set about re-developing our local procedures.

02 Overall Aim – The Procedures outline the role we all play in ensuring children are safe as our most important consideration.

They follow a child and family’s journey through Child Protection processes from referral to Child Protection Registration outlining expectations of children, their families and the roles and responsibilities of services and agencies.

07 Other Developments – Children, young people, and their families are included & involved at all stages.

There are updated timescales for holding CPPMs, Review CPPMs and when you should receive the paperwork.

There are some changes to the process for robust review if consensus is not reached within the meeting.



03 Underpinning Principles –

- UNCRC and Children’s Rights
- Strengths-based, holistic assessment & planning (GIRFEC)
- The Promise
- Proactive and persistent attempts to involve children and families.
- Trauma Informed and Responsive Approaches (TIRA).

06 Child Protection Planning Meetings – Child Protection practice is part of a continuum of inter-agency support to families through GIRFEC.

Moving away from ‘Case Conferences’ is intended to encourage partnership with families and join up with other planning processes. It also sets a greater emphasis on developing a mutually agreeable plan.

04 Definition of a Child – The Procedures apply to all children from pre-birth to the age of 18.

This means that 16- and 17-year-olds who are experiencing harm or risk of harm should be considered under Child Protection. It’s a complex area of practice and further local guidance will be developed.

05 Revised Definition of Abuse - Abuse or neglect may involve inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused or neglected in any setting and online. Children can be exposed to abuse or exploitation in their school, community, or peer group, which makes it hard for those caring for them to keep them safe. Those responsible may be previously unknown or familiar, or in positions of trust. They may be family members. Children may be harmed pre-birth, for instance by domestic abuse of a mother or through parental alcohol and drug use.

