



# **City of Edinburgh Child Protection Committee**

## **Annual Report 2023-34**



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## Introduction by Independent Chair

As the independent chair of the City of Edinburgh Child Protection Committee, this is my first Annual Report and covers the period of April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The purpose of the report is to demonstrate progress against the aims and objectives set by the Child Protection Committee in the agreed improvement and workplan, this additionally identifies any areas for improvement and/or re-prioritisation in the year ahead.

This report outlines the work we have done in the last year to continually improve our services.

The Child Protection Committee and associated Subcommittees have continued to meet throughout the reporting period to ensure protection of Edinburgh's children.

This annual report is structured around the functions of the Child Protection Committee, as laid out in Scottish Government guidance. It highlights the achievements during the reporting period, and importantly what we plan to do moving forward.

During the reporting period we have developed a strategic plan that sets out the shared joint priorities for City of Edinburgh Child Protection Committee and provides a roadmap for delivery.

Based on these core functions, the 2024-25 Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Improvement plan focusses on four key themes which have been agreed as being priority areas in the coming year:

- a) Leadership and Structure
- b) Learning Culture and Relationships
- c) Self-evaluation and Assurance
- d) Strategic Connection

These themes have emerged through Committee development activities during the reporting period and recognizes that the Child Protection Partnership have an ambition: for individuals and communities across the region, particularly the most vulnerable, to be safe and protected. The reflect national and local drivers, with relevance across the multi-agency partnership.

The intention is for a one-year plan to enable us to build the right structures and supports to address more ambitious themes in a 3-year strategic plan that would run 2025-28.

There is evidence of strong partnership working which we have reflected in showing the good work being done to keep children safe. We know that this requires collaboration and cooperation, qualities which I have seen throughout the multi-agency partnership, and which continues to provide strong foundations going forward.

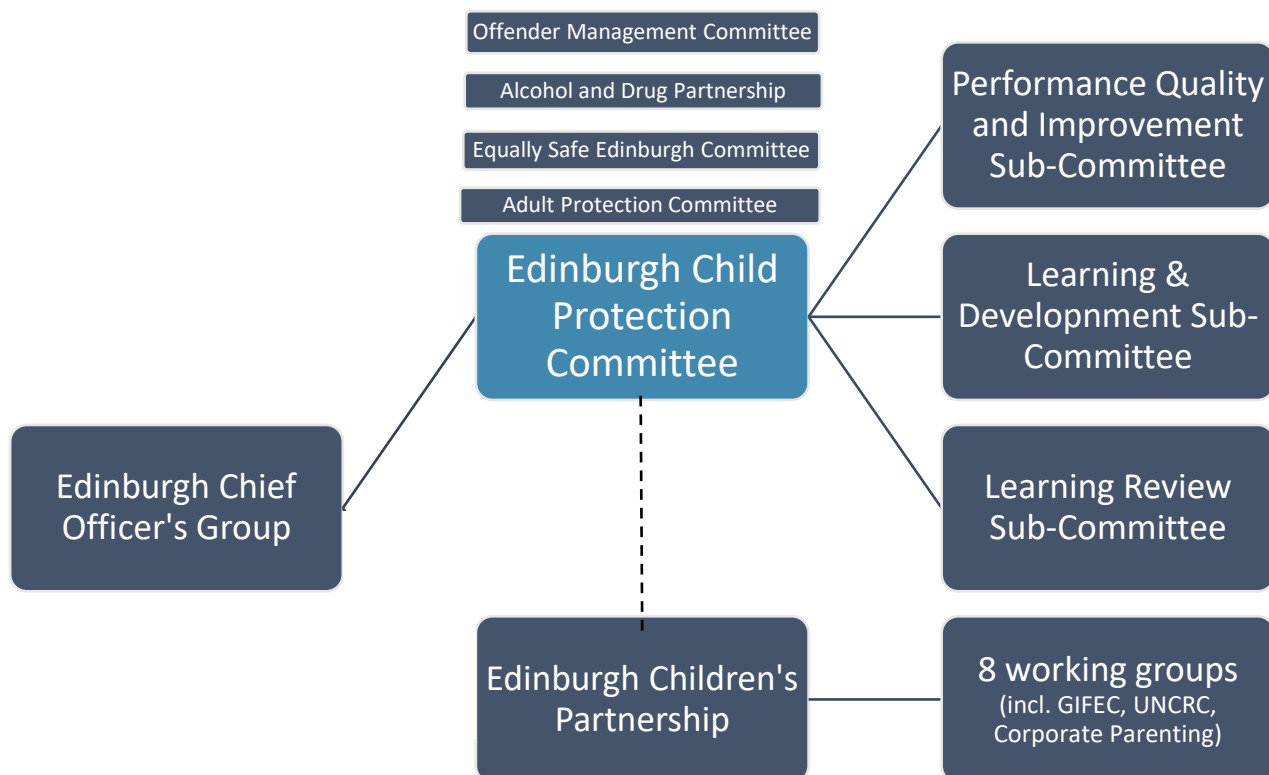
I trust this annual report provides the Chief Officers Group (COG) with the detail and assurance required, alongside the recognition of the challenges faced within the services delivery of child protection for all multi agency partners.

*Lillian Cringles*

Independent Chair

Child Protection committee

## Child Protection Committee Structure



The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee is the inter-agency strategic partnership, 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 the City of Edinburgh area. Through our local structures and membership, we provide individual and collective leadership and direction for the management of child protection services.

The Committee is made up of senior representatives from across all key areas and partners concerned with the care and protection of children. Guidance issued by the Scottish Government requires every local authority area to have a Child Protection Committee.

Strong links exist between the Committee and [The Edinburgh Children's Partnership](#) (the Partnership) through the [Edinburgh Children's Services Plan \(2023 - 26\)](#). Work continues to ensure that this is a developing these links.

## Our Vision

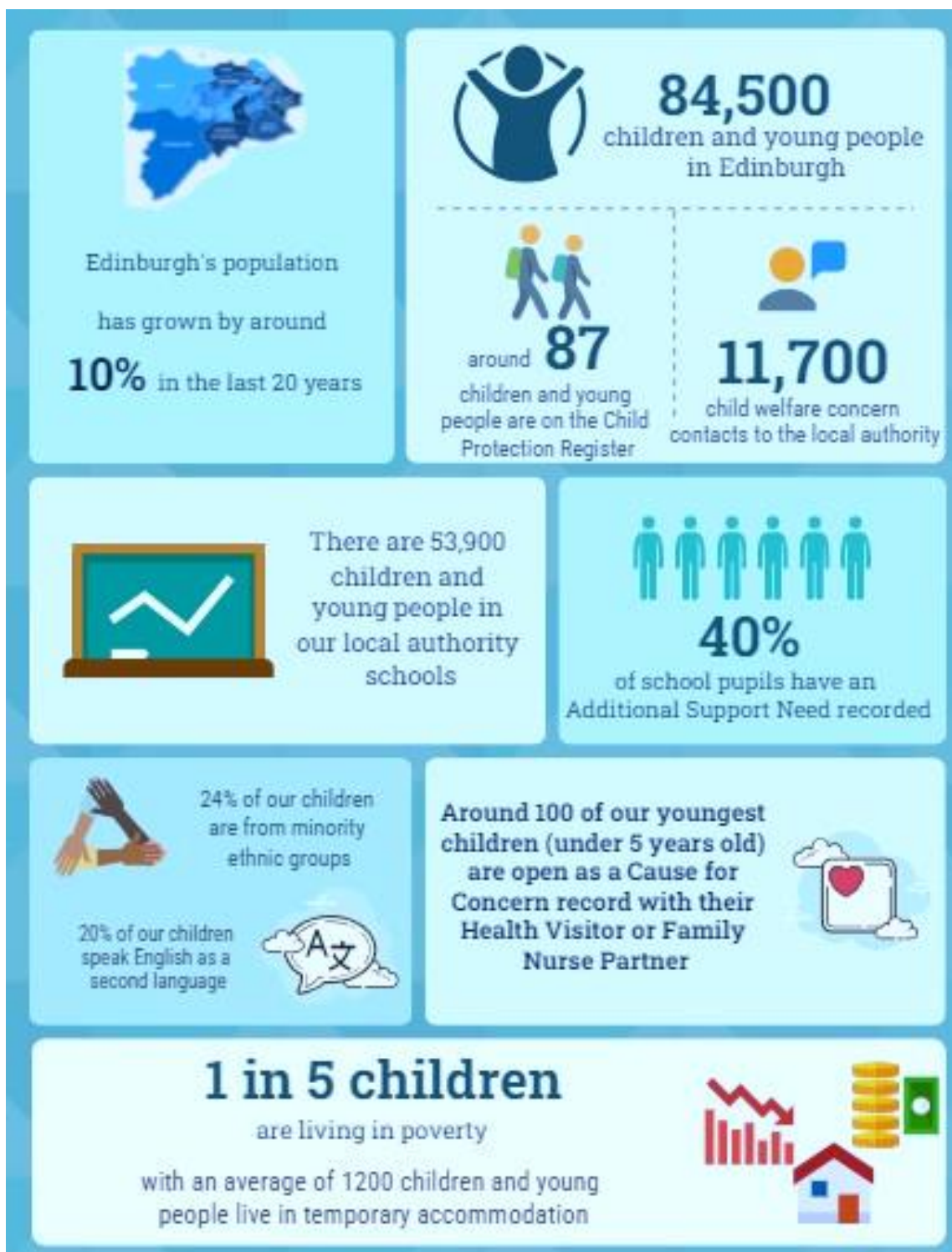
Children, young people and their families in Edinburgh are safe and protected from harm or risk of harm.

In doing so, we share a collection of values and approaches such as

- promoting children's rights
- supporting whole families
- developing trauma informed, preventative and responsive practice.



## What we know about the children and families in our city?



## Child Protection Committee Improvement Plan

The Child Protection Committee has continued to face a period of transition over 2023-24, as we welcomed our first Independent Chair and a new Lead Officer in summer 2023. There has also been a high turn-over of membership to the Committee and Sub-Committees over the last year.

In the first few months of 2023-24 there was an interim Chair, and the Lead Officer was also on a period of leave. Therefore, the focus remained the outgoing Child Protection Improvement Plan 2021 (appendix 1) and ensuring all relevant tasks had been carried out.

The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 Self-Evaluation exercise in autumn 2023 therefore came at an excellent time for the newly forming Committee to take stock and set some priorities for the year ahead.

This annual report is structured around the 4 priority areas that emerged from this work, highlighting what has already been achieved and importantly our next steps to building a strong Committee and partnership working that will allow us to strive for improvement and achieve our vision.



*An IRD Participants event*



## Our Priorities

### a) Leadership and Structure

#### Why was this a priority?

With a new independent Chair and Lead Officer coming into post in July/August 2023, the remainder of 2023 was largely spent in consultation with Committee Members, understanding the structure and culture of the Committee, what members felt they contributed and/or hoped to gain from Committee Business.



This led to a clear need to review the 'nuts & bolts' of Committee structure, commencing with the Constitution and membership of the Child Protection Committee itself; the visibility of the Child Protection Committee for the partnership and public; and appropriate Sub-committee structures and membership to support the aims and objectives set out by any strategic planning.

It was further agreed that members of all committees and sub-committees, required to have a better understanding of the role and function of the Committee or Sub-Committees and therefore have clear expectations about the commitment they were making on behalf of their agencies or disciplines.

#### What have we done?

From September throughout the remainder of 2023, the Child Protection Committee increased the frequency of meetings to monthly to address a pressing work-plan and build relationships and momentum. This included the first face-to-face Committee since a Development Day that had taken place the previous March. Both the decision to meet more frequently and to hold an in-person meeting aided the gelling of the current committee and allowed for collaboration and reflection on the National Child Protection Guidance 2021 Self-Evaluation that was submitted to CELCIS in early October 2023.

The Child Protection Committee Constitution was reviewed, revised, signed off by the Committee and published to our [Edinburgh Child Protection Committee](#) landing page in November 2023.

The revised Constitution also established a group of Vice Chairs to the Committee, from Police Scotland, NHS Lothian, and City of Edinburgh Council who now meet on a 6-8 weekly basis with the Independent Chair to explore any issues and plan for Committee meetings. There have been 5 meetings with the Vice Chairs since this process commenced in autumn 2023

and this has proved helpful in building relationships between new and existing strategic leads across the core Child Protection agencies. It has also developed the collective responsibilities to continuous improvement in Child Protection practice across the city.

In early 2024, the Committee also undertook to ensure the correct membership was present at Child Protection Committee meetings. There was a recognition, for example, that some key partners like Housing and the Alcohol & Drug Partnership had fallen off the attendance and efforts have been made to re-connect with these key services and extend the invitation to take part in Child Protection strategic planning once again.

Given the level of change some of the key partner agencies have experienced, Committee membership continues to be reviewed regularly. In particular, City of Edinburgh Council Children's Services are continuing to assess the best strategic leader(s) to attend the different forums they contribute to.

In January 2024 we also began to carry out a similar process of review within our existing Sub-Committees. A long-standing Chair and Vice Chair of the Quality Assurance Sub-Committee both moved on from their roles within their respective organisations during this period, which allowed for a natural opportunity to review and revise the Terms of Reference, role of the Chair and Vice Chair and also the wider membership of this grouping. The Sub-Committee altered its name to Performance, Quality and Improvement Sub-Committee (PQI) and the new Terms of Reference\* were agreed by the Child Protection Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The new multi-agency Chair and Vice Chair are due to take up their roles within this Sub-Committee in spring 2024.

The Learning and Development Sub-Committee also commenced a similar piece of work, which is due to be ratified early in the 2024-25 cycle. In addition, a new Chair from City of Edinburgh, Education, was identified to progress this Sub-Committee, as the Lead Officer to the ECPC had been fulfilling the role.

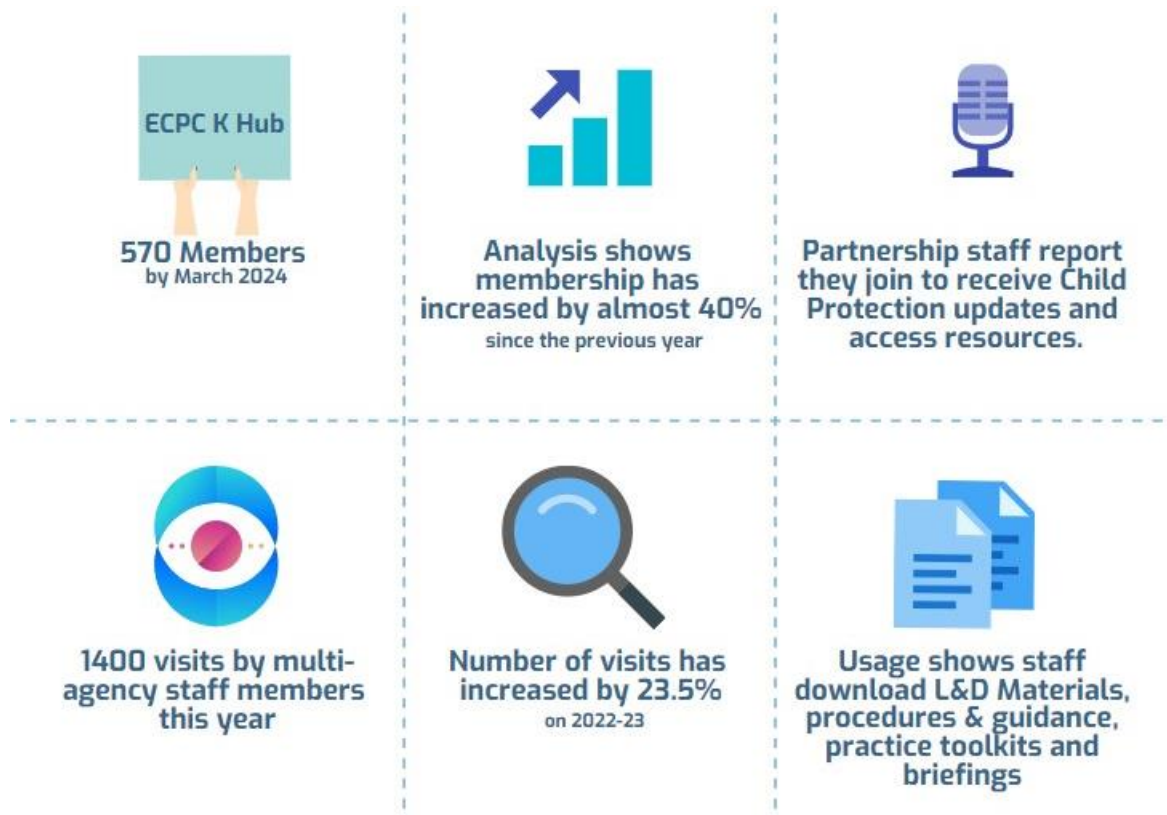
Further, following the near-completion of Edinburgh's first Child Protection Learning Review under the [National Guidance for Child Protection Committees Undertaking a Learning Review 2021](#) the Child Protection Committee agreed in the need for a Learning Review Sub-Committee to be constituted. The Terms of Reference\* for this new Committee were agreed at Child Protection Committee in March 2024.

In March 2024 we presented our new Child Protection Strategic Improvement Plan to the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee. It is hoped, this will be agreed by the Committee and ratified by Chief Officers Group in the very near future. This is available on the [Edinburgh Child Protection Committee](#) landing page.

With regards to the wider visibility of the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee, the [ECPC Knowledge Hub](#), facilitated by Improvement Scotland, continues to be a key tool in engaging with our partners across the city.

\*The Terms of Reference for all our Sub-Committees can be found on the [ECPC landing page](#).

Some figures from the ECPC Knowledge Hub Administrative Insights:



Accessed 7.06.2024 from [ECPC Knowledge Hub Administrative Insights](#) web page

While the ECPC Knowledge Hub is a useful tool to enable multi-agency Child Protection communication to a wide range of partners, it is a free membership site, and develop a network and forum for children's service practitioners to explore and reflect on Child Protection issues.

The ECPC still maintains a publicly accessible presence, on behalf of the partnership, on the City of Edinburgh's Public Website, most notably the following pages:

[Edinburgh Child Protection Committee](#)

[Resources for Professionals](#)

[Child Protection for Professionals](#)

The Lead Officer and other key partners undertook to review the content of these pages to cleanse and ensure information was current, accessible, and family-friendly. This is a work in progress, especially due to the limited functionality of the web-platform.

In addition, we have undertaken public campaigns, like [Edinburgh Talk PANTS](#). This local partnership approach with NSPCC Scotland's Campaign Team, has allowed the Lead Officer and other key local stakeholders to engage with social media, local radio and with news

outlets. By clicking on the link above, you can access some of the Pantosaurus and the Power of PANTS videos made by local partners. Efforts like these have aided the Child Protection Committee in increasing its local presence and visibility.



*Pantosaurus at a Community Event*

### **What we've still to do?**

Our 2023-24 Child Protection Improvement Plan is being developed to build on these initial steps to strengthen the leadership and connection within the Committee, its sub-Committees and our wider public presence. It is intended that this plan will be signed off by as early as May 2024.

With this in mind, we are looking to cement the new make-up of the Committee and Sub-committees. It is hoped that this will be supported further in the future by developing a process of induction and introduction for any new Committee Members, including a self-guided Committee Handbook.

We will continue to hold 8 Child Protection Committees throughout the year, and it is intended that at least 2 of these sittings will be in-person events. In addition, a Development Session for Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Committee and Sub-Committees will take place in autumn 2024.

Although we have good insight into professional membership of our ECPC Knowledge Hub, we want to develop a better understanding of click-throughs and engagement with the web-pages hosted by City of Edinburgh Council and what partners and members of the public are seeking to find out. We hope to develop smarter data and performance reporting on these areas, alongside qualitative evidence of the difference these resources make to children & young people, their families and also the services that work with them.

It is intended that this will aid us in developing a separate shared Edinburgh Public Protection galaxy site that holds all the relevant Public Protection and Trauma Informed Practice resources, tools and e-learning in years to come.

## b) Learning Culture and Relationships

### Why was this a priority?

In our 2021-23 Child Protection Improvement Plan (Appendix 1), one of our key priorities was to align ourselves with national drivers such as The Promise 2021-24 Plan and the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021. It also became apparent throughout this year that revisiting our Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) practice, in line with the national GIRFEC refresh September 2022, and fully embedding the National Guidance for Child Protection Committees Undertaking Learning Reviews 2021 both required some more attention to ensure we had robust mechanisms in place for decision-making and tracking.

At the start of 2024, we were also still awaiting our own [Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures for Edinburgh and the Lothians](#) to launch, which took place in January 2024. Further, we were anticipating the National Framework for Child Protection Learning & Development in Scotland 2024 and linked learning resources; national materials to support children and young people involved in child protection measures.



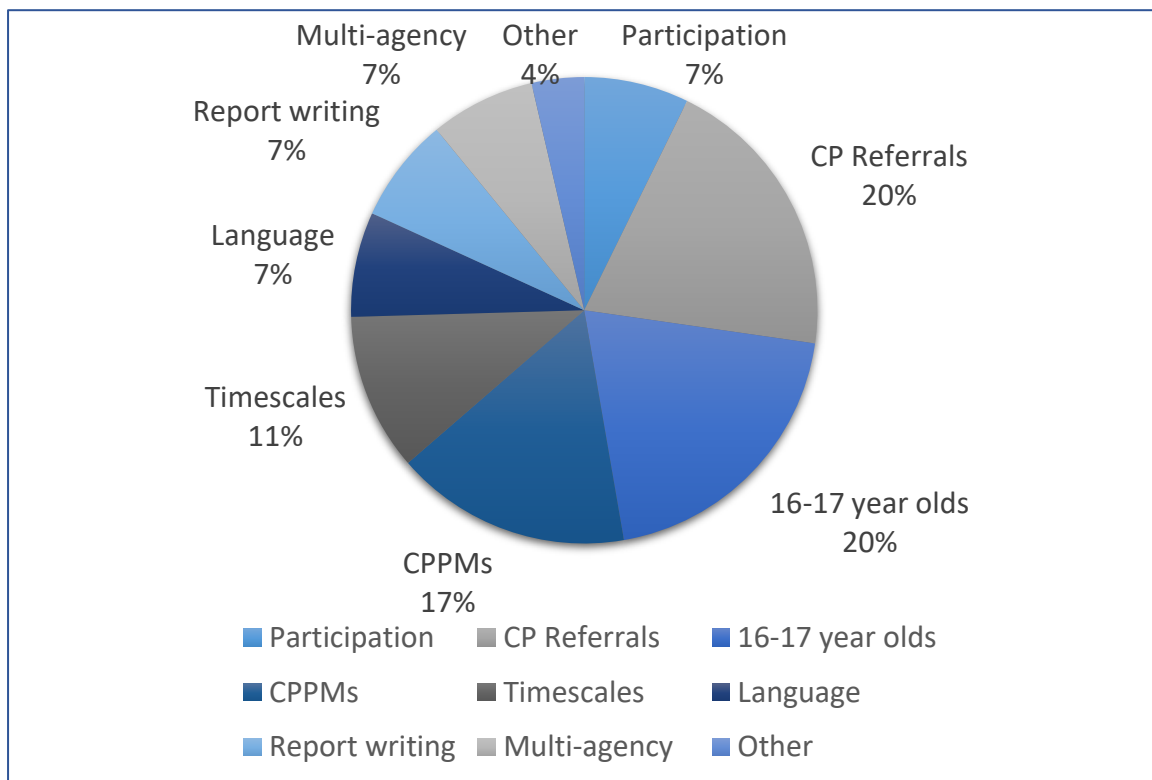
### What have we done?

#### Learning and Development Sub-Committee

Throughout 2023-24 all partners had begun to review and adapt their policies, guidance and learning & development materials in line with the terminology, definitions, principles and

expectations of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 (updated 2023). This was strengthened in January 2024 when the [Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures for Edinburgh and the Lothians](#) launched. Multi-agency online briefings took place in January and February 2024, directly reaching 550 practitioners across the partnership and providing Slides, a 7 Minute Briefing and Frequently Asked Questions to many more (downloadable on our [ECPC Knowledge Hub](#) or [Child Protection for Professionals](#) page). The events also allowed us to introduce many of the key strategic managers within in the Child Protection partnership, as discussed earlier, many of whom had only recently come to post.

The post-launch survey showed that for those who contributed:



Areas of Practice Learning impacted by the Multi-Agency Briefings

Feedback from the Multi-Agency Briefings of the new Procedures has informed the Learning and Development Sub Committee and the wider Edinburgh Child Protection Committee of key themes to explore over the next year as we further embed the National Guidance for Child Protection 2021.

The Learning and Development Sub-Committee is responsible for promoting, commissioning, and assuring the quality and delivery of inter-agency training. The Committee:

- ensures that ECPC provides high-quality multi-agency learning and development opportunities to all staff, providing the opportunity to acquire, update and maintain the skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary to respond to protection concerns.
- assures ECPC of the uptake and effectiveness of multi-agency training across Child Protection.
- assures ECPC that dynamic review of the implementation of the Child Protection learning and development strategy is undertaken to ensure it is fit for purpose considering current and future needs.

The Learning and Development Sub-Committee and wider programming has experienced a range of challenges over the last year as a result of sickness and vacancies. These challenges are ongoing.

This has meant that the L&D Sub-Committee was not able to progress on some of the other key targets for the year, such as:

- Developing and publishing an L&D Strategy.
- Facilitating a program of IRD Workshops for IRD participants over 2023-34, as there were too many strategic and systems changes.
- Carrying out further roll-out of the Risk of Neglect Toolkit learning and evaluation, which was a key priority in our 2021-23.

There was an Annual Inter-agency Public Protection Training Calendar, available on [ECPC Knowledge Hub, Resources for Professionals](#), NHS Intranet and also through the Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC), with whom we have very strong links. This runs by calendar year from January – December. The training calendar include learning on a range of topics from core Multi-Agency Risk Assessment skills to more in-depth sessions on types of abuse or specific support needs and concerns. While 34 courses were publicised throughout 2023-24, sadly only 22 of these took place. The majority of cancellations were due to facilitator absence, which has highlighted a single point of failure for the multi-agency partners.

Further, we have had to step-down several learning opportunities this year as a result of capacity issues, namely An Introduction to Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (NAS/FASD); Children Affected by Disability; and Children Affected by Parental Substance Use (CAPSU).

We have been aided, however, by our partnership working approach with the third sector who have continued to develop and facilitate a number of learning opportunities on behalf of the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee. Notably, the Multi-Agency Identifying & Addressing Exploitation Training delivered by Barnardo's Early Intervention Service now focuses on Criminal and Sexual Exploitation. It has brought in recent learning from the Edinburgh Contextual Safeguarding Pilot (December 2023, CYCJ), Jay Review (Nov 2023,

Action for Children) and the Practitioner Guidance on Criminal Exploitation (June 2023, Scottish Government). Action for Children's Contextual Safeguarding Toolkit is also available within the [ECPC Knowledge Hub](#) Library for staff across the partnership to download and use.

Further, the Edinburgh Child Protection Learning & Development Subcommittee has commissioned new training in contemporary issues around LGBTQ+ Awareness (delivered in a partnership approach between City of Edinburgh, LGBT Youth, LAYC and the Youth Agency).

In late 2023, a short-life multi-agency working group, including partners from Black and Minority Ethnic third sector groups, reviewed some of our learning materials to ensure cultural competence, in line with the definitions and advice provided in the National Guidance (para 4.476- 4.490).

Further, the Learning & Development Sub-Committee, in line with a multi-agency Neglect Working Group, planned to deliver a series of Risk of Neglect Toolkit Practitioner Workshops. This will commence spring 2024 and provide hands-on experience of the tools, from a range of perspectives.

Over the last year, delegates from other child protection committees round the country have attended our multi-agency learning opportunities, in order to explore or replicate the learning in their own areas. Many have commented on the quality of the content, but also the skill facilitators show in offering safe, trauma-skilled environments, which encourages a culture of multi-agency learning.

Delegates who have attended training courses were asked to carry out an exit-evaluation, which cover both their experience of the content, delivery, but also how they intend to apply the learning and anything they need to discuss with their managers. These are reviewed regularly by the City of Edinburgh Council L&D Consultants who would report on any issues or action points to the L&D Subcommittee.

## **Learning Reviews**

A Joint Protocol for Conducting Learning Reviews was initially introduced by Edinburgh Child Protection Committee in September 2022, with the first Learning Review being agreed in January 2023. Unfortunately, there were some delays to the resultant Learning Review commencing and this did not proceed until October 2023. This Learning Review is not as yet concluded.

Within the same timeframe, we began to receive new Learning Review Notifications and also identify non-recent care experienced child deaths that had not been considered for Learning Review. As a result, there was much discussion by the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee about whether the right mechanisms were in place to effectively evidence collective learning from children's experiences of significant harm or death. The Joint Protocol for Conducting Learning Reviews was therefore revised in December 2023 and has now been implemented. The revision has introduced a joint Learning Review Panel across Child and Adult Protection.



This was largely to take advantage of shared learning, especially for 17 – 26 year olds' who are care experienced or may have had involvement with either or both child and adult protection when their backgrounds are explored.

The [SCRs and Learning Reviews](#) page on the City of Edinburgh Council's website, on behalf of the partnership, has also been updated so that anyone can find out about the Learning Review process and download the relevant Protocol and Notification Form.

The CP/AP Learning Review Panel commenced in December 2023, meets approximately 6 weekly and was Chaired exclusively by the Independent Chair to ECPC, while the Adult Protection Committee Independent Chair was being appointed. There have been 3 meetings in this time, with a further schedule and co-Chair arrangement planned for 2024-25. There have been seven new Child Protection Learning Review Notifications considered since December 2023 and a Tracker has been established to help report and review on the types of harm being reported; the recommendations on learning required (whether a full Learning Review, Practice Review or Reflective Discussion, for example). The Tracker will also help us to establish any blocks to timescales or capacity issues. It is too early to report on this process more fully but, by 2024-25, a formal review will be published and the Learning Review consideration process will be adapted further as required.

A suite of introductory materials in relation to Learning Reviews have also been developed. This includes a [Learning Reviews 7-Minute Briefing](#) to offer all staff with a short introduction to the changes; and guidance notes for Review Team Members; Practitioners and First-Line Managers who may be invited to take part in a Learning Review.

### **What we've still to do?**

There is a recognition that much of this work would be strengthened by having a clear Multi-Agency Learning & Development Strategy, where we have agreed priorities, reviewed learning opportunities to ensure they meet current & future needs (and are mapped against the National Framework for Child Protection Learning and Development in Scotland 2024). This would also allow us to confirm contingency arrangements for learning opportunities and be clearer about how we report on and use feedback and wider evaluation of learning within the partnership. We want to be transparent about the qualitative and quantitative measures we report on to ECPC and COG and set an expectation of annual reporting moving forward.

It was not possible to carry out this task within 2023-24, for the reasons outlined above. However, the work is well underway and a priority for the year ahead, as recognised in the Child Protection Improvement Plan 2024-25.

Now we have implemented the Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures for Edinburgh & the Lothians and City of Edinburgh Council have established a new Child Protection Investigation Resource (both January 2024), our schedule of IRD Workshops is already planned for 2024-25.

Other pieces of work that are planned by the Learning & Development Sub-Committee are:

- To sustain a programme of Risk of Neglect Toolkit Workshops throughout 2024 and begin to consider the impact to practice and families' experiences.
- To work closely with the Children's Partnership Trauma Working Group to evaluate our learning opportunities to ensure they are trauma informed and responsive.
- To work in partnership with the Edinburgh Drug & Alcohol Partnership to re-develop our learning opportunities in relation to children affected by parental substance use and young people affected by their own substance use.
- To re-develop the learning on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
- To provide further advice on challenging conversation and where services find it hard to engage with families.

With regards to Learning Reviews, as well as reporting more clearly on the Learning Review Panel and resultant Pathways, we intend to use our new constituted Learning Review Sub-Committee (6<sup>th</sup> March 2024) to develop Multi-Agency Action Plans following a completed Learning Review Report that will be shared and agreed by our Chief Officers Group and track the impact of practice changes made.

## c) Self-Evaluation and Assurance

### Why was this a priority?

The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee has a pivotal role in ensuring that service to protect children and young people are effective and continue to improve.

It achieves this through several intersecting means:

- Monitoring Performance, Quality and Improvement through a Multi-Agency Quality Assurance Framework;
- Reviewing, revising and developing Multi-Agency Policy, Procedure and Protocols, whilst also supporting individual agencies frameworks.
- Ensure best use of the Multi-Agency Child Protection Budget.

These aims are largely managed by the Performance Quality and Improvement Committee on behalf of the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee.



## What have we done?

Following the National Child Protection Guidance 2021 Implementation Self-Evaluation Tool carried out by the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee in autumn 2023, we were eager to continue assessing and developing strategic plans that link to the areas that most require to be addressed or progressed.

Further, the Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures for Edinburgh and the Lothians were published and launched in January 2024, which has led to a programme of work to embed them further by updating other policy, procedure and guidance and also modernising the way we quality assure practice and experience of children and families in our processes.

We have continued to use version 2 of the National Minimum Dataset Reporting on a 6 monthly basis, reporting to Edinburgh Child Protection Committee and COG on:

EARLY STAGE CHILD PROTECTION ACTIVITY	
1	Number of Child Welfare Concerns received by Social Care Direct, CEC
2	Number of IRDs initiated for children
3	Number of Children Subject to Joint Investigative Interview
4	Number of children subject to Child Protection Medical Examination
5	Number of Cause for Concerns Records opened by NHS Lothian
CHILD PROTECTION PLANNING MEETINGS	
6	Number of Children Subject to Initial and Pre-birth Child Protection Planning Meetings
CONVERSION RATES	
7A	Conversion rate (%) from IRD to Child Protection Planning Meeting
7B	Conversion rate (%) from Child Protection Planning Meeting to CP Registration
CHILD PROTECTION REGISTRATION	
8	Number of new Child Protection Registrations
9	Number of Children (incl. Pre-birth) on the CP Register
10	Number of de-registrations
11	Number of Children re-registered within 18 months of de-registration
12	Age of Children and Young People at Registration
13	Concerns recorded for Children and Young People at Registration
CHILDREN INVOLVED IN RELATED PROCESSES	
14A	Children and Young People Referred to the Children's Hearing System on Offence Grounds
14B	Children and Young People Referred to the Children's Hearing System on Non-offence Grounds
15	No. of Child Protection Orders Granted
CP PROCESSES TIMESCALES IN THE NATIONAL GUIDANCE	
16	Percentage of Initial Child Protection Planning Meetings held within timescale
17	Percentage of Pre-birth Child Protection Planning Meetings held within timescale
18	Percentage of Reporter's decisions made within 50 working days of referral

We have been collating and making sense of other data and evidence we collect, both as single-agencies and on a multi-agency basis. This is in order to develop a robust Multi-Agency end-end Quality Assurance Framework for Child Protection that will enable us to better

understand quantitative but also qualitative evidence of the child and family's journey through processes. The work commenced early in 2024 and is a further commitment for 2024-25.

We have also worked to review our list of Multi-Agency Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Guidance. Another task for 2024-25 will be prioritisation of the review and revision required, in line with the National Guidance for Child Protection 2021 (updated 2023) and other national and local developments, and ensure they are accessible to the workforce. We are working closely with ECPC partners to ensure that they do likewise.

Due to a recent turn-over of both Strategic and Senior Operational Staff across the Child Protection partnership, including the Chief Social Work Officer, ECPC Chair and responsible accountant, there was little understanding or evidence of how the Multi-Agency Public Protection Budget, which is held by City of Edinburgh, was agreed, administered, or assured. This has led to a level of confusion as to how the Budget is shared between Child Protection, Adult Protection and Equally Safe. This has been a topic of Chair and Vice Chairs meetings; a development session in February 2024 and is currently the responsibility of the Chief Social Work Officer. It is another area where progress is expected as we move into 2024-25.

### **What have we still to do?**

We are working closely with other multi-agency partnerships and plans to seek assurance and integrate our objectives, such as the Edinburgh Children's Partnership (who are hosting GIRFEC, UNCRC, Trauma-Informed and Responsive Practice Sub-groups) as part of their own planning; the Corporate Parenting Team and Board, who have developed the Corporate Parenting Plan; and the Promise Planning.

Some of this involves growing and building relationships across the sector, which we address in our final priority, *Strategic Connection*.

## d) Strategic Connections

### Why was this a priority?



Much like the children and their families that we support, the Edinburgh Child Protection can only function at its best when it is internally working well and, crucially, connected in relationship and community with other key strategic forums. This will aid us in responding well to the local and national issues we face now or may face in the future.

The Independent Chair, new Lead Officer and newly structured ECPC and Sub-Committees have a unique opportunity to build those connections.

### What have we done?

As part of their induction into their new roles, the Independent Chair and Lead Officer to the ECPC have spent much of their early time in post, meeting with individuals and partners, as well as attending other forums, communities, and committees to understand the structure and landscape in Edinburgh. Members of the ECPC and other groups have been very generous with their time and contributions to discussions about how to make the Child Protection Committee as effective as possible in our vision (page 4) moving forward.

The third sector is often viewed as the oil that makes the Child Protection engine work, by offering early and effective supports that prevent further child wellbeing or protection issues from growing, partnering with families to aid them in their understanding and experience of the Child Protection system, and sticking with children, young people and their families through some of the most difficult circumstances. The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee enjoys a legacy of excellent working relationships with many agencies in the voluntary and private sector, who are well supported by networks such as Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC) and Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC). As key partners, there is voluntary sector representation on all of our Committees, Sub-Committees and working groups. Further, as part of the 2021-23 Child Protection Improvement Plan the collective group of voluntary sector representatives are part of a Child Protection Liaison and Consultation Group that meets with the Lead Officer, Independent Chair and key strategic partners on a quarterly basis. There have been 2 meetings in November 2023 and March 2024 and the group is currently working on a Terms of Reference, which it is hoped will be finalised in summer 2024.

In addition, the Lead Officer to the Child Protection Committee met regularly with the Children, Young People and Families Senior Development Officer for EVOC and attended

wider EVOC Network meetings with up to 150 voluntary sector organisations present. This allowed us to share vital information and updates on the Child Protection landscape, personnel, strategic planning and other supports & learning available. The Lead Officer joined EVOC Network meetings in October, November 2023 and March 2024 during this reporting year and has also provided two Child Protection Lead Officers Report to share relevant updates with the network as a whole.

The Lead Officer has attended monthly Edinburgh Children's Partnership meetings in order to report on Child Protection themes and also gain updates on work-streams that link closely with the National Guidance for Child Protection implementation, particularly children's rights and UNCRC implementation; Getting it Right for Every Child, Trauma Informed and Responsive Practice, Corporate Parenting and the Promise. The Lead Officer can also request for papers or updates to be provided to ECPC on these crucial themes. While many of our ECPC members do sit across several Committees or Fora, updates are not always provided. In 2024-25, we are looking to formalise these arrangements further, with clearer expectations laid out as the ECPC multi-agency partnership implement the strategic plan.

The Lead Officer continues to attend Edinburgh Adult Support and Protection Committee (ASPC) and Equally Safe Edinburgh Committees (ESEC) and, as reported in other sections, has made strides to re-develop mutually beneficial relationships and connection with the Edinburgh Drug and Alcohol Partnership. In particular, the ECPC Lead Officer has contributed this year to the ASPC development sessions.

The Lead Officers for ECPC, ASPC and ESEC have met regularly to agree on approaches to cross-cutting issues. At times this also includes the Health and Social Care Partnership's Lead Officer for Trauma Informed and Responsive Practice. Issues intersecting different committees can then be addressed taking a team approach, for example where the Lead Officer to the Child Protection Committee has supported ESEC Lead Officer to revise the Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse and Honour Based Abuse Policies or ECPC and EDAP are now working together to source Children Affected By Parental Substance Use learning that meets the needs of both the children's and substance use workforces.

The Independent Chair and Lead Officer have taken an active role in Child Protection Committees Scotland, the National Lead Officers Group and other key national forums.

Further the Lead Officer attended Learning Review Knowledge Hub inputs, facilitated by the Care Inspectorate, where other Child Protection Committees reported on the outcomes and learning from Significant Case Reviews or Learning Reviews in their area. Information was shared or reviewed as appropriate within our own structures to ensure our contribute to our own improvement journey.

ECPC continues to support the e-IRD record for Interagency Referral Discussions and is part of a E-IRD Strategic Oversight Group, currently Chaired by the Director of Public Protection for NHS Lothian.

### **What have we still to do?**

As a committee, we will continue to have oversight and monitoring of the areas identified above.

### **Conclusion**

This report provides detailed information on the areas of work undertaken by the Child Protection committee during the period of 1<sup>st</sup> April 23 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

As well as recognising the historical challenges and the work undertaken to address these, it has additionally highlighted the significant amount of work still to be assumed by the committee.

We will provide regular updates moving forward.





## Appendices

### Appendix 1 – ECPC Improvement Plan 2021-23

This improvement plan focusses on four key themes which the Child Protection Committee have agreed as being priority areas in the coming year:

- Neglect
- Participation and Engagement
- Structure and connections
- National drivers

These themes were chosen following the Committee development activity, conducted virtually this year, as they are cross-cutting areas which are of relevance across the multi-agency partnership.

This plan builds on the work already done in previous years to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children within the City. This plan will ensure that we build on the strong tradition of multi-agency partnership working in Edinburgh and focus upon self-evaluation and continuous improvement across the partnership.

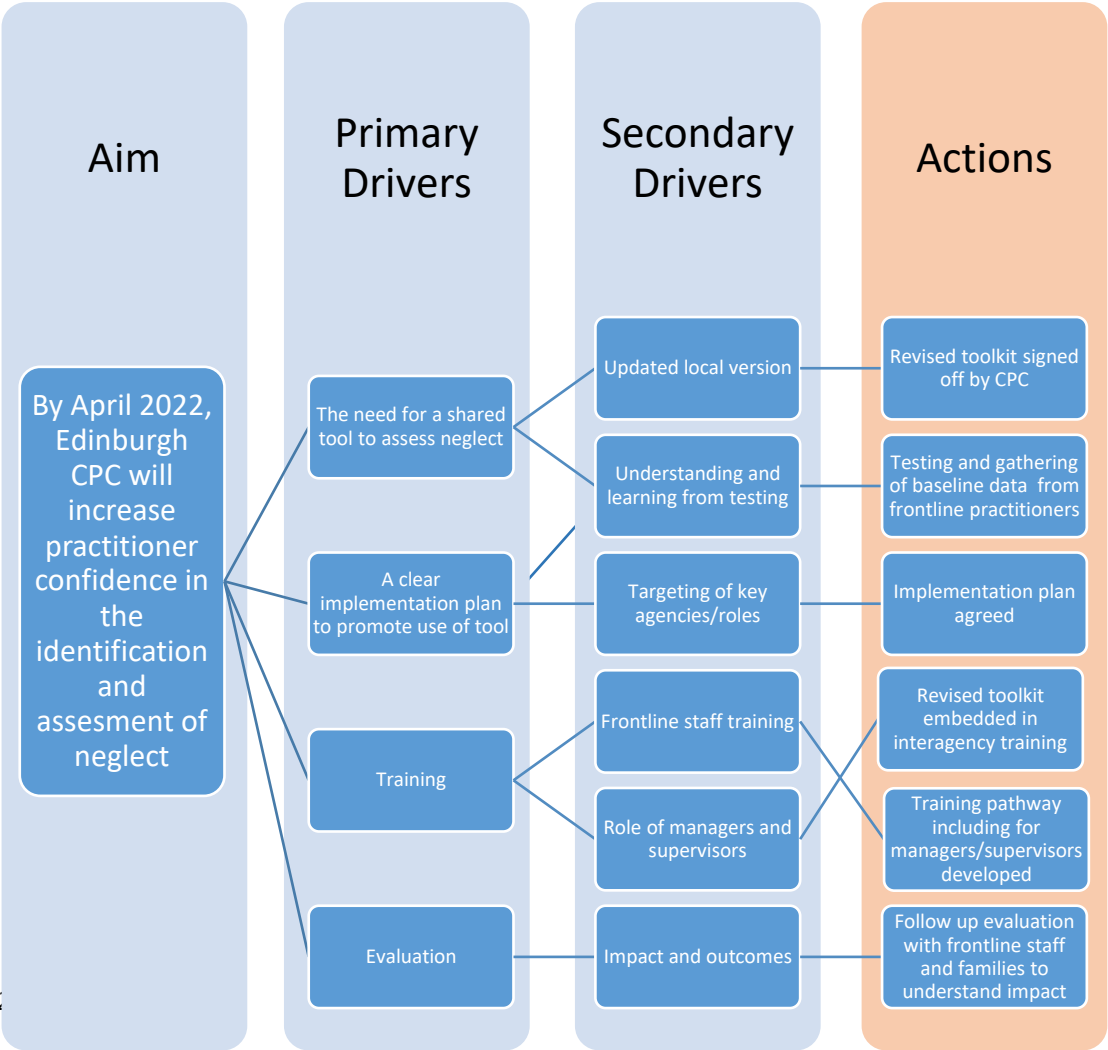
Monitoring of this plan will be taken forward by the Quality Assurance Subcommittee, with progress reports being presented to the Child Protection Committee throughout the year.

#### Blue/Red/Amber/Green legend:

<b>Blue</b>	Complete
<b>Red</b>	There are significant issues and / or risks that are impacting on the action / task right now = we are not delivering the action / task on time / scope / budget.
<b>Amber</b>	There are some issues and / or risks that are impacting on the action / task if not fixed = we are at risk of not delivering the action / task on time / scope / budget.
<b>Green</b>	There are no issues and / or risks impacting on the action / task which is progressing according to plan = we are delivering the action / task on time / scope / budget.

Date	Total actions	Total actions completed	Total actions added (new)	Total actions amended	Total actions ongoing
23/06/21	15	3	0	0	12
18/08/21	15	4	0	2	11
27/10/21	15	6	0	6	9
08/12/21	15	9	0	1	6
23/05/22	15	11	0	2	4
12/10/22	14	12	0	0	2
22/5/23	14	12	0	1	2

# Neglect



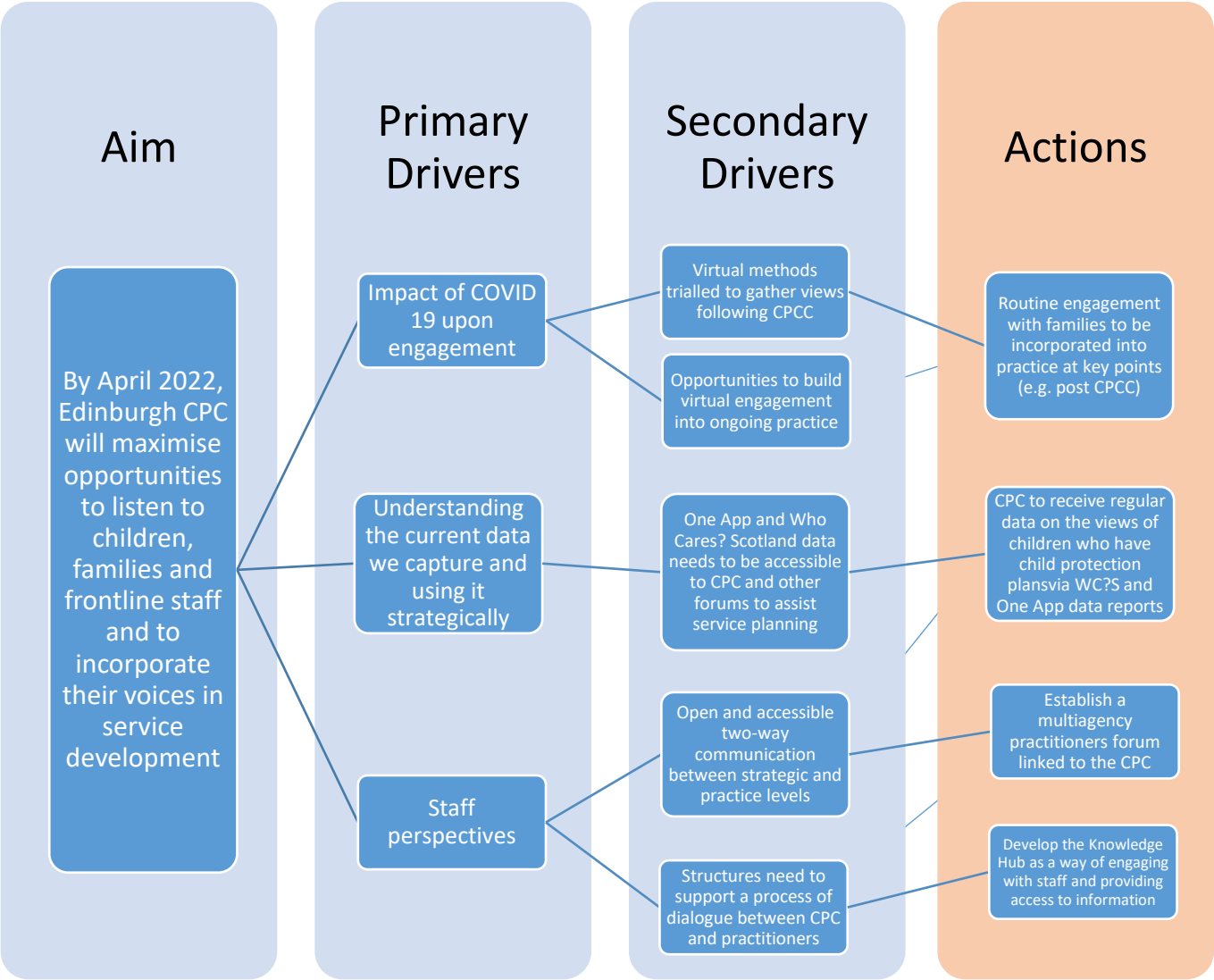
## NEGLECT

ACTION	WHO WILL LEAD IT	WHAT WILL SUCCESS BE MEASURED BY?	PROGRESS	TIMESCALE
1. Revised toolkit signed off by Child Protection Committee	Euan Currie/Carol Frith	A finalized local version of the toolkit will be agreed by working group and Child Protection Committee, enabling use by practitioners	Signed off at CPC May 2021	June 2021
2. Testing and gathering of baseline data from frontline practitioners	Euan Currie/working group	Small scale testing on the revised tool will be carried out, and resulting data captured and analysed to support the wider implementation plan.	<p>June 2021: Volunteers gathered from training courses. Identified cases being selected by working group. Consent and information forms in place.</p> <p>Oct 2021: testing underway. Feedback will be sought from November onwards, via online survey and focus groups.</p> <p>Dec 2021 – testing process underway, feedback sought. This will inform final amendments and the implementation plan going forward.</p>	<del>September 2021</del> December 2021

3. Implementation plan agreed	Euan Currie/Laura Joya	A plan to launch and implement the revised toolkit will be developed by the working group. The plan will be agreed by the Child Protection Committee.	<p>Timescale amended to allow collation and analysis of feedback.</p> <p>Subsequent amendment to reflect Quality assurance officer appointment to support the implementation plan. Aim for draft plan being signed off by CPC July 2022</p> <p>Sept 2022 – implementation plan signed off by CPC. First meeting of implementation group set for Nov 2022.</p>	<del>November 2021</del> July 2022
4. Revised toolkit embedded in interagency training	Vicky Maclellan/Leeanne Turner	All relevant interagency training (online and face to face) will be updated to reflect the latest version of the toolkit. Links to the online version of the tool will be provided to all participants.	Understanding Neglect training has now run twice with revised toolkit embedded. Testing participants being sought from attendees. Electronic versions of tool being provided.	November 2021
5. Training pathway for managers/supervisors developed	Vicky Maclellan/Leeanne Turner	In recognition of the crucial role of managers in supporting the revised toolkit, a training pathway which clearly defines expectations within their roles will be developed and agreed by the Learning and Development Subcommittee.	<p>Timescale amended to align with action 3 above.</p> <p>May 2022 - marked complete as training pathway inc managers will be embedded</p>	<del>November 2021</del> February 2022

			into the implementation plan (action 3). Ongoing review as part of implementation group.	
6. Follow up evaluation with frontline staff and families to understand impact	Euan Currie	A survey will be completed by a proportionate sample of staff who have used the revised toolkit. Data will be gathered from families who have been involved in an assessment using the revised toolkit to understand their views. Findings from both groups will be considered by the Child Protection Committee.	May 2022 - Ongoing evaluation will be incorporated into implementation plan – by necessity this will take place at a later date than initially anticipated. Suggest this action remains in plan but that it is carried over to next year's plan.	April 2022 Oct 2022

# Participation and Engagement

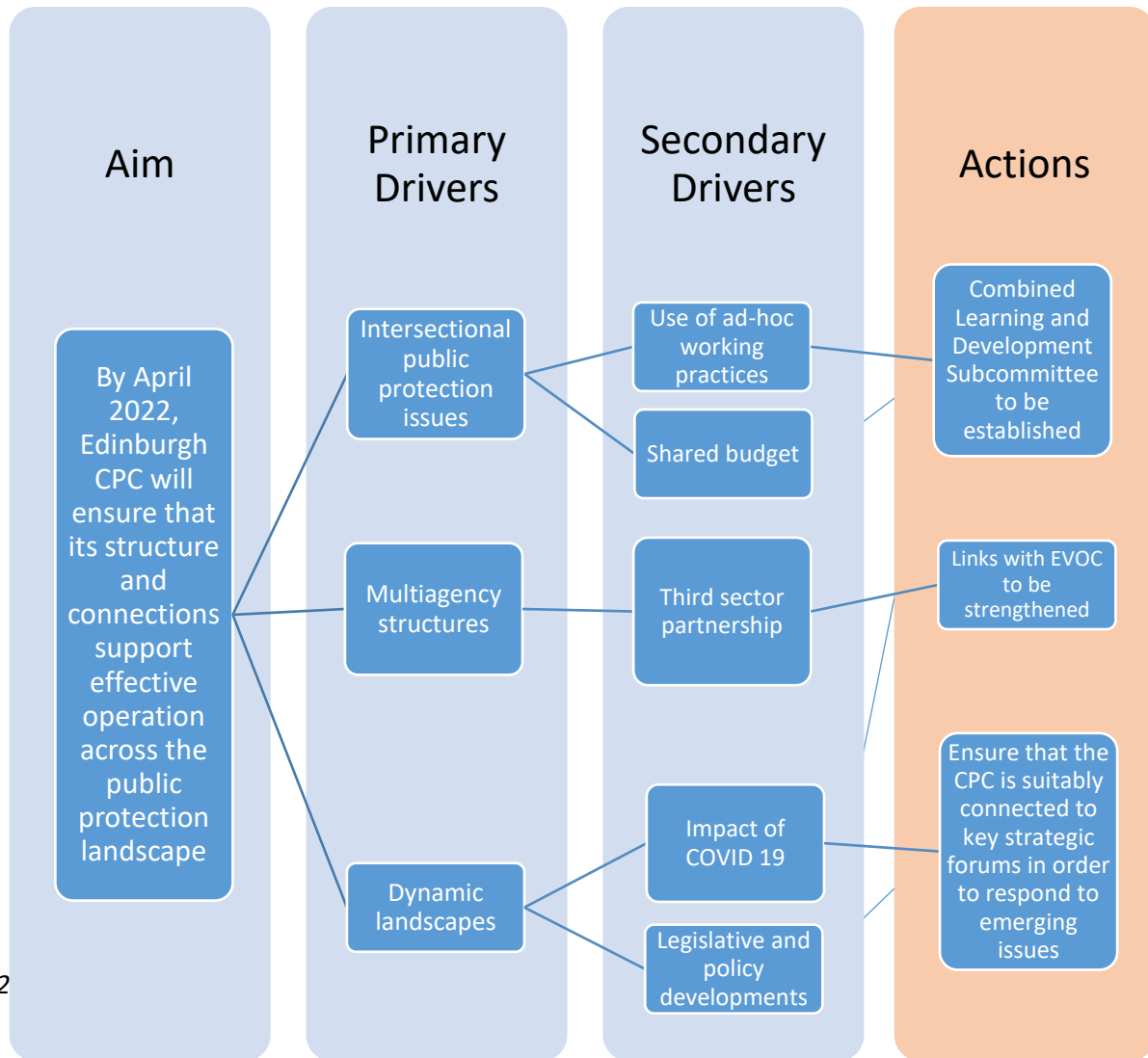


ACTION	WHO WILL LEAD IT	WHAT WILL SUCCESS BE MEASURED BY?	PROGRESS	TIMESCALE
7. Routine engagement with families to be incorporated into practice at key points (e.g. post CPCS)	Andrew McWhirter/EVOC rep	We will be able to evidence that opportunities to gather feedback from families are maximized. Regular data from such engagement will be considered by Quality Assurance Subcommittee and/or Child Protection Committee, as well as shared with the Children's Partnership.	18/08/2021 – Proposal paper provided to QA Sub. Dec 2021 – agreement to establish links with Edinburgh's Promise workstreams  May 2022 - Now incorporated into Edinburgh's Promise – Framework and Principles of Involvement and Voice. Agreed as complete.	<del>July 2021</del> <del>December 2021</del>  May 2022
8. CPC to receive regular data on the views of children who have child protection plans via WCPS and One App data reports	Euan Currie	A reporting structure will be agreed and embedded within the Quality Assurance Subcommittee and Child Protection Committee structures. Information will be shared with the Children's Partnership. We will be able to evidence that data being gathered in relation to child protection processes is considered from a strategic perspective.	18/08/2021 – WCPS data reports and presentation provided to CPC. These will now be shared with Lead Officer on a quarterly basis, for discussion at CPC.  Oct 2022 – liaison group now established to share	August 2021



			information between CEC Children's Services and WC?S. CPC represented by Lead Officer.	
9. Establish a multiagency practitioners forum linked to the CPC	Euan Currie	Terms of Reference for a practitioner's forum will be agreed by the members and the CPC. Membership of forum and appropriate governance/communication routes will be established. The group will meet on a regular basis.	Not progressed – due to the ongoing limitations to face-to-face meetings, it is proposed that this action is put on hold and revisited as part of next year's plan if there is deemed to be a need amongst frontline staff.	Feb 2022

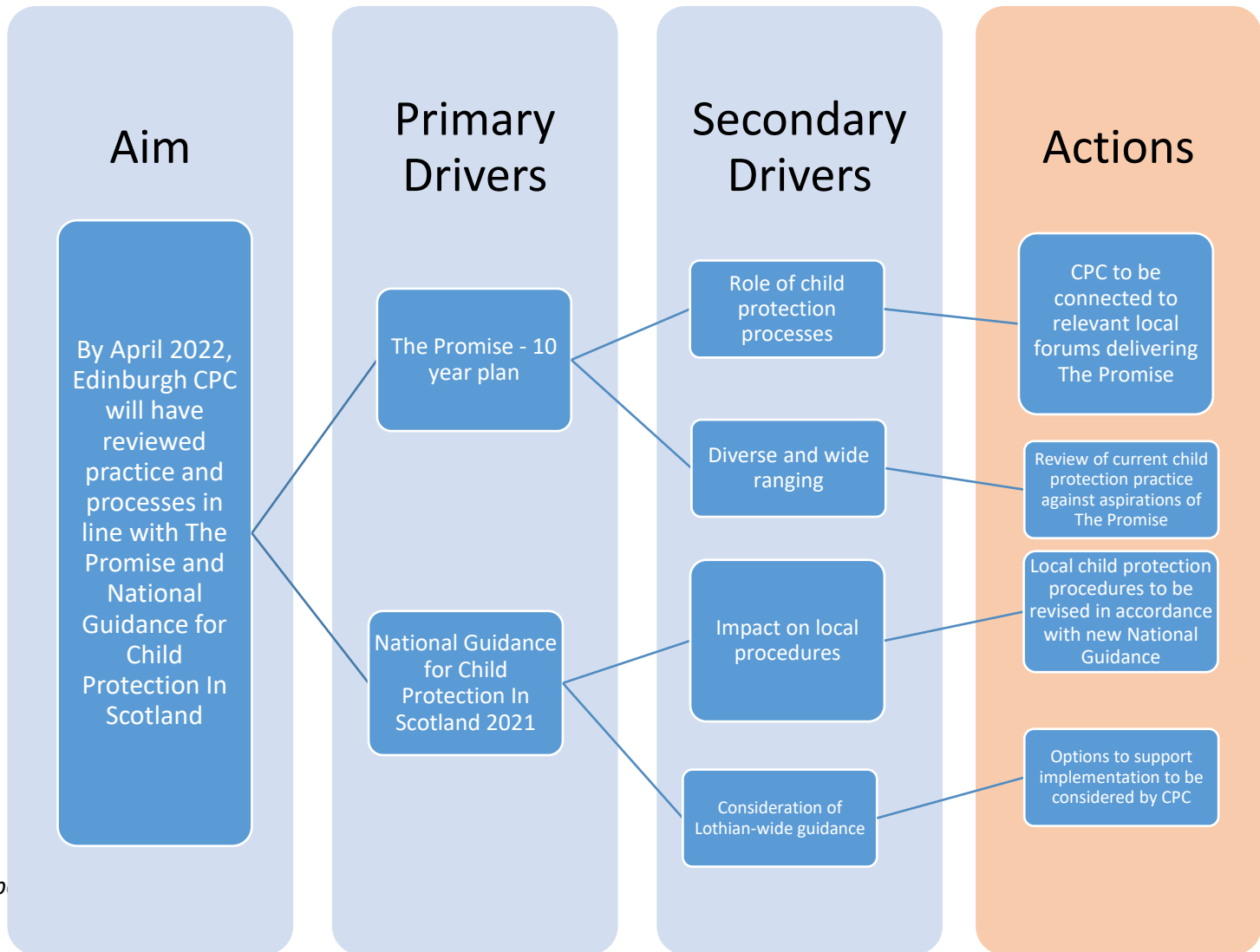
# Structure and Connections



ACTION	WHO WILL LEAD IT	WHAT WILL SUCCESS BE MEASURED BY?	PROGRESS	TIMESCALE
10. Combined Learning and Development Subcommittee to be established	Euan Currie	<p>Consultation will take place across the public protection committees to establish a format and structure for joined-up planning, commissioning, delivery and review of interagency learning and development activity.</p> <p>Revised Terms of Reference agreed by relevant partners.</p> <p>Subcommittee will begin meeting.</p>	<p>June 2021: Initial scoping has taken place with CP and ESEC. Suggestion for a quarterly joint meeting. Further discussion needed with OMC and ASP</p> <p>18/08/2021 – an initial date for a quarterly L&amp;D Sub will be set in October 2021</p> <p>October 2021: first meeting of group scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> November</p>	November 2021
11. Links with EVOC to be strengthened	EVOC reps/Euan Currie	<p>We will be able to evidence that there are regular, planned opportunities for dialogue between the CPC and the EVOC network.</p> <p>Increased membership of EVOC reps on Subcommittees to support partnership working.</p>	<p>June 2021: Bi-monthly liaison meeting now in place. Full complement of reps on CPC and subcommittees.</p> <p>Complete</p>	August 2021

12. Ensure that CPC is suitably connected to key strategic forums in order to respond to emerging issues	TBC	We will be able to evidence that there are clear lines of communication between the various public protection forums in order to swiftly identify and respond to emerging/cross cutting issues. The links between the Children's Partnership and the CPC will be strengthened. This will enable actions which fall on the threshold of GIRFEC and Child Protection processes to be more effectively taken forward.	Dec 2021 – agreed by QA Sub as complete	<del>August 2021</del> December 2021

# National Drivers



ACTION	WHO WILL LEAD IT	WHAT WILL SUCCESS BE MEASURED BY?	PROGRESS	TIMESCALE
13. CPC to be connected to relevant local forums delivering The Promise	Euan Currie	With the reference to The Promise Plan 21-24 and Change Programme, we will be able to evidence that Edinburgh is progressing all required work which connects to the remit of the Child Protection Committee. CPC perspectives will be represented within local governance structures.	June 2021: CPC input to Promise Leadership group now in place. Complete.	August 2021
14. Review of current child protection practice against the aspirations of The Promise	TBC	In conjunction with relevant local forums, we will be able to evidence where we have identified areas of good practice as well as opportunities for change.	Dec 2021 – incorporated into work of Edinburgh’s Promise and development of refreshed CP Procedures	November 2021
15. Local child protection procedures to be revised in accordance with new National Guidance	Euan Currie	Dialogue with neighbouring CPC areas to be established. Mapping of current procedures against new National Guidance to be completed. Process and timeline for revision to be agreed. Consultation with staff and service users to take place. Revised procedures to be completed and signed off by all CPC areas.	Discussions underway with Lothians and Borders authorities regarding drafting of procedures. East and Midlothian Public Protection Office leading on the establishment of a project/governance structure. Timescale amended to reflect	<del>April 2022</del> <del>October 2022</del> Sept 2023

			<p>publication date of new National Guidance and aspiration to complete this action within one year.</p> <p>Oct 2022 – final draft expected end Oct. This will then be subject to local consultation.</p> <p>June 23 – Final draft following staff consultation complete. Publication to be progressed by Oversight Group. Implementation plan required to ensure these are rolled out effectively across all areas.</p>	
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## Appendix 2 – ECPC Improvement Plan 2024-25

1. Leadership and Structure						
Objective	Actions	Strategic Lead	Timescale	Evidence	Progress	RAG
<b>The role and function of the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee is clearly reflected in the membership, commitment and in the Sub-committee structures that support the ECPC</b>	Review and revise the Constitution and Terms of Reference for the ECPC.	Independent chair / Vice chairs Child Protection committee  Quality Regulation, & Improvement & Chief Social Work Office	June 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sign off at Child Protection committee.</li> <li>2. TOR's Agreement for each committee, sub committee</li> <li>3. Develop a flexible induction for new ECPC members to include self-guide induction handbook and opportunities to meet with the Independent Chair and Lead Officer</li> </ol>		
	Ensure the membership of ECPC is relevant and up to date.	Independent Chair  Child Protection committee	June 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sign off at Child Protection committee. &amp; Chief Officers group.</li> <li>2. Produce and implement a strategic improvement plan.</li> </ol>		
	Take a blended approach to ECPC Meetings, with at least 2/8 taking place in person.	Lead Officer ECPC Business support	May2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To be reviewed annually at the Child Protection committee.</li> </ol>		



	Review and revise the structure and membership of the ECPC Sub-committees to ensure they effectively support the overall aims.	Independent Chair Sub-Committee Chairs	August 24	1. An annual development day is held for Committee and sub-group members.		
<b>The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee has a visibility amongst partners and publicly.</b>	Maintain the ECPC Knowledge Hub Pages as an Edinburgh Child Protection community Hub.	Quality Regulation, & Improvement & Chief Social Work Office  Lead Officer	October 24	1. Ensure sharing of information with all members 2. Undertake evaluation of usage and report to CPC.		
	Multi-Agency Policy, Procedures, alongside information and Documentation on Edinburgh Child Protection landing pages is cleansed and updated.	Quality Regulation, & Improvement & Chief Social Work Office  Lead Officer	October 24	1. Use of all the appropriate partnership social media platforms to provide regular social media post promoting key CP messages 2. Tracked number of hits to social media posts 3. Tracked number of hits to webpages		

2. Learning Culture and Relationships						
Objective	Actions	Strategic Lead	Timescale	Evidence	Progress	RAG
<b>There is a range of opportunities to grow working relationships and offer collective learning to improve practice.</b>	Develop a CP Learning & Development Strategy, in line with progress on national guidance around CP L&D.	L&D Sub-Committee	Sept 24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify both qualitative and quantitative measures.</li> <li>2. Agree how the data will be reported and monitored.</li> </ol>		
	Offer a range of Multi-Agency Practice Learning Opportunities, including re-establishing IRD Workshops.	L&D Sub-Committee	November 24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review and measure uptake of training by all partnership members</li> <li>2. Produce and ensure wide circulation of an annual report</li> </ol>		
	Publish 7 Minute Briefings to be shared by partners.	Lead Officer Child Protection committee	As required	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Topics as agreed at CPC</li> <li>2. Linked within Appendix of ECPC Annual Report</li> </ol>		

<p><b>Continue to develop practice in relation to the Joint Protocol for Learning Reviews and other informal learning processes.</b></p>	<p>Develop the Learning Review process and a menu of learning options following a Learning Review notification.</p>	<p>Independent chair of Learning Review Panel</p> <p>Learning Review Sub-Committee. Business Support to Learning Reviews</p>	<p>November 2024</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Set a schedule of meetings for LRP</li> <li>2. Agree the specific areas in relation to LRP's that will be measured</li> <li>3. Identify both qualitative and quantitative measures</li> <li>4. ECPC receives regular updates from the Learning Review Sub-Committee and ensures that findings are acted upon and learning disseminated to partners and staff directly working with children and their families.</li> </ol>		
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3. Self-Evaluation and Assurance						
Objective	Actions	Strategic Lead	Timescale	Evidence	Progress	RAG
<b>As we implement the Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures and receive analysis of the National CP Guidance Self-Evaluation (October 2023) we will assess and develop the strategic changes as required.</b>	Oversee and quality assure our continued implementation of the National CP Guidance.	PQI Sub-Committee	Oct 24	Evidence to be agreed alongside the development of the end-to-end framework process?		
	Establish a mechanism for Policy and Procedure Review and Development.	Quality Regulation, & Improvement & Chief Social Work Office	November 24	Confirm level of availability of CEC Policy officers with Service Director of Children & Justice Services.		
	Ensure the best use of the Public Protection Budget.	Independent Chair  Quality Regulation, & Improvement & Chief Social Work Office	April 24	Establish ECPC Budget as a standing item on the ECPC Agenda, with regular reporting.		

	<p>Improve our understanding of children’s rights and participation of both children and families across Child Protection processes.</p>	<p>Independent Chair</p> <p>Lead Officer</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilitate a scoping meeting with current parties involved in Children’s Participation and bring back a proposal to ECPC.</li> <li>2. Link with partners re current family engagement</li> </ol>		
		<p>PQI Sub-Committee</p>		<p>Audit of casework will identify how well children and families are engaged in the process, as part of the development of the end-to-end framework process.</p>		

4. Strategic Connections						
Objective	Actions	Strategic Lead	Timescale	Evidence	Progress	RAG
<b>Ensure that the ECPC is suitably connected to key strategic forums in order to respond to emerging local and national issues.</b>	Maintain regular links with EVOC Children and Young People's Network.	Service Director - Children's and Justice Services  Lead Officer	October 24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Joint working on agreed outcomes identified and implemented.</li> <li>2. Explore potential of a ToR.</li> </ol>		
	Mutually supportive links between ECPC and Children's Partnership, where GIRFEC, UNCRC, Corporate Parenting and Promise plans are already embedded.	Vice Chairs ECPC		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree reporting and governance arrangements.</li> <li>2. Agree reporting format and structure.</li> <li>3. Identify frameworks that already exists.</li> <li>4. Examine current understanding and application.</li> <li>5. Access research in this area.</li> <li>6. Scope frameworks that are already in existence across Scotland.</li> <li>7. Develop a framework for CEC based on best practice and research.</li> </ol>		

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>8. Develop a Framework which takes account of the priority of statutory work.</li><li>9. Take account of prioritisation framework under development.</li><li>10. Identify resource implications and highlight how these can be addressed and overcome.</li><li>11. Produce a report with accompanying caseload management framework.</li><li>12. Posters and Leaflets are circulated to all multi-agency partners.</li></ol>		
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	Attend and contribute to national bodies.	Independent Chair  Lead Officer  Quality Regulation, & Improvement & Chief Social Work Office		Updates from National Forums provided in Lead Officer Reports to CPC.		
	Lead Officers for Public Protection attend and support the PP Committees	Lead Officers		Standing item on ECPC Agenda and updates in reports.		



**Appendix 3 – 7 Minute Briefings Produced by ECPC 2023-24**

**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.



ECPC 10.01.24



7 Minute Briefing



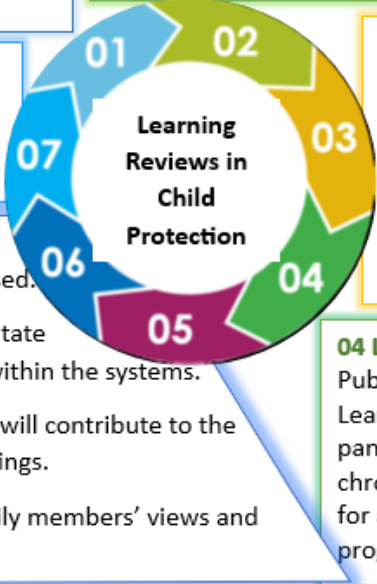
**01 Background** - In 2021 Scottish Government published the [National Guidance for Child Protection Committees undertaking Learning Reviews](#). This was closely followed by a similar model from Adult Protection in 2022.

The Learning Review approach stems from Scotland’s commitment to strengthen its organisational learning culture and move away from apportioning blame.

**02 Overall Purpose** – Learning Reviews bring together agencies, individuals and families in order to learn from the most difficult situations, to improve and develop systems and better protect children and young people.

This approach should be inclusive, supportive, take a systemic non-blaming stance, that is proportionate, flexible and timely.

**07 Learning Review Report** – The Learning Review report will be clear & succinct, identify effective practice and key learning. Chief Officers in Public Protection will decide whether to publish the report in line with the family & public interest factors.



**03 Learning Review Criteria** for children and young people are detailed in Page 7 of the Edinburgh Learning Review Protocol.

A Learning Review should be considered where a child dies or is significantly harmed and there is additional learning to be gained that may inform improvements in the protection of children and young people.

**06 Learning Review Roles – Review Team:** Senior Managers who oversee the Learning Review process ensuring it is timely, and focused.

**Reviewers:** specially trained and independent to the CPC, they facilitate learning, develop a full picture and inform the analysis of practice within the systems.

**Practitioners, First Line Managers:** direct practitioners experiences will contribute to the Learning Review, often through reflective groups or individual meetings.

**Family:** A Family Liaison Strategy is developed, so that relevant family members’ views and experiences are meaningfully and sensitively included.

**04 Learning Review Panel** – is multi-agency and sits within Public Protection. Any agency or practitioner can use the Learning Review Notification Form (as per the Protocol). The panel will request background information and single-agency chronologies to help consider the referrals against the criteria for a Learning Review and how learning should be progressed.

**05 Decision Making** - The multi-agency Learning Review Panel will consider all the information submitted against the Learning Review Criteria. The Lead Officer for Child Protection will capture the recommended actions and approach to learning and forward an anonymised report to the Child Protection Committee and Chief Officer Group (COG) for approval. At this point, the Lead Officer will notify the Care Inspectorate and the person who originally reported the concern. The Lead Officer will begin to scope and plan the Learning Review with the Review Team and gather all the background information.

ECPC 29 Jan 2024



7 Minute Briefing





ECPC July 2024