



**EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD
PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

**SELF EVALUATION REPORT
FRAMEWORK**

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This paper highlights the approach adopted by the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee (EACPC) in self evaluating child protection practice.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The EACPC is committed to ongoing self evaluation and has promoted the use of the quality indicators as a framework for evaluating practice since they were published by HMle in 2005. The committee has adopted a rigorous approach to self evaluation, with reflection, learning and improvement being central to this activity. We have recognised that self evaluation is an evolving process which takes place at all levels – at a strategic level, at a management level and at an operational level.

- 2.2 Our self evaluation activity has consisted of three approaches:

- Multi-agency self evaluation activity in respect of specific areas of focus. These areas have been the focus of specific work for the committee as they reflect our improvement activity in response to the inspection findings in 2007. There has been a particular emphasis on impact and outcomes for children and young people.
- Multi-agency self evaluation has also taken place across the range of quality indicators, but with a specific focus on the quality indicators which were subject to lower gradings in the 2007 inspection.
- Single agency self evaluations have ensured that individual agencies are aware of the quality of their own practices and how this impacts and enhances partnership working. This has continued to be a focus for the committee as our first joint inspection highlighted that some single agency processes required to improve. Each agency has embarked on single agency self evaluation in a proportionate way, recognising existing strengths and needs.

- 2.3 The detail of our self evaluation activity is set out below, with supporting documentation available in respect of each.

1. Specific Areas of Focus

The EACPC has undertaken self evaluation on a continuous basis in developing, implementing and reviewing each of the following:

- Improvement plan from HMle Child Protection Inspection
- GIFREC Early Intervention and Pre Referral Group

- Child Protection Committee Development Days
- Initial Response Team
- Tripartite Discussions
- Management Information

2. CPC Joint Self Evaluation Report

The EACPC has also undertaken joint self evaluation across the range of quality indicators, but has focussed on the key reference quality indicators and the areas identified at the last inspection which received lower gradings.

For this reason, the CPC joint self evaluation report has a focus on the following quality indicators:

Number	Quality Indicator	Reference QI	Area for improvement
1.1	Improvements in performance	X	
2.1	Children and young people are listened to, understood and respected	X	
2.2	Children and young people benefit from strategies to minimise harm	X	
2.3	Children and young people are helped by the actions taken in immediate response to concerns	X	X
2.4	Children's and young people's needs are met	X	X
5.3	Recognising and assessing risks and needs	X	X
5.4	Effectiveness of planning to meet needs		X
5.5	Improvement through self-evaluation	X	
9.2	Leadership and direction		X

3. Single agency self evaluation activity has been recorded on an ongoing basis, and is available to inspectors if required. Information is available in respect of:

- Social Work Services, East Ayrshire Council
- NHS Ayrshire and Arran
- Family Protection Unit, Strathclyde Police
- Educational Services, East Ayrshire Council

- Housing Services, East Ayrshire Council
- COPFS
- SCRA

Finally, in response to a request from inspectors, information in relation to the seven key themes identified by the inspectors has been collated on a multi-agency basis as follows:

- **Children missing from education**
- **Internet safety**
- **Young runaways**
- **Children who may have been trafficked**
- **Child protection medical examinations**
- **Management of sex offenders in relation to child protection**
- **LGBT inclusion and equalities**

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The supporting documents outline the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee self evaluation journey, and illustrates how agencies are working together on a continuous basis to improve child protection services and arrangements. They also highlight the key improvements that have been made in strengthening child protection services in East Ayrshire since the publication of the last inspection report in January 2008.

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