

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE
BIENNIAL REPORT 2012 - 2014
MEETING: EXECUTIVE
DATE: 24 FEBRUARY 2015
AUTHOR: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an overview of the work of the Child Protection Committee over the period 2012 – 2014 and an outline of the priorities for the Committee over the period 2014 - 2016. The report also proposes changes to the Chairing arrangements for the Child Protection Committee

2. BACKGROUND TO THE FALKIRK CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

- 2.1 The Falkirk Child Protection Committee is a long standing committee which has been established and reviewed in accordance with the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014). The Committee is currently chaired by the Director of Social Work Services and for some time now there has been no Vice Chair appointed. The Falkirk Child Protection Committee is the local inter agency strategic partnership which is responsible for Child Protection policy and practice across all partners. On behalf of Chief Officers the Committee provides individual and collective leadership and direction for the management of Child Protection Services in the local area. In carrying out these responsibilities the Child Protection Committee has a specific focus on continuous improvement and public information and communication.
- 2.2 The Falkirk Child Protection Committee reports to the Falkirk Children's Commission which in turn is a working group of the Falkirk Community Planning Partnership. In this way the work of the Committee is closely aligned with the Integrated Children's Service Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement.

3 THE CONTENT OF THE BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

- 3.1 The biennial report which is attached at Appendix 1 provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Committee in fulfilling the key functions of continuous improvement, strategic planning and public information and communication.

- 3.2 The report provides a range of contextual information relating to the demography of the area and the national and local statistical data relating to child protection. The data which is reported on is derived from information reported annually by the Scottish Government. At this point in time published national data is only available covering the 12 month period ending July 2013, with a new set of 2014 data expected in the spring of this year. When published this data will indicate a steady increase in the number of children on the Falkirk Child Protection Register with the figure as of December 2014 sitting at 89 compared to 70 reported in 2013 stats. The child protection issues which being children and young people to our attention are generally concerns relating to physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. The Committee has acknowledged however that concerns about sexual abuse and potential child exploitation can be more hidden and difficult to detect and so this is an area of work which has been a particular focus for the Committee. The report indicates that parental mental health problems, parental substance misuse and domestic abuse are all significant risk factors particularly when all 3 factors are in evidence in individual families.

4 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY

- 4.1 Section 7 of the report outlines the work that the Committee has undertaken in relation to its key functions. In relation to continuous improvement activity, the report outlines a range of work that has been completed to update Child Protection policies, procedures and protocols.

- 4.2 Information is provided on the extensive self evaluation and audit work which is undertaken by a sub group of the Child Protection Committee, the Multi Agency Continuous Improvement Group (MACIG). This group use the Care Inspectorate's draft quality indicators as a framework against which practice is assessed. During the period covered by this biennial report, a range of multi agency audit activity has taken place including:-

- A multi agency review of individual cases
- An audit of child protection referrals to Social Work Services
- An audit of multi agency core group activity
- A six weekly review of all referral made by Education Services to Social Work
- A joint Child Protection/MAPPA Audit
- An audit of processes leading to medical examination of children

The purpose of these audits is to establish how effective current practice is with a primary focus on identifying any areas for improvement. These are monitored regularly through the Child Protection Committee.

- 4.3 Section 7 of the report also provides a range of information relating to how the Child Protection Committee has promoted good practice. Of particular note is the work that has been undertaken to evaluate how child protection processes can improve outcomes for children. During 2012 -2013 a new approach was piloted to help children and their families better understand professional concerns where children's names were on the Falkirk Child Protection register. Staff helped parents to understand the changes needed to improve their children's situation, using a 5 point scale which links to the wellbeing indicators commonly used across Children's Services i.e.:

- Safe
- Healthy
- Active
- Nurtured
- Respected
- Responsible
- Included

The pilot has now been completed and has been externally and positively evaluated by WithScotland.

- 4.4 Also of note in this section of the report is the Committee's participation in a national pilot which aims to improve the ability of local agencies to identify risk associated with child sexual exploitation. This pilot is ongoing and is already beginning to raise awareness of this important risk factor for children which were highlighted in the report produced in 2014 by Professor Alexis Jay in relation to child exploitation in the Rotherham area.
- 4.5 Finally Section 7 of the report provides a comprehensive overview of the work undertaken in the Child Protection Committee to promote and provide multi agency staff learning and development. Of note in this section of the report is the significant level of multi agency training that has been provided. A notable development over the life of this biennial report has been the delivery of locality based multi agency practitioner events, these events have been very well evaluated by practitioners and provide an opportunity for practitioners across the range of statutory and third sector agencies to share knowledge and learning to identify good practice and to consider areas in which practice can be improved in.

5 SECTION 5 STRATEGIC PLANNING

- 5.1 In Section 7.2 of the report outlines the ways in which the Child Protection Committee works closely with other strategic groups at both a national and local level to make sure that the protection of children does not stand alone but is central to policy planning and development. It is noted in this section of the report that Chief Officers across the Forth Valley have now reached agreement in principle to further promote the public protection agenda within the 3 Community Planning Partnerships. This is an area of strength for the Falkirk Child Protection Committee given the close connection with the Falkirk's Children's Commission and in turn the Community Planning Partnership.
- 5.2 This section of the report also highlights the work that has been undertaken to strengthen links with partnership arrangements relating to domestic abuse, alcohol & drugs and MAPPA.

6 PUBLIC INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

6.1 This section of the report highlights the work that the Committee has done to raise public awareness through actions such as:-

- The use of the Citizens Panel survey, to better understand the views of members of the public.
- Internet safety events for parents, carers and members of the public to coincide with safer internet day including an event held at the local Cineworld complex.
- Reviewing and updating all Child Protection public information leaflets and materials and revising the content of the Falkirk Council website.
- In conjunction with the Falkirk Domestic Abuse Forum, hosting various public awareness events including human trafficking awareness at the Howgate Centre and a Keeping Safe event at Grangemouth Shopping Centre.

7 BUSINESS PLAN 2014 – 2016

7.1 Attached to the biennial report Members will find the Falkirk Child Protection Committee Business Plan for the period 2014 – 2016 which sets out the Committee's improvement priorities for the next 2 years. This sets out the detail of how the Committee's strategic priorities for 2014 -2016 will be delivered. These strategic priorities are that;

- We will build a confident and competent workforce
- We will continuously improve the Child Protection Services we deliver
- We will ensure that children's immediate and long term needs are identify, that risk is assessed and that effective plans are in place
- We will raise awareness of child protection issues with communities, local business and the public in general
- We will strengthen out connections with other protection partnerships within Falkirk to ensure protection across the lifespan

8 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

8.1 In the coming year, the Child Protection Committee will experience a number of significant challenges and changes. Organisational change will be experienced with the development of the Children's Service within Falkirk Council and the opportunities that will bring for further collaborative working. The parallel development of the Health & Social Care partnership will also present the challenge of ensuring that close connections continue to be made between services to children and services to adults. This is vital ensuring the effective protection of children. Finally the Committee will experience changes in leadership with the retiral of the Director of Social Work Services and current Chair of the Child Protection Committee

- 8.2 Members will note from the report on today's agenda covering the Biennial Report on the Adult Support & Protection Committee, that proposals are being made for this Committee to be convened at a local level with, coincidentally the Chair of this Committee also indicating her intention to retire. There is therefore an opportunity for the Council and its partners to take steps to mitigate against the risk of child and adult protection agendas becoming distanced by considering the appointment of an Independent Chairperson who would chair both Committees on behalf of the Council and its partners. This would give members an assurance that dedicated and independent leadership is being provided to this important area of partnership working.

9 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The last 2 years have been very busy for the Falkirk Child Protection Committee. The biennial report outlines the Committee's key achievements and progress during this time, with the business plan outlining the Committee's improvement priorities and planned developments in the coming years. These include a continued focus on continuous improvement, strategic planning and public information to ensure that the services we are providing lead to improved outcomes for our most vulnerable children in Falkirk.

Members are asked to

1. **Note the work of the Falkirk Child Protection Committee over the period 2012 – 2014 and endorse the priorities set out in the Committee's Business Plan.**
2. **Agree in principle to the appointment of an Independent Chairperson to provide continued leadership of the Child Protection Committee following the retirement of Director of Social Work Services, subject to the formal agreement of partners.**
3. **Agree in principle to same Independent Chairperson being appointed to the Adult Support & Protection Committee.**

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Margaret Anderson
Director Social Work Services
Contact 4035
Date: 3 February 2015

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS



FALKIRK CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT (2012/14) and **BUSINESS PLAN 2014-16**

Annual Report 2012/14 and Business Plan 2014-16

Message from the Chair of the Child Protection Committee

As Chair of Falkirk Child Protection Committee I am very pleased on behalf of the Committee to present our Bi-ennial Report 2012-2014 and Business Plan 2014-2016.

The last two years have been very busy for the Committee and the report outlines our key achievements and progress during this time. Our improvement priorities and planned developments that will be taken forward in the coming year and beyond form the basis of our Business Plan for 2014-16. These include a continued focus on continuous improvement, strategic planning and public information to ensure that the services we are providing lead to improved outcomes for our most vulnerable children in Falkirk.

I continue to be encouraged by the commitment, hard work and professionalism of all agencies across Falkirk in delivering high quality services to our children, young people and families, in what is often in difficult and demanding circumstances.

The Committee acknowledges the challenges facing us all within the context of an ever changing child protection landscape, increasing demands and expectations of agencies and current financial constraints and uncertainties. However, we will use this as an opportunity for improvement and collectively, we will continue to work together to make sure that our most vulnerable children and young people are protected and kept safe from harm.



Margaret Anderson
Chair, Falkirk Child Protection Committee

1. INTRODUCTION

The protection of children remains a key priority for all statutory, third and private agencies working across the Falkirk Council area. We continue to build on a culture of strong partnership working to protect all children and young people and support our most vulnerable families.

This Falkirk Child Protection Committee (CPC) biennial report reflects on key achievements of the CPC over the last two years. The report reflects the key areas of improvement and development for the years 2012 - 14 and the business plan identifies the key priorities for the CPC in 2014-16.

In producing this report cognisance has been taken of:

1. The functions of Child Protection Committees as set out in "*Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committees*" January 2005¹.
2. The Care Inspectorate² draft Quality Indicators '*How well are we improving the lives of children and young people*' (2012)
3. The revised *National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland*³ (2014).
4. Falkirk Integrated Children's Services Plan

2. FALKIRK CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014) describes Child Protection Committees as being:

"Locally-based, inter-agency strategic partnerships responsible for child protection policy and practice across the public, private and wider third sectors. On behalf of Chief Officers, their role is to provide individual and collective leadership and direction for the management of child protection services in there are".

The guidance defines the functions of CPCs and, in fulfilling these functions, provides a working framework of key functions including:

Continuous Improvement

- Policies, procedures and protocols
- Self-evaluation, performance management and quality assurance
- Promoting good practice
- Training and staff development

Strategic planning

- Communication, collaboration and co-operation
- Making and maintaining links with other planning fora

Public Information and Communication

- Raising public awareness
- Involving children, young people and families

¹ Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committees (Scottish Executive 2005)

² Draft Quality Indicators (Care Inspectorate 2012)

³ National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (Scottish Government 2014)

The details of key achievements and future actions planned within the areas specified are outlined within the main body of this report.

The Falkirk Child Protection Committee (CPC) is made up of senior representatives from across all key areas concerned with the care and protection of children. Guidance issued by the Scottish Government requires every local authority area to have a Child Protection Committee.

The CPC membership list is detailed in Appendix 1. Our links with other strategic protection partnerships are outlined in Appendix 2.

3. OUR VISION

Our vision for all children in Falkirk is articulated in our Integrated Children's Services Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement, together with our key strategic objectives.

- All Falkirk children will be happy and healthy and enabled to make positive decisions about their own health and wellbeing.
- All Falkirk children will achieve their potential through learning and creativity, developing the skills and knowledge to make them fulfilled, happy adults.
- All Falkirk children will grow up in a safe environment where they are protected, loved and enabled to enjoy their lives.

In line with the GIRFEC well-being indicators, the Commission is responsible for ensuring that children and young people are *safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, responsible, respected and included*. The CPC has a key role in achieving these aims along with the Commission, recognising that some children require additional measures to ensure that they are protected from harm. The CPC seeks to ensure that all statutory, third sector and independent sector agencies work together to keep children safe. Collectively, we are committed to continuously improving services to protect our most vulnerable children and young people living in Falkirk. In doing so, we strive to ensure that:

- Children and young people are listened to, understood and respected
- Children and young people benefit from strategies to minimise harm
- Children and young people are helped by actions taken in immediate response to concerns
- Children and young people's needs are met

4. OUR VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Underpinning our work with children, young people and their families, we adhere to the following guiding principles:

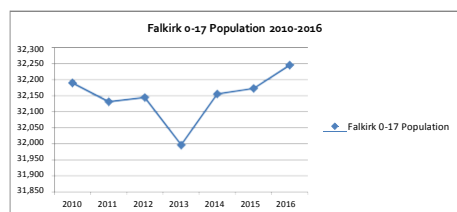
- Access, inclusion, equality and quality
- Early intervention, help and support
- Listening, active participation and partnership
- The welfare of the child is paramount

5. DEMOGRAPHIC AREA

Falkirk Council is situated right at the centre of Scotland. It has a growing population which, according to the preliminary results of the 2011 Census, is now 156,000, making Falkirk the 11th largest council in Scotland. Equidistant between Glasgow and Edinburgh, the population of our area has now been increasing for almost 20 years after many years of little change. The population has grown by over 10,000 since the last Census in 2001 – or 7.4% – compared to an increase in Scotland of 4.6%.

Much of this growth has been driven by net in-migration, with the Falkirk area being attractive to in-migrants due to competitive house prices compared to surrounding areas, the variety of new build properties and good transport links.

The number of births in our area has been higher than the number of deaths since 2004, which also contributes to population growth. 18 per cent of the population are aged 15 or under, higher than the national average of 17.2%. The graph below illustrates the 0-17 population 2010-13 and estimated population for 2014-16⁴.



6. NATIONAL AND LOCAL STATISTICAL DATA

A new national dataset for child protection, with an August to July reporting cycle, was introduced in 2011 following publication of National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland. Information is published annually by Scottish Government each March. This report contains our statistical data for the period **August 2012 - July 2013**. As the national data is still relatively new, the additional complexity of data being gathered increases the scope for error. Therefore, any national comparisons should be treated with caution.

6.1 Key statistical data for 2012-13

- Concerns about children living in **227** families were referred to social work services during the period **August 2012 - July 2013**. The main source of referrals continues to be from professionals within police, followed by health and education services.
- A total of 328 child protection investigations took place between 01 August 2012 and 31 July 2013. Of this, 204 were conducted **jointly between police and social work services**.

⁴ General Registrar's office (2012)

- Following these investigations, **118 children** became subject of **pre-birth or initial child protection case conference**. **210** children did not proceed to conference but other supports may have been put in place.
- Of the **118** that did proceed to conference (plus **7** transfer-in case conferences), **93 (79%) were placed on Falkirk's Child Protection Register**.
- From July 2011, we have been including registration of unborn babies (a change to previous practice). The number of children on the child protection register is known to fluctuate and factors such as family size can impact significantly on this.
- As of 30th September 2013, there were **74 children from 42 families on Falkirk's child protection register**. This includes **5 unborn babies**. This percentage is slightly higher than the national average however this suggests an increased awareness by staff across agencies to intervene early when concerns about unborn babies become apparent.
- Of the **93** children whose names were placed on the child protection register during the period 2012/13, **71 (76%)** had never been on the register before. Of the **22** children who had previously been on the register, **10** had been de-registered more than two years previously; **2** had been de-registered between one year to 18 months previously; and a further **1** had been de-registered within the preceding six months to one year. **9** children had been de-registered less than six months, of whom **7** had been registered in another authority immediately prior to transfer-in.
- Over the last 10 years, there has been an increase nationally in the proportion of younger children on the child protection register and corresponding decrease in older children. A similar picture is reflected locally in Falkirk for 2012/13, with **53% of children on the child protection register being under 5 years of age** (figure for Scotland is 55%).

This has not however consistently been the case, with 75% of children on Falkirk's child protection register being under the age of 5 years at 31.07.11. This reduction in the number of younger children on the register may be attributed to a number of factors such as concerns about younger children may be being addressed by agencies at an earlier stage and before concerns escalate or that we have a higher number of children accommodated under the age of 5 years than previously (see section 6.3).

The rate of children on the child protection register per 1000 population (2009-2013)⁵

	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	Falkirk	Scotland	Falkirk	Scotland	Falkirk	Scotland	Falkirk	Scotland	Falkirk	Scotland
No. children	93	2682	73	2518	56	2571	73	2698	70	2681
Rate / 1000 pop.	3.3	2.9	2.6	2.8	2.0	2.8	2.8	3.1	2.5	2.9

⁵ Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland, 2012-13

- 6.2** The introduction of national guidance required authorities for the first time to record multiple risks and concerns for children on the child protection register (rather than just the main category of abuse). As multiple concerns can be recorded per child, the total number of concerns is larger than the total number of registrations.

	31.07.12	30.04.13	31.07.13
Emotional Abuse	52%	53%	73%
Parental Mental Health	39%	55%	54%
Physical Abuse	38%	38%	51%
Non-engaging family	38%	64%	76%
Neglect	37%	66%	61%
Parental Drug Misuse	37%	25%	30%
Parental Alcohol Misuse	26%	33%	36%
Domestic Abuse			57%

The most consistently recorded risk factors for children on the child protection register in Falkirk were neglect, parental mental health issues and domestic abuse. Working with hard to reach or non-engaging families continues to be significant feature of our work and guidance has been developed to support staff with this aspect of their practice. As a result of this, we have developed guidance to support staff with this area of their practice.

6.3 Looked after children and young people

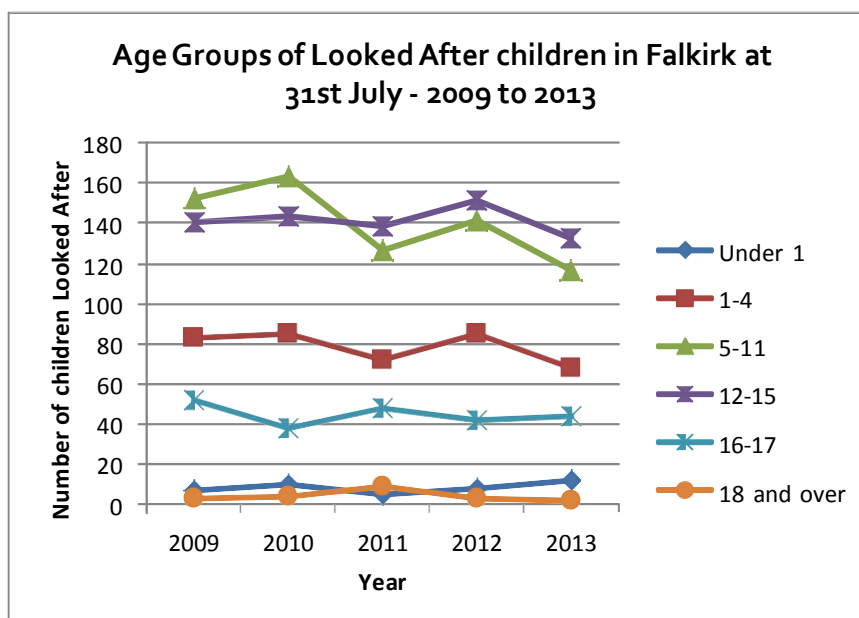
There has been a national trend in relation to increasing numbers of children and young people becoming looked after at home as well as looked after away from home. Over the last few years, Falkirk's looked after and accommodated rates have been consistently lower than the national average and our comparator authorities, through recent figures moves us closer to both.

As of 31.07.13, there were **375** children looked after by Falkirk Council (11.7 per 1,000 < 18 population). This is lower than the rate of Scotland as a whole (15.5 per 1,000 < 18 population) and a decrease from 430 in 2012. This decrease was predominantly in the number of children looked after at home. The appointment of an additional review co-ordinator has ensured that all children and young people who are looked after at home have their needs regularly reviewed and this may account for the fall in number of children who require this additional protective measure. Despite this fall in number, a higher proportion of all those looked after were looked after at home, compared to the national average.

Children Looked After in Falkirk and Scotland 2009-2013

	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	Falkirk	Scotland	Falkirk	Scotland	Falkirk	Scotland	Falkirk	Scotland	Falkirk	Scotland
Looked After at Home (Rate / 1000 pop. LAAH)	168 (5.2)	5932 (5.7)	184 (5.7)	6193 (6)	171 (5.3)	5476 (5.3)	198 (6.2)	5153 (5)	147 (4.6)	4759 (4.6)
Looked After Away from Home (Rate / 1000 pop. LAAFH)	269 (8.4)	9356 (9)	259 (8)	9699 (9.3)	228 (7.1)	10755 (10.4)	232 (7.2)	11095 (10.7)	228 (7.1)	11282 (10.9)
Total children Looked After (Rate / 1000 pop. LA)	437 (13.6)	15288 (14.7)	443 (13.8)	15892 (15.3)	399 (12.4)	16231 (15.6)	430 (13.4)	16248 (15.7)	375 (11.7)	16041 (15.5)

Although there has been an overall decrease in the number of children under 5 years being looked after, there has been an increase in the number of children aged less than 1 year, from 8 in 2012 to 12 in 2013. This would suggest that pre-birth planning measures are effectively identifying infants/unborn babies at greatest risk at an early stage.



7. CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ACTIVITY 2012- 14

In 2005, national guidance was published to direct Child Protection Committees in their work. The responsibilities of Chief Officers, CPCs and various strategic planning groups were further detailed in National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2010/14). The key functions of CPCs were highlighted as:

- Continuous Improvement
- Strategic Planning
- Public Information

7.1 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

7.1.1 Child Protection Policies, Procedures and Protocols

A key function of the CPC is to ensure that agencies have in place child protection policies and procedures to support staff in their work, and that mechanisms are in place to develop, disseminate and review multi-agency policies and procedures.

During 2012/14, we have:

- Developed and implemented Forced Marriage guidance for Falkirk Council staff. This guidance has now been adapted and incorporated into multi-agency child protection guidance
- Reviewed and updated agency-specific Child Protection Procedures to reflect the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland
- Reviewed and updated multi-agency Child Protection Case Conference guidelines

Work is nearing completion on the revision of the Forth Valley Inter-Agency Child Protection Guidelines (and associated protocols and procedures). A practitioner guide, based on the recently revised Getting our Priorities Right (GOPR) Guidance 2013 is also being developed for practitioners to ensure it is GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) compliant and takes cognisance of the National Risk Framework to Support the Assessment of Children and Young People (2012).

During 2014/15, the focus of our multi-agency audit activity will be to:

- Regularly review policies, procedures and guidance to ensure they are up to date, relevant and consistent with National Policy and legislation
- Create practitioner summary guidance relating to specific emerging topics to support current guidance

7.1.2 Self-evaluation, performance management and quality assurance

(i) Self-evaluation/audit

The Multi-Agency Continuous Improvement Group (MACIG), a sub-group of the Child Protection Committee, works to an annual calendar of audit and self-evaluation activity. Our framework for joint self-evaluation, first published in 2011, is currently being reviewed to reflect national developments and publications.

Using the Care Inspectorate draft quality indicators as a framework, partners are currently working together to update the multi-agency self-evaluation, which provides an opportunity to:

- reflect on practice and identify strengths and areas for improvement;
- acknowledge the work that we are doing which has a positive impact on the lives of children and their families;
- identify where quality needs to be maintained and where improvement is needed.

During 2012/14, we have undertaken a range of multi-agency audit activity, including:

- multi-agency review of individual cases (children who have been placed back on the child protection register after having been de-registered for a period of twelve months or less);
- audit of child protection referrals to social work service;
- audit of core group activity;
- 6 weekly review of all referrals made by Education Services to Social Work
- joint child protection/MAPPA audit and review of an individual case;
- audit of processes leading to medical examination of children and review of our Initial Referral Discussion (IRD) process.

Alongside multi-agency audit, each agency has a robust single-agency programme of audit activity. Findings from these are shared with partners via the MACIG to ensure shared learning and cross cutting themes identified.

As a result of our audit activity, we have:

- Developed a new procedure in relation to information sharing for MAPPA/Child Protection cases;
- Revised the remit of the IRD Monitoring Group in relation to their quality assurance role, revised the recording process /associated paperwork for IRDs and updated the IRD procedure;
- Within the Children and Families Social Work Service, completed a further audit of Section 22 cases (under the threshold for child protection). In addition, a new process has been established where team managers audit two cases at each worker's supervision session;
- Introduced a new process within the Education Service to ensure that key staff are available during holiday periods to participate in IRDs and provide information to Child Protection Case Conferences.

During 2014/15, the focus of our multi-agency audit activity will be to:

- review the effectiveness of child protection case conference processes
- review the effectiveness of services to protect children affected by parental substance misuse
- review the effectiveness of services to protect children affected by domestic abuse
- gather the views of staff /service users to help us better understand how well services are working together to meet the needs of children

(ii) Child Protection Performance Management Information

The CPC, in partnership with Clackmannanshire/Stirling CPC has revised and improved the Forth Valley Performance Management Information reporting framework, which provides statistical and performance information from across agencies. A performance report is produced on a quarterly basis and provides opportunity for the CPC to monitor and analyse trends and to comment on practice issues. An end of year analysis and comparison with nationally published statistics is presented to CPC on an annual basis.

Following an interruption in the data gathering and reporting process during 2013, a review of the management information framework has now been concluded and local systems are currently being streamlined. Work is now underway to provide a more concise and analytical report to Chief Officers.

A quarterly report to CPC provides a clear overview of children on the Child Protection Register and associated risk factors. In 2014, this report was extended to include data about young people involved in the Care and Risk Management (CARM) process. CARM is implemented to ensure that children and young people who present a risk of serious harm to others as a result of their potential for damaging sexual or violent behaviour, are managed effectively to minimise risks. This replaced Young Person's Risk Management (YPRM).

As a result of analysing our Performance Management Information, we have:

- Taken a closer look at core group activity, in particular frequency of meetings and agency attendance. Within the Children and Families Social Work Service, a management overview screen has been introduced within the electronic system to enable closer monitoring of compliance with timescales for core groups.
- Reviewed the process for inviting staff to Child Protection Case Conference to ensure appropriate representation at meetings
- Taken a closer look at child protection referrals to Social Work Service – this includes a review of all education referrals Undertaken an audit of child protection referrals to ensure that child protection concerns are
- Police Scotland have established a dedicated officer to attend Case Conferences
- Introduced a process of reviewing cases of children on the register for longer than 18 months or children who are re-registered within twelve months of de-registration.

7.1.3 Promoting good practice

The CPC has the responsibility to identify and promote good practice and encourage shared learning. This includes:

- Disseminating the learning from practice, learning and significant case reviews
- Ensuring that learning informs training and staff development
- Identifying opportunities to share good practice across a wide spectrum – locally regionally, nationally.

(i) Outcomes Framework Pilot

During 2012/13, we piloted a new approach to help children and their families better understand professional concerns where children's names were on Falkirk Child Protection Register. Based on the 'Getting it right for every child' wellbeing indicators and using a five point scale, staff helped parents to understand the changes needed to improve their children's situations. The pilot has now been completed and has been externally evaluated by *WithScotland* to establish the effectiveness of this new approach.

During 2014/15, we will:

- work to fully embed this approach into practice for children on the child protection register. We will revise our guidance, reduce the outcome measure we use and simplify the recording process.
- adapt the materials so that this approach can also be used with children and young people who are looked after
- re-launch the framework to practitioners and front line managers across all agencies.

(ii) Significant Case Reviews

Falkirk Child Protection Committee continues to implement our Significant Case Review procedures where appropriate. The findings from significant case reviews (SCRs) are a source of single and multi-agency learning for the Child Protection Committee and agencies working across Falkirk.

The CPC commissioned one Initial Case Review during 2012/13, and the Case Review Panel met on three occasions to consider reports and information from all services involved with the family. The CPC agreed that the case did not meet the criteria for a Significant Case Review, however learning was extracted and an improvement plan has been developed, with actions being implemented and reviewed by the CPC. A multi-agency structured de-brief session provided opportunity for the staff involved with the family to reflect on the key issues and the learning. The findings of the case review were presented to Chief Officers in August 2013.

During 2013, the respective chairs of CPC and MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group jointly commissioned a multi-agency Learning Review to consider what lessons, if any, could be learned from a particular case. At the point of completion of the learning review, new information emerged requiring a further meeting of the Review Panel. The final report will be presented to the respective chairs in due course.

The CPC also reviewed the findings of two nationally reported significant case reviews, considered local practice within Falkirk and identified key strengths within our existing practices and areas for improvement. Improvement actions are monitored and reported to CPC bi-annually.

As a result of reviewing individual cases, we have:

- Revised our procedures to ensure that newborn babies whose names are on the Child Protection Register have their first review at 6 weeks of age
- Developed guidance to support staff working with hostile or resistant families, or when children are 'unseen'
- Begun work to enable key NHS staff to have real time access to children on the child protection register
- Introduced a single chronology to be used by all Children and Families, Criminal Justice and Community Care Social Work staff

(iii) Participation in National Pilot – Child Sexual Exploitation

Falkirk Child Protection Committee is also working in partnership with colleagues across the Forth Valley and with Scottish Government to pilot two self-assessment tools - a strategic assessment tool and data collection tool - to enable the CPC to establish a comprehensive picture of the nature of child sexual exploitation across the authority. Findings will inform the development of an improvement plan which will ensure a co-ordinated and consistent approach to tackling this issue. To complement this work, a new approach is also being piloted which will see the development of a model of 'awareness raising facilitators'.

Supported by a Glasgow-based nationally funded project officer, a programme of awareness raising and events is currently being planned, which will focus on children and young people (both universally in schools and targeted events with some of our most vulnerable young people), parents and carers, staff and managers, and local businesses and communities.

The pilot will run during 2014, during which time we will focus on the following key areas:

- Co-ordinating an multi-agency response
- Recognising Child Sexual Exploitation
- Supporting young people and their families
- Identifying, investigating, disrupting & prosecuting abusers
- Collecting and managing data

7.1.4 Training and staff development

A key function of the CPC is to provide **multi-agency staff learning and development** to further develop a confident and competent workforce for children's services. Sharing good practice and workforce development contributes to improving outcomes for children in need of protection.

We continue to provide a range of multi-agency learning and development opportunities for staff across statutory, third and private sector services. This training is delivered across Forth Valley in line with the Forth Valley multi-agency learning and development training programme. The programme, which has been reviewed and revised to reflect the changes detailed within national guidance⁶, has resulted in approximately **471 staff** across Falkirk Council, NHS Forth Valley, Police Scotland and 3rd and private sector organisations participating in various training courses. In addition, all multi-agency and single-agency has now been reviewed to ensure that it complies with the principles of Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)

In conjunction with Shakti Women's Aid and Falkirk Domestic Abuse Forum, we piloted a training programme on Forced Marriage. Due to the positive evaluation of the pilot in Falkirk, this training session is now being delivered bi-annually.

During 2013, we also delivered eight locality-based multi-agency **Practitioner Forum events**. Delivered bi-annually, the focus of the most recent events was 'Learning from Significant Case reviews' and 'Child Sexual Exploitation'. Events enable staff across the range of statutory and third sector agencies and services to share knowledge and learning, identify good practice and to consider areas in which practice can be improved.

- **102** staff attended the events on 'Learning from Significant Case reviews'
- **106** staff attended the events on 'Child Sexual Exploitation'

As part of the '16 days of action' campaign to end violence against women and children, a range of training and awareness events took place. The campaign was opened by Sir Stephen House at an event hosted in Stirling Community Hospital, and local activities included:

- a training event for staff on domestic abuse and its impact on children and young people;
- a 'marketplace stall' with materials and information on a range of issues (stalking, human trafficking, female genital mutilation and sexual exploitation);
- domestic abuse workshops for learners at Forth Valley College and
- a workshop by FK1include, entitled 'Understanding young LGBT people's perception of domestic abuse'

⁶ National Framework for Child Protection Learning and Development in Scotland (2012)

During 2014/15, we will:

- increase accessibility to training by increasing the range of training options available eg through e-learning, workbooks
- expand the training programme to incorporate emerging need
- develop public protection training modules, incorporating adult protection, gender-based violence, MAPPA
- improve the ways in which we understand the application of practice change as a result of attending training.

7.2 STRATEGIC PLANNING

- 7.2.1 The CPC works closely with strategic groups at both a national and local level to make sure that the protection of children does not stand alone but is central to policy planning and development.

The CPC reports to the Children's Commission, which is a sub-group of Falkirk Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and is the group responsible for overseeing Children's Services and developing the Integrated Children's Services Plan. The Director of Social Work Services chairs the CPC and co-chairs the Children's Commission. These arrangements ensure that child protection is a key priority of the CPP and is reflected in the Council's single outcome agreement. Supporting the work of Falkirk CPC is the Multi-Agency Continuous Improvement Group.

Falkirk forms part of the NHS Forth Valley Health Board area which also includes Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils. There has been a history of partnership working across the Forth Valley area in relation to child protection and other aspects of public protection. The 3 Council Chief Executives, the NHS Chief Executive and the Senior local Police Scotland Representative have well established arrangements for coming together to provide collective governance and leadership in relation to child protection and other aspects of public protection. This Chief Officers Group is referred to locally as the G5 group and provides the oversight of child protection as required by national guidance.

The G5 is supported by the G5 Reporting Group (G5RG) in fulfilling these responsibilities. The G5 RG is a Forth Valley wide group which is comprised of senior officers from Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils, NHS Forth Valley and Police Scotland (Forth Valley Division). This group facilitates cross boundary work in aspects of child protection that can most effectively be undertaken on a Forth Valley wide basis and focuses on 3 particular strands of work, through 3 sub groups:

- Child Protection Policies and Procedures;
- Training and Development;
- Management Information/Quality Assurance.

An overview of the current partnership structure is outlined in Appendix 2.

The G5 Reporting Group held a developmental review in November 2013 to consider future governance arrangements for child protection across the Forth Valley and to consider the future role of Community Planning Partnerships in the governance of child/public protection.

A proposal was approved by G5 in December 2013 to further develop and support the three Community Planning Partnerships to become the driving force for the wider community/public protection agenda within each area. A transition plan for achieving this has been developed and will be implemented during 2014.

The conclusions of both the G5RG review of governance and reporting arrangements, and of the Children's Commission review of remit and structure will have significant implications for the current working arrangements of the Child Protection Committee and associated sub-groups.

During 2014/15, the CPC will reflect on these changes and will work closely with the Children's Commission and other protection partnerships to ensure joint approaches to service delivery and to create opportunities to maximise funding/resources.

7.2.2 The annual CPC Development day held in February 2014 enabled the CPC to reflect on achievements and areas for improvement and opportunity to agree and prioritise improvements actions for the period 2014-16. These improvement actions for the basis of the attached Business Plan 2014-16.

7.2.3 The impact of domestic abuse has been given significant consideration this year by the CPC and the Community Safety Partnership. Two new processes have been introduced - the *MARAC* process (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) which aims to protect victims of domestic abuse who are at the greatest risk by bringing together a variety of organisations involved in each case to share information, identify actions, and prepare a Risk Management Plan, and the *MATAC* process (Multi-Agency Tactical Assessment Conference) focuses on high risk perpetrators of domestic abuse and alerts all relevant agencies to identified perpetrators as well as gathering information and intelligence to ensure focused law enforcement.

Since its inception in August 2013 to April 30 2014, **40** women have been discussed (no men have yet been referred to the service). Representatives from across Children's Services play a key role in the *MARAC* process, ensuring the needs of/risks to children and young people affected by domestic abuse are also considered.

7.2.4 The Child Protection Committee continues to work well with other partnerships to evaluate the effectiveness of our joint work to protect children.

- The CPC and the Alcohol and Drug Partnership have commissioned (with external support) an audit of cases of children affected by parental substance misuse – this will be progressed during the summer 2014
- The CPC and the MAPPA Strategic Oversight group have commissioned an audit of cases to examine the effectiveness of information sharing across agencies where known offenders had contact with children. This audit has now been completed and improvement plan approved by the CPC and SOG. Alongside this, a multi-agency Review Panel undertook a more in-depth review of an individual case, the findings of which are due to be reported to CPC/MAPPA SOG.

7.2.5 Falkirk Child Protection Committee members have participated in a wide range of national forums and engaged in collaborative work on a range of national priorities. In addition, the CPC has responded to

numerous national consultations, including draft policy, proposed legislation and public petition's inquiries

The Chair and Lead Officer of the CPC attend quarterly meetings with Scottish Government representatives along with other Chairs and Lead Officers from across Scotland. The Chair and Lead Officer are also members of the Central and North East Scotland Child Protection Consortium, where there is a strong focus on shared learning and the continuous improvement agenda. A standing item on the CPC agenda enables emerging issues to be shared and debated by CPC members

- 7.2.6** During 2013, in conjunction with colleagues across Stirling and Clackmannanshire, the Lead Officers for Child Protection, Adult Support and Protection, Gender Based Violence, MAPPA and Alcohol and Drug Partnerships began meeting to discuss shared agendas and identify cross-cutting areas for development.

During 2014/15, we will establish a local Public Protection Awareness/Communication group to:

- Develop a Public Protection Communication Strategy
- Develop public protection publicity materials
- Deliver a public protection publicity campaign
- Develop and pilot a public protection training module
- Produce a public protection newsletter for staff

7.3 PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

7.3.1 Raising public awareness

The national guidance highlights the need for Child Protection Committees to ensure that there is accessible public information to raise awareness of child protection and what action should be taken if someone has concerns about a child.

During 2012/14 we:

- Undertook Citizen's Panel survey to better understand the views of members of the public
- Held Internet safety events for parents, carers and members of the public– to coincide with Safer Internet Day (2012,2013 and 2014). This included an event held at the local Cineworld cinema complex in Falkirk
- Reviewed and updated all child protection public information leaflets and materials
- Revised the content of the child protection pages on the redeveloped Falkirk Council website
- In conjunction with Falkirk Domestic Abuse Forum, hosted various public awareness events, including human trafficking awareness at the Howgate Centre and a 'Keeping Safe' event at Grangemouth Shopping Centre.

During 2014/15, we will:

- Further develop, through a range of social media, ways to promote key child protection messages to the public, including children and young people.
- Roll out, in conjunction with colleagues from across the range of public protection partnerships, a public awareness campaign designed to raise awareness of child protection, adult support and protection and gender-based violence issues.

7.3.2 Involving children, young people and their families

Falkirk Child Protection Committee and partner agencies recognise the importance and value of listening to children and young people and ensure that their views are taken into account when services are being developed and decisions are being made affecting them.

All schools in Falkirk have strong school councils ensuring children and young people contribute to developments within their school community.

Children, young people and their families are often best placed to inform us of what has worked well for them in terms of professional involvement throughout the child protection process.

There are a range of engagement activities taking place across services and partnerships that promote the involvement of children and their families. This includes their direct involvement in decisions that affect them, in service development, and feedback following their involvement in the child protection process. We continue to support independent advocacy via the Children's Rights Service.

During 2012/14 we have:

- Commenced a pilot approach to help children and their families better understand concerns and how to reduce risks and improve the circumstances of children on the Child Protection Register.
- As part of all assessment processes, we have included the views of children and their parents in all assessment reports
- Continued to seek the views of young people and their parents on their experience of the child protection process at the point of de-registration.
- Used *Viewpoint*, an interactive, electronic approach to seeking the views of children and young people whose names are on our child protection register, or who are looked after either at home or away from home.

During 2014/15, we will:

- Involve children and young people in the development of new child protection materials and the public protection awareness campaign
- Pilot the involvement of the independent Children's Rights Officer in seeking the views of children and families
- Extend the pilot approach to include looked after children and young people
- Continue to support our most vulnerable young people to express their views in matters which affect them most, such as the 2014 Referendum and the residential units in which they live.

8. Conclusion

The Child Protection Committee has reviewed their achievements during 2012-14 and identified and prioritised improvement activity for the next 2 years. The attached CPC Business Plan 2014-16 sets out how these actions will be achieved.

The CPC will monitor progress against the Business plan on a bi-annual basis.

Falkirk Child Protection Committee

Business Plan 2014-16

This Falkirk Child Protection Committee Business Plan 2014-16 sets out our improvement priorities for the next two years. The focus of this plan is children in need of protection and complements our Integrated Children's Service's Plan (dates), which is the main planning document for the development and delivery of all children's services across Falkirk.

Our strategic priorities for 2014-16 are that:

1. We will build a confident and competent workforce
2. We will continuously improve the child protection services we deliver
3. We will ensure that children's immediate and longer-term needs are identified, that risk is assessed and that effective plans are in place.
4. We will raise awareness of child protection issues within communities, local businesses and the public in general
5. We will strengthen our connections with other protection partnerships within Falkirk to ensure protection across the lifespan

The plan seeks to ensure that an appropriate and effective delivery mechanism is in place to deliver our key strategic objectives. Progress against the key actions set out in the plan will be monitored by the Child Protection Committee biannually.

AIM 1: We will build a confident and competent workforce					
OUTCOME: Our workforce has the skills, confidence and competence to deliver an effective child protection service (QI 6.1, 7.2, 3.1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practitioners and Managers will have access to comprehensive child protection training, learning and development opportunities. We will be creative in ensuring we meet the needs of our workforce partners in providing them with issues of national and local interest. Practitioners will regularly attend learning opportunities relevant to their role and implement their learning in practice We will identify good practice at every opportunity and feed back to practitioners through our self-evaluation activity 					
	Objective	Action	Timescale	Lead/Contributors	Success Criteria
1.	Ensure our strategic framework/ training programme supports learning and development	Review current training programme to ensure this is informed by local need and emerging national priorities/research. This should include consultation with practitioners and managers.	September 2014	FV CP Learning and Development Group (FVCP L&D Group)	↑ Positive feedback/evaluations from practitioners/managers. Appropriate representation by agencies at joint training events and conferences.
		Develop learning opportunities to support practitioners and managers in their understanding of the impact of key risk factors, in particular: children affected by parental substance misuse, domestic abuse, parental mental health issues and non-engaging parents.	2015	FVCP L&D Group Falkirk CS L&D Group Practitioner Forum Steering group	↑ Confidence expressed by practitioners in relation to assessment evidenced through supervision, staff surveys and feedback through practitioner forums.
		Develop multi-agency training to reflect national guidance for child protection and disability	December 2014	FVCP L&D Group	↑ Practitioner confidence and improved skills measured through annual Employee Development Reviews and follow up evaluation with those who have attended training
		Develop approaches to measure impact of training on practice	December 2014	FVCP L&D Group Falkirk CS L&D Group	
		Develop and integrate alternative methods of training delivery into our training calendar	December 2014	FVCP L&D Group	
		Collaborate with other protection partnerships to develop joint training / host conferences - Child/Commercial Sexual Exploitation - Public Protection	December 2014	FVCP L&D Group	↑ Senior Managers can evidence a variety of training approaches

					including the use of information technology, shadowing etc.
2	Further develop opportunities which support and encourage reflective practice/sharing of good practice	Continue to deliver locality-based child protection thematic Practitioner Forum events , utilising events to share learning and to gather practitioner views of current practice issues	Bi-annually	CP Practitioner Forum Steering Group (PFSG)	↑ Positive feedback/evaluations from practitioners/managers and confidence in partnership
		Further develop Practitioner Forum events to incorporate a more structured approach to consultation /feedback following audit and evaluation	November 2014	PFSG	↑ Evidence of practitioners views informing improvement planning
		Develop opportunities for staff groups to highlight and promote examples of effective joint working	2015	MACIG	↑ Staff groups can confidently speak about joint working approaches and give relevant examples through focus groups, supervision, practitioners forum
3.	Implement child protection procedures and guidance to support staff in child protection practice Ensure	Complete revision and re-launch Forth Valley Child Protection Guidelines	August 2014	FV CPC Lead Officers	↑ Awareness and confidence demonstrated by practitioners and front line managers in the use of Forth Valley Child Protection Guidelines/GOPR Guidelines
		Complete revision and re-launch Forth Valley GOPR Guidelines	October 2014	FV CPC and ADP Lead Officer	
		Ensure that multi-agency guidance to support practitioners with child protection work is accessible, understood and used in practice	Ongoing via audit	MACIG	↑ Evidence that procedures followed/understood identified through audit/supervision
		Review policies, procedures and guidance to ensure they are up to date, relevant and consistent with National directives and recommendations.	Annually	FV CPC Lead Officers	
		Develop and align CPC and GIRFEC website to ensure information to support practitioners with child protection work is accessible	October 2014	CPC Lead Officer/ Locality Co-ordinator	↓ Delays in revising procedures

AIM 2: We will continuously improve the child protection services we deliver					
OUTCOME: Performance Management Information and audit/evaluation are effectively used to improve outcomes for vulnerable children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will be able to demonstrate through robust analysis that we understand the needs of children, young people and their families. Analysis of national and local data gathered through self-evaluation exercises will inform us when practice changes are required. By gathering the views of children, young people and families, we will know if they got the help they needed at the right time 					
	Objective	Action	Timescale	Lead/Contributors	Success Criteria
1.	Ensure a co-ordinated, proportionate approach to joint self-evaluation/ audit activity	Update the CPC joint self-evaluation strategy	September 2014	MACIG	↑ CPC and Senior managers can demonstrate that strategy is enacted through calendar of self-evaluation activity
		Undertake joint self-evaluation annually	September 2014	MACIG	
		Identify priority areas for joint audit activity	Annually – by March 2015	CPC	↑ Practitioner and front line managers can articulate the CPC key priority areas for improvement
		Increase practitioners/front-line managers involvement in all multi-agency audit	Ongoing – 6 monthly update	MACIG	↑ Practitioner confidence and improved skills measured through follow up evaluation with those who have participated in audit activities
2.	Ensure joint self-evaluation/audit activity leads to improved practice/outcomes	Improve the way in which CPC recommendations following audit are monitoring / reviewed and reported back to CPC	Ongoing – 6 monthly update	MACIG	↑ Follow through reports are timely and clearly evidenced based
		Incorporate follow up activity into the audit/evaluation calendar to ensure improvement evidenced.	Ongoing –	MACIG	↑ CPC can demonstrate the link between self-evaluation and

		Ensure that learning arising from single agency audit/evaluation activity is shared across agencies	6 monthly update	MACIG/ Practitioner Forum Steering group	improvement in systems/practice ↑ Senior/front-line managers and practitioners are aware of the learning from audit and other improvement activity and any resulting system/practice change
3.	Utilise performance management information to demonstrate improvement in practice/key processes and outcomes for children.	Complete 2013/14 analysis of child protection activity/performance based on existing dataset (version 1)	June 2014	MACIG	↑ Data demonstrably informing improvement planning, service development and design Resources identified to ensure that data collection and analysis processes are sustainable
		Develop sustainable system to collate/analyse qualitative and quantitative data and provide reports to CPC and Chief Officers	September 2014	CPC	
		Implement revised performance management dataset (version 2) ensuring stronger focus on outcomes for children	Pilot - April 2014	MACIG	
		Analyse and report on themes emerging following implementation of the Outcomes Framework	December 2014	Outcomes Framework Group	
		Analyse and report on themes emerging from the child sexual exploitation pilot (Data Monitoring Tool)	October 2014	FV CSE Project Board	
4.	Ensure the views of children, young people and parents are routinely considered and reflected in the work we do.	Develop methods to harness the views of children/parents involved in the child protection process.	2015	MACIG	↑ Service users opinions and data impacts on service delivery, design and improvement
		Analyse and report on themes emerging from feedback questionnaires	Bi-annually	CP Reviewing Officer	

AIM 3: We will ensure that children's immediate and longer-term needs are identified, that risk is assessed and that effective plans are in place.					
OUTCOME: Children are better protected and their circumstances improve as a result of effective assessments and plans.					
	Objective	Action	Timescale	Lead/Contributors	Success Criteria
1.	Improve the quality and consistency of individual children's assessments and plans	Continue to monitor the quality of assessments and plans through existing agency/service quality assurance processes.	Ongoing – 6 monthly update	ALL AGENCIES/SERVICES	↑ Number of robust, analytical assessments of risk/need
		Ensure staff undertaking assessments and developing plans have the necessary skills, knowledge and support to do so (Cross ref Action 1)	Ongoing – 6 monthly update	ALL AGENCIES/SERVICES	↑ Number of outcome-focussed plans, which evidence clear link to assessment
		Incorporate the National Risk Assessment Framework into The Child's Plan (Version 3)	Ongoing – 6 monthly update	SW Head of Service (C&F) FV IAF Development Group	↓ Number of poor quality assessments/plans alerted to managers
		Improve access to and promote the use of agreed additional assessment tools where appropriate to a child's circumstances eg CAADA, parental substance misuse assessment tool	Ongoing – 6 monthly update	FV IAF Development Group FV CP Learning and Development Group	↓ Number of poor quality assessments/plans identified through audit/supervision
		Continue to promote the use of the Outcomes Framework for all children on the Child Protection Register, ensuring this becomes embedded in practice.	Ongoing – 6 monthly update	ALL AGENCIES/SERVICES	↑ In positive feedback from CP co-ordinator to CFCIG/MACIG
		Roll out the Outcomes Framework for looked after children	December 2014	Outcomes Framework Group	↑ Positive feedback from practitioners/managers
2..	Ensure that children, young people and their	Consult with parents/carers and young people on the design of written materials to support their understanding of the child	March 2015	CPC Lead Officer/CRO	↑ Positive feedback from children/parents following de-

	families are helped to understand the child protection process	protection process			registration ↑ Number of child's plans which explicitly record child/parents views
		Analyse and report on themes emerging from: De-registration feedback questionnaires, Outcomes Framework work, and Viewpoint	Bi-annually	Service Manager/ Outcomes Framework Group	↑ Practice/system changes arising as a direct result of feedback from children/parents
		Review case files to ensure that children's/parents views recorded in all assessments/plans	Ongoing – 6 monthly update	ALL AGENCIES/SERVICES	↓ Number of issues report by CRO to CFCIG
3.	Ensure that children and families receive the right help at the right time	Fully embed effective screening processes to ensure information about vulnerable children shared quickly			↑ Number of VPDs to Named Person
		Improve practitioners and managers shared understanding of thresholds in child protection through learning and development opportunities, use of shared paperwork to support child protection			↓ Number of issues reported to Service Managers/escalated concerns ↓ Number of issues identified though audit/supervision ↑ Positive feedback from children/parents ↑ Positive feedback from practitioners/managers
5.	Ensure the longer-term needs of children are met following de-registration	Audit of cases post-deregistration to ensure that the longer term needs of children continue to be met.	2015	MACIG	↓ of children re-registered within 12 months
		Analyse and report on themes emerging following implementation of the Outcomes Framework for looked after children	Bi-annually Sept 2015	Outcomes Framework Group	↑ Number of children's plans having positive impact on child's wellbeing

					<div>↑ Positive feedback from children/parents and from practitioners/managers</div> <div>↑ Practice changes as a result of audit/OF findings</div>
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AIM 4: We will raise awareness of child protection issues within communities, local businesses and the public in general

OUTCOME: Members of our communities are confident to raise concerns about children with the appropriate agencies

- Communities will tell us what they need and will know who to talk to if they have a concern. They will also know what is expected of them when they share a concern and understand the importance of telling us when they are worried about a child.
- Children, Young People and their Families will feel "safe" living in Falkirk and know how to get the help they need when they need it.

	Objective	Action	Timescale	Lead/Contributors	Success Criteria
1.	Increase opportunities to promote key child protection messages to the public, including children and young people use a range of media.	Re-constitute the CPC Public Information Group. Agree membership and terms of reference	October 2014	CPC	↑ Number of referrals by members of the public/service users
		Develop and implement (in conjunction with other Public Protection Lead Officers) a Communication /Public Awareness Strategy	December 2014	CPC Public Information Group	↑ Positive feedback from members of the public/service users
		Link CP activities to local children's events to improve joint working and promote 'keeping children safe' messages	Ongoing – 6 monthly update	CPC Public Information Group	↑ Positive feedback from staff
		Update/revise Falkirk Council Child Protection webpages	September 2014	CPC Lead Officer	↑ Number of 'hits' on Council Child Protection webpages
		Re-distribute child/public protection awareness raising materials to services/departments with public waiting areas	October 2014	CPC Public Information Group	
		Consult with parents/carers and young people in the design of materials and awareness raising approaches in child sexual exploitation	April 2015	Forth Valley CSE Project Board	
		Host local awareness events during recognised national days of action eg: - Safer Internet Day (February) - CSA month of Action (September) - 16 days of action (November)	Ongoing – 6 monthly update	CPC Public Information Group	

		Monitor and analyse child protection/welfare referrals to social work or police made by members of the public	Annually – May 2015	CPC Lead Officer/ CPC Public Information Group	
2	Maximise opportunity to promote child protection awareness through engagement with other services	Improve links with Community Learning and Development Services to consult with community groups on approaches to raising awareness of child abuse and neglect (including child sexual exploitation)	December 2014	CPC Public Information Group	↑ Number of referrals by members of the public/service users
		Implement programme of community awareness	From January 2015– 6 monthly update	CPC Public Information Group	↑ Positive feedback from members of the public/service users
		Develop guidance to support voluntary/community groups in safe child protection practices.	January 2015	CPC Lead Officer/ Voluntary Sector Forum	↑ Number of community engagement activities
		Develop core training pack for use with voluntary/community groups	January 2015	FV CP Learning and Development Group	↑ Positive feedback from voluntary/community groups
					↑ Number of voluntary/community groups undertaking child protection training.
3.	Maximise opportunity to promote child protection through other public protection routes	Through the Public Protection Communication Strategy, develop a co-ordinated approach to community engagement/raising public awareness across the Council area.	From January 2015	CPC Public Information Group	↑ Positive feedback from members of the public/service users
		Develop and publish public protection awareness materials which promote protection cross the lifespan	December 2014	CPC and ASP Lead Officers Communication Team (FC)	↑ Positive feedback from staff
		More closely align child protection with adult protection and domestic abuse via the Council webpages	September 2014	CPC Lead Officer	

AIM 5: We will strengthen our connections with other protection partnerships within Falkirk to ensure protection across the lifespan					
OUTCOME: Shared and agreed priorities are established which reflect priorities within Falkirk's Community Plan					
	Objective	Action	Timescale	Lead/Contributors	Success Criteria
1.	Implement revised governance arrangements for child protection	Participate in the review of governance and reporting arrangements for child protection across Forth Valley	April 2014	CPC	Clarity/transparency of governance arrangements
		Participate in the review of reporting arrangements and remit of the Falkirk Children's Commission	April 2014	CPC	
		Work closely with the Children's Commission and other protection partnerships to ensure joint approaches to service delivery and to create opportunities to maximise funding/resources.			
		Review current CPC sub-committee remit	September 2014	CPC	
2.	Agree shared priorities and common goals with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership Falkirk Adult Support and Protection Committee FV MAPPA Falkirk GBV Forum 	CAPSM - audit	October 2014	CPC/ADP	↑ Number of jointly commissioned projects
		Child Sexual Exploitation pilot	Commenced Jan 2014	FV CSE Project Board	↑ Number of jointly resourced/funded initiatives
		Implement the recommendations/key actions arising from the CP/MAPPA Audit and case review	July 2014	CPC/MAPPA SOG	↑ Improvement plans reflect shared actions
		Undertake further audit to ensure improvement in practice	2015		
		Provide staff training/increase awareness of children affected by domestic abuse during the '16 days of action' campaign	December 2014	FV CP L&D Group Falkirk CS L&D Group	

APPENDIX 1: MEMBERSHIP OF FALKIRK CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

NAME	TITLE	ORGANISATION
Margaret Anderson	Director of Social Work Service/Chair Falkirk CPC	Social Work Services, Falkirk Council
Vacancy	Vice-chair	
Helen Ballantyne	Child Protection Nurse Adviser	NHS, Forth Valley
Maureen Berry	Nurse Consultant, Child Protection	NHS, Forth Valley
Alex Black	Quality Improvement Manager	Education Services, Falkirk Council
Janice Brown	Lead Officer, Falkirk CPC	Falkirk CPC
Elaine Costello	Integration Support Manager	Education Services, Falkirk Council
Matthew Davies	Service Manager	Social Work Services, Falkirk Council
Don Lawrie	Chair, Children's Panel	
Elizabeth Hood	Neighbourhood and Access to Housing Manager	Corporate & Neighbourhood Services, Falkirk Council
Wilson Gill	Detective Chief Inspector	Police Scotland
Glynis Gordon	Lead Nurse	NHS, Forth Valley
Sue Johnson	Child Protection Co-ordinator	Social Work Services, Falkirk Council
Eddie Kane	Service Manager, Barnardo's	Third Sector representative
Jennifer Litts	Head of Housing	Corporate & Neighbourhood Services, Falkirk Council
Kenny MacLeod	Detective Superintendent	Police Scotland
Maureen Manns	Locality Reporter Manager	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
Kathy McCarroll	Head of Service (Children and Families/Criminal Justice SW)	Social Work Services, Falkirk Council
David McLaren		Police Scotland
Lynn Milne	Acting Service Manager, Aberlour	Third Sector representative
Colin Moodie	Legal Services Manager	Corporate & Neighbourhood Services, Falkirk Council
Lyn Nelson	Service Manager	Out of Hours Service
Mary Pitcaithly	Chief Executive	Chief Executive Office, Falkirk Council
Leni Rademacher	Training Manager (Children and Families SW)	Social Work Services, Falkirk Council
Maureen Tait	Quality Improvement Officer	Education Services, Falkirk Council
Dr Juliet Tucker	Consultant Paediatrician (until Dec 2013)	

(Membership as of 31.03.14)

APPENDIX 2: FALKIRK CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE - GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

