



## EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE: 07 DECEMBER 2010

### REPORT TO CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee (EACPC) of a joint discussion and workshop between the West of Scotland Child Protection Committee chairs and the police regarding the implementation of GIRFEC, particularly in relation to Domestic Abuse and Non-Offence referrals.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In May 2010 a meeting was held between the 12 Directors of Social Work/Chief Social Work officers, and the Chief Constable. The meeting considered the implementation of GIRFEC, particularly in relation to Domestic Abuse and Non-Offence referrals. It was acknowledged that a variety of different approaches were adopted across local authority and force areas, and there was a need to move towards a more consistent approach.

#### 3.0 THE PROCESS

- 3.1 The Directors and Chief Constable agreed that there should be a facilitated multi-agency workshop. The workshop was held in Jackton Police College on 21 October 2010. The purpose of the workshop was to consider "Best Practice" and try to arrive at a "corporate" model for screening of referrals.
- 3.2 In preparation for the workshop an identified officer within each division area across the police force area agreed to undertake a SWOT analysis of the non-offence referrals and early intervention in each Local Authority area. The information would be used to inform the discussion at the October workshop.
- 3.3 The police had already undertaken an initial scoping of the range of practice across the force area, which was divided broadly into three approaches:-
  - **Default Option:** police send all non offence referrals to the Reporter to the Children's Hearing and Social Work.
  - **Mass Screening Group:** multi-agency group convened to discuss a volume of referrals.
  - **Early and effective intervention:** police and social work share information, social work decide on pathway

The mass screening group is the model currently used across East Ayrshire.

## **4.0 THE WORKSHOP**

4.1 The workshop was held in Jackton Police College on 21 October 2010. The workshop focused on the SWOT analysis carried out across the force area.

4.2 The SWOT analysis of the East Ayrshire multi-agency group was delivered by Superintendent Helen Swann and highlighted the key areas of strengths and challenges in approach to the multi-agency domestic abuse screening group. Four key themes emerged from the workshops:

- volume of reports,
- communication,
- approaches,
- resources.

4.3 The workshops considered the “Hybrid Model” offered by the workshop facilitators, “Cap Gemini”.

4.4 The Hybrid model was described as a two-tier model:-

Tier 1: Key personnel across Social Work and the police consider referrals on a daily basis and make decisions to no further action or to discuss at screening group.

Tier 2: A multi-agency screening group is held which considers key actions and lead agencies.

4.5 Cap Gemini distributed the analysis of information from the day the next steps to be taken are as follows:

- Information from the workshop will be distributed to the Chief Constable, and the 12 Directors of Social Work.
- People attending the workshop have a responsibility to raise awareness of progress made at the workshop within their own agencies
- A clear decision on a corporate framework and strategic implementation to be reached

## **5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 The East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is asked to: -

- (i) Note the contents of this report.
- (ii) Await further information regarding developments of the multi-agency screening group.

**Susan Taylor**  
**Chair of East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee**  
**December 2010**

**Report prepared by Celia Gray, Senior Manager, Locality Services**