

Keeping Everyone Informed

This is the first of what will be a regular briefing note on the work of the Chief Officer Group (COG). Any views or comments you have should be fed back through the office of the Children & Young Persons Protection Committee at dundeeprotects@dundeecity.gov.uk

The Remit of the COG

The COG was established under national guidance for child protection services. The remit, under that guidance, is to work collectively to identify and commission inter-agency activity with respect to protecting children and young people.

However, the Chief Officers recognise the importance of the connections between the protection of children and young people, and the protection of other people in the community. Which is why they have decided that their remit shall encompass not only child protection services, but services in relation to domestic abuse and adults in need of support and protection.

Membership of the COG

The members of the group are:

Tony Wells	Chief Executive, NHS Tayside
Bill Harkins	Deputy Chief Constable, Tayside Police
Alex Stephen*	Chief Executive, Dundee City Council (Chairperson) * David Dorward from 1 st October 2009
Alan Baird	Director of Social Work and Chair of the Children & Young Persons Protection Committee
Caroline Selkirk	Commissioner for Child Health, NHS Tayside
David Lynch	General Manager, Dundee CHP
Colin MacKay	Divisional Commander, Tayside Police
Chris Ward	Asst Chief Executive (Corporate Planning), Dundee City Council

A Vision for Child Protection Services

The Chief Officers agree that we all need to share a sense of what guides our work in relation to child protection. To that end, they have agreed that the vision for child protection services and the principles that govern the work we do should be:

Dundee's future lies with its children and young people. They deserve the best this city can give them. We will provide the protection they need, when they need it, to keep them safe from harm.

STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE

To make this happen, we will work to the following agreed principles ...

- We all share responsibility for protecting children and young people in Dun-

dee. Our agencies will work together to plan and deliver our services.

- We will work with neighbourhoods and communities to support them in protecting their children and in providing a safe, happy place for them to grow up.
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- We will work with neighbourhoods and communities to support them in protecting their children and in providing a safe, happy place for them to grow up.
- We will work hard to support children, young people and their families through difficulties and times of crisis.
- We will ensure that children and young people who need help get the right kind of help at the right time from the right people and we will deliver services which are appropri-

ate, proportionate and timely.

- We will always consider the welfare of children and young people to be paramount when we make decisions and plans that affect them.
- We will quickly share information about children where there is concern for their safety within agreed standards of confidentiality.
- We will strive to raise awareness of child protection issues and create a culture in which people acknowledge that protecting children and young people is everyone's responsibility. We will consult children, young people and families as we develop our care and protection services.
- We will provide and participate in joint training to drive forward high quality joint working and services for children and their families.

... and these are what we measure our actions and decisions against.

Latest COG Activity

Adult Support and Protection

In relation to the recently established Adult Support and Protection Committee, the Chief Officers have set out their expectations and requirements. These are:

- That a Business Plan be incorporated into the first report due out in November;
- That a Communications Strategy be developed with attention given to the establishment of one telephone number being advertised as the contact point for the expression of concerns for an adult;
- That a framework for self-evaluation of services be established and implemented;
- That the ASPC satisfy itself as to the existence of relevant policies and procedures and that a system for updating as required is in place;
- The outcome of an evaluation of any Special Cases, including the learn-

ing points identified, be reported to the COG;

- That the COG receive reports of any issues of concern regarding information sharing;
- That the ASPC report on any significant resource issues along with recommendations on action required;
- That the ASPC have in place a system for identifying high risk areas/groups and report these to the COG;
- That the ASPC be aware of which services are vulnerable or are facing particular pressures and are aware of that the needs have been identified and plans for improvement put in place.

Child Protection

The Chief Officers approved the establishment of a child protection improvement project team following the publication of the HMle report of child protection services in June.

The child protection improvement plan now also incorporates actions arising from the findings and recommendations of the Hawthorn/Wilson report of the review of the case of Brandon Muir.

The CP Improvement Project Team is overseeing and co-ordinating the work of 7 task groups, each focusing on a particular aspect of services. The Chief Officers, currently meeting monthly, are closely scrutinising implementation of this plan and becoming directly involved in taking action and making decisions when that is required of them.

The development of services for adults and children affected by substance misuse will be led by the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP), the body coming into existence to replace the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). CHP General Manager David Lynch will chair the ADP, with the Police Divisional Commander, Temporary Chief Superintendent Colin MacKay being his vice-chair.

Replacement for Seymour Lodge

Chief Officers have confirmed their plans for a new development on the NHS Tayside Kingscross estate. The new building, scheduled for completion before the end of 2010, will provide a state-of-the-art facility where social work, police and health professionals, along with others, can work effectively together to support children and young people in need of protection.

Developing better Co-Terminosity

With the recent creation of 4 zones for community nursing/health visiting, the Chief Officers have noted the opportunity that exists to examine the different geographical boundaries to which different services work. They have asked senior officers to develop proposals as to how this can be further improved to facilitate better joint working.

More on the Child Protection Improvement Plan

The Child Protection Improvement Plan Project Team is being led by Jenni Tocher, Manager of the Strategy and Performance division of the social work department. The task groups and the lead person for each are:

Responding to Immediate Concerns	Jane Martin, Social Work Department
Self Evaluation	Michael Wood, Education Department
Policies, Procedures & Guidance	Donald MacKenzie, CYPPC
Integrated Children's Services Structures	Bert Sandeman, DCC Corporate Planning
Integrated Assessment & Care Planning	Lynne Cameron, Social Work Department
Leadership	Chief Officer Group

Another important area of activity is the development of services for people affected by substance misuse. This work is being taken forward by the Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP), which is chaired by CHP General Manager, David Lynch.

Jenni and CYPPC Lead Officer Donald MacKenzie have the role of identifying the topics that cut across more than one of the task groups and in ensuring these are addressed.

One of these is staff development, which is why Sally Anderson, CYPPC Staff Development Officer is also part of the project team. Sally's role is to take what relevant themes emerge from within the project team back to the multi-agency staff development forum, so that it can develop multi-agency programmes as required.

To keep up to date with progress on the Improvement plan, go to http://www.dundeeprotects.co.uk/pwwc_newscurrent.htm