



Clackmannanshire and Stirling Child Protection Newsletter



This edition

- Scottish Government Review
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- Human Trafficking pack
- Domestic Abuse Policy
- Update on Young Runaways

Joint Investigative Interviewing

- **Revised Guidance:** the revised Guidance on Joint Investigative Interviewing of Child Witnesses in Scotland will be published in autumn 2011.
- **Equipment:** Visual recording equipment (initial cost funded by the Scottish Government) has been purchased and will be introduced throughout Stirling, including Clackmannanshire and Stirling, in autumn 2011. An ACPOS Digital Project Manager is taking responsibility for both the introduction process and the completion of draft accommodation and technical standards. The project is being overseen by a Project Board including representatives from ACPOS, ADSW, the SCPCCF, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and the Scottish Government.
- **Training:** The National Strategic Group training sub-group (set up in late 2010 and involving ACPOS, ADSW, CPC and the Faculty of the Advanced JII Training Clinic) is ensuring that local practitioners, supervisors and managers are given updated training and professional development on the revised guidance and visual recording of interviews. It will also identify training and development requirements and delivery mechanisms. This includes looking at how best to deliver training and assess practitioners', supervisors' and managers' competence/ongoing competence in this area in the future, along with considering the accreditation of training. A draft Discussion Paper on Joint Investigative Interview Training and Development Issues was issued on 3 August and a joint response has been submitted from Clackmannanshire and Stirling Child Protection Committee and Falkirk Child Protection Committee.



Review of Getting our Priorities Right:

Getting Our Priorities Right, the review of key practitioner guidance for children affected by parental substance misuse, is progressing. Working as part of the national process, Elaine Brown, Substance Development Officer, Stirling Council, and Anne Salter, Lead Officer Child Protection, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Child Protection Committee, are helping to update the current guidance and considering new areas to add. This November, all stakeholders will meet, after which a rough draft identifying areas requiring further discussion with the contributors and the Steering Group will be produced. A draft should be ready for consultation in early 2012.

Child Protection Training

A national multi-disciplinary child protection framework is in development. One of the recommendations being considered is that Child Protection Committees should be responsible for setting their local strategic direction for child protection training, skills and development.



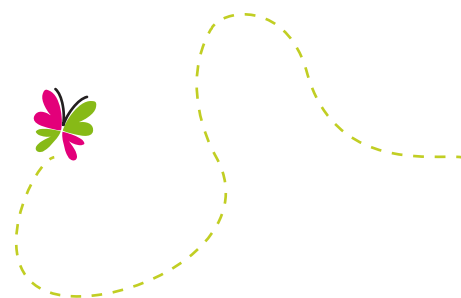
Scottish Government Review of MARS and SCCPN

(Multi-agency Resource Service) and (Scottish Child Care and Protection Network)

The Scottish Government has published an independent review of the MARS and SCCPN. The report provides a robust overview of their work and the experience of service users. It gives considerable insight into what is useful for practice and policy development, and ideas for the future development of the hub and ongoing work programme. The report can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/08/29142335/0> and future proposals at <http://www.mars.stir.ac.uk/news/MARS-and-SCCPN-Future-Proposals/867>.

Forth Valley Human Trafficking Training Pack

The Forth Valley Human Trafficking training pack, which was developed by practitioners from agencies across Clackmannanshire, Stirling and Falkirk Child protection Committees, is available on the MARS website and is being piloted by Perth and Kinross CPC and Violence Against Women partnerships. <http://www.mars.stir.ac.uk/content/Child-Exploitation/39>



“Voice Against Violence are producing a DVD to raise awareness about the impact of domestic abuse on young people”

Training

Child Protection, Recognition & Response

26 Oct 2011, 8 Dec 2011

A one-day session designed for all social care staff to promote effective collaborative practice for children in the Stirling area.

Best Practice in Recording & Chronologies

24-25 Nov 2011, 20-21 Feb 2012

This programme focuses on promoting better outcomes for children and young people in case recording and chronologies.

Risk Assessment & Decision Making

Nov 2011 (tbc), 26-27 Jan 2012

A two-day programme to help practitioners explore their own risk assessment and decision-making practices.

Child Development, Attachment & Resilience

17-18 Oct 2011, 28-29 Feb 2012

Child development, the impact of parenting on an infant's brain and the consequences of neglect in early years.

Forth Valley's Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) for Youth Offending

Forth Valley's Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) for Youth Offending is a partnership service which is being introduced throughout Forth Valley. Central Scotland Police will report concerns regarding a child's alleged offending behaviour to the EEI Coordinator. The Coordinator will work with partner agencies to consider what, if any, further action is required to ensure the child receives the support they require to prevent future offending. EEI launched in Clackmannanshire on 29 August 2011. The next area planned to become part of the service is Falkirk, which is due to go live on 19 September 2011.



Children's Rights and Children's Services Legislation

On 7 September, as part of the Programme for Government, the First Minister announced plans for a Rights of Children and Young People Bill to be introduced into the Scottish Parliament in early summer 2012. The Bill proposes that Scottish Ministers will in future be legally bound to consider the rights of children (as set down in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) in their decision-making for the first time. Consultation on the Bill begins on 8 September and finishes on 1 December. Details can be found here: <http://sh45inta/Publications/2011/09/07110058/0>. The consultation will be backed by a series of Ministerial discussion events which will also look at how further policy and legislative reforms can support the transformation of children's services.

Further legislation – a Children's Services Bill aimed at improving how public services support children, young people and their families – was also announced. The Children's Services Bill, which will be the subject of a consultation next year, will look to introduce further measures including putting both 'Getting it right for every child' and the Early Years Framework on a statutory footing.



Domestic Abuse Policy

The National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People (June 2008–June 2011) is now in its legacy phase. Of the 13 priorities, some have been completed (the schools resource, DARTSS, and the support website Safe Hub); some have been mainstreamed (e.g. routine enquiry in health settings); some are continuing (e.g. Caledonian System, Domestic Abuse Court and ASSIST), and others are being taken forward by relevant areas in the Scottish Government (e.g. better housing outcomes for women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse).

One important area is the issue of safe contact in the context of domestic abuse. A short-life working group based in the Scottish Borders Council area has produced a series of recommendations about safe contact, some of which are being piloted locally. Work underway by the Scottish Government has been scoped and a range of external stakeholders have been consulted about the working group's recommendations. A further short-life working group will be established to examine the role of bar reporters.

A Domestic Abuse Advisory Group has been established to consider how the Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People can best help improve the lives of children and young people experiencing domestic abuse. The Scottish Government is represented on the group, with Scottish Women's Aid, ASSIST, West Lothian Council, CLICP, ACPOS and an expert on children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.

Voice Against Violence, the young experts on domestic abuse who advise Ministers and COSLA, are producing a DVD on their work to raise awareness about the impact of domestic abuse on young people. The DVD will also illustrate the benefits of developing policy with the meaningful participation of young people.



Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)

International FASD Awareness Day took place on 9 September 2011. FASD is a range of birth defects that may be caused by maternal drinking during pregnancy. As children affected by FASD grow, they tend to display a variety of learning difficulties and behavioural problems. These problems cannot be “cured” nor do they fade with time. Children affected might be regarded as being wilful or undisciplined when in fact they have very little control over their behaviour.

The Scottish Government recognises that this is an important issue and had recruited Public Health Consultant, Dr Maggie Watts, to co-ordinate FASD work nationally. Current estimates suggest that there are over 10,000 people (from birth to 18 years) affected by FASD in Scotland.

Advice from Scotland’s Chief Medical Officer, Dr Harry Burns is clear – women who are pregnant or trying to conceive should completely avoid alcohol. Pre-pregnancy advice is included because foetal alcohol harm can occur during the weeks before a pregnancy is confirmed.

The top priority is the prevention of FASD. Services are attempting to reach prospective mothers and their partners earlier with accurate FASD information. The key message is that alcohol and pregnancy do not mix and to ask that everyone consider how they can support pregnant women to avoid alcohol for the duration of their pregnancy.

“Children affected might be regarded as being wilful or undisciplined when in fact they have very little control over their behaviour.”



Forced Marriage Legislation

The Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Act 2011 received Royal Assent on 27 April 2011 and is due to come into force on 28 November 2011. The main provisions of the 2011 Act are to:

- protect people from being forced to marry or who have already been forced into marriage without their free and full consent;
- introduce civil Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPO) to protect people from being forced to marry or who have already been so;
- make it a criminal offence to breach a FMPO;
- enable Scottish Ministers to apply the provisions of part one of the Act to civil partnerships;
- require statutory agencies to respond appropriately; and
- clarify the authority of the Sheriff Court for annulling (declaring invalid) such marriages.

Awareness raising and the development of training materials will be part of the Act’s introduction and the Scottish Government will issue statutory and practitioner guidance before it comes into force. The statutory guidance will set out the responsibilities of chief executives, directors and senior managers within agencies involved with handling cases of forced marriage. It will cover roles and responsibilities, accountability, training, inter-agency working and information sharing, risk assessment and record-keeping.

The multi-agency practitioner guidelines are aimed at frontline practitioners who are responsible for protecting children and adults from the abuse associated with forced marriage. As well as sections covering the background to forced marriage and legal context, there will be service-specific information including a section covering child protection.

Child Protection Toolkit

Following the recent development of the Child Protection Toolkit for Community Groups, the Communities Team in partnership with Clackmannanshire and Stirling Child Protection Committee have hosted two well received workshops on Awareness Raising on Child Protection, which also launched the toolkit. Twenty-six participants from a wide range of organisations, including community councils, development trusts, nurseries, Crossroads West Stirlingshire and Dyslexia Scotland, attended the session. Feedback was extremely positive and all participants said that their knowledge had been increased. Due to the demand a further session is planned for Monday 24 October, which is now fully booked.

Some of the people who attended commented: “I have gained a good sense of knowledge on child protection”; “Good case studies and group discussions”; “Good learning curve”; “Very interesting”, and “Friendly facilitators who enjoyed sharing their knowledge.”

For more information and requests for the toolkit, please contact either Anne Salter, Lead Officer Child Protection, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Child Protection Committee saltera@stirling.gov.uk or tel: 01786 443379 or Pam Campbell, Community Worker, Stirling Council campbellp@stirling.gov.uk or tel: 01786 432156



Update on Young Runaways

The Young Runaways (YR) Process was rolled out across Forth Valley on 1 September 2010. Police and partners are engaged in the joint delivery and development of early, effective intervention and preventative strategies to ensure that young people who are reported missing are safeguarded.

Although the process focuses on preventing young people from going missing, it has already shown that information sharing and enhanced multi-agency participation assists the early identification of other risks and concerns for the child/young person, allowing these to be addressed in an appropriate, proportionate and timely manner, resulting in the individual getting the necessary help at their time of need.

The process has also indicated a series of improved outcomes for children/young people. They include :

- Disclosures of physical and/or sexual harm and substance misuse. These have been addressed through a multi-agency response.
- A series of Internet Safety Seminars run by Community Safety across Forth Valley has been well attended by young people and their parents
- Self evaluations conducted with children, young people and families involved with the process provided a positive response. These comments particularly pointed out the very positive impact of Return Home Welfare Interviews conducted by Community Police Officers, who visit young people the first and second times they run away.
- During 2010, the number of missing episodes in Forth Valley reduced by 464 compared to 2009. The early and effective intervention measures used by the pilot appear to have influenced the safety of children/young people. In addition, the impact on operational officers has also reduced. Based on financial information produced by NPJA (National Policing Improvement Agency), the average missing person enquiry costs £1,500 so this equates to savings of approximately £696,000.

In 2010 the Young Runaways Process received a Highly Commended National Policing Award and through continued evaluation, analysis and the ongoing work within the process, it will continue to strive to identify positive outcomes for children and young people who run away.



For further information on the newsletter please contact:

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Child Protection Contact Details

Social Work Stirling Initial Assessment Team: **01786 471177**

Social Work Clackmannanshire: **01259 225000**

Police: **01786 456000**

Health: Contact your GP or Local Health Centre

Reporter to the Children's Panel: **01786 476400**

Out of Hours Social Work (after 5pm and at weekends): **01786 470500**

Substance Misuse Services

Freagarrach: (service for children and young people aged 12-18 years)

Tel: **01786 450963**

Email: freagarrachstirling@barnardos.org.uk

Signpost Recovery: (drug and alcohol support service 18 years +)

Tel: **01786 450963**

Email: info@signpostrecovery.org.uk