

Clackmannanshire  
Child Protection  
Committee



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## Briefing Note

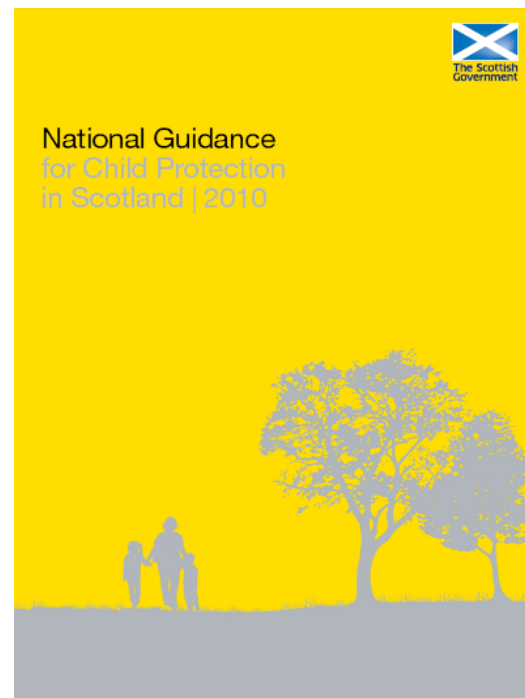
### The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2010

### From National Guidance to Local Implementation

## **Background**

In December 2010, the Scottish Government published *'The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland'*. This guidance:

- Includes a full revision of the previous national guidance ***'Protecting Children – A Shared Responsibility: Guidance on inter-Agency Co-operation (1998);***
- Incorporates the previous CPC Guidance – **Scottish Executive (2005) - *Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committees;*** and
- Takes account of all major child protection policy developments and/or legislative developments since 1998 – including policy developments from the ***Child Protection Reform Programme*** and ***Getting it Right for Every Child;***



## **Key changes include:-**

- ***Child Protection Register*** – registration categories will be removed and replaced with child focussed risk, needs and vulnerability indicators (Appendix 1). Fuller guidance in relation to each of the risk factors can be found in Part 4 of the guidance;
- ***Child Protection Case Conferences*** – existing arrangements strengthened regarding chairing, attendance, participation, provision of reports, dispute resolution and new timescales being specified (Appendix 2);
- ***Child Protection*** – definition broadened beyond familial abuse and firmly set within the wider public protection and ***GIRFEC*** policy framework and/or approach;
- ***Chief Officers and Child Protection Committees*** – existing arrangements strengthened, core business functions extended and/or enhanced further, single service/agency roles specified and wider planning links articulated.

## **What does it look like?**

The guidance is presented in four parts, in a hybrid of **high level guidance, detailed guidance** (e.g. Information Sharing), **key messages for practice** and **electronic links** to other helpful resources and policy documents:-

**Part 1 – The context for child protection** addresses the definitions, key principles, standards and legislative framework that underpin the approach to keeping children safe and promoting their welfare;

**Part 2 – Roles and responsibilities for child protection** outlines the core responsibilities of services and organisations including statutory and non statutory services, third sector organisations, and church and faith communities. The role and functions of Child Protection Committees are addressed here, as well as the key responsibilities of Chief Officers. Effective leadership and staff development and training are also outlined as are the connections with other strategic planning fora;

**Part 3 – Identifying and responding to concerns about children** provides a framework for identifying and managing risk and outlines the common stages of responding to concerns about a child's safety. This includes early gathering of information, joint decision-making and planning, joint investigations and medical examinations and assessment and Child Protection Case Conferences;

**Part 4 – Child protection in specific circumstances** gives additional information on dealing with specific circumstances that may impact adversely on children as well as addressing operational considerations in certain circumstances. While a range of special or specific circumstances has been included, the national guidance signposts to relevant policies and materials or provides a framework of standards that local policies will need to consider.

### **Specific circumstances include:**

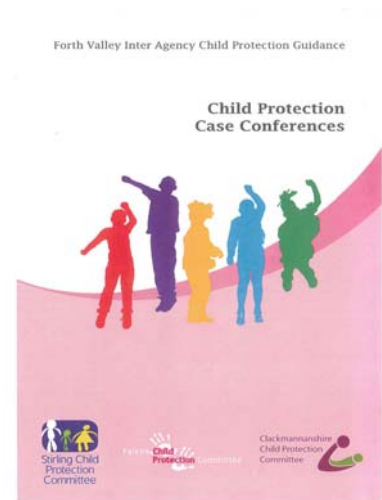
- *Domestic abuse*
- *Parental alcohol and drug misuse*
- *Disability*
- *Non engaging families*
- *Children and young people experiencing mental health problems*
- *Children and young people affected by mental health problems*
- *Children and young people who display harmful or problematic sexual behaviour*
- *Female genital mutilation*
- *Honour based violence and forced marriage*
- *Fabricated or induced illness*
- *Sudden unexpected death in infants and children*

New forms of harm to children have emerged in recent years and the guidance also makes reference to this, and includes:

- *Child trafficking*
- *Historic allegations of abuse*
- *Children who are looked after away from home*
- *Online and mobile phone child safety*
- *Children and young people who place themselves at risk*
- *Children and young people who are missing*
- *Underage sexual activity*
- *Bullying*

### **Further information**

Forth Valley Inter-Agency Child Protection Guidelines have been reviewed and additional guidance on ***Child Protection Case Conferences*** has been developed to reflect the key changes as described previously.



The full version of the National Guidance and the Child Protection case Conference guidance can be accessed via Child Protection Committee websites:

### **Falkirk CPC**

[http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social\\_work/children\\_and\\_family\\_services/child\\_protection/child\\_protection\\_committee/how\\_the\\_cpc\\_works.aspx](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social_work/children_and_family_services/child_protection/child_protection_committee/how_the_cpc_works.aspx)

### **Stirling/Clackmannanshire CPC**

<http://www.stirling.gov.uk/index/life/supportforfamilies/childprotection.htm>

<http://www.clacksweb.org.uk/children/childprotection/>

Further information regarding the National Guidance can be obtained from:

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## **Appendix 1**

### **New Data Set For Child Protection Statistical Return**

The finalised list of areas of concern is attached below for ease of reference:

- Domestic abuse
- Parental alcohol misuse
- Parental drug misuse
- Non-engaging family
- Parental mental health problems
- Children placing themselves at risk
- Sexual abuse
- Child exploitation
- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Other concern(s)

## Appendix 2

### TIMESCALES FOR DIFFERENT STAGES OF ACTING ON CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS

National timescales have been introduced for CPCCs as well as for the production of minutes and Child Protection Plans. Every effort should be made to meet the timescales within the national guidance but it is recognised that this may not always be possible. The reasons for not complying with the timescales should be recorded, along with a proposed future date for completion.

<i>Notification of concern to initial CPCC</i>	The initial CPCC should be held as soon as practically possible and no later than <b>21 calendar days</b> from the notification of concern
<i>Invitations</i>	Participants should be given a minimum of five calendar days' notice of the decision to convene a CPCC whenever possible
<i>Review CPCC</i>	The first review CPCC should be held <b>within three months</b> of the initial CPCC. Thereafter, reviews should take place <b>six monthly</b> or earlier if circumstances change
<i>Pre-birth CPCC</i>	The CPCC should take place <b>no later than at 28 weeks pregnancy</b> or, in the case of late notification of pregnancy, as soon as possible after the notification of concern and in any case <b>within 21 calendar days</b>
<i>Core group</i>	The initial core group meeting should be held <b>within 15 calendar days</b> of the initial CPCC
<i>Minutes</i>	Participants should receive the minutes <b>within 15 calendar days</b> of the CPCC
<i>CP Plan</i>	Participants should receive a copy of the agreed Child Protection Plan <b>within five calendar days</b> of the CPCC
<i>Changes to CP Plan</i>	Where a core group identifies the need to make significant changes to the CP Plan they should notify the CPCC chair <b>within three calendar days</b>