



Agenda Item 3 (iii)

EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE: 26 AUGUST 2009

PRACTITIONERS SUB GROUP REPORT

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the work of the practitioners sub group and forum.

2. PROGRESS OF THE PRACTITIONERS SUB GROUP

- 2.1 The practitioners sub group has met on one occasion since the last Child Protection Committee.
- 2.2 The following progress has been made: -

Protocols

The group has considered the Vulnerable Young Person Protocol and is currently considering the Risk Management Protocol for Children and Young People with Problematic Sexual Behaviour.

CPC Newsletter

The newsletter will be issued initially twice a year and will be made available to practitioners in all agencies primarily by email, with some printed copies available for placing on notice boards and in offices. The first issue of the newsletter has now been drafted and contains information in relation to the Child Protection Committee and its work, current issues in child protection and its centre pages will contain a self evaluation and child protection inspection special. The newsletter will be designed in early September and ready for issue mid September. This will be followed by a further edition of the newsletter in the New Year.

Annual Conference

The practitioners sub group has played a key role in the arrangement of previous Child Protection Committee Annual Conferences. The conferences take place in February and the sub group will be discussing topics at its next meeting on 26 August 2009. A verbal report will be provided to the committee on this matter.

Practitioners Forum

The practitioners forum met on 3 June 2009. The forum had a presentation in relation to the findings in the Baby Peter report and the forum members received a copy of the CPC action plan.

Key issues raised:

- Early Identification – staff have identified that in some cases, issues become apparent at the point a child enters a pre-school establishment and that the removal of the 22 month check for all children means that an opportunity identification of any concerns or issues at this point in their development is lost.
- Learning Partnerships - concern was expressed by staff that the movement away from learning partnerships may result in a loss of some of the key preventative and support work that was being done. It was also a key channel of communication between staff.

The forum reviewed the pilot Self Evaluation Pro Forma for Children/Young People and Parents/Carers following an initial child protection case conference regarding their experience of the child protection system and gave comments and suggestions in relation to their content and usage.

The group reviewed the supervision checklist developed by the performance and Audit sub group. The group had concerns relating to its purpose and how it would work in practice. The forum felt that further work and discussion was needed in relation to this tool.

The next practitioner's forum will take place on Wednesday 2 September 2009 in Shortlees Community Centre. The forum will meet with Susan Taylor, Chair of the Child Protection Committee as an introduction to the new Chair and discussion regarding the current work of the committee. The forum will also receive a brief input in relation to the child protection inspection. The key discussion item will be focusing on supervision.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Child Protection Committee is asked to:-

- (i) note the work of the Practitioners Sub Group;

Susan Taylor
Chair of the Child Protection Committee
18 August 2009

Report prepared by Diane Burns, Child Protection Co-ordinator