



## Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP)

### Progress Update

***“A Child Protection System that keeps children safer from abuse and neglect by placing the wellbeing of Scotland’s children at the heart of everything it does.”***

1. Work has progressed in a number of priority areas of the Child Protection Improvement Programme in recent weeks and this short update paper summarises the latest developments. Further periodic updates will be supplied to group members via email and you can keep abreast of what is going on via the Scottish Government’s child protection web pages: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/protecting/child-protection>

### **A child protection system where structures and processes support children, young people and families**

2. The Child Protection System Review Group, led by its independent Chair, Catherine Dyer, has met three times since August and has explored:

- the role of Child Protection Committees
- the Child Protection Register
- Child Protection Case Conferences and Core Groups
- Initial Case Reviews and Significant Case Reviews

The Group’s discussions have been informed by evidence papers and by a presentation from leading expert Dr Sharon Vincent, Northumbria University, on ‘Learning from Child Deaths’ which drew on evidence from other countries. Members of the group have also consulted their networks on the emerging findings from the review and many useful contributions have been received from Child Protection Committees, Lead Officers, Social Work Scotland, social work practitioners, Children’s Reporters, Third Sector organisations and others which are being used to shape the group’s findings. Notes of the key points arising from the group’s discussions can be found [here](#).

The review group will meet again on 21 & 22 November to reflect on the discussions so far and develop recommendations. The group’s final meeting is on 16 December and the group will report to Ministers before the end of the year.

3. The Children’s Hearings Improvement Partnership (CHIP) has recently published new research on ‘Better Hearings and the Role of the Solicitor’ in the Children’s Hearings’ System which will inform improvements in the system going forwards. The ‘Better Hearings’ research defines draft standards which all system’s partners will collectively aspire to work towards and which aim to result in real change for children and young people in the hearings’ system. The research into the role of solicitors in the system is accompanied by an action plan to implement the



recommendations: CHIP is of the view that solicitors make an essential contribution to ensuring a rights-proofed, high quality children's hearings process.

### **A child protection system that values and supports the people who work in it**

4. Building on the feedback from the Leadership Summit and practitioner events held earlier in the year we have continued to map leadership structures and opportunities and to identify leadership and workforce issues arising from the other CPIP work streams. We are having discussions with the Scottish Leaders Forum about opportunities for collaboration.

### **A child protection system that recognises the importance of supporting families to tackle neglect**

5. The Centre for Child Wellbeing and Protection will provide an update at the meeting about the progress of their work on the literature review and survey on neglect that they have been progressing since the last meeting. CELCIS will also provide an update on the pilot programme that they have been overseeing. The expectations remain that interim recommendations, based on the assessment of local needs and circumstances, will be provided to Ministers in December, with intensive improvement-focussed work taking place from January. Findings will be used to inform further phases of activity.

6. As advised at the previous EAG (External Advisory Group) meeting, we have developed a report following an internal review of the legislation on child cruelty (s. 12 Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937), highlighting options for reform of the existing legislation. This report has now been circulated around the internal advisory group, and is available alongside other documents for this meeting, on the Child Protection website. Stephen Lea will lead a session at this meeting to explore the 1937 Act more fully.

### **A child protection system that is transparent and learning**

7. Analysis activity is continuing with the completion of two cross sector stakeholder workshops which have fed into:

- mapping the child protection system and processes
- developing a child protection outcomes framework
- mapping the current data & evidence landscape
- gap analysis to identify gaps in data and evidence
- identification of how a data & evidence base could be developed
- recommendations on how this can be achieved.

Recommendations for improving data capture and promoting reflective learning within the child protection system, broadly conceived, will be provided to Ministers (as part of an integrated set of CPIP recommendations) in December.



8. Work will continue with the Care Inspectorate and other partners to consider how a revised inspections' framework can be developed to replace the current framework, that will reach its conclusion in December 2017. It is anticipated that this work will also be influenced by the recommendations made by the Systems Review and, as such, is likely to develop recommendations about a revised inspections' model early next year.

### **Implementing the Children's aspects of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015**

9. The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 (the "2015 Act") makes provision about human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour, including provisions about: offences and sentencing, victim support and reducing activity related to offences. We have worked with partners to develop the children's aspects of Scotland's first Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy. A public consultation on this draft Strategy began on 12<sup>th</sup> October and will close on the 8<sup>th</sup> December (implementing Section 35). Notice of the events to launch the consultation on the draft Strategy was sent to the EAG in October. We also plan to update the 2012 Age Assessment Practice Guidance to reflect Section 12 of the 2015 Act (Presumption of Age).

In addition, we are undertaking a programme of public consultation on Section 11 of the 2015 Act (independent child trafficking guardians) in three specific areas: Parental Rights & Responsibilities (PRR); relevant authorities and the role of the independent child trafficking guardian; responsibilities and functions of the guardian. The consultation on PRR and relevant authorities closed on the 15 August and officials are working their way through the responses with the aim of reporting back to the sector in due course. The consultation on the role, responsibilities and functions of the guardian will be consulted on as part of the wider consultation on the justice elements.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation**

10. The next meeting of the National Working Group to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation will take place on 7 November 2016. As well as action plan monitoring and progression, the group will also be looking at progress to date and reviewing their terms of reference and working model, following the Minister's decision on 8 September to close the CSE Ministerial Working Group. This decision was based on the fact that the National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (the Action Plan) was in its second iteration, with a clear focus and direction, and he now wished the NWG to assume the role of monitoring implementation.

Work is continuing to take forward a number of actions within the Action Plan, to raise awareness of CSE among professionals and the wider public. These actions contribute to increasing the understanding and awareness of CSE, and developing an appropriate multi-agency response for those children and young people who may be at risk of, or are victims of child sexual exploitation. Current work includes:



- development of guidance on CSE for medical professionals
- development of a template to capture data on CSE
- guidance for the Night-time economy sector
- developing a set of CSE minimum standards
- CSE shared learning workshops
- Developing a Stop to Listen model

On 25 October 2016, the Scottish Government published a revised definition of child sexual exploitation for Scotland. The definition and accompanying Practitioner Briefing Paper, which includes a summary of how the definition should be applied, was written by the University of Bedfordshire, who developed it with the National Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group.

[Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and Practitioner Briefing Paper](#)  
[Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and Summary](#)  
[National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation](#)

11. In August, the Care Inspectorate published 'Joint inspections of services for children and young people' a report on the findings of inspections 2014-16. Part 2 of the report sets out an overview of the action that each of the Community Planning Partnership areas inspected are taking, to prevent and tackle child sexual exploitation.

### **Internet Safety**

12. Under children and families, the SNP made the following manifesto commitment:

We will refresh our internet safety action plan, linking it to our strategy on digital participation, so that appropriate frameworks of training, support and information are in place for professionals and families, including children and young people. We are therefore currently working across government, and with key stakeholders, to update our internet safety action plan, ensuring it is linked to our Digital Participation Strategy. We are also taking steps to ensure the refreshed action plan is linked to work being taken forward in schools. In addition to this, we will be engaging with key external stakeholders who will be crucial in the development of a refreshed action plan.