



## **Annual Report 2022-23**

*(Covering period 1.8.22 – 31.7.23)*

## **Priorities 2023-24**

*(Covering period 1.8.23– 31.7.24)*

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## Foreword

Once again, I am proud to produce this year's South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee (CPC) annual report (2022-23) which highlights the activities and priorities of the Committee over that academic year. It also confirms the CPC focus for the year 2023-24.

Reflecting on this reporting period, despite the CPC facing fresh challenges where it paid particular attention to the activities of our Ukraine Support Team, and the Cost- of Living Crisis, this has been a very progressive year for the CPC.

We asked all members to explore innovation, when families are struggling to afford food, clothing and heating, the CPC recognised the increased risk in structural or societal neglect.

The CPC has commissioned audits, and two formal Learning Reviews to better understand CP processes, and where training or knowledge gaps exist our Learning & Development framework ensures continuous improvement, protecting the children of South Ayrshire. These actions were underpinned by a commissioned annual Trend Analysis report produced once again by the Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services.

The CPC reviewed and (with COG approval) realigned the structure and purpose of its Sub-Groups ensuring functionality and proficiency in the years ahead.

A bench marking procedure incorporating the assistance of the Child Protection Committees Scotland (CPCS) allowed engagement across the country while more locally, a consultation process was circulated encouraging individual or collective thoughts and opinions around the review.

Three subgroups now exist focusing upon: Management Information, Evaluation & Improvement, Learning & Development and Communication & Engagement, that provide focus around the implementation of the Child Protection National Guidance and key business areas:

- Internal & External Communications,
- Implementation of Best Practice & Training,
- Monitor, Audit & Review,
- Advancing tangible strategies ensuring child centred collaboration,
- Providing, and supporting integrated approaches to protect children from abuse, neglect, and wellbeing.



One highlight so far is the realignment and development of the new website:

<https://hscp.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/ProtectingYoungPeople>

Promotional material for the new website also includes, for the first time, the use of QR codes and overall easier access for referral and support.

As highlighted at Appendix 1, the CPC embraced new membership from, amongst others, VASA, Trauma Informed Practice, Housing, & Thriving Communities. The wider membership ensures we have the right personnel to encourage effective oversight and learning from practice.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members and their respective agency, department, or service, for their contribution and commitment to the CPC and the newly structured subgroups.

The CPC have continued in its quest to listen to and learn from Lived & Care experienced voices. We have set up a standing agenda item "our stories". Over this year the CPC have heard from Safe & Together, Parenting Promise & Champions Board with our Young Carers coming along soon. I am continuing to encourage greater participation in this evolving programme.

The CPC maintained links with and support to the Pan-Ayrshire Child Protection Implementation Group (PACPIG) and the dedicated South Ayrshire operational subgroup following the publication of the National Child Protection Guidance 2021.

That's a very brief journey of the CPC highlights for this year and the arena remains a vibrant, committed community to enhance the lives of South Ayrshire's children. I believe this report provides evidence that there is a change in the approach to Children and Families strategy in South Ayrshire which has resulted in improved outcomes for Children and reflects the principles of The Promise, GIRFEC and UNCRC.

I am also confident this report will provide you with assurances that innovative planning is progressing to ensure that South Ayrshire resources are safeguarding and responding to issues that impact upon the wellbeing of children and young people.

As always, I would welcome any opportunity to discuss improvement ideas or observations.

**Jim Kerr**

**Independent Chair - Child Protection Committee (CPC) - South Ayrshire**

# South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee

## Background

The CPC is a locally based interagency partnership responsible for delivering continuous improvement in protecting children in South Ayrshire. Its work includes the design, development, publication, implementation and evaluation of child protection policies and practice across the area.



It comprises of membership throughout a range of services, and agencies including amongst others, Children & Families Social Work, Health & Social Care Partnership, NHS, Education, Police, Alcohol & Drug Partnership, Childrens Reporter, and Champions Board.

The CPC considers and evaluates information from a variety of sources including the production of a quarterly data report, the data from the Child Protection Register, Childrens Reporter, Learning Reviews, formal inspections of Childrens Services, case file audits and national developments.

The CPC is committed to its responsibility to keep children in South Ayrshire safe from harm, whether abuse or neglect has or is likely to take place. It has an obligation to promote awareness of child protection to the South Ayrshire communities, and broadcast good practice within and across agencies, as well as leading on training and development.

The functions of the CPC are continuous improvement, strategic planning, public information, and communication. This work is reflected in local practice and aims to meet local and national needs in keeping children safe.

There has been a noticeable and sustained change in the approach to Child Protection in South Ayrshire, with the application of the "*Signs of Safety*". There has been a long-term investment in training and testing of the approach, which has contributed to the change in culture in South Ayrshire.

## Vision, Mission, Values and Aims

The following vision, mission, values and aims guide the work of the CPC and have been designed to have a positive impact on the quality of child protection work, the outcomes delivered for children and their families and provide an effective framework for service delivery.

## Vision Statement

The South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is committed to working together to protect South Ayrshire's children from abuse and neglect.

## Mission Statement

It is everyone's job to make sure that children in South Ayrshire are safe from abuse and neglect. We will strive to ensure that the protection of children is a responsibility that is shared by all our staff and with the community.

## Values

- Respect
- Equity
- Child-centred
- Collaboration

## Aims of South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee

The aims of the Child Protection Committee are:

- Children are protected by timely and effective action.
- Children are listened to and respected.
- Children understand what to do if they are concerned about their own or others safety and protection from abuse and neglect.
- Our staff are confident and competent in protecting children from abuse and neglect.
- Agencies, individually and collectively, demonstrate leadership and accountability for their work and its effectiveness in keeping children safe from abuse and neglect.
- The public understand what to do if they are concerned about the safety and protection of children from abuse and neglect.
- Collaboratively we ensure continuous improvement by evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of our services.
- We provide an integrated approach to identifying, intervening, and providing ongoing support to protect children at risk of harm from abuse and neglect.

# Leadership, Governance and Accountability

## Local Governance Arrangements

Working collectively under the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership the CPC is one of several key foundations which have shared responsibility for public protection. The others include:

- South Ayrshire Adult Protection Committee (APC).
- South Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP).
- South Ayrshire Violence against Women & Girls Partnership (VAWP).
- South of Scotland Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
- South Ayrshire Suicide Prevention Oversight Group.
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

The South Ayrshire CPC also works in partnership with the other two Ayrshire CPCs to encourage, where practicable, a comprehensive approach to policies, practice, and peer development. Recent examples of this include the aforementioned establishment of the PACPIG and ongoing work in relation to pan-Ayrshire Learning Review guidance.

Close dialogue also takes place on a national basis with CELCIS (Centre for excellence for children's care & protection) and active participation with CPC (Scotland).

## Chief Officers Group

The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 requires that each CPC be governed by a Public Protection Chief Officers Group. (COG). The COG comprises the Chief Executives of South Ayrshire Council, NHS Ayrshire and Arran and the Ayrshire Commander for Police Scotland. The COG is responsible for the leadership, direction and scrutiny of South Ayrshire Child Protection Services and the CPC.

Supported by the CPC Chair and its members, the COG drives forward an extensive work plan and routinely evaluates CPC tasks to ensure there is a clear focus on continuous improvement and accountability. Members of the COG and the CPC support the GIRFEC approach seeking to ensure children, young people and their families get the help they need when they need it.

## South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership

The South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) which comprises community-based health and social care services for adults and children, is governed



by the Integration Joint Board (IJB). The IJB Chief Officer is also the Director of the Health and Social Care Partnership. The Chief Social Work Officer provides professional advice on all Social Work services and practice to the IJB, South Ayrshire Council, the COG, and the CPC. The IJB is supported by a Performance and Audit Committee and by a Health and Care Governance Committee and reports into the Community Planning Partnership Executive.

### CPC Sub Groups

It was recognised and is highlighted in previous CPC annual reports that during the pandemic all services faced unprecedented challenges. Ongoing Covid risks, War in Europe and the economic downturn will intensify demand on our collective services, heighten individual and family vulnerabilities, while many people are forced to adapt their lifestyles to cope with loss of employment, increased cost of living, and reduction in financial income. The CPC recognised that societal neglect across Child services would be a significant risk.

Underpinning these challenges is the implementation and development of refreshed and renewed processes that include major applications incorporating Child Protection National Guidance, Scottish Child Interview Model, Learning Reviews, and refreshed national minimum data sets.

Rightly Subgroups are viewed as the engine rooms of APC & CPC Business. With the aforementioned in mind the question was asked, are our current structures robust and responsive to meet the varying and emerging business demands and challenges?

A bench marking procedure incorporating the assistance of the Child Protection Committees Scotland (CPCS) in circulating queries across the country allowed engagement with areas who were or had (to varying degrees) entered into or completed a similar assessment review practice post Covid.

It was apparent that the South Ayrshire structure was fairly unique in terms of having three subgroups aligned to and serving both the APC & CPC.

It was recognised that there are at times conflicts of interest and competing demands in respect of priorities across the subgroups as all three have a dual role and responsibility, serving the needs of both Committees.

Consequently, it was questionable if that structure has the flexibility and business continuity to address respective Committee priorities in their entirety in a timely fashion.

We required a revised structure that provided and enhanced effectiveness to core business principles & processes.

The CPC recognised many subgroup structures have recently evolved to incorporate the interpretation, management and evaluation of information emanating from data produced on a quarterly and yearly basis, soon to be revised with the onset of refreshed minimum datasets.

An options document was created and discussed at the COG.

It was recommended and agreed that a reconstituted model was required, and the following three subgroups with detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) commenced on 1 January 2023.

#### Management Information, Evaluation & Improvement sub-group (MIEI)

To fully address the Management Information demands, the CPC reconstituted the functions of the Policy, Practice & Improvement sub-group, altering the TOR, changing the Chair, revising membership, to embrace developing trend analysis.

The Lead Officer for CP will chair this sub-group and call upon a multi-agency response to inter-agency guidance, provide an overview of data and evidence, have responsibility for quality assurance and self-evaluation mechanisms. This would ensure that the processes of annual, and quarterly reports would be framed and administered more timeously and effectively.

#### Learning & Development Subgroup (L&D)

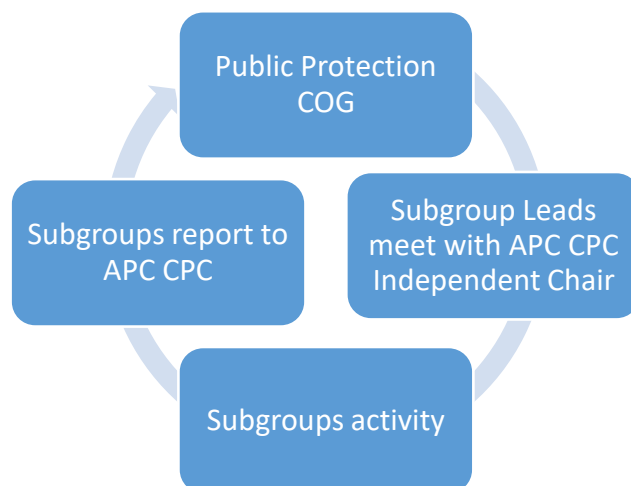
Previously the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) Chaired this subgroup with representation from SCRA, VASA, Quality Assurance, Social Work, Policy Implementation, Education, NHS, Corporate Patenting, Children & Families, Police, Procurement, and Policy & Performance.

During this review and assessment process there remained credible rationale that one subgroup servicing the online, face to face and practical training requirements of Adult Support & Protection (ASP) and CP be sustained and approved. Nevertheless ownership, membership and functionality of the group did require revision.

#### Communication & Engagement Subgroup (C&E)

Previously this sub-group serviced both committees, with one Chairperson. There were conflicting priorities. We required a refocus upon external & internal messaging, promoting learning, practice developments, blogs, and news circulations. This is now a standalone subgroup servicing the CPC.

It is believed this new structure will create an environment across services that will increase flexibility, dialogue, and productivity, with the flow of information and direction being governed as detailed below:



## Child Protection Activity

### National Child Protection (CP) Guidance

The new National Child Protection Guidance was published by the Scottish Government on 2 September 2021. The CPC maintained an overview as to the progression on the implementation of the guidance to date within South Ayrshire.

So far there have been four pan Ayrshire Child Protection Implementation Group (PACPIG) meetings. The main points of discussion included the development of a Terms of Reference, membership of a reference group and an audit of currently applied Child Protection procedures by the three Ayrshires. There has been attendance at the Pan Ayrshire Group by Scottish Government Child Protection Unit, who have reflected that they see the Pan Ayrshire approach as an example of good practice for the implementation.

The three Ayrshire localities have been tasked with establishing respective subgroups, with a view to completing an audit of the current CP processes and where there is alignment and where there is a need to review. These audits will then form the basis of a Pan Ayrshire workshop, made up of operational staff and from this an action plan for implementing the new guidance will be established. There is also now regular reporting which will ensure that the PACPIG are kept informed of all developments towards the implementation of the new CP guidance from all relevant stakeholders.

Within South Ayrshire a 7-minute briefing on the National Child Protection Guidance has been distributed to all staff along with a presentation on the non-negotiable changes noted below:

- Child Protection Case Conferences should now be known as **Child Protection Planning Meetings (CPPM)**
- Initial CPPMs should be held within **28 calendar days**.
- The CPPM should review the interim safety plan and develop a Child Protection Plan.
- Core groups should meet within **15 working days** of the first CPPM.
- There should be a single **plan of action**, even if the child is involved in several processes.
- Review CPPMs should be held within **6 months**.
- Chairs should be from Social Work Service (unless other members from core agencies take on the role for agreed reason)

The staff survey on the awareness levels of CP processes and Procedures has raised the need for further training and engagement. A CPC plan to address the identified gaps and improve the understanding is progressing.

### Signs of Safety

As highlighted in previous annual reports, South Ayrshire have committed to the implementation of the evidenced based Signs of Safety approach to underpin the work we do in Child Protection within Children and Families. This journey started back in 2020, with the initial base line Audit to capture our current practice and culture to safety being completed in 2021.

In delivering on the Signs of Safety, South Ayrshire is committed to, empowering the people we come into contact with to be in control of their own lives, giving them every opportunity to come up with their own solutions before we offer or impose ours. The CPC encourages the ethos of South Ayrshire Childrens Services and Partners developing a culture that learns from its mistakes and celebrates successes, functioning as a learning organisation.

We want and encourage families to stay together where possible and if they cannot, for them to remain connected to their family, friends and communities that are important to them.

We want to practice in a Risk Sensible manner, demonstrating we respond proportionately to risk, recognising we will have to work with uncertainty.

The purpose of the Signs of Safety approach was to commit to our child care work with a rigorous focus on child safety and we have our practice, policy, procedures

and organisation set up so that we can do everything humanly possible to put the parents, children and everyone naturally connected to the children at the centre of the assessment and decision-making giving them every opportunity to come up with their ideas before we offer / impose ours.

In furtherance on the Signs of Safety implementation a second baseline audit is planned for the later part of 2023 and although not an exhaustive list, the CPC are particularly interested in how the practice has influenced practice, children returning home under rationalised safety plans, the language used, young people attending their meetings, and the relationships between social work and families.

### CPC Business Plan

This is the final year of the current business plan and CPC agreed that the newly formed Management information, Evaluation & Improvement subgroup should begin to formulate a new improvement action plan. During the CPC discussions topics to be considered for the new plan included:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): access to therapeutic support in South Ayrshire
- Broadening our understanding of risk
- Consider Standalone CPC website.

These matters are further discussed and expanded upon in the CPC Priorities 2023-24 section of this report.

### Scottish Child Interview Model / Joint Investigative Interviews

South Ayrshire resources have contributed equally to the establishment of the Ayrshire Joint Investigative Interview (JII) Team which went live in practice with the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) on 18 July 2022.

A joint investigative interview is undertaken by a police officer and social worker and is defined as a formal, planned interview with a child, carried out by staff trained and competent to conduct it, for the purposes of eliciting the child's account of events (if any) which require investigation.

The CPC recognises that Social Work & Police Services across Ayrshire have shown significant commitment to ensuring that there is investment in the quality of interviewing and questioning of children who have been harmed or have witnessed such distress. This is a trauma informed approach to Children who have experienced suffering from someone who have harmed them.

It is important to reflect upon this, so that while there remains a focus and commitment in South Ayrshire to prevention and early intervention, when the need arises for children to be given the best possible child protection service to support them in a trauma informed way through the interview process, then the New Ayrshire Joint Investigative Interview team approach provides the best evidenced nurturing approach for children.

### Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRDs)

The CPC is expected to perform a number of crucial functions in order to jointly identify and manage risk to children and young people. Monitoring and improving performance and promoting the ethos that "It's everyone's job to make sure I'm alright" is essential.

As part of the CPC improvement activity, regularly reviewing IRDs allows multi-agency members to engage, discuss collaboratively, share ideas, or concerns and identify any areas for learning, training or development.

The CPC are only too well aware and continue to seek assurances around questions and queries raised about the "low" number of Inter Agency Referral Discussions (IRD) taking place in South Ayrshire, particularly in comparison to North and East Ayrshire.

We continue to endorse and encourage IRD Audit activity in this regard and supported the reasoning for a multi-agency workshop to encourage professional optimism and curiosity, to explore this further with a view to learning together.

Chaired by the Head of Service for Children's Health Care and Justice, representatives from Child Health, Health Child Protection, Associate Nurse Director, Education including Child Protection and assistant Director, Police Scotland, the Chief Social Work Officer from South Ayrshire, Senior and Service Managers from the Health and Social Care Partnership attended an in-person event.

The ambition of the workshop was to either arrive at a necessary improvement action plan or to be assured by the current approach, bringing this discussion to a conclusion, with further audit and scrutiny as part of the normal CPC and COG reporting cycle.

From a report that the Child Protection Lead Officer completed into IRD's in South Ayrshire, the below areas were reflected in the workshop.

South Ayrshire have historically had lower numbers of IRD's, demographics, less children, less identified overall poverty.

South Ayrshire have far less IRD's raised by Social Work compared to the other localities.

South Ayrshire appear to be more comfortable in managing risk on a single agency basis, where there would be IRD's in the other two Ayrshires. This could be a result of the implementation of the Signs of Safety which is not present in the neighbouring authorities.

The IRD audit activity continues, and the multi-agency group meets every eight weeks to review and audit the decision making of a random sample of IRDs in South Ayrshire.

The continued purpose of this audit activity is to test the competence of the inquiries made into a child's circumstances, the decision making as to the level of support required, the analysis of risk, as well as identify any training and development issues arising across the multi-agency partnership.

The audit tool itself is based on the Care Inspectorate scaling which performs well in offering evidence of self-evaluation and continuous improvement around how well partners are working together in assessing and responding to risk.

#### Emerging themes included:

- Information throughout the IRD was well structured, well laid out and easy to read.
- Conclusion and analysis of the IRD was balanced with good evidence of all multi-agency views being considered and information shared appropriately.
- Views of the family and children included within the IRD which helped support decision making, strong multi-agency analysis of risk and the impacts considered.
- Robust decision making and planning to address worries for young people and ensuring appropriate safeguards.

#### Areas requiring development included:

- Written narrative of IRD's can be confusing, too long, and could be improved by more focus on the actual concerns. Issue of 'disguised compliance' and recognition of the risk of harm this presents. Analysis of risk could be improved through considering the actual impact of harm and less around a detail action plan of subsequent processes and agency procedures. Quality assurance of IRD's could be improved - with use of abbreviations, acronyms and complex medical terminology being phased out.
- Findings continue to be generally reassuring in respect of the decision-making and confidence for IRDs'. In 85% of audited IRDs' the overall decision of the IRD was viewed as the correct decision.

- As the CPC continues to seek assurances on IRD processes they also commissioned a Self-Evaluation and Audit of Child Protection Referrals which did not proceed to IRD.
- Following each of these audits, a findings report was collated and shared across Education, Health, Police and Social Work participants to give a summary of themes and support learning/development.

Emerging themes included:

- Child Protection concerns were clearly evident, and the referral was appropriate.
- Information within referrals were clear, concise and gave a good picture of the current difficulties, circumstances and what has been tried to address the current worries.
- In following up on concerns and considering supports for the young person, there was good evidence of the wider family and relevant persons being brought in as part of discussions to understand all viewpoints and perspectives.
- There were good links made with Universal Services and Named persons who know the child/ family to ensure they were sighted on the current concerns, as well as being part of the onward support plan.
- Evidence of timely and succinct follow up with young people and their family in ensuring appropriate safeguards around the identified concerns.

Areas requiring development included:

- The presenting concern was not considered to be of a Child Protection nature and was one of child welfare/well-being.
- Referral templates requiring review to support relevant information being presented and laid out more clearly.
- More information was required by the referrer to help inform the level of concern. The context of circumstances was unclear and further clarity required.
- Limited evidence of dialogue with named persons to ensure they were sighted on circumstances for their own information/awareness.
- There remains a level of multi-agency debate and consideration around what constitutes a Child Protection matter and what requires the need for an IRD. There are a number of points which feed into a multi-agency training agenda around matters of Child Protection, as well as key information when making a referral.

The CPC seeks to progress these matters.



## Trends analysis

The CPC commissioned a third Child Protection Trend Activity Overview report. This was to seek assurances that the current Child Protection approach and processes to protect children at risk of significant harm in South Ayrshire are robust and being utilised appropriately. For the first time the process rightly focuses on child poverty and the continued impact of the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

## Child Protection Register

The chart below reflects the academic year 2022-23 and indicates that South Ayrshire has 2.5 per 1000 Children aged between 0-15 who are on the Child Protection Register and how this compares with South Ayrshire's Benchmark Authorities and the Scottish average. Again this shows an increase for the second year after a sustained period of low numbers.

### **Number of Children on Child Protection Register (per 1,000 of 0-15 population)**

<u>Local Authority Benchmark comparators</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 children</u>
<b>South Ayrshire</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Angus	1.8
Scottish Borders	2.2
Highland	3.3
Argyll and Bute	2.3
Scottish average	2.3
<u>Local Comparators LA</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 children</u>
East Ayrshire (for local context)	3.7
North Ayrshire (for local context)	3.6
<u>Signs of Safety Local Authorities</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 children</u>
East Ren (Signs of Safety LA)	0.5
East Lothian (Signs of Safety LA)	1.9
D & G (Signs of Safety LA & LGBF)	2.1

While it is clear that the number of South Ayrshire's children on the Register remains low in comparison with her neighbouring Ayrshire authorities, however in comparison with similar Benchmarking Local Authorities, South Ayrshire is not incompatible with the likes of Dumfries and Galloway or Argyle and Bute.

Of note, in comparison with the other Scottish Local Authorities who have fully embraced the Signs of Safety approach like East Renfrewshire, East Lothian and Dumfries and Galloway, the ratio of children on the Child Protection Register in

South Ayrshire appears within the range of those localities, who have employed the Signs of Safety “risk sensible” and strength-based approaches.

As detailed in Appendix 2 (Figure 2) the number of children placed on the Child Protection Register has been consistently low over the past four years. However, in 2023, there has been a notable increase to 43 Children subject to registration from 23 families. While this is still within the Scottish and our own Benchmarking authorities average, it is a noteworthy spike for South Ayrshire.

The consistent low numbers of Children and Families on the Child Protection Register, likely indicates that the investment in Signs of Safety and the commitment to implement the Promise, have contributed to cultural change in South Ayrshire.

It is of note, that in the last two years only two children have been subject to re-registration after a 12-month period, suggesting that families are receiving the correct support and interventions, enabling and empowering them to improve their family’s wellbeing and safety without the need for further interventions.

There are currently only two children from two families who have been on the Child Protection Register for more than 12 months. This has been subject to peer review and the reasons for Registration deemed to be still applicable.

The CPC will seek to develop processes to develop a critical friend review process in this area.

The CPC commissioned a Self-Evaluation audit of South Ayrshire’s Post de-registration from the Child Protection Register to the Team around the Child Responsibilities. The Audit concluded that there was evidence that the de-registration policy is being implemented across Social Work, Health, and Education when a child is de registered. There are areas of the policy that require further clarity. The evaluation found that in the main the assessment to de register a child from the child protection register was robust, nonetheless a policy revision was recommended.

### Child Protection Alerts

A child protection ‘alert’ is raised when the decision is made to investigate under the auspice of child protection. It ensures core agencies (Health, Education and Police) and out of hours social work services are aware a child is subject to active investigation in relation to a child protection concern and can respond accordingly.

Drawing reference to appendix 2 of this report, (figure 1) there has been an 8% decrease in Child Protection alerts over the past year. This continues the trend of reducing Child Protection alerts over the past 6 years, with the exception of last year, when it was believed that coming out of lockdown and children returning to School and being more “seen” in their communities was a significant factor in the increase.

There has also been more of a targeted approach through the newly formed Communication and Engagement, CPC subgroup, in improving awareness of how to raise a child protection concern in South Ayrshire. There has also been activity focused on promoting the necessity and benefit of taking concerns through to Interagency Referral Discussions (IRDs).

### Child Protection Process Timescales

Drawing reference to Appendix 2, Figure 6, the conversion rate of children being taken to Child Protection Case Conference and who then become registered is 84% for the year. This reflects that the vast majority of children who were taken to Case Conference were children requiring the need of care and protection due to being at risk of significant harm.

This is important as it means that children and families not requiring this intrusive level of support or response are not being unnecessarily drawn into statutory interventions if more proportionate and strengths-based approaches can be used instead.

This aligns very much with the Christie Commission where there is a focus on People, Prevention, Partnership and Performance. The current data indicates a preventative approach is now evident in South Ayrshire, applying the “risk sensible” tactic enabling more positive work with families and children in partnership with improved outcomes for them. The application of the findings of The Promise has also enabled this approach, with the views of children and families continually informing how we deliver care and supports.

### Children Referred to Scottish Childrens Reporter Administration (SCRA)

Drawing reference to Appendix 2, Figure 7, The number of children referred to the SCRA follows a similar trajectory as the number of Children who are Newly Registered, and the total number of Children placed on the Child Protection Register.

Again, this could indicate that the cultural change, which is evident within South Ayrshire through the adoption of the Signs of Safety approach and the implementation of The Promise, has had equal effect on how all children are supported and cared for so that only those children and families who require these important, but intrusive protective approaches are experiencing them. Other children and families in South Ayrshire are, instead, worked with through strengths based, relation and collaborative care planning, as found in the Signs of Safety and The Promise.

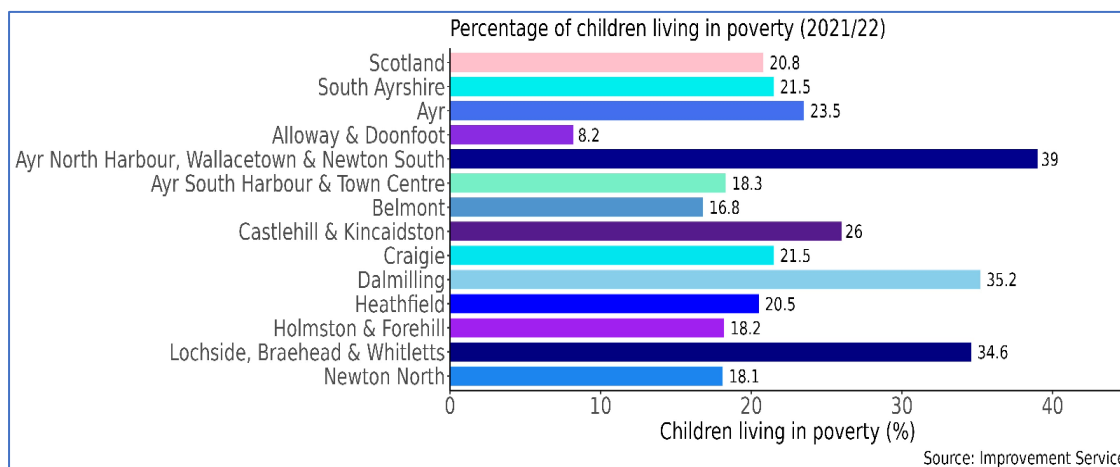
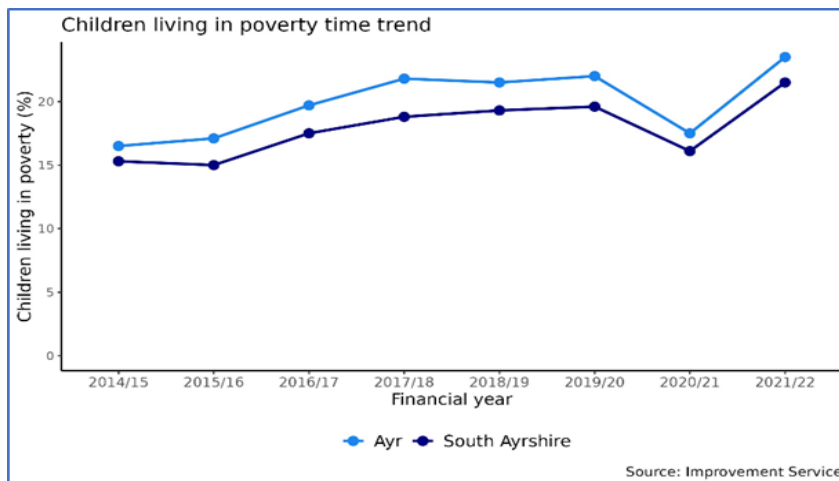
### Child Poverty

45% of children newly registered live in the KA8 post code area, Ayr North, Harbour, Town Centre.

The percentage of children living in poverty in Ayr is slightly higher than for South Ayrshire as a whole (23.5% and 20.8% respectively).

Just over one-in-five children are living in poverty in Ayr.

However, this figure varies across Ayr. It ranges from nearly two-in-five children (39%) in Ayr North Harbour/ Wallacetown / Newton South, to just over one-in-twenty children (8.2%) in Alloway & Doonfoot.



The CPC recognises that the impact of poverty is being felt more keenly than ever in our poorest communities and it is impacting upon children who would previously not have been considered as being at risk of significant harm.

It could be concluded that the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and increasing poverty, is resulting in parents going from “just about managing”, to now, no longer being able to cope. With increasing parental Mental Health difficulties, Substance Misuse and Neglect, now impacting on Children, placing them at risk of significant harm, requiring state intervention and Child Protection Registration.

In respect of South Ayrshire Homelessness, the CPC commissioned more detailed local assessment as it recognised that nationally, figures had shown a 11% increase in homelessness applications. Of those 6% had slept rough the night before, 64% were from single adult households. There had been a 10% increase in children living in homeless accommodation reaching a national record of 9,130.

South Ayrshire had experienced a 10% increase and had started to use hotel accommodation once again due to demand.

The CPC welcomed increased funding to Children and Families Social Work Locality teams to distribute to Families in Need, with Early Intervention and Preventative spending encouraged. More funding was distributed within the Initial Response Team to enable them to support Families struggling to cope, where some funding could make a significant difference in keeping families together and out of state interventions.

The Childrens Health Care and Justice Team continue to commission and fund various third sector partners to support families along with Thriving Communities this has enabled local communities to access Food pantries, Food Banks, and access other essential family support.

These developments were regularly expanded upon within the CPC by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) updates.

### Contextual Safeguarding

The National Guidance for Child Protection 2021 acknowledges that abuse can happen out with the family home, this maybe be in; peer networks; in care placements; institutions; community settings; and / or online. Those responsible may be unknown or familiar, or in positions of trust. This is known as non-familial harm.

As part of the Promise Improvement Actions South Ayrshire CPC will understand non-familial harm and how this is addressed through a contextual safeguarding approach. Contextual safeguarding is an approach used by practitioners to identify and respond to harm posed to young people from outside their home.

To act and develop plans in relation to the above an understanding was required of social works role in relation to non-familial harm therefore a self-evaluation of non-familial harm referrals was undertaken.

This exercise focussed on 32 referrals where the harm was caused by someone out with the family home. The majority of referrals received were for girls, with a higher proportion of concerns being of a sexual nature and online. Whereas in boys' concerns centred on peer-on-peer harm.

The highest number of referrals came from Police. The self-referrals were a mixture of young people residing at home, children's houses, or in homeless accommodation.

The CPC considered the next steps in relation to contextual safeguarding, ensuring that our practice aligns with the National Guidance for Child Protection 2021 and the Promise Actions.

The CPC recognised that further progression was required in this area to ensure that structures and supports are in place. It was apparent that the term 'Contextual Safeguarding' was relatively unfamiliar to practitioners however they were more familiar with the term 'non familial' harm.

We may need to have more robust measuring and monitoring of non-familial harm referrals / worries.

To gain an understanding of non-familial harm within South Ayrshire a developed structure for information sharing and contextual safeguarding approach within South Ayrshire that includes Social Work, Police, Education, Community Groups, and voluntary sector is required.

Staff training and awareness raising of the contextual safeguarding approach to incorporate local safeguarding partnerships should ensure that all professionals who have contact with children are trained to effectively recognise and respond to these risks.

As detailed in last year's CPC annual report we must continue to ensure that there are robust bullying policies and support in place those in contact with children and young people have the knowledge to identify and report concerns.

### Communications & Engagement

Our newly focussed and CP dedicated subgroup set upon objectives to determine and increase the level of awareness, understanding and knowledge of, and confidence in, Child Protection systems.

To develop a model and process of engagement with communities.

To produce and disseminate public information including how to report concerns.

To involve those requiring support in the design, development and implementation of the CPC's public information and communication strategies, ensuring information is accessible, and to provide a platform for sharing and dissemination of relevant information, including good practice and learning from reviews and other improvement activity.

The sub-group has extended its reach to include housing, education, health, those with lived experience, young carers and thriving communities that historically have not been involved.

Almost instantly the subgroup looked at a new internet front door, review the language and ensure basic information was available for anyone who had concerns around a child. The new internet front door access support webpage for CP concerns can be found at:

<https://hscp.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/ProtectingYoungPeople>

Regular bulletins 'Keeping Connected' have continued to be issued by CPC Scotland and these are distributed across CPC members in South Ayrshire on a regular basis to share knowledge and experiences during the pandemic.

### Our Stories

The CPC embarked on a project to encourage care / lived experience voices to attend the CPC in person, through a live or recorded video link, or through another's voice. We created a standing agenda item, "our stories" to encourage members to identify and contribute to the project. We have already experienced participation from the Champions Board, Young Carers, and an Aberlour story. The CPC provide updates to CP1 training and encourage Practitioners to identify more stories.

The CPC continues to develop ways to bring in the voices of people with lived experience in a way that is comfortable for them while ensuring that these inputs can provide context to the policy decisions that are made by CPC partners.

### Criminal Injuries Compensation for Children

The CPC identified a practice concern and set out plans to ensure this issue was a primary consideration during child protection planning, given detailed statutory application deadlines.

Children who have suffered or witnessed harm either within or out with the family as a result of abuse may be eligible for criminal injuries compensation. Children and young people who have been abused in residential care are also entitled to claim compensation.

Other children or non-abusing adults who have a loving relationship with the abused child may also be eligible for compensation if they suffer a mental injury as a result of witnessing the abuse or its immediate aftermath.

Practitioners should be aware of this scheme and should consider whether any child for whom they are responsible is eligible to apply. They should also ensure that applications are progressed timeously.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) does not need to wait for the outcome of a criminal trial if there is already enough information to make a decision on a case, so application can be made without delay for this reason. Decisions are made on 'balance of probabilities.' (Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1995).

The CPC agreed that the consideration as to whether or not the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme may apply should be a standing item at all initial and review CPPMs (or 'Looked After' Reviews if appropriate). It is the responsibility of the Chair of the review to ensure that reasons are recorded at the meeting as to why the decision was reached whether to proceed or not to proceed with an application.

It is crucial for future reference and scrutiny that decisions around this subject are recorded as the local authority can be held liable if it fails to make a claim.

### Safe & Together Model Implementation

The CPC recognises domestic abuse research, demonstrates a tendency in practice to place the responsibility for protecting children onto the non-abusing parent rather than on the abusive parent to cease being abusive. The narrative that victims are 'failing to protect' their children carries a risk that agencies will not be seen as supportive or helpful for those living with domestic abuse.

Research has also shown that despite the ethos of the Signs of Safety here in South Ayrshire, those living with domestic abuse will not likely engage with services if they feel they are judged for having failed to protect their children or as being responsible for the abuse. A particular fear is that their children will be removed from their care.

The CPC were formally introduced to the South Ayrshire Safe & Together Model and implementation activities. The vision, rolled out across Ayrshire was to ensure we have a safe and equal place for women and children, free from fear of violence and abuse in any form.

CPC encouraged services and systems across South Ayrshire to be built on a foundation of domestic abuse-informed practice using a shared practice and consistent approach.

Developing our lived experience plans the CPC acknowledged that families effected by domestic abuse will be recognised as experts in their own lives and their management of risk will be central to any support they receive.

The Safe & Together Model directs us to reframe domestic abuse "as a parenting choice".



The model shifts assessments towards a “perpetrator pattern-based” approach as opposed to solely focusing on incidents, which is crucial in the assessment of risk to a child and their non-abusing parent.

The model provides a suite of assessment tools and enables practitioners to challenge and address the gender-based nature of domestic abuse through;

Keeping the child safe and together with the non-abusing parent. This is usually the most effective way to promote children's safety, healing from trauma, stability, and nurturance.

Partnering with the non-abusing parent in a strengths-based way. This approach is likely to be the most efficient and child centred way of assessing risk through mutual information sharing.

Intervening with the offending parent to reduce risk and harm to the child. Engaging and holding them accountable in a variety of ways, including connecting them to their parenting role, reduces the risks to children.

The key focus areas on South Ayrshire implementation will be Culture, Process & Practice.

The Safe & Together Institute delivered overview training to introduce the model, and the first face to face Core Training was delivered. Additionally, an online blended core training program was also delivered. The Initial Referral Team have also launched Practice Learning Sessions.

### National Missing Persons Framework Implementation Project

The CPC successfully applied for South Ayrshire Services to be enrolled in this exciting project.

In partnership with the Scottish Government, the Charity Missing People had been delivering a project, to support the implementation of The National Missing Persons Framework in local areas across Scotland.

This incorporated activities with partners from Police Scotland, NHS, local authority, Childrens homes and third sector to map and review current local policies, guidance and practice relating to missing children, as well as highlighting areas of good practice in reference to The Framework.

Missing People has also provided consultancy on developing policies and protocols in areas such as return discussions and information sharing, and how to tackle barriers concerning the implementation of The National Framework.

In September 2022 Missing People held a Journey Mapping Workshop for South Ayrshire with local professionals for missing children and young people. The Journey Mapping Workshop was delivered with a view to bring together professionals who work in the field of missing to clarify individual roles and responsibilities.

Missing People asked South Ayrshire to identify profiles that would be of most use to explore in the Journey Mapping workshop,

1. A young person missing from a residential care home.
2. A young person missing from home not open to services.
3. A child missing from education – not attended school for four weeks, not enrolled at another school.

The aims of the Journey Mapping Workshop were to:

- Map the journey of children and young people with different personal profiles who have been reported missing including support for them upon return.
- Clarify local multi-agency roles, responsibilities, process, and procedure along a missing child and young person's journey, and clarify process and procedure followed by partners when supporting missing children and young people and their families.
- Identify areas of good practice and build upon this practice and multi-agency work.
- Identify any areas for growth and development.
- Encourage multi-agency working and information sharing.
- Cross-check any process followed with The National Missing Persons Framework
- Create a space for suggestions and multi-agency discussion about building on good practice.
- Share learning with other partners during the Workshop, and beyond.

This workshop identified that there was good multi-agency communication in South Ayrshire. This was demonstrated through timely communication between all partners when a child / young person is first identified as missing. Professionals are aware of local protocol if a young person goes missing and what actions to take.

There was clear procedure in place to inform how professionals should respond if a child or young person goes missing from residential care. Individual risk

assessments and care plans are in place which enable important information regarding vulnerabilities, friends and associates, and routine, to be readily available to help inform an effective response.

During the workshop, all agencies discussed the importance of giving the young person the choice about who conducts their return discussion.

Recognising that nationally 1 in 5 children who completed return discussions with Missing People disclosed information about mental health issues, attendees agreed that mental health support for children and young people in South Ayrshire was easily found and accessed. There is a clear crisis pathways for young people where they can access various healthcare professionals depending on the support required.

All schools in South Ayrshire have a counselling service in which young people can self-refer. Children and young people can access advocacy from two organisations Action for Children or Barnardos.

The Framework recognised South Ayrshire have adopted a trauma-informed approach, led by a trauma informed practice officer working across different settings.

This approach to trauma-informed practice ensured that services have an awareness and understanding of trauma, that policies reflect agencies commitments to reducing trauma, and that all people receive trauma informed services.

The Pathways should allow for a trauma informed approach with missing children, and young people, including when supporting them on return. Missing People saw this as a positive approach as traumatic life events and stressors can lead to people going missing and exposure to harm while missing can lead to further trauma on an individual.

All partners agreed that there is a need for coordination of the formal return discussion procedure in South Ayrshire, regardless of any threshold – perceived or actual – relating to risk and concern identifying and agreeing upon which agency could be suggested to the returned person, from which they can choose who can complete their Return Discussion.

All relevant information must be shared and used to update care plans and/or risk assessments. Missing People recommend strengthening the ability of different agencies to undertake return discussions if they have a good relationship with the young person.

The workshop also identified the need for clearer distinction locally between the Safe and Well Check (Prevention Interview) that will be carried out by the Police on the young person's return and a return discussion.

Missing People also recommend identifying a Missing Person Champion in South Ayrshire. This person would be a single point of contact for multi-agency work

relating to missing, for both children and young people and adults. The Missing Person Champion would promote missing as an issue locally and ensure partners know where to access support. The Champion could lead on a multi-agency operational meetings concerning missing children and young people and include private residential care providers, to monitor local trends and concerns around missing, hotspot locations, and discuss individuals of particularly high concern.

### Community Wellbeing Unit

South Ayrshire Police Community Wellbeing Unit are frequently based in Wallacetown to engage with local residents, identifying areas where support and assistance is required to reduce demand placed on services.

The team took 8 young people who have an interest in football and are on the periphery of non-engagement, involvement in youth disorder or criminality or were identified as vulnerable. The programme was also open to young carers and care experienced young people with a view of building positive relationships with the police.

The programme was be based around the 'Pitchin In Programme', a football related diversionary programme which is ordinarily delivered in the schools to groups of identified individuals over the 7-week period.

The breakdown of the programme includes roles, rights and responsibility, Hate Crime, Life Choices Awareness, Ultra Groups, Social Media, A-Z of football, Safe Supporters.

CPC welcomed and endorsed this innovative partnership project that could only assist in enhancing young people's lives.

### Child Protection Health Team

The Child Protection Health Team (CPHT) reports quarterly to the CPC.

It aims to ensure that NHS Ayrshire & Arran achieves national recommendations and standards to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. This service continues to be delivered with a focus on early and effective intervention to reduce the risk of significant harm, whilst working towards consistent, high quality CP practice.

The CPHT, working in partnership with services, continued to ensure

- Robust CP governance, accountability, quality assurance and reporting arrangements are in place.
- Staff know how to recognise and respond to CP concerns.

- CP education, learning and development opportunities are established and accessible to staff.
- Staff have access to CP advice, supervision and support.

New Child Protection Advisors have started to meet with staff when required for support and supervision. The importance of sharing key information to support all staff in their child protection role is critical and the CPHT continue to work hard to review, improve and further develop how we connect with all staff across South Ayrshire.

### Pathway For Responding to Vulnerability in Pregnancy

The CPC considered, reviewed, and endorsed this pan-Ayrshire multi-agency guidance produced by NHS Ayrshire & Arran Women & Childrens Services. The CPC recognised that improving outcomes for children, young people and their families is a fundamental objective for all Services within Ayrshire. For unborn babies the need to ensure that services have a shared understanding of what constitutes a vulnerable pregnancy and use common approaches and language to identify, assess and support pregnant women and their partners/families is a crucial one. The new pathway was necessary to provide clear guidance for professionals across services and agencies on how to identify and respond to vulnerability and child protection concerns in pregnancy to optimise outcomes for families.

It had been developed in consultation with social work and health colleagues and is expected to sit alongside and be used in conjunction with GIRFEC principles, which advocate early intervention to ensure all unborn babies and children have the right support at the right time by the right agencies.

We recognise that unborn babies and children may be vulnerable due to a range of family and social circumstances, including parental substance use, parental mental health illness, domestic violence, significant physical disability and parental learning disability.

The Pathway was designed to enhance communication and co-operation between agencies to ensure the best care and outcomes for children and families. This is particularly significant in families where more than one health professional is working with the family and in families who are transient across Ayrshire. This will ensure that families get the help they need, when they need it, to maximise the potential for the baby to thrive and meet expected developmental milestones and outcomes.

### Training delivered 2022- 23

The reconstituted Learning & Development subgroup outlined their commitment to co-ordinate, review, assess & develop, online, face to face and practical training for Child Protection incorporating the assets at the Practice Development Base.

They would develop practice sessions focusing upon emerging issues (for instance Learning Reviews, National / local best practice, templates, chronologies) and engage internally and with statutory and sector partners to identify and deliver training needs.

The Table below presents the Training and Development opportunities undertaken by staff across South Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership.

32 separate training topics were delivered over the sessions, a total of 2,133 staff were engaged and attended these sessions.

In addition to the opportunities that were created and delivered by the Practice Development Team, they also supported and promoted several areas of further training opportunities that were open to staff which are delivered jointly by partnership agencies. These included, Mental Health Training, Choose Life Suicide Prevention ASSIST / Safe Talk, Team Addictions / Alcohol and Substance Misuse, and Bitesize Leadership.

The developmental training on offer to services and staff has continued to grow where this has been primarily fed by service and / or staff discussion, and the continued development from the previous Training Needs Analysis undertaken in 2021.

The development training has been made possible by utilising budgets and funding more effectively and by using savings made in other areas to develop further opportunities.

The scope of training now on offer has widened significantly where specific training topics were added.

These included working with children and young people with problematic and / or harmful sexual behaviours delivered to Foster Carers, Residential Staff (Children) & Multi Agency Training.

When delivered within the Practice Development Base, group delivery is undertaken to a maximum group size of 15 but other larger venues have been identified and utilised during the year when the need has arisen.

Training Topic	Delivery Method	No of Attendees
Multi-Agency working with children and young people with problematic or harmful sexual behaviours'	Face to Face	8
Two Day Child Protection	Face to Face	32
Foster carers - Working with children and young people with problematic or harmful sexual behaviours'	Face to Face	9
Residential Training - Working with children and young people with problematic or harmful sexual behaviours.	Face to Face	11
Leadership and Management	Face to Face	20
Certificate in Team Coaching	Face to Face	11
Child Development and Trauma	Face to Face	13
Child Mental Health	Face to Face	20
Child Protection Level 1	Online	70
Child Sexual Exploitation	Face to Face	33
SCRA - Court Skills	Face to Face	6
Food Hygiene	Face to Face	302
Gender Based Violence	Face to Face	33
HSPC Half Day Induction Event	Face to Face	37
HSPC Management Engagement Event	Face to Face	49
COAST / Scorecard	Online	48
Impact of Poverty on Children and Families	Face to Face	22
Introduction to Leadership and Management	Face to Face	30
Introduction to UNCRC	Online +Face to Face	11
MAPPA Foundation	Face to Face	125
MAPPA X2 Day	Face to Face	12

Training Topic	Delivery Method	No of Attendees
Medication	Face to Face	407
SCRA - Mock Hearing	Face to Face	6
Moving and Handling X2 Day	Face to Face	307
Moving and Handling Observations	Face to Face	269
Parental Mental Health and the Impact on the Child	Face to Face	23
Permanence	Face to Face	14
SCRA - Report Writing	Face to Face	11
Self-Directed Support	Face to Face	61
Sensory Loss Awareness	Face to Face	26
Signs of Safety Briefings	Online	70
Working with Families through Challenging Times	Face to Face	37

### Health CP Training

A Child Protection Training Needs Analysis (TNA) commenced in July 22 to establish the number of NHSAA staff across the disciplines who require child protection training as per the recommendations within the Intercollegiate Guidance 2019, *“Safeguarding Children and Young People: Roles and Competencies for Health Staff”*.

This TNA has been commissioned following a finding and recommendation from a recent South Ayrshire Significant Case Review Child P, and a breakdown of CP training attended per discipline is being collated.

Child Protection Advisors and the Lead Consultant Paediatrician have now delivered two Level 3 Child Protection Training sessions to GP colleagues with another two sessions scheduled for later in the year. This training will also be delivered to ED senior medical staff. There is improvement work required in relation to the content and delivery of this training, but the medical and nursing team are committed to this, and all training will continue to be evaluated.

The NHS Ayrshire and Arran Learning and Development Strategy is also under review and being updated.



## Learning Reviews

Following the implementation of National Guidance for Child Protection Committees undertaking Learning Reviews (Scottish Government, 2021), Learning Reviews (formerly known as Initial & Significant Case Reviews) procedures were instigated.

Protecting children and young people is an inter-agency and inter-disciplinary responsibility overseen by the CPC and it is responsible for deciding whether a Learning Review is warranted and, if so, for agreeing how the review is conducted. The CPC will keep the COG advised of all cases referred for a potential Learning Review and will report their recommendations on these matters to the COG for consideration and ratification.

The overall purpose of a Learning Review is to bring together agencies, individuals, and families in a collective endeavour to learn from what has happened in order to improve and develop systems and practice in the future and thus better protects, children and young people.

The CPC commissioned two Learning Reviews during this reporting period.

1. Child A related to a child who had sadly passed away.
2. Child B, related to a Child who had been exposed to events that posed significant harm to the child.

The longstanding action plan in relation to Child H, was reviewed, assurances received and closed off.

The CPC also monitored the progression of two commissioned Learning Reviews:

Child F, although this remained a single agency (Health) Review under their Significant Adverse Event Review process. This remains ongoing as we head into 2023.

Child P, where focus remains on a Health generated improvement action plan under the management of the Health Care Governance Committee, who maintain reporting links to CPC and COG.

## CPC Priorities for 2023-2024

As we head into the new academic year the CPC will continue to ensure that at the core of all its business are the voices and influences of South Ayrshire's children.

Whether it's through practice language or actions we must guarantee our children are respected and listened to.

The CPC "Our Stories" program is key to this success and members will seek to influence and develop these processes.

The CPC will focus on the cost-of-living crisis, mitigating child poverty, recognising, and assessing the increased threat of structural and societal neglect, recruitment and retention in practice, demographics, and service demands.

The CPC will seek to support continuous improvement in Child Protection training & planning that is tailored to meet local needs while complying with national standards. It will ensure the consistent delivery of an integrated approach confirming staff are confident & competent, encouraging policies and plans that centre around Childrens' wellbeing.

In that regard the CPC will support in person & online practitioner and managers events ensuring the seamless roll out of the revised child protection procedures.

The CPC will continue to review and refresh multi-agency child protection policies and guidance, to ensure they are in-line with the National CP Guidance. We will also give consideration to further development of a contextual safeguarding approach.

Participation in and governance of audit activities will continue, and, in that regard, it will consider multi-agency self-evaluation and quality assurance strategy and planning.

We will continue to reassure and develop systems across services that encourage the early identification of concerns, so that in a Learning Review atmosphere we can identify and rectify any skills, knowledge, or training gaps within our child protection systems. Moreover, the CPC will continue to seek out best practices from across the country and implement support mechanisms focusing on what are often complex children's stories, support for practitioner's and seek resolution.

The CPC will assist and endorse the creation of pan-Ayrshire collaborative processes including Learning Review Guidance, Philomena Protocols, and Age of Criminal Responsibility direction.

The CPC will continue to promote & grow its profile and broaden public information avenues and internal communications. It will ensure information can be readily accessed by practitioners, communities, and families, and in that regard, it will

continue to participate in national events, create induction guidance, develop websites, QR codes, Leaflets, newsletters, and annual report visibility.

We will seek to sustain and support the continuity of business within the newly formed subgroups.

The CPC will continue to ensure that there is a clear priority for the coming year in having up to date, clearly accessible and understood Policies and Procedures for Child Protection across all committee members. This remains an ongoing area for focus.

## Appendix 1 - Child Protection Committee Members 2022-2023

Member	Designation
Jim Kerr	Independent Chair
Mark Inglis	Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services
Gary Hoey	Chief Social Work Officer
Beth MacLean	Lead Officer, Child Protection
Jacqui Ferguson	CPC Minute Taker
Meg Williams	Service Manager, Social Work Practice
Tom Penman	Team Leader, Practice Development
Scott Mulholland	Quality Improvement Manager, Educational Services
Gillian Carroll	Child Protection & Wellbeing Officer, Education
Jim Hendrie	Child Protection & Wellbeing Officer, Education
Angi Pinkerton	Trauma Informed Practice Officer
Margaret Headrick	Trading Standards Officer
Jackie Hamilton	Senior Manager, Children's and Justice Localities Services
Mark Conway	Team Leader, Community Learning & Development
Marina McLaughlin	Nurse Consultant Child Protection, NHS Ayrshire, and Arran
Alexa Foster	Clinical Midwifery Manager for Integrated Care
Jayne Miller	Senior Manager, Children's Health
Rosemary Robertson	Associate Nurse Director
Anne Murphy	Child Protection Advisor, NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Alexa Forester	Clinical Midwifery Manager NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Alison Morrison	Link Inspector, Care Inspectorate
Jane Henderson	Clinical Midwifery Manager NHS Ayrshire & Arran

Sarah Foran	Locality Reporter Manager, SCRA
Dawn Parker	Corporate Parenting Lead Officer (Champions Board)
Olivia Khan	Participation Assistant, Champions Board
Ellison Lang	Public Protection Policy and Implementation Officer
Faye Murfet	ADP Lead Officer
Siobhan Reid	NHS Lead for Safeguarding Midwives.
Christine McMenamin	Co-ordinator, Legal Services
Sheila Tyeson	Senior Manager. Planning, Performance and Commissioning.
Linda West	Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA)
Mark Taylor	Adult Support and Protection Lead Officer
Russell Hamilton	Manager, Children's Health, Care and Justice Services
Karen Briggs	Service Lead – Legal and Licensing
Sara Burdon	Co-ordinator – Public Affairs, People Directorate
Emma Douglas	SAC Housing
Jamie Tait	Service Lead, Thriving Communities.
Derek Cree	Detective Superintendent, Police Scotland
Fraser Normansell	Detective Chief Inspector Police Scotland

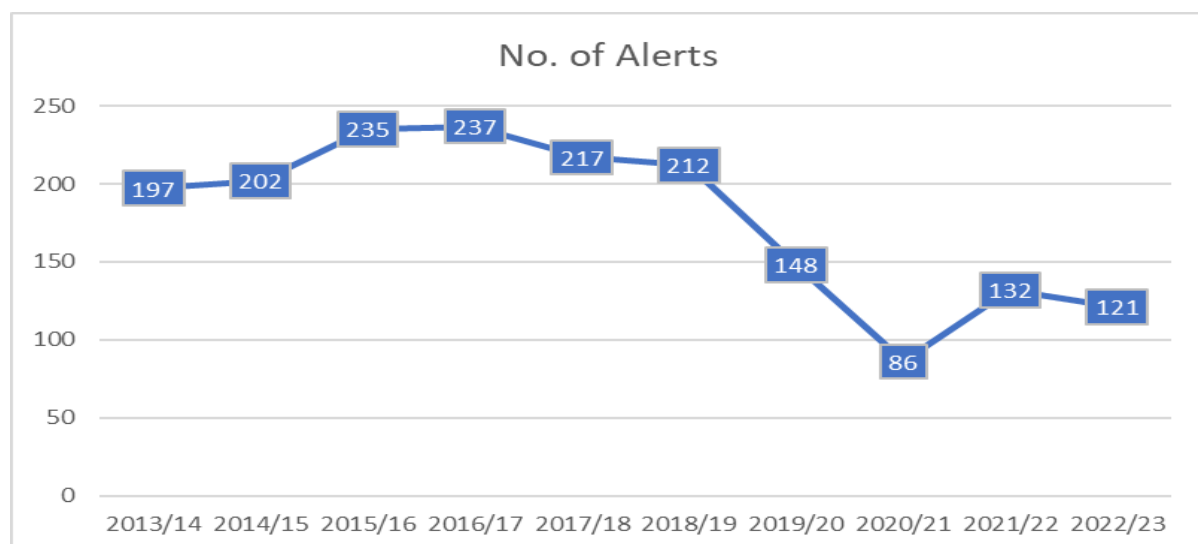
## Appendix 2 - Child Protection Committee Performance 2022-23

The CPC continues to monitor performance information through the Minimum Dataset for Child Protection Committees. During and since the COVID-19 pandemic, a weekly child protection dataset has been submitted to Scottish Government.

### Child Protection Alerts

A child protection 'alert' is raised when the decision is made to investigate under the auspice of child protection. It ensures core agencies (Health, Education and Police) and out of hours social work services are aware a child is subject to active investigation in relation to a child protection concern and can respond accordingly.

**Figure 1: Annual Child Protection Alerts (New) 2013/14-2022/23**

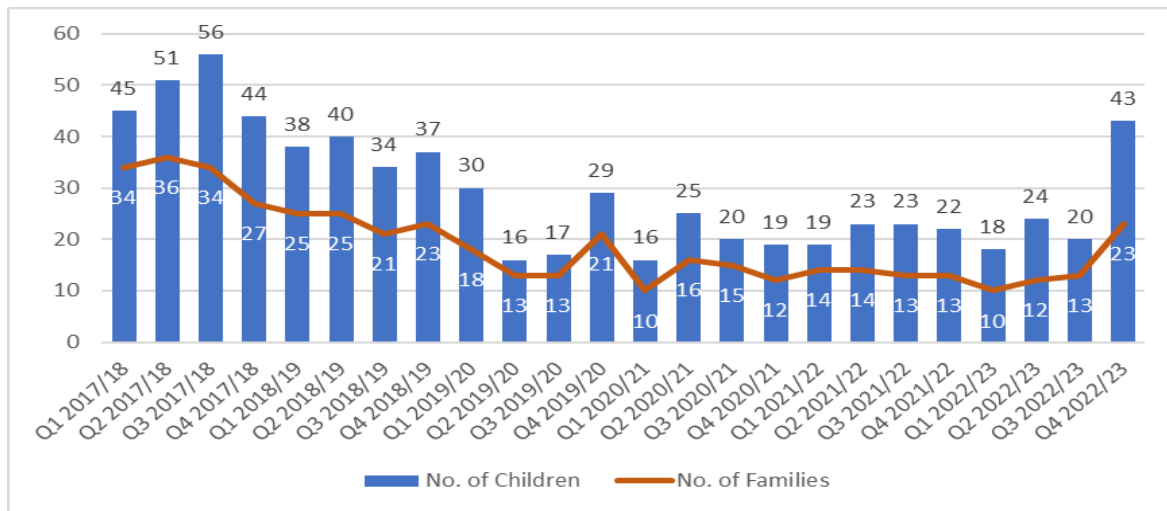


Annual Child Protection Alerts have decreased from 132 in 2021/22 to 121 in 2022/23.

### Child Protection Register

On 31st July 2023, in South Ayrshire, there were a total of 43 children from 23 family groups on the Child Protection Register. This is a significant increase from July 2022 when 22 children were on the Child Protection Register from 13 family groups.

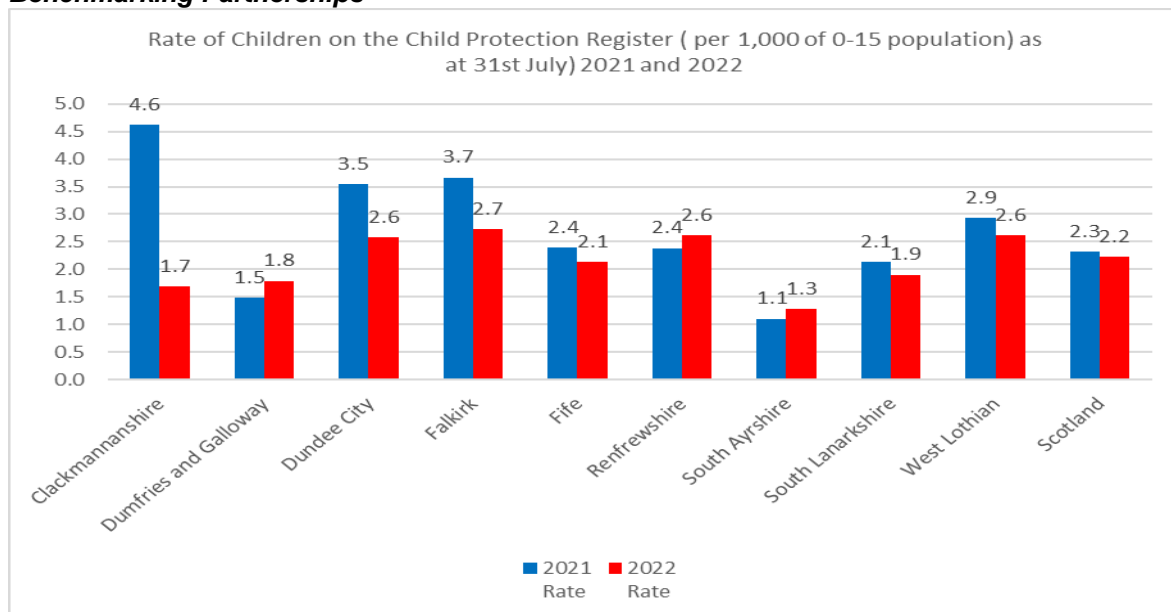
**Figure 2: Quarterly number of children on the child protection register**



Children are placed on the Child Protection Register when there are significant concerns for their safety. Children on the register will be the subject of close monitoring and support with a multi-agency plan to effect changes to reduce risk. If the risks to a child cannot be managed with their remaining at home, alternative care arrangements are considered. Once it is assessed that the level of risk has reduced sufficiently, the child’s name will be removed from the Register.

The chart below shows the South Ayrshire rate of children on the Child Protection Register as at the 31 July for both 2021 and 2022 compared to the family group partnerships for benchmarking. South Ayrshire had the lowest rate of children on the Child Protection Register for both 2021 and 2022 at 1.1 and 1.3 respectively. The national average has remained fairly level at 2.3 in 2021 and 2.2 in 2023. Falkirk had the highest rate out of all of the family groups in 2022 at 2.7.

**Figure 3: Rate of Children on the Child Protection Register for South Ayrshire Family Benchmarking Partnerships**

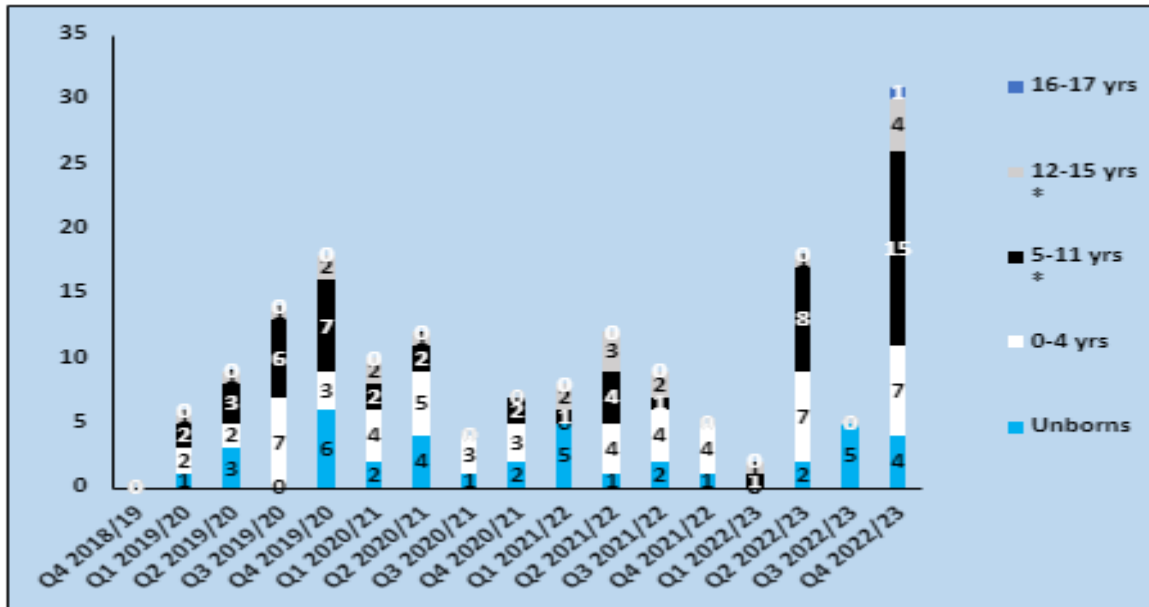


**\*at time of writing, 2023 statistics had not been published\***

### Age of Children and Young People at Registration

The graph below shows the age profile of children placed on the Child Protection Register each quarter from July 2019 to July 2023.

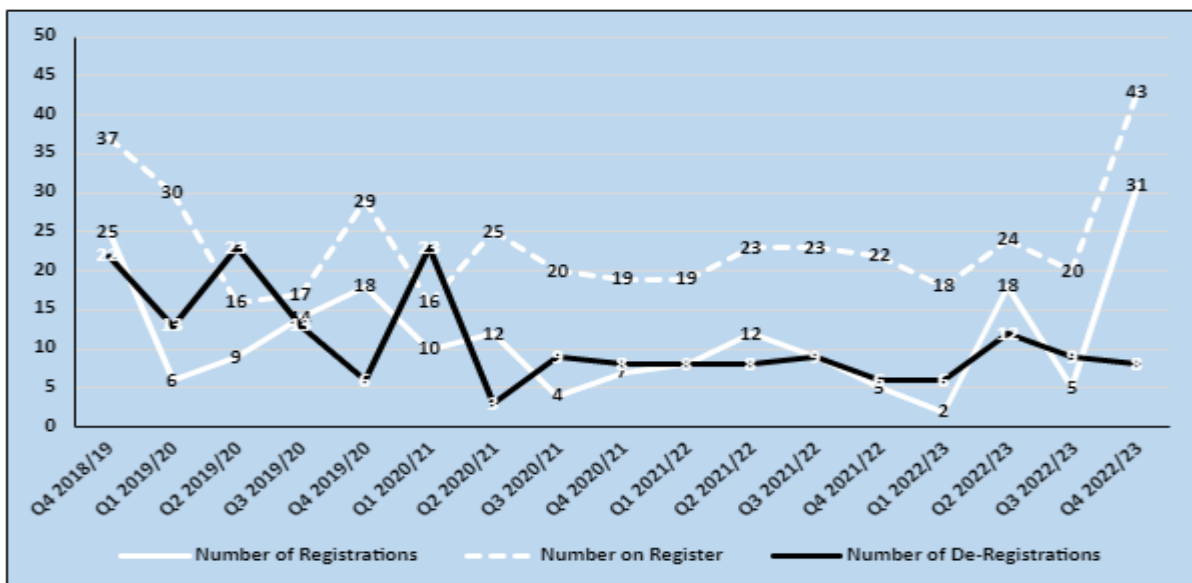
Figure 4: Age profile of children at point of registration



At 31 July 2023, the age range with the highest number of children on the child protection register was 5-11 years followed by the 0-4 year age group.

### Registration activity

Figure 5: No. of New Registrations, De-registrations and number on the Register.



### Vulnerability Factors and Impacts on/abuse of the Child



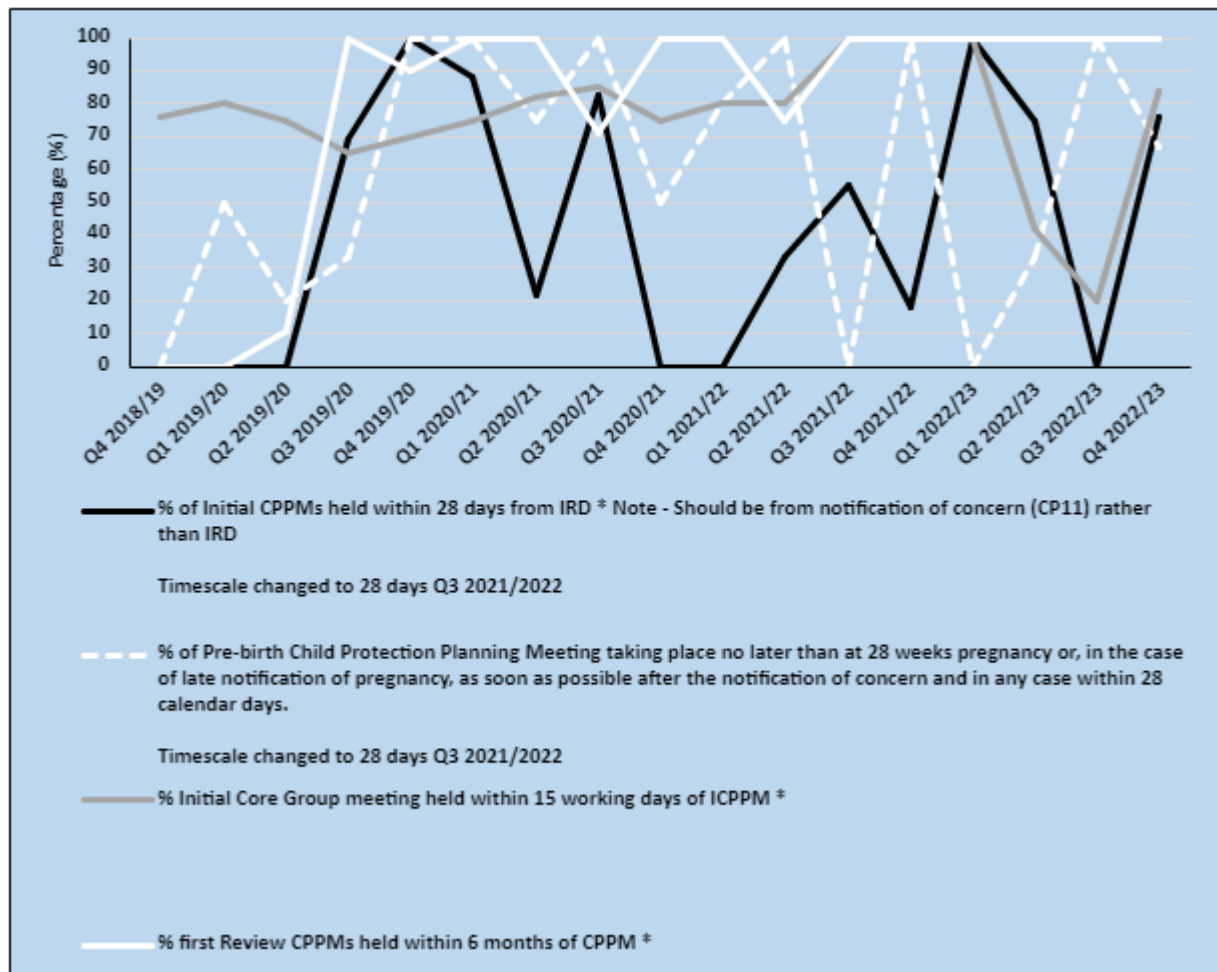
At 31 July 2023, the main area Vulnerability Factor was Parental Mental Health followed by Domestic Abuse. The highest impact on/ abuse of the children was Neglect.

**Table 1: Factors and Impacts recorded at point of registration (%)**

<b>VULNERABILITY FACTORS</b>				
Services finding it hard to engage	0	33	20	29
Child affected by Parent/Carer Learning Difficulty or Learning Difficulties	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
Child affected by Parent/Carer Mental Ill-Health	0	44	100	58
Child experiencing Mental Health Problems	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
Domestic Abuse	0	28	60	52
Parental Alcohol Use	0	33	0	26
Parental Drug Use	0	28	80	42
<b>Child Placing Themselves At Risk</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Child displaying Harmful Sexual Behaviour	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
Online Safety	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
<b>IMPACTS ON / ABUSE OF THE CHILD</b>				
Physical Abuse	100	33	0	10
Emotional Abuse	0	33	0	3
Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	6
Criminal Exploitation	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
Child Trafficking	0	0	0	0
Neglect	100	50	0	55
Female Genital Mutilation	0	0	0	0
Honour-based abuse and Forced Marriage	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
Child Sexual Exploitation	0	6	0	0
Internet-enabled Sexual Offending	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
Underage Sex	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
Other Concern(s)	0	0	80	10
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31</b>

## Child Protection Process Timescales

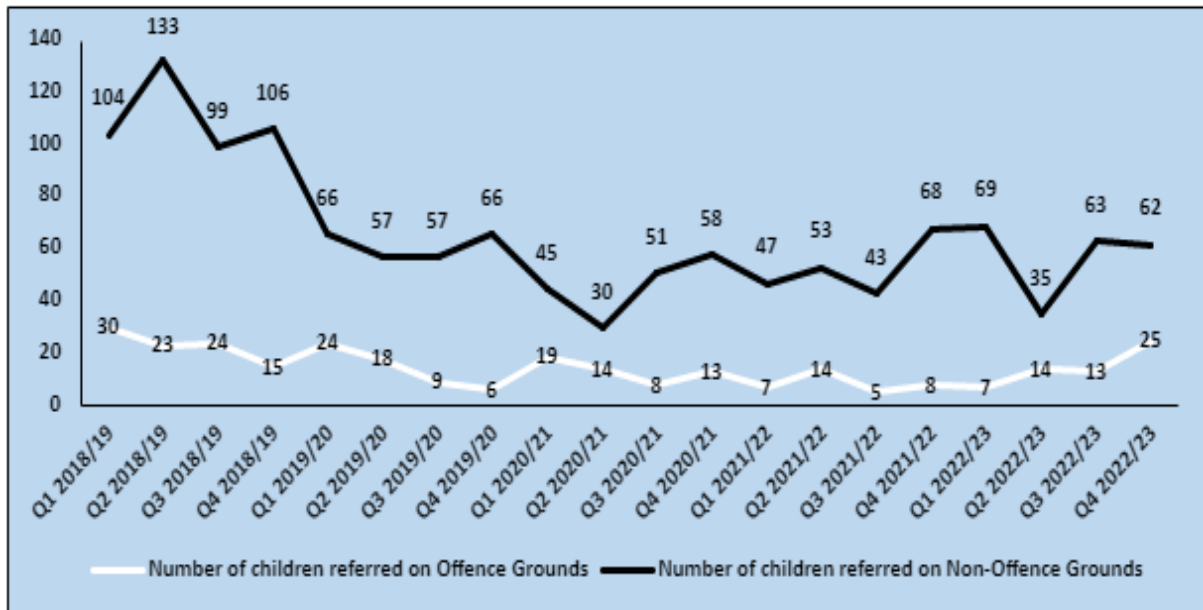
Figure 6: Timescales in the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (Percentage within Timescale)



As at July 2023 76% of Initial CPPMs were held within 28 days from IRD, 67% of Pre Birth Child Protection Planning Meetings took place no later than 28 weeks pregnancy, 84% of Initial Core Group Meetings were held within 15 working days of ICPPM and 100% of first review CPPM's were held within 6 months of CPPM.

## Children Referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)

Figure 7: Number of children referred to the Children's Reporter on Offence and Non Offence Grounds. Q1 2018/19 to Q4 2022/23.



The number of Children referred to SCRA in Q4 2022/23 was 25 which is the highest number over the past 4 years of reporting. The number of children referred on Non-Offence Grounds has seen a general decrease from 2018/19 to 2021/22. The numbers rose again during 2022/23 and were consistently above 60 per quarter with the exception of Q2 2022/23 where they dropped to the second lowest level seen in the past four years.

HSCP Planning & Performance  
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