



EAST AYRSHIRE CHIEF OFFICERS GROUP: 21 DECEMBER 2010

REVISED CHILD PROTECTION GUIDANCE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform the Chief Officers Group of the launch of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, the completion of the West of Scotland Interagency Child Protection Procedures and the publication of the National Guidance on Under-age Sexual Activity: Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People and Identifying Child Protection Concerns.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Adverse weather conditions caused the cancellation of the meeting of East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee (EACPC) on 7 December 2010. EACPC members have been alerted to the publication of these documents but have not had the opportunity, as yet, to discuss and agree implementation arrangements. The Scottish Government and Child Protection Chairs identified that with significant developments in child protection policy and practice and new forms of harm to children having emerged in recent years it was necessary to update the document "Protecting Children - A Shared Responsibility: Guidance on Inter-agency Co-operation" (1998) in accordance with the principles of "Getting it Right For Every Child". The National Child Protection Guidance was launched by the Scottish Government on 13 December 2010. A copy of the guidance is available at

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/12/09134441/0>

- 2.2 Procedures and guidance cannot in themselves protect children. A competent, skilled and confident workforce, together with a vigilant public, can help significantly. The guidance sets out common standards for services in Scotland to work collectively and effectively, with a shared understanding of the common objective - supporting and protecting children, particularly those who are most vulnerable. The national guidance makes it clear how agencies should work together, responding to concerns early and to make sure that practice is consistent and of high quality.
- 2.3 Whilst the National Guidance provides overarching principles of best practice, the West of Scotland Interagency Child Protection Procedures have been revised and updated to provide more detailed advice on managing child protection referrals. The updated West of Scotland procedures are currently available on the internet and will be formally launched in January 2011. The

launch will be supplemented by e-learning tools and each CPC will have a training plan for inter-agency staff groups.

The guidance is available at the following address:

<http://www.reconstruct.co.uk/procedures/westofscotland/>

- 2.4 On 7 December 2010, the Scottish Government published the National Guidance on Under-age Sexual Activity: Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People and Identifying Child Protection Concerns. The Scottish Government identified that there are specific circumstances in which children and young people may be at risk of significant harm as a result of under-age sexual activity. As such, this guidance looks at how protocols can be developed to ensure the early identification and support for such children and young people and help ensure that in cases where there may not be a child protection issue, their needs are still met appropriately. This guidance should be read in conjunction with the National Child Protection Guidance detailed above. The guidance is available at

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/333495/0108880.pdf>

- 2.5 The EACPC will consider the revised and published guidance as detailed above and implementation plans will be developed.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Chief Officers Group: -
- (i) note the publication of the new guidance;
 - (ii) note that the EACPC will proceed with implementation arrangements; and otherwise
 - (iii) note the contents of this report;

Susan Taylor
Chair of the Child Protection Committee

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