



## **EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE: 19 MAY 2009**

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & INFORMATION SUB GROUP**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of progress in relation to the Public Engagement and Information Sub Group and to make recommendations accordingly. The Sub Group has met on two occasions, on 18 March and 28 April 2009, since the last Child Protection Committee meeting in February.

#### **2. PROGRESS OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & INFORMATION SUBGROUP**

##### **2.1 Online Children and Youth Survey**

This large survey will address the objective in the Child Protection Business Plan 2008/11 to '*Further develop means of engagement with young people and seeking their views*'. This will ascertain the children and young people's views relating to child protection awareness.

The views of Primary Five and Secondary Year Two pupils were sought to inform the language and content of the online questionnaire.

A proposal to pilot the survey was presented to Auchinleck Learning Partnership (7 Primary schools and 1 secondary) Education Sub Group meeting of 26 February 2009, which agreed to support this.

IT has provided technical support and all system requirements are now in place therefore the online survey will commence week beginning 18 May 2009 subsequent to parental consent letters being issued by and returned.

The intention is to roll the survey out to the remaining Learning Partnerships over the next three years.

Each completed questionnaire will generate an e-mail alert to a specific mail box and designated personnel will commit to monitoring these to ensure that in the event of disclosure by children or young people, appropriate action can be taken.

Collated data will self populate and will allow the Public Engagement and Information Sub Group to: -

- gauge children and young people's understanding of the phrase "Child Protection",
- ascertain if children and young people know where to get help for themselves and/or their friends,

- gain an understanding of what helps children and young people feel safe at home, in school and in their communities,
- inform the future content, format and distribution of child protection information; and
- tell us if information materials are reaching the intended audience.

## 2.2 **Child Protection Information for School Homework Diaries**

All Head Teachers of secondary schools have agreed to the inclusion of child protection information in homework diaries for session 2009-10.

Due to differences in diary content and layout, the CP information will either be a single page within the diary or a page sized sticker to be inserted.

Previous consultation with young people informed the text of the information (appendix 1)

To meet printing deadlines, approval was sought from the Chair of the Child Protection Committee prior to this meeting.

## 2.3 **West of Scotland Child Protection Committee Translation Project**

A paper from the Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders Child Protection Committee: 'Taking Care of Children: Information for Families Living in Scotland' was disseminated to Child Protection Committee Lead Officers in Scotland. It was proposed that if all Child Protection Committees contribute then costs for translating the paper into a range of community languages would be significantly reduced to approximately £800 per Child Protection Committee.

The proposed languages are: English; Punjabi; Cantonese; Hindi; Polish and Urdu. The minority ethnic population in East Ayrshire is currently under 2%, however the group members felt the leaflet would be useful to all agencies represented on the Child Protection Committee.

Through the Sub Group membership, Community Safety has indicated that some funding may be available. The amount has yet to be confirmed.

It is also proposed to add contact numbers in different languages on the child protection poster.

## 2.4 **Website Update**

There have been six online submissions regarding child protection concerns to date for 2009 and these have been passed to East Ayrshire Council Social Services.

It is interesting to note that there were only four submissions for the whole of 2008.

Two submissions were from outside East Ayrshire, namely, Birmingham and Wiltshire, the information was passed to the appropriate Local Authority.

## **2.5 MSc Dissertation – A Process Evaluation of Child Protection Committee Public Information and Communication Strategies in Scotland**

Ross Drummond (Lead Officer, Fife Child Protection Committee) is studying for an MSc in Child Care and Protection at the University of Dundee. He requires to undertake a research project for his thesis. East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee, through this Sub Group, will be involved in this.

## **2.6 HMle Follow Through Inspection**

The members are aware that the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee follow through inspection is imminent and are confident all specified actions from the Business Plan are on target or have been achieved.

## **2.7 Public Engagement Communication Strategy**

Public Relations is now supporting the group to develop a Communication Strategy. A draft proposal will be prepared for the next Child Protection Committee meeting.

## **2.8 Re-Distribution of Child Protection Materials in the Community**

There will be a re-distribution campaign to include all Public Buildings, for example, Libraries; Leisure Services; Housing; Health; Police and Fire Services within East Ayrshire. Designated members have volunteered to be distribution Officers.

This distribution will be carried out in June 2009.

## **2.9 Annual Report 2008 / 09 and Business Plan 2008 / 2011**

Members discussed the proposed Actions from the three year Business Plan and all are on target or have been achieved.

## **2.10 Child Protection Committee Logo**

The views of Young People had been sought for the Online Youth Survey and some of the older age group, 11-13 years, commented the Logo was aimed at 'young children'. The members propose a review of the Logo for the next financial year 2010 / 2011.

## **2.11 Children's Safety Week**

The Children's Safety Week in Scotland is the week beginning 1 June and the Community Safety Team has organised many activities for children and young people in schools. The Sub Group has proposed the East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee logo is attached to any promotional materials for

schools and Community Safety has agreed. This will further raise the profile of the Child Protection Committee in schools.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 The Child Protection Committee is asked to:

- i) consider the proposal in item 2.11. Otherwise;
- ii) note the contents of the report.

**Susan Taylor**  
**Chair of Child Protection Committee**  
**13 May 2009**

**Report prepared by: Dorothy McAvoy, Chair of the Public Engagement and Information Sub Group**

# CHILD PROTECTION



If you are worried about your own safety or the safety of someone you know ,please talk to staff at one of the following numbers :

**Kilmarnock Social Work office 01563 528011**

**Lugar Social Work office 01563 554455**

**Social Work Standby out of office hours 0800 811 505**

**Strathclyde Police Family Protection Unit 01292 664014**

**Child protection Line 0800 811 505**

**Childline 0800 1111**

Or visit [www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/childprotection](http://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/childprotection)

