

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.

Evaluating Adult Support and Protection Services

The independent chairperson of the Adult Support and Protection Committee (ASPC), Prof James Hogg, attended the latest Chief Officer Group Meeting. He and Laura Bannerman, Head of Community Care services in social work, spoke about the ASPC's plans for self-evaluation of services. The Chief Officers noted that, along with the evaluation work now being implemented in child protection services, Dundee was putting in place the processes to allow us to know how well our services help and support people. The key is that we learn what we need to do to keep improving our services.

Prof Hogg also spoke about the work he is doing nationally to develop policy on the governance arrangements between ASPCs and the Chief Officer Group in the area in which the ASPC operates.

MAAT getting ready to 'go live'

Chief Insp Eric Knox, Project Manager for the implementation of the Multi-Agency Assessment Team (MAAT), reported to the Chief Officers at their meeting on 30 June. In order to avoid the main holiday season creating any hitches during the 'start-up' phase, the Chief Officers agreed with the recommendation that the team come into being in mid-August. Chief Insp Knox said he was working with the Immediate Response to Concerns Task Group in identifying and dealing with any issues that might affect successful imple-

Progress on Integrated Assessment and Care Planning

At each meeting of the COG, one of the chairperson's of the Task Groups set up under the Child Protection Improvement Plan attends to give a detailed report on the progress of the group's work. On 30 June it was Lynne Cameron, from the Integrated Assessment and Care Planning Task Group.

Work to develop documentation for the various levels of assessment that will be required and the processes that will support this work being done on a multi-agency basis, continues to progress well.

The COG was advised that the integrated assessment framework will be in four parts.

- Part 1 Initial Assessment and Referral Tool
- Part 2 Parenting Support
- Part 3 Core and Comprehensive assessment
- Part 4 Child's Plan

Each part will be supported by guidance and a range of tools. These will be placed on the integrated children's services website so that all agencies can access the documentation.

The key purpose of what is being developed in this work is that it is designed to help practitioners, working together, to make better informed assessments. This is to support professionals to make decisions that ensure children and families get the help they need when they need it.

The 'Child's Plan' is currently being piloted in the Braeview area and discussions are taking place with Children's Panel members to make sure that the plan will also help Children's Hearings make the right decisions for children and young people.

The timescale for implementing this framework is December 2010.

Everything on Schedule for the new building at Kings Cross

Building on the new centre that will replace Seymour Lodge is scheduled to start on 16 August. The demolition of the building currently on the site is now underway. The multi-agency client group, made up of those people who will occupy and use the building, has been working with the technical staff (architects, etc) to make sure Dundee has a resource that will serve its children and young people well. All the 'fitting-out' specifications; e.g. computer and phone systems, use of space, requirements for interview and medical rooms, etc, are now being finalised by the Client Group.

Allowing for fitting-out after the completion of the building work, the unit will be operational at the beginning of August 2011.

Scrutiny Questionnaire goes live

The online Scrutiny Questionnaire for use at key meetings where decisions are made relating to the protection of children and young people, went live on 1 July. This is one arm of our multi agency self-evaluation structure.

At the end of each relevant meeting, the chairperson must invite all the participants to be involved in answering a short set of questions about how effective the meeting was - e.g. Was everyone who needed to be there, present? Did everyone get a chance to share their views? The answers will be recorded and then transferred into an online database from where responses will be drawn and assessed on a 3-monthly basis.

The people who will be involved in chairing these meetings now know about this. So you should never again be at, say, a child protection case conference and not be asked to participate in answering the questions at the end of the meeting. If you are not asked, please remind the chairperson about the questionnaire.

The meetings that are on the list of those at which the questionnaire should be used are:

- Initial Referral Discussion
- Child Protection Core Group
- Community Resource Panel
- Early Intervention Screening Group
- Joint Action Team
- MAPPA (when identifiable child linked to offender)
- Professional Network Meeting
- Unborn Baby Meeting
- Youth Intervention Group
- Child Protection Case Conference
- Attendance Management Group
- Discharge Planning Meeting
- Housing Support Group
- Looked After Child Review
- Placement Review Panel/Admissions Panel
- Residential Resource Management Group
- Young Persons Working Anti-Social Behaviour Group

Practice Review Sub Group concludes examination of first case

The practice review sub group, the second element of our self evaluation framework, has completed its study and assessment of the first case that was referred to it. The CYPPC Lead Officer is now drafting a report with findings and recommendations to present to the CYPPC. Summaries of these findings and any actions that result will be shared with members of staff.

The key purpose of Practice Review is, again, to learn. The sub group is keen to receive referrals of high quality practice, so that it can be involved in examining 'what works' and share this learning across everyone working to protect children and young people.

The strength of the Practice Review Sub Group is that it includes membership from practitioners involved in delivering services on a day-to-day basis. This is not a group of people who haven't been on the front-line of practice for a long time. So the performance of services in a case can be understood and analysed in the context of 'real time' working.

Case based self-evaluation team ready to start in August

The third arm of our multi agency self-evaluation structure is now in the final phase of preparation for its start on 23 August.

The team is made up of people from voluntary sector agencies, police, health, education, housing, leisure & communities and social work. The Reporter will also be involved. And, again, those making up the team are, primarily, practitioners who are directly involved in service delivery on a day-to-day basis. They are well placed to understand the opportunities and challenges of working to protect children and young people.

The 10 sample cases have been identified. The key workers in these cases have been contacted and asked to speak to members of the families concerned to seek their consent to the case being included in the sample.

DI Graham Young, who will be Team Leader, Maureen Devlin, Preceptor Training, along with Jacquie Pepper, Dundee's HMIE Link Inspector are now finalising details of the 2-day team development programme that team members will undertake prior to beginning the evaluation.

As always, any views or comments you have about this briefing note or child protection services in general, should be fed back through the office of the Children & Young Persons Protection Committee at dundeeprotects@dundeecity.gov.uk.