

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.

This is the second issue of the briefing note that will be produced following meetings 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.

HMIe Interim Follow-Through Inspection

The Interim Follow-Through Inspection of Child Protection Services in the Dundee City Council area, by HMIe, will take place from 14th - 17th December. The inspection will focus exclusively on the 7 areas highlighted in Section 8 of the report published in June. The inspection will commence with a presentation to HMIe on the morning of 14th December and it is expected that a report of the inspection will be published by the end of February 2010.

Inspectors will be considering what progress has been made to address the issues highlighted in Section 8 of the report published in June. They will be meeting with Chief and Senior Officers and with each of the Child Protection Improvement Plan Task Groups. At the time of writing, details of the programme have still to be finalised. Meetings are taking place with HMIe to do this. Unless there is anything specific we feel will be learned about what we've done since June through looking at individual cases, then HMIe will not be doing so.

News from the latest COG meeting

Dundee Violence Against Women Partnership (DVAWP)

Readers of the first edition of this briefing note will be aware that the COG has identified that its governance and accountability role should encompass domestic violence against women, adult protection and the Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), as well as child protection. As part of that role, the most recent COG considered the DVAWP Strategic Plan 2009 - 2011.

In noting and approving its contents, the Chief Officers also noted the longer term funding issues facing strands of the Partnership's work. The achievement of longer term objectives and securing mainstream funding were discussed. Chief Officers asked to be kept informed and identified the need to develop exit strategies that protect services.

Monitoring the Implementation of Recommendation from SCR

Prof Peter Wilson, author of the independent review in the case of Brandon Muir, attended the meeting as part of his remit to:

- monitor progress towards achieving

recommendations and provide public comment as considered necessary;

- confirm publicly that all recommendations have been discharged or otherwise.

David Dorward, Council Chief Executive and Alan Baird, Chairperson of the CYPPC, will meet with Prof Wilson to finalise details of how he will discharge this obligation.

Child Protection Improvement Programme

The Chief Officers heard from each of the Chairs of the Task Groups that are taking forward the actions and tasks in the child protection improvement plan. Each task group gave an update of the progress to date against the specific tasks in the plan. A primary focus for the COG remains on making sure that tasks are completed within the timescales set out in the plan.

For a small number of the tasks, Chief Officers have approved an extension to the timescale. This has been the case when a task group, once it has got into

the detail of the task, has identified further or 'different' work that is required in order to bring about a better improvement to services.

The COG has endorsed the CYPPC's creation of a robust system and process for the updating of policies, procedures and guidance. A final draft of the updated Section 1 of the multi-agency child protection procedures, prepared in light of the recommendations about IRD's in the Hawthorn/Wilson Report, is being checked and will be published in early November.

Proposals for a structure and framework for self-evaluation are taking shape with the intention that this will start to be implemented early in 2010. As we know, Government, through HMIe, has put the quality of self-evaluation at the heart of the second phase of multi-agency inspection of child protection services now underway across Scotland.

A full update of the child protection improvement plan will be reported to the COG at its next meeting and copies of the updated plan will be made available to all members of staff.

Multi Agency Staff Consultation Event



Friday 6 November 09 and Wednesday 18 November 09

Al-Maktoum Institute

9.00am for 9.15am start, finish approx 4.30pm

The Improvement Plan for Services that Protect Children and Young People in Dundee has now been in place for 4 months. The recommendations of the Hawthorn and Wilson Reports have also been incorporated and the plan is being progressed by the CYPPC and Child Protection Improvement Task Groups.

Chief Officers have made clear that they believe the views, involvement and co-operation of personnel who work in Child Protection services is critical to supporting and informing the development of the plan.

Consultation events have been organised for representatives from all agencies to attend. The person representing your agency on the CYPPC has received an e-mail and flyer asking them to organise who from your agency will attend. They have been asked to ensure that those who attend are people who undertake or are responsible for key protection processes such as referral, assessment, investigation and intervention.

The primary aims of the events are:

- That the Chief Officer Group and the lead officers of the Implementation Plan Task Groups have the opportunity to discuss the Plan directly with key personnel from across all relevant agencies.
- That Staff develop a shared understanding of how the plan is to be implemented, their respective roles and responsibilities in it and those of their colleagues in partner agencies.
- Personnel from all agencies contribute and share their knowledge of the issues from their relevant organisation and report how these impact on the implementation of the plan.
- Staff report on the impact of the Improvement Plan on services to date.
- The comments and feedback made during the consultation will be recorded and used to inform developments in working practice and policy and to progress the Implementation Plan.

At the event participants will be allocated to consultation groups. Throughout the day each group will have the opportunity to consult directly with the leads for each of the Implementation Plan Task Groups including representatives of the Chief Officer Group.

The events will each be a full day. The programme is the same on each day so attendees are only required to attend once.

If you want to attend, please speak to your line manager or directly to your agency's CYPPC rep.

Membership of the COG

In case you didn't see the first edition, the members of the group are:

Tony Wells	Chief Executive, NHS Tayside
Bill Harkins	Deputy Chief Constable, Tayside Police
David Dorward	Chief Executive, Dundee City Council (Chairperson)
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