



CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE JOINT SELF EVALUATION REPORT

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

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Overall Evaluation

GOOD

Evaluation of current service and practice

How good are we now?

- The East Ayrshire Child Protection committee is committed to reviewing its practice to ensure that it is best meeting the needs. The CPC receives regular management information reports to ensure that it understands the nature of child protection activity in East Ayrshire.
- The Performance and Audit sub group is responsible for considering the information that is submitted to the committee. One of the key developments is to provide the CPC with child protection activity figures broken down geographically and mapping in staffing information to ensure that 'hotspot' areas are easily identified. This will enable the CPC to have a strategic overview for monitoring trends and considering their impact on services and resources.
- Management information is being reviewed by the Ayrshire Wide CPC chairs and Lead officer meetings. The aim is to develop an Ayrshire wide agreed management information dataset, recognising that some of the services operate on an Ayrshire Wide basis.
- Through the constant monitoring of child protection statistical information, the CPC was aware of the continual rise in child protection statistics. The CPC held a statistical seminar in January 2009 in recognition of the ongoing significant rise in child protection activity within East Ayrshire. The seminar discussed a general overview of trends and statistics; addiction issues in East Ayrshire and the impact on the protection of children and young people; and, what do we know about vulnerable pregnant women in East Ayrshire. There were opportunities provided to analyse information across agencies.
- The feedback from participants was very positive as the seminar allowed a full and open discussion around how best to meet the needs of those most vulnerable in East Ayrshire.
- On a multi agency basis this led to:
 - Addiction Services invited to inform the Child Protection Committee of current statistical evidence of service users in East Ayrshire and the new structures implemented within Addiction Services to address the needs of local service users
 - An agreement to revise the Child Protection Committee membership to include a Lead Officer, East Ayrshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership

- An agreement to commission an independent research study on trends; patterns and vulnerability of children and young people in East Ayrshire and, on a single agency basis this led to:
- A new focus on workforce planning within Social Services. This has led to a restructuring of service provision to best meet the needs of the children, young people and families in East Ayrshire.
- HMle published 'How good are we at assessing risks and needs to help children and families', March 2008. This document was considered by the Performance and audit sub group and an action plan drawn up with key areas for development. This work looked at specific quality indicators and the sources of evidence that we would use. An example of this work is the activity of the file audit group and the Views of children and families following initial child Protection Case Conferences.

CPO

- In May 2008, the Authority Reporter in East Ayrshire highlighted to the Child Protection Committee the rise in child protection orders (CPO). It was agreed that there would be merit in conducting a focused analysis of the child protection orders granted. This work looked at the following areas;
 - To identify the rise in the number of CPOs granted in 2008, to consider this in the context of the previous 5 years, from 2003 to 2008, and to identify if any patterns exist;
 - To identify the number of children placed on CPOs who were already subject to supervision requirements;
 - To identify whether evidential difficulties followed after CPOs were granted in respect of any children.
- The report has been a number of key recommendations which the CPC will consider for action at its meeting on 28.10.09.

Outcomes

- CPC clear understanding of the child protection committee activity in East Ayrshire which will result in improved service provision for children and young people in East Ayrshire

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.

- CPC minutes
- CPC reports
- Performance and audit minutes
- Stats seminar information
- CPO analysis report
- Ayrshire wide minutes

Examples of Good Practice

- Statistical seminar
- Cpo analysis paper

How Good Can We Be? Areas for Improvement

- Agreement of Ayrshire management information data set for CPCs
- Completion of the proposed research
- Further development of the information and reports from the child protection module