



**CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE
JOINT SELF EVALUATION REPORT
CHILD TRAFFICKING**

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EAST AYRSHIRE CPC POSITION STATEMENT

The Child Protection Committee considered Child trafficking in November 2007. During a nationwide operation against human trafficking codenamed Pentameter 2, a model protocol was issued by the Scottish Government Child Protection Policy Team to provide guidance for staff involved in the protection of children located as part of Operation Pentameter 2. This protocol was agreed by East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee on 28 November 2007.

In February 2009 the Scottish Government published Safeguarding Children in Scotland who may have been trafficked. (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/261528/0078243.pdf>) It is intended to supplement local interagency child protection procedures.

The Scottish Government paper describes the problem of child trafficking, the impact of child trafficking on children's health and welfare, the roles of the Child Protection Committee and services in place. The paper then highlights actions for services including identifying trafficked children.

The role of Child Protection Committees is identified as being to co-ordinate at a strategic level what is done by their members to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their local area and to ensure the effectiveness of their work.

Committee members are aware that from 1 April 2009, all suspected cases of human trafficking, including suspected trafficked children, should be reported to the Competent Authority for consideration and decision using a specially designed form. The referral should be submitted by the child's lead professional or their equivalent in local authority social work departments. At all times it should be used in conjunction with Safeguarding Children in Scotland who may have been Trafficked and local child protection procedures.

The Child Protection Co-ordinator and training officer attended a Scottish Government awareness raising event on 18 May 2009. Following this event there has been discussion with the Ayrshire Lead Officers group about the development of a local protocol. The CPC agreed that a protocol should be developed on a Pan Ayrshire basis and a strategy be developed to raise the awareness of child trafficking. The West of Scotland Lead Officers network have child trafficking as a standing item on their agenda. Regular discussions and updates from across the west of Scotland, in particular, from Glasgow CPC and its involvement in the national pilot of the risk assessment tools.

The issue of child trafficking has been highlighted to the members of the practitioners sub group and practitioners forum as an area for development. There is also information available on the child protection committee web pages and in the CPC newsletter.