



EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE: 06 SEPTEMBER 2011

NATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN SCOTLAND

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee (EACPC) of the new data set for the national child protection statistical return.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An implementation plan was agreed at EACPC's committee meeting in June 2011 in relation to the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland issued in December 2010 by the Scottish Government. It was highlighted the new guidance would change the statistical data collection for child protection.

The revised child protection guidance for Scotland removed the requirement from child protection case conferences to register a child under a specific category of registration. This was to encourage a move to ensure the individual needs and risks to a child are the focus of discussion and intervention rather than a sometimes unhelpful focus on categories. From the consultation on the revised guidance there was considerable support for this change in practice but some concern that by removing categories of registration, potentially helpful information about trends in registration may be lost. It was therefore agreed that a revised data set of concerns about a child should be drawn up to capture trends about children who require a child protection plan. This was part of a more general review of child protection statistical returns which can be found at <https://www.scotxed.net/Data%20Collection%20Pages%20for%20all%20Statistics%20Surveys/Child%20Protection.aspx>.

- 2.2 The finalised list of areas of concern is attached below for ease of reference:
- Domestic abuse
 - Parental alcohol misuse
 - Parental drug misuse
 - Non-engaging family

- Parental mental health problems
- Children placing themselves at risk
- Sexual abuse
- Child exploitation
- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Other concern(s)

2.3 The Scottish Government has agreed with local authorities that the new data set should be implemented from the 1 August 2011 for collation in 2012.

It is not the intention that the list itself should be a focus of the case conference discussion and Case Conference Chairs should complete the list immediately after the case conference has been held. There is no limit on the number of areas of concern that can be checked and there is no prioritisation of concerns for statistical return purposes.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Child Protection Committee;
- (i) note the amended child protection data set.

Susan Taylor
Chair of East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee
ST/DB
August 2011