

EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Online Survey

2009



working together to keep our
children & young people safe



Young People
Adults
Communities



Contents

	Page
1 Summary of Results.....	1
2 Background and Methodology.....	2
2.1 Background.....	2
2.2 Purpose of Research	2
2.3 Questionnaire Development.....	2
2.4 Methodology	3
2.5 Respondent Profile	3
3 Survey Results	4
Q.1 What do you think the phrase Child Protection means?	4
Q.2 Could you suggest another phrase we could use?	4
Q.3 Have you seen the child protection logo?	4
Q.4 Have you seen any information on child protection services?.....	5
Q.5 If so where did you find this information?	5
Q.6 Do you access to the internet?.....	5
Q.7 If yes would you look on the internet for child protection information?	5
Q.8 How should we provide information about keeping children and young people safe ?.....	5 Error! Bookmark not defined.
Q.9 Please tell us what helps you to feel safe in school, in your neighbourhood and at home?.....	6
Q.10 Who would it be easiest to talk to if you had a problem?.....	6
Q.11 Are you aware of the Children's Charter?.....	6
5 Conclusions.....	7
6 Acknowledgements.....	8
5 Survey questionnaire.....	9

1 Summary of Results

Responses were received from 162 Primary 5 children and from 94 Secondary 2 young people giving a 59% response rate.

All children and young people who participated attend schools in the south of the Authority.

51% of respondents had seen information on Child Protection in East Ayrshire.

Children and young people cited various locations where they had seen information, of these schools were the most common at 34 % followed by libraries and doctors/hospital both 25%.

Responses indicated the most favoured media for providing information were leaflets/posters/pens and key rings.

Children and young people indicated that what helps them to feel safe in school, at home and in their communities are their teachers, their parents and family.

40% of respondents confirmed that they had seen the logo, 68% of those who had, indicated that they liked it.

44% of children and young people thought the phrase Child Protection referred to physical abuse but less than one third (29%) related the phrase to neglect.

4 out of 5 of respondents said they would find it easier to talk to a parent or carer if they had a problem, 1 in 5 said a social worker and slightly fewer said an adult in school.

45 % of respondents had seen East Ayrshire's Children's Charter.

2 Background and Methodology

2.1 Background

The East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is a multi agency committee which, through strategic planning and partnership working, seeks to continuously improve child protection work and secure better outcomes for children, and in particular vulnerable children, at a local and national level.

The committee is responsible for raising awareness of child protection issues within communities and for providing information about where members of the public including children and young people can go if they are worried about a child.

The Committee's Business Plan 2008-11 identifies the following objectives;

- To further develop means of engagement with young people in seeking their views and assessing the impact of these;
- Continue to increase children and young people's awareness of how to protect themselves

This survey contributes to the progress of these objectives.

2.2 Purpose of Research

The aim of this survey was to determine children and young people's understanding of the phrase Child Protection.

Questions were included to assess awareness of sources of help and support and to indicate if information materials are reaching their intended audience.

Survey responses will help inform the content and format of future information materials.

This particular survey also piloted online participation to determine if this is a more user friendly approach, if as a result response rates would rise and if this system would facilitate collation of responses.

2.3 Questionnaire Development

The Public Engagement and Information sub group of the Child Protection Committee developed draft questionnaires.

Dialogue Youth facilitated two small focus groups of Primary 5 children and Secondary 2 young people who made comment on the drafts which were amended accordingly. Section 4 shows the survey forms.

2.4 Methodology

The questionnaire was made available to participating schools via a link to the Councils Website.

Schools sought parental consent for children and young people's involvement; the questions were made publicly available to parents / carer via the Child Protection website.

Participating schools agreed that pupils could be allocated class time to complete the survey online.

As some survey questions required typed answers, a protocol was developed to ensure safeguards were in place in case of disclosure. On one occasion, the protocol was tested and proved successful in working practice.

2.5 Respondent Profile





256 forms of a possible 434 were completed giving an overall response rate of 59%.

63% of responses were received from primary 5 children and 37% from secondary 2 young people.

95 responses of a possible 219 were received from secondary young people giving a response rate of 44.2%

161 responses were received from primary 5 children giving a response rate of 75%

The gender balance was almost equal with slightly more females responding in the Primary 5 age group and slightly more males in the Secondary age group.

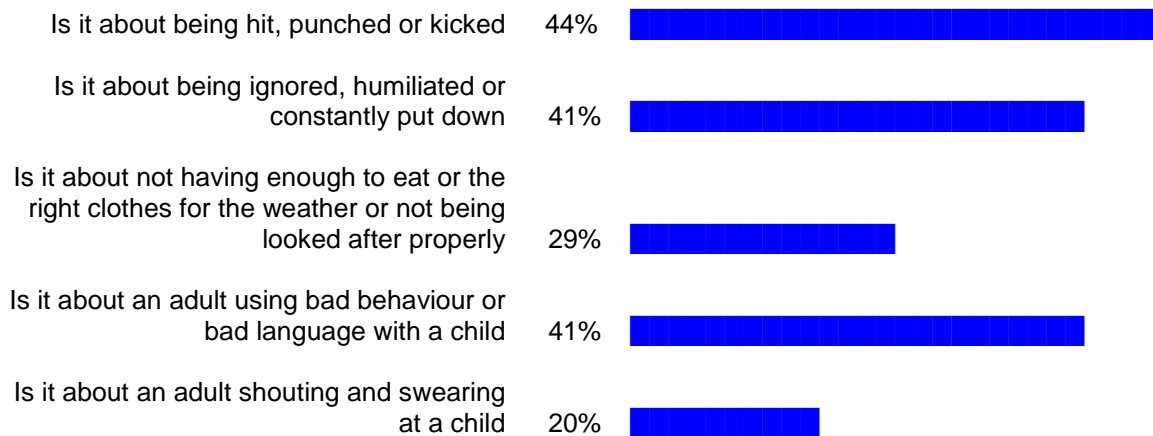
Female 9 – 10 years	51.23%	
Male 9 – 10 years	48.77%	
Female 13 – 14 years	46.81%	
Male 13 – 14 years	53.19%	

3 Survey Results

Q 1 What do you think the phrase 'Child Protection' means?

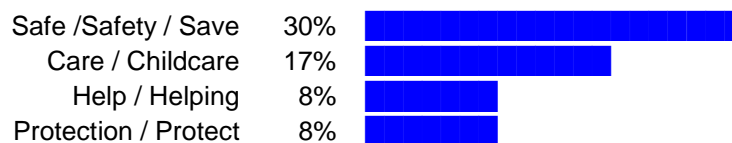
S2 respondents were given four brief definitions and were able to choose as many as they wished.

In response to focus group comment, P5 respondents had a fifth option of an adult shouting and swearing at a child.



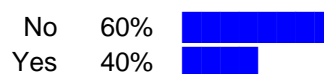
Q 2 Could you suggest another phrase we could use ?

Respondents were asked to suggest what other phrases we could use instead of Child Protection. The words most commonly stated, are listed below.



The word abuse was also mentioned by 12% of the Secondary 2 respondents.

Q 3 Have you seen the Child Protection logo before?



68% of respondents who had seen the logo liked it.

Q 4 Have you seen any information on Child Protection Services

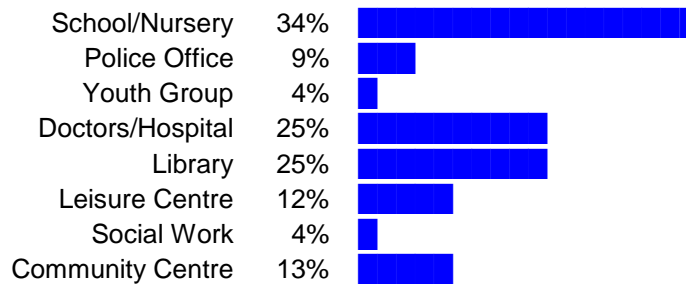
51% of respondents had seen information on child protection.



There was some difference between the sexes with 42% of males and 30% of females saying they had seen information

Q 5 If so where did you find this information?

Of those who had seen such information, the most common location was school with libraries and Doctors/Hospital in equal second place.



Q 6 Do you have access to the internet?

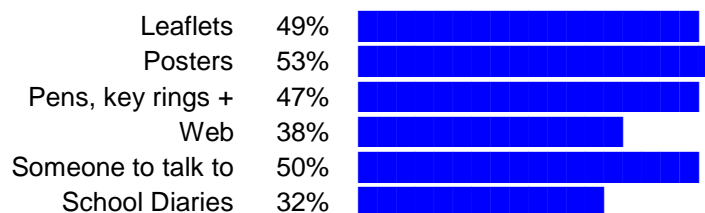
100% of respondents had access to the Internet.

Q 7 If yes would you look on the internet for child protection information?

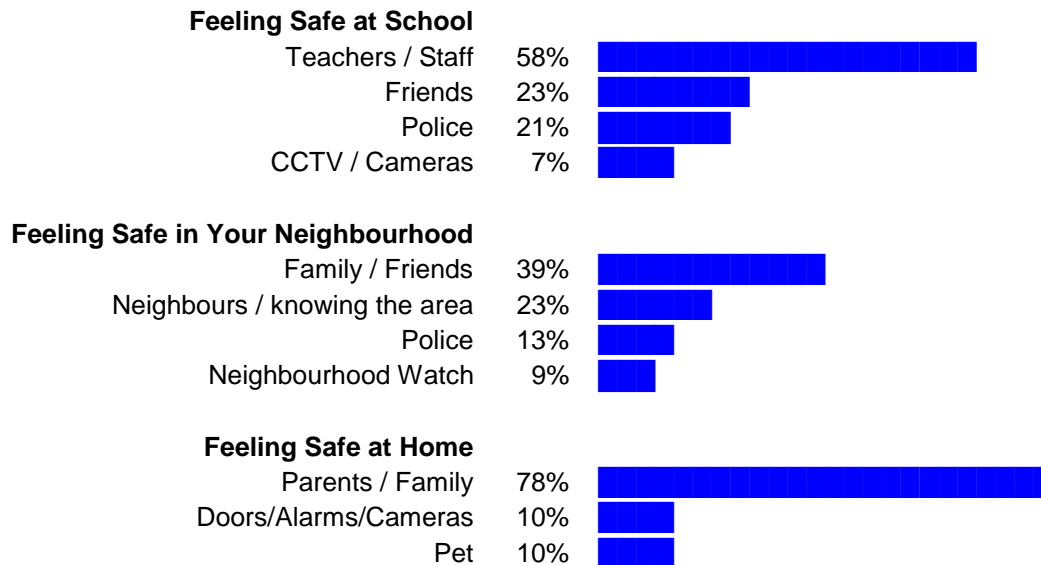
43% of respondents would use the internet to look for local information on child protection.

Q 8 How should we provide information about keeping children and young people safe?

Respondents identified a variety of favoured media for information provision.



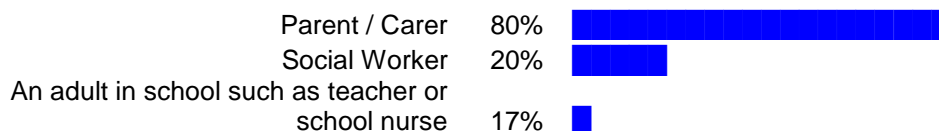
Q 9 Please tell us what helps you to feel safe in school, in your neighbourhood and at home?



In Secondary, slightly more than 1 in 5 pupils said a police presence on campus made them feel safer.

Q 10 Who would it be easiest to talk to if you had a problem?

Four out of five respondents said they would find it easiest to talk to their parent or carer if they had a problem.



There was a marked age effect with 10% of those secondary pupils saying they would talk to a social worker, compared with 26% of primary pupils.

Q11 Are you aware of the Children's Charter ?

Respondents were asked if they had seen the Children's Charter, the front cover of the Charter was shown as a prompt.



4 Conclusions and recommendations

4.1 Fewer than 30% of children and young people associated illustrations of neglect with child protection. It is recommended that the Child Protection Committee gives consideration to mechanisms for raising awareness among children and young people of this aspect of the right and need for protection.

4.2 30% of respondents suggested use of the words “safe, safety, save” instead of the phrase child protection, it is recommended that future information materials reflect this.

4.3 60% of children and young people who responded indicated they had not seen the Child Protection Committee logo before and 49% indicated they had not seen information on child protection. It is recommended that a large scale distribution of materials is undertaken annually and that smaller scale distribution is undertaken on an ongoing basis at relevant events.

4.4 There was no clear favoured media for information; leaflets/posters/pens/etc all received similar responses around 50%, possibly because respondents could tick more than one media. It is recommended that variety of media is used to disseminate information.

4.5 The original small scale paper survey in November 2007 had a response rate of 64% while the pilot online survey response rate was 59%, a giving a negligible difference. The children and young people undertaking the original survey were supported by Dialogue Youth staff which possibly accounts for the higher response rate. However this model of supported involvement has capacity limitations. The online version has greater capacity not only for larger scale surveys but also for automatic collation of results and on this basis it is recommended that online surveys are conducted annually. This would also allow annual comparison and if undertaken for 3 years would also catch the original P5 children at S1 stage and the original S2 young people at S5 stage and allow for further comparison.

5 Acknowledgements

Barshare Primary 5 Focus group

Cumnock Academy S2 Student Council

Head Teacher, Primary 5 teachers and pupils of Auchinleck Primary School

Head Teacher, Primary 5 teachers and pupils of Mauchline Primary School

Acting Head Teacher, Primary 5 teacher and pupils Drongan Primary School

Head Teacher, Primary 5 teacher and pupils Muirkirk Primary School.

Guidance staff and S2 pupils Auchinleck Academy

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Jane Davies Clerical Assistant Early Education and Childcare

Gillian Hamilton Administration Officer Corporate Services

Q6 Do you have access to the internet? Yes No
if so where do you access it?

Q7 If yes would you look on the internet for local child protection information?
Yes No

Q8 How should we provide information about keeping children and young people safe?

- 8a Someone to talk to
- 8b Leaflets
- 8c Posters
- 8d Information in school diaries
- 8e On pens, key rings, phone charms
- 8f Information on the Web including school intranet
- 8g Other

Q9 Please tell us what helps you to feel safe

- 9 a in school
- 9 b in your neighbourhood
- 9 c at home

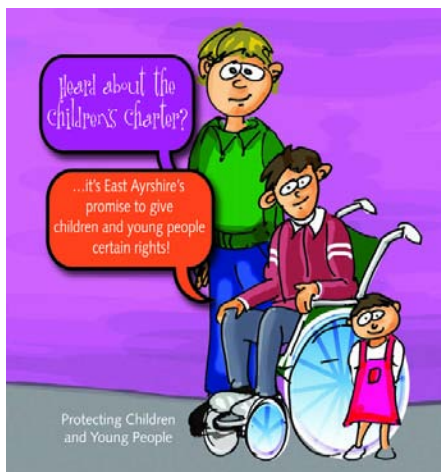
Q10 Who would it be easiest to talk to you if you had a problem

- 10 a Your parent or carer
- 10 b A social worker
- 10 c an adult in school such as a teacher , school nurse
- 10 d Is there anyone else you would talk to?

Q11 Who would it be easiest for you to talk if you were worried about a friend

- 11 a Your parent or carer
- 11 b A social worker
- 11 c an adult in school such as a teacher , school nurse
- 11 d Is there anyone else you would talk to?

Q12 Are you aware of East Ayrshire's Children's Charter Yes No



QUESTIONS FOR CHILD PROTECTION ONLINE SURVEY OF PRIMARY 5 PUPILS

Introduction

It is the Child Protection Committee's job to keep children and young people in East Ayrshire safe. The Committee is made up of senior staff from services such as Health, Social Services, Police and the Reporter to the Children's Panel.

Part of our work is to make sure children and young people have information on how to get help for themselves or someone they know if they do not feel safe or are being harmed. To help us get this right, we would like to hear your views on child protection information and on what helps you feel safe.

Thank you very much your help with this important work. All questions must be answered.

Are you a boy a girl
Your age 7 8 9 10
Town or village where you live

Q1 To make sure we use words which children and young people understand, please tell us what you think the phrase Child Protection is about ?

- 1 a Is it about children being hit, punched or kicked?
- 1 b Is it about not having enough to eat or the right clothes for the weather or not being looked after properly?
- 1 c Is it about being ignored, humiliated or constantly put down?
- 1 d Is it about an adult using bad behavior or bad language with a child?
- 1 e Please tells us if you think it is about something else.

Q2 Can you suggest another phrase we could use instead of Child Protection

Q3 Have you seen the Child Protection Logo before ? Yes No
Do you like it ? Yes No
If not, why not

Q4 Have you seen any information about child protection in East Ayrshire?

Yes No

Q5 If so where did you find this information?

- 5a School
- 5b Social work office
- 5c Police Office
- 5d Doctors/Hospital
- 5e Youth Group
- 5f Community Centre
- 5g Library
- 5h Leisure centre
- 5i Other

Q6 Do you have access to the internet? Yes No
if so where do you access it?

Q7 If yes would you look on the internet for local child protection information? Yes
No

Q8 How should we provide information about keeping children and young people safe?

- 8a Someone to talk to
- 8b Leaflets
- 8c Posters
- 8d Information in school diaries
- 8e On pens, key rings, phone charms
- 8f Information on the Web
- 8g Other

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