



**EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE: 03 JUNE 2011**

**CHILDREN AFFECTED BY PARENTAL SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

**Report by the Team Manager (addictions) East Ayrshire Council**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee (EACPC) on action being taken to better identify, support and protect children affected by parental substance misuse (CAPSM).

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The East Ayrshire Council area has the fifth highest drug prevalence rate in Scotland.
- 2.2 It is estimated that East Ayrshire may have as many as 1800 children affected by parental substance misuse.
- 2.3 Members will recall that Scottish Government is currently undertaking a review of Getting Our Priorities Right Good Practice Guidance for working with Children and Families affected by Substance Misuse (GOPR).

**3. GOPR**

- 3.1 The document, first published in 2003, provides an operational context for staff working in the field of addiction where they come into contact with children or staff working with children who come into contact with addiction issues.
- 3.2 The GOPR guidance forms part of the local and regional child protection procedures and its recommendations and procedures were the subject of an extensive and wide reaching multi agency training programme during 2005/06.
- 3.3 GOPR training continues to be delivered as part of the multi agency child protection training calendar and attracts in the region of 20 members of staff for each session.
- 3.4 GOPR had four key recommendations:
- children's welfare is the most important consideration;
  - it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that children are protected from harm;
  - we should help children early and not wait for crises – or tragedies – to occur; and
  - we must work together, in planning and delivering services, in assessment and care planning with families, and in multi-disciplinary training.

#### **4. JOINT WORKING**

- 4.1 Since the publication of GOPR, there has been regular joint working and information sharing between NHS addiction services and Social Work services where CAPSM are identified.
- 4.2 Partners have not been complacent around the protection of children and constantly seek to improve systems, structures and planning arrangements. Therefore, in keeping with the principles of Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC), it is proposed to bring together NHS staff and social work staff to examine in particular improvements in planning and delivering services, and assessment and care planning with families.
- 4.3 It is proposed that in bringing staff together, they will have the opportunity to hear about good practice from an eminent obstetrician and subsequently examine local systems and structures.
- 4.4 The development session is scheduled to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and will be facilitated by East Ayrshire Council organisational development section.
- 4.5 A draft programme is attached at appendix one for members perusal.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee:
  - i) Recognise the significant impact parental substance use has on children in East Ayrshire;
  - ii) support the practitioners development session on 20 June 2011 and;
  - iii) otherwise, notes the content of the report.

**Susan Taylor**  
**Chair of East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee**  
**May 2011**

**Report prepared by Liam Wells, Team Manager Community Care Core Services**  
**3 May 2011**

Child Protection and Substance Misuse  
 Joint Development Session  
 June 2011

Pre event reading: "Getting our Priorities Right"

9 a.m.	Opening Remarks: Celia Gray and Jackie Hood
Session One	An External Perspective: Dr Mary Hepburn
Session Two	Agreeing Shared Purpose and Desired Outcomes
Session Three	Where are we now?  Identifying current position in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• practice; processes and procedures; roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• Areas of strength</li> <li>• Challenges and barriers</li> </ul>
Session Four	Where are we now?  Evaluating our current position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What should we stop doing?</li> <li>• What should we continue doing?</li> <li>• What could we start doing?</li> </ul>
Session Five	Forward Planning: Shaping Future Practice- idea generation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how would our new design look</li> <li>• Roles and Responsibilities</li> <li>• Best Practice</li> </ul>
Close 1p.m.	Closing Remarks