

Stirling Child Protection Committee

Stirling Child Protection Committee (C.P.C.) is a multi-agency forum responsible for the development, co-ordination and review of child protection inter-agency policy and practice across Stirling. The C.P.C. is responsible for ensuring that child protection activity complies with national and local standards and aims to promote better outcomes for children and young people.

The C.P.C. arrangements in Stirling have been set up in accordance with the Scottish Executive (S.E.) Guidance (*Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committees*), published in 2005, which aims to ensure the delivery of integrated, high quality, child protection services supported by the commitment and leadership of Chief Officers.

The S.E. Guidance states that the C.P.C.s are the key local bodies for developing and implementing child protection strategy across and between agencies with core functions under public information, continuous improvement in child protection practice and strategic planning.

The Role, Remit and Function of Stirling Child Protection Committee

The role, remit and function of the CPC is as follows:

- to produce and disseminate public information about protecting children and young people
- to play a key role in the continuous improvement of child protection work
- to ensure that clear and robust inter-agency procedures are in place
- to maintain an overview of child protection management information including analysis of trends to ensure that these inform the inter-agency child protection strategy
- to establish mechanisms for quality assurance of inter-agency child protection practice
- to identify and promote good practice, address issues of poor practice and encourage learning from practice
- to have an overview of single agency child protection training and promote, commission and quality assure inter-agency training
- to contribute to strategic planning
- to promote effective communication and co-operation within and between professions and agencies
- to clarify where CPCs link into other multi-agency partnerships and structures
- to prepare and submit to the Scottish Government an annual report and business plan.

Stirling C.P.C. meets six weekly. . It is chaired by George Hunter as Independent Chair.

The membership of the C.P.C. comprises staff who are of sufficient seniority to commit their agency to the decisions of the C.P.C. which is a requirement in the National Guidance.

Agencies currently represented on Stirling C.P.C. include:

- Stirling Council
- N.H.S. Forth Valley
- Central Scotland Police
- Stirling Children's Panel
- Scottish Children's Reporters Administration
- Procurator Fiscal's Office
- Voluntary and Independent Sector partners

Much of the work of Stirling C.P.C. is channelled through the four Forth Valley Child Protection sub-groups (see below). There is also a Voluntary and Independent Sector sub-group, chaired by a member of the sub-group, which works to Stirling and Clackmannanshire C.P.C.s.

Lead Officer Child Protection

The Lead Officer Child Protection works with agencies and partners within Stirling and across Forth Valley to take forward the work of the Stirling Child Protection Committee.

Forth Valley Child Protection Reporting and Sub-Group Arrangements

Each Child Protection Committee within Forth Valley – Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire – is independent and autonomous.

The G5 Child Protection Reporting Group, which consists of the Chairs of the three Child Protection Committees and senior staff from the three councils, Forth Valley N.H.S. and Central Scotland Police, reports to the G5, which is made up of the four Chief Executives from these agencies and the Chief Constable.

There are also four Forth Valley Child Protection sub-groups: –

- Promotion of Good Practice (including public information, communication and co-operation, planning and connections and listening to children and young people) chaired by the Lead Officer Child Protection, Stirling.
- Policies, Procedures and Protocols chaired by the Lead Officer Child Protection, Clackmannanshire.
- Management Information and Quality Assurance chaired by the Lead Officer Child Protection, Falkirk.
- Training, chaired by the Forth Valley Inter-Agency Training Facilitator.

Members of Stirling CPC sit on each of the four Forth Valley sub-groups and are involved in progressing work across Forth Valley including Stirling.