

<p>Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership</p> <p>Held on</p>	<p>Integration Joint Board</p> <p>14th December 2022</p>	
<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>9</p>	
<p>Title:</p>	<p>Child Protection Trend Analysis South Ayrshire November 2022</p>	
<p>Summary:</p> <p>South Ayrshire has seen a consistent reduction in the number of Children who are placed on the Child Protection Register over the past three years. This being for Children who are deemed to be “<i>Children at risk of significant harm</i>”. This is the third annual report which reflects on Child Protection data and other data to give an assurance on the approach to Child Protection in South Ayrshire. While South Ayrshire’s Child Protection Registration is lower than the national average and her bench marking Local Authorities, could this be a reflection of the Prevention and Early and Effective intervention approaches employed over recent years? Or are there other factors which should be considered?</p>		
<p>Author:</p>	<p>Mark Inglis</p>	
<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>For the IJB to note the Child Protection Trends report for 2022 and to consider its content and the implications for the IJB and its strategic priorities of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “<i>We focus on prevention and tackling inequality</i>” - “<i>We nurture and are part of communities that care for and each other</i>” - “<i>We help build communities where people are safe</i>” - “<i>We work together to give you the right care in the right place</i>” 		
<p>Route to meeting:</p> <p>The paper has been to the Child Protection Committee 22nd November 2022 and will go to the Chief Officers Group on the 20th December 2022, prior to coming to the IJB.</p>		
<p>Directions:</p> <p>1. No Directions Required <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2. Directions to NHS Ayrshire & Arran <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3. Directions to South Ayrshire Council <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4. Directions to both SAC & NHS <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>HR <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Legal <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Equalities <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Policy <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
		<p>ICT <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Page</p>

CHILD PROTECTION TREND ANALYSIS – SOUTH AYRSHIRE NOVEMBER 2022

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Integrated Joint Board of the Child Protection Trends for 2021 – 2022 and to consider the implications and possible reasons for these as reflected in the report.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board note the Child Protection Trends Analysis for 2022, and to consider its content and the implications for the IJB and its strategic priorities of;**

- *“We focus on prevention and tackling inequality”*
- *“We nurture and are part of communities that care for and each other”*
- *“We help build communities where people are safe”*
- *“We work together to give you the right care in the right place”*

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

South Ayrshire has seen a consistent reduction in the number of Children who are placed on the Child Protection Register over the past three years. This being Children who are deemed to be *“Children at risk of significant harm”*.

This is the third annual report which reflects on Child Protection data and other factors to give an assurance on the approach to Child Protection in South Ayrshire. The report reflects that while South Ayrshire’s Child Protection Registration numbers are lower than the national average and South Ayrshire’s bench marking Local Authorities, this is not inconsistent with other trends, such the reduction in Looked After Children and the use of external residential placements.

The question that should be considered by the IJB is whether this could be a reflection of the Prevention and Early and Effective intervention approaches employed over recent years? Or whether there are other reasonable explanations which should be explored to provide fuller assurance.

The IJB are invited to consider the report and what it means in terms of delivering on the IJB strategic priorities.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 The IJB should refer to the Child Protection Trend Analysis, South Ayrshire report November 2022 and consider whether the report provides adequate assurance as to the number of children on the Child Protection Register for South Ayrshire.

5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The IJB's strategic priorities which relate to Child Protection are;

- *"We focus on prevention and tackling inequality"*
- *"We nurture and are part of communities that care for and each other"*
- *"We help build communities where people are safe"*
- *"We work together to give you the right care in the right place"*

6. IMPLICATIONS

Are the IJB assured at the number of children on the Child Protection Register, are there other factors that should be taken into consideration?

It is likely that when Children Services are Inspected, that the number of Children on the Child Protection Registration will be a matter of focus and require evidence of our scrutiny and rigor to understand the reasons for this.

It would be unacceptable for South Ayrshire to have Children to be at Risk of Significant Harm and to not be supported and managed through the Child Protection procedures which govern how care and protection for this group of children is provided.

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 None

6.2 Human Resource Implications

6.2.1 None

6.3 Legal Implications

6.3.1 None

6.4 Equalities implications

6.4.1 None

6.5 Sustainability implications

6.5.1 None

6.6 Clinical/professional assessment

6.6.1 The Chief Social Work Officer has read the report as part of the Child Protection Committee and has referred to it as part of his annual CSWO report.

7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- 7.1 South Ayrshire's Child Protection Committee, and South Ayrshire's Chief Officer Group
- 7.2 The Child Protection Trend Analysis report November 2022 has been compiled through access to data from a range of sources, including, Scottish Children's Reporters Authority, Police Scotland, Health data, Care Inspectorate data, South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Looked After data.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1. The risk around this report, is that there is not appropriate scrutiny and analysis of the information and that there is a "professional optimism" that is applied to some of the Preventative and Early Intervention work referred to.
- 8.2. The Risk is that there are Children within South Ayrshire who are at Risk of Significant Harm who are not accessing the appropriate supports to keep them safe and to enable them to thrive. This could have significant implications for the IJB in terms of reputational damage and litigation.

REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT

Name: **Mark Inglis**
Phone number: **01292 616127**
Email address: Mark.inglis@South-Ayrshire.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

1st December 2022