

Falkirk Child Protection Committee

Connect to Protect

Goodbye from the Lead Officer

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This will be my last Connect to Protect Newsletter as I am leaving to take up a national post in the Multi Agency Resource Centre (MARS). I hope Falkirk continues with all the good work from all services working with children and young people

Message from Margaret Anderson, Chair of Falkirk CPC:

“Catriona will be a tremendous loss to the Child Protection Committee and has provided a very high level of support to the Committee since she took up post. Our only comfort is that she will not be far away in the MARS and so will hopefully still have some involvement with us in her new capacity as National Child Protection Co-ordinator. I wish Catriona all the best in her new post.”



Forth Valley Management Information & Quality Assurance Sub-Group Activities

- A Forth Valley audit involving Falkirk and Stirling. differences in practice across Forth Valley.
- A subsequent Falkirk audit in response to Forth Valley audit. The Falkirk audit is near completion and will go to the next CPC in June 2010. Learning gained is only of use if services disseminate the information and action is taken to improve .
- A large scale Forth Valley audit planned for 1st June 2010. Auditing is a means of ensuring continuous self-improvement. It is not a dry and tedious process as it enables us to see themes across Forth Valley or internally within Falkirk. It showcases good practice but also helps us to see inconsistencies or The audit planned for June involves a training day with our HMle Link Worker and colleagues across Forth Valley so that we develop our skills in this area.

Forth Valley Promotion of Good Practice Sub-Group

- Social Work Services organised seminars on Thresholds in Falkirk, run by Evelyn Kennedy, Social Work Training Manager.
- A Seminar on Brandon Muir, run by Anne Salter, Lead Officer, Stirling, will shortly be delivered as part of the Child Protection Peer Support Network.
- The Child Protection Peer Support Network in Falkirk has run 2 sessions on Risk Assessment. We require to develop a risk assessment tool in Falkirk.
- Clackmannanshire and NHS Forth Valley hope to progress a workshop on Travellers.
- An information leaflet has been drawn up by EDT.
- Young Scot—we are using the Young Scot Website to inform young people. This is now live in Falkirk—any suggestions or information to put on this site is welcome, but in the first instance, we have concentrated on internet safety.
- Links have been established with the Adult Protection Committee.



Management Information

The Way Forward is a discrete project which has developed a performance management framework.

With the support of a Police Business Analyst, this is now being populated across Forth Valley. It is a complex process as all services use different IT systems. Currently, the project is looking at context to go with hard facts. Knowing what to measure to demonstrate outcomes is a complex task.

CPC Annual Report & Business Plan

Falkirk CPC Annual Report 2008-2009 and Business Plan 2009-2010 is available online at:

http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/social_work/children_and_family_services/child_protection/child_protection_committee/annual_report_and_business_plan.pdf



Forth Valley Training & Development Sub-Group

A further training course on Giving Evidence in Court has been organised for the May.

The full [training brochure](#) is available on the CPC website.

Internet Safety Conference

The Internet Safety Conference held on 10th February 2010 at Leapark Hotel, Grangemouth was well attended by all services. This event, along with events in Clackmannanshire and Stirling, developed out of a police operation—Operation Defender.

Operation Defender uncovered significant risks to children and young people using the internet and criminal activity locally in relation to young people.

This has highlighted, as did our HMle Child Protection Inspection Report, that children in Falkirk were not sufficiently up to speed regarding new technology. There was a general agreement among services at the conference, that adults were less aware than young people and we require to address this.

A Falkirk Action Plan is in the process of being developed and this should, ultimately, become a Forth Valley Action Plan.

Forth Valley Policy & Procedures Sub-Group

This group is currently reviewing the Forth Valley Inter-Agency Child Protection Guidelines to reflect changes and development in child protection practice.

A Human Trafficking Protocol is nearing completion and we hop to run a 'fit for purpose' event involving practitioners, facilitated by Sandra Jamieson from the Scottish Intelligence Co-ordination Unit, a sub-section of the Crime & Drugs Agency.

Public Awareness

Two public awareness sessions—World Cafe Conversations in Child Protection were held in April in Falkirk College. Due to current financial restrictions, we were not able to advertise as we had hoped, but this event still attracted participants. Evaluations were very positive and having designed new café material for the public,

this can now be honed further to roll out to communities. The key to success in this area is, not surprisingly, to listen and to be inclusive of other's life experiences and views. We had a diverse group of participants, of all age groups and views, but it all added to the rich mix of discussion.

A further event, has been planned for May.

Other Activities

An East of Scotland Consortium has been established to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure consistency in our planning. Members of the Consortium are Forth Valley CPCs, Perth & Kinross, Fife, Dundee, Angus, Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen and Moray.

A further Forth Valley Development Day is planned for all 3 CPCs and Chief Officers'.

Central Scotland Police are leading on a Young Runaways Project. This is being led by DS Joyce Greenhorn.

PROTECTING CHILDREN IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

FREE Public Awareness Event

Thursday, 27th May 2010

6pm to 8pm

Camelon Education Centre, Abercrombie St, Camelon, FK1 4HA

Find out more about protecting children through informal discussion, sharing ideas and experiences and gain a better understanding of how we can all contribute to safeguarding children.

Refreshments will be provided

THIS EVENT IS FOR EVERYONE

A crèche can be arranged, if required.

For further information or to register to come along to this event, please contact Debbie Luke on 01324 503812 or debbie.luke@falkirk.gov.uk

National Issues

National Guidance— [Under-age Sexual Activity: Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People and Identifying Child Protection Concerns](#) was launched for public consultation on 24th April 2010. Responses are due by July.

Revised National Guidance on Child Protection—A Shared Responsibility: Guidance on Inter-Agency Co-operation is out in draft for CPCs to consider. A formal consultation will be launched at the end of May.

The Children's Hearings (Scotland) Bill was introduced to parliament on 23rd February 2010.

A range of events are planned in May/June to ensure that existing knowledge & experience underpin developments.

Resources/Research

Preventing Violence Against Women

This paper has been produced by the Scottish Government. It provides an excellent gendered analysis.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/301265/0093975.pdf>

Research on Sexualised Goods aimed at children, commissioned by the Equal Opportunities Commission

The report notes growing concerns about the sexualisation of children, but parents tended to have different views rather than consensus about any sexualized products. Most saw it as the responsibility of the parents to make decisions or take action.

Young people recognised that they were influenced but did not feel they were passive recipients and that they are competent in understanding and interpreting sexual connections.

UK Internet Safety Campaign

'Click Clever, Click Safe' highlights a new online green cross code—'Zip it, Block it, Flag it'. The code is intended as an everyday reminder of simple good behaviours, to help children and young people avoid common dangers online, as well as to help parents talk to children about the internet.

<http://clickcleverclicksafe.direct.gov.uk>

Digital Youth Wales

The Digital Youth Wales Network is for practitioners interested in the Digital/Internet literacy of young people. Good practice, resources, questions and answers can be shared. The network is facilitated by Wise Kids.

<http://digitalyouthwales.ning.com/>

BASPCAN Conference

The BASPCAN Conference is being held on 11th June 2010 in Hamilton. The topic is **Internet Safety—Prevention and Public Protection**. Further information can be found at <http://www.baspcan.org.uk/branch-events.php>

The UK launched an Action Plan on Child Internet Safety in February—

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/ukccis/download-link.cfm?catstr=research&downloadurl=UKCCIS Strategy Report-WEB1.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/ukccis/download-link.cfm?catstr=research&downloadurl=UKCCIS%20Strategy%20Report-WEB1.pdf)

Falkirk CPC is currently drawing up an Action Plan.

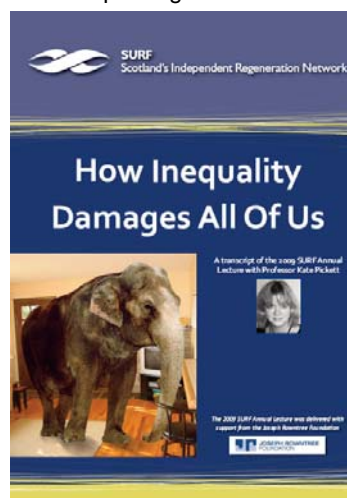
The Sprit Level

Finally, an excellent lecture by Professor Kate Buckett for Scotland's Independent Regeneration Network—The Spirit Level—How Inequality Damages all of Us.

It provides excellent food for thought about the type of society we want our children to experience. Very clear on outcomes and evidence.

She refers to the UNICEF report where the UK came absolute bottom in terms of child welfare and provides detailed evidence that "almost everyone seems to benefit from greater equality."

Child protection and improving outcomes does not take place in a vacuum and the wider context considered. and the wider needs to be



Basic Awareness Child Protection Training

The following courses are Level 1 – Basic Awareness and are specifically aimed at:

- employees who have either been disclosure checked or who may have contact, but not working directly with children within their work setting or environment
- employees who have contact with children and have not yet undertaken Child Protection Training
- employees requiring a refresher course in basic awareness

The outcomes of both courses are: that participants will acquire a basic awareness of child abuse and child protection; that, at a basic level, participants will feel more confident in identifying child abuse and responding to child abuse; that participants will be more aware of Falkirk Council's expectations of employees in respect of child protection issues.

Basic Awareness

Training will be information based, with some interaction, and will cover: identification of abuse; signs and symptoms of abuse; how to respond to disclosure; roles and responsibilities of the individual and organisations; current developments in child protection.

- **Thursday, 20th May 2010, 9.15am to 12.30pm**
- **Tuesday, 22nd June 2010, 9.15am to 12.30pm**

36 places per course and costs £10 per person.

World Café Conversations

World Café Conversations is an informal style of training involving small group discussion with hosts. This is less prescriptive than formal training and allows participants to discuss values and attitudes and influence the direction of the discussion and debate plus meeting many other participants from other services.

- **Thursday, 22nd July 2010**

50 places per course and costs £10 per person

Should you wish to book a place on the above training courses please contact Debbie Luke (details below). **This training does not supersede your own service/agency training. Please seek authority from your line manager prior to booking onto courses (or follow your own service/agency procedures).**

Child Protection Peer Support Network

The Child Protection Peer Support Network provides an opportunity for workers to share experiences and develop partnership working in child protection in an informal and relaxed setting. It is for all services and agencies and enables multi-agency discussion in an informal setting.

Social Work in South Africa—28/05/10—3.30pm to 5.30pm

Sarah Bayes, Social Worker, has recently been on a study exchange to South Africa to experience the culture of Social Work in South Africa. She will discuss this experience and cover child protection, aspects of statutory and voluntary provision and drug addiction services. This is an excellent opportunity to expand our thinking and learn about other approaches.

Research Review on Working with Families Affected by Parental Substance Misuse—17/06/10—3.30pm to 5.30pm

Fiona Mitchell, Co-ordinator of the Scottish Child Care and Protection Network, will offer a workshop on her research review. This research followed on from consultation across Scotland, which indicated that practitioners wanted more research in this area of work. The report is available on the SCCPN website. The workshop will focus on child welfare oriented interventions and we may ask a practitioner to co-facilitate.

Booking Details

Should you wish to book a place or would like further information on Child Protection Training or Child Protection Peer Support Network please contact **Debbie Luke, Child Protection Training Administrator on Telephone: 01324 503812 or E-mail debbie.luke@falkirk.gov.uk**

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