



CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE JOINT SELF EVALUATION REPORT

9.2

Quality Indicator 9.2 Leadership and Direction	Themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint leadership within and across agencies • Strategic deployment of resources
Overall Evaluation Very good	
Evaluation of current service and practice How good are we now?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership strengthened by review of the role of the COG in respect of child, adult and public protection is to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a collective strategic overview; ○ effective performance, particularly in respect of risk assessment and risk management processes; ○ appropriate resourcing and; ○ clear and appropriate public reporting, including a robust approach to public relations. • The East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee (CPC) and the East Ayrshire Adult Protection Committee (APC) report to the COG and are represented by the chairs of each committee. The CPC and APC Coordinators attend the COG to provide a means of resourcing the group and ensuring effective connections between each committee and the COG. The South West Scotland Community Justice Authority Strategic Oversight Group (SWS CJA SOG) has the strategic overview of all MAPPA arrangements in East Ayrshire (EA), North Ayrshire (NA), South Ayrshire (SA) and Dumfries and Galloway (D&G). The East Ayrshire representative on the group is the link to the COG (i.e. the Head of Children & Families and Criminal Justice) and the MAPPA Coordinator is invited to meetings as required. • The Social Work Service has been re-modelled with a Head of Service : Community Care and Head of Service : Children & Families & Criminal Justice to allow greater emphasis to be placed on the work of children and families and strengthen overall senior management arrangements. The Head of Service : Community Care is the Chief Social Work Officer. • The Health Service has also been remodelled with Joanne Sharp as being the senior manager with responsibility for children's services. The Police have put a forced emphasis on domestic abuse with referrals to the Procurator Fiscal. These referrals bring a related intervention. • At the planning level, the single outcome agreement has specific target on re-registrations for child protection and the community plan gives through its revision to four themes a new emphasis and clarity about the importance about community safety. Also through community planning there has been a renewed emphasis on drugs and alcohol issues and particularly the formation of the ADP as a substitute for ADAT. 	

- The CHP and the associated OLG will allow a new emphasis to be put locally on inter-agency working.
- The Social Work Sustainably Plan is specifically considering the risks associated in the children and families sector. Resources have been allocated to support the work of children and families. Specific action was taken in April 2008 to reduce the backlog of cases presently held in children and families.
- Through these initiatives, specific projects such as holistic health clinics, and Campus Police Officers have been promoted. New schools such as the Grange Campus and St Joseph's Campus includes specific facilities for health professionals to work alongside their education and social work counterparts. Wider implications of the strategic developments include the development of the integrated resource framework and the data sharing partnership and integrated assessment framework at PAN Ayrshire level.

How do we know? What key outcomes have we achieved? Impact and benefits

Please include evidence of policies, procedures, protocols, minutes of meetings, publicity material, reports etc.

- GIRFEC; the GIRFEC group chaired by Superintendent Douglas Robertson has been specifically evaluated and found to be an extremely positive initiative. This evaluation is available.
- The same GIRFEC group has a demonstrable impact on the lives of young people allowing rapid interventions that are risk assessed. These currently run at an average of 35 a week indicating its flexibility and responsiveness.
- A structured approach to aftercare is being taken for looked after children.
- The corporate parenting action plan links to the child protection agenda. East Ayrshire Council has recently introduced a revised staff vetting policy that runs ahead of the national legal requirements. University research is being undertaken into gaining a better understanding of why East Ayrshire tends to outperform other authorities in terms of child protection referrals and the numbers of looked after children.
- The MAPPA arrangements also link to child protection.
- The Executive Director of Educational and Social Services has written specifically to Head Teachers regarding monitoring of children who are at the low tariff end of risk.
- Standard Circular 57 has been discussed by Head Teachers with all staff in educational; establishments and a certificate of completion has been provided.

Examples of Good Practice

- The GIRFEC referral group
- The Police drug related searches and associated referrals for child protection
- The Parenting Strategy
- The cross flow regarding letters of concern between the Council and the Police
- Service reviews of the business leading to resource re-allocation
- The work by Leisure Services in terms of diversionary activities
- Child protection objectives in officer reviews in East Ayrshire Council, the Police and NHS

Ayrshire and Arran

- Briefing of Elected Member

How Good Can We Be? Areas for Improvement

Following self-evaluation Social Work Resources identified the following action points:

- Further University research into GIRFEC and the issues surrounding it.
- Further development of MAPPA
- Continuing training for all staff on child protection referrals
- Issuing of additional literature to publicise child protection.