

Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee

Annual Report
2012-2013



Vision:

All children in the Scottish Borders have the right to grow up safe from abuse.



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Message from the Chair

I am delighted to present to you the Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee (SBCPC) Annual report 2012/13 which provides a summary of the key work of the Committee over the year.

SBCPC changed their reporting period from August to July last year to coincide with new national reporting.

SBCPC key strategic planning for the year continued to focus around their business plan. Priorities included follow up on the findings from the Inspection in September 2011, improving self evaluation processes and outcomes for children, implementing multi-agency risk assessments, GIRFEC (Getting it right for every child) principles, implementation of the 'named person', reviewing the Scottish Borders child protection procedures and training and development.

I believe effective partnership working and strong leadership is a key strength in the protection of Scottish Borders children and young people. The 2011 inspection highlighted that staff work well together to meet children's needs and keep them safe.

I would like to thank the Chief Officers group, SBCPC Members and their sub group Members for their ongoing contribution and support to the protection of children and young people in the Scottish Borders.

Alan Blackie
Independent Chair
Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee



Policies, procedures and protocols

SBCPC oversees the development of all multi-agency child protection policies and procedures in the Scottish Borders and at the very forefront of this work are the online multi-agency child protection procedures. The procedures are available on the SBCPC website www.onlineborders.org.uk/community/cpc

During the year a number of updates were made to the child protection procedures:

- An extensive review of the entire procedures was undertaken in 2012 and a new version was launched in September 2012.
- NHS Borders, through the child protection health action group, developed and introduced the 'Unseen Child Policy' to assist practitioners in determining the most appropriate course of action to be taken where a child is 'unseen'. This was a recommendation from the Declan Hainey significant case review.
- A new section "vulnerable young persons protocol – children who are at risk of causing harm to themselves or others". It is recognised that within the Scottish Borders there is a small number of children / young people at risk of causing significant harm to themselves or others. This risk may be as a consequence of their own behaviour or a consequence of others behaviour towards them. The "vulnerable young persons" protocol is intended to give staff guidance for the assessment, decision making and co-ordination of a multi-agency response to the needs of this group of children and young people.
- A new section 'legislation and policy' provides staff with relevant legislation. Staff should be aware of their legal responsibilities and duties as well as understanding the legal framework within which they and other organisations and agencies operate.
- A new section 'alcohol and drug misuse' provides guidance on parental substance misuse, young people and substance misuse and pregnancy and substance misuse.
- Protocols around specific risk factors to children were reviewed and updated. These included children affected by domestic abuse, children with disabilities and children affected by parental mental health problems.

Performance Management

The Quality Improvement sub group is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring child protection performance management activity on a multi-agency basis.

This is achieved through a multi-agency child protection performance / self evaluation framework which provide clear and measurable data set which can be used to understand the activity and outcomes of the current child protection practices and highlights questions that need to be asked and answered about the effectiveness of that practice.

A range of auditing tools and processes are utilised to gather information (data set) on different areas of child protection practice.

A performance management report is reviewed by SBCPC on a regular basis.

Promoting Good Practice

The findings and recommendations from National and local case reviews provide lessons to be learned and good practice examples and are brought to SBCPC through the Practice Development and Review Sub Groups. Any updates to the child protection procedures and inter-agency child protection training courses are then made

SBCPC continued to promote the principles and implementation of the GIRFEC (Getting it right for every child) approach which ensures the child or young person is always at the centre of every process and decision. All child protection training now includes sign posting to GIRFEC.

Communication and planning

Effective links are in place between SBCPC and wider partnership planning groups such as Integrated Children's Services and the Children and Young People Planning Partnership. There are also strong links with adult protection, the alcohol and drugs partnerships and community safety groups.

The SBCPC Chair and the Child Protection Lead Officer attend the National CPC Chairs, Child Protection Lead Officers and Scottish Government meetings. They also attend a variety of seminars and conferences on behalf of the SBCPC.

The SBCPC Training and Development Officers participate in the National Trainers Group.

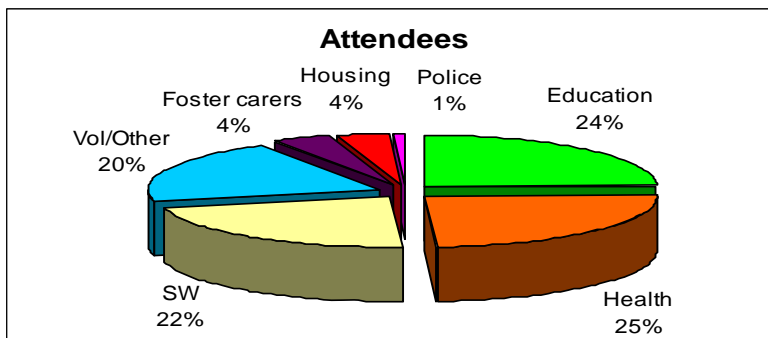
Training and Staff Development

One of SBCPCs key responsibilities is to assess and review the need for child protection training in the Borders and to ensure a high quality training programme is in place for practitioners and members of the public who come into contact with children or families/carers as part of their work, voluntary or leisure activities.

SBCPC continued to provide a range of multi-agency and single agency child protection training events throughout the year and details of courses and how to book a place are available on the SBCPC website.

Awareness raising training

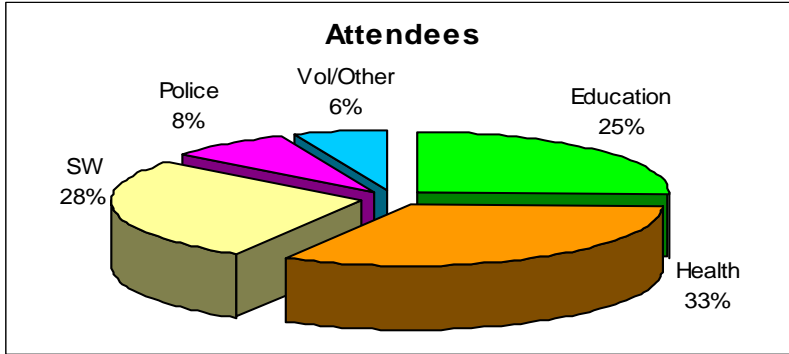
Ten courses were advertised in the child protection training calendar and approximately 320 people attended. This half day course is open to anyone who works with children or families/carers. A number of other awareness raising courses were held during the year including single agency/group courses.



Multi-agency training

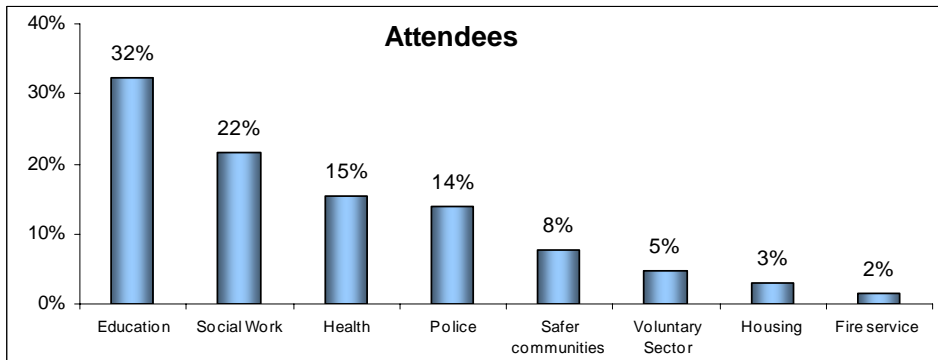
This full day course is designed for practitioners, volunteers and managers from all agencies who are in regular contact or carry out direct work with children and/or their parents/carers and who have an organisational duty to learn more about child protection as they may attend a child protection case conference in the course of their work.

Five courses were held and approximately 170 people attended.



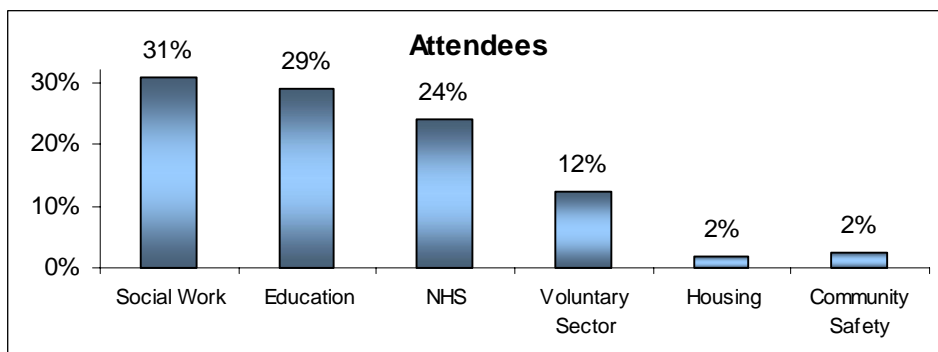
Child trafficking / Sexual Exploitation raising awareness events

Two events took place with approximately 40 participants at each. Participants must have undertaken previous child protection training to attend this half day course.



Working with Difficult, Dangerous and Evasive Families

Eight half day courses were held with approximately 20 attendees at each. This course is delivered by an external trainer and continues to be very popular with professionals.



National Risk Assessment framework

The Training Sub Group is currently developing a multi-agency training program around the National Risk Assessment Toolkit for Child Protection which was launched in December 2012. Staff across all agencies are expected to use the tool in conjunction with current tools.

Joint Investigative Interviews

Training and refresher courses are provided to social work and police professionals. This involved receiving training on the use of equipment for visual recording of interviews.

Public Protection Trainers Group

This is a small group representing child protection, adult protection, MAPPA and VAWP, and aims to ensure a more coordinated approach is made to all aspects of Public Protection training in the Scottish Borders. The group are developing a public protection induction level training package which all agencies / groups will be able to utilise.

Child and Adult Protection inputs

A short input on child protection continues to form part of all Adult Support and Protection Training events and vice versa for Child Protection. Joint child and adult protection briefings continue to be made available to groups of staff eg dental practices at their request.

NHS Borders Staff Training

The NHS Borders Child Protection Training Strategy provides information about the levels and provision of child protection training for staff. 'Child Protection Basic Knowledge and Understanding' training is available to all staff at induction and an e-learning module is mandatory for all staff to complete every 2 years. Staff who work with children and young people are encouraged to attend the whole range of public protection training provided on a multi-agency basis based on their personal development plan and identified learning needs.

Police Scotland Training

All probationary officers within Police Scotland complete a 12-week course at the Scottish Police College, which includes various modules relating to child protection and public vulnerability. On returning to Police Scotland, irrespective of divisional postings, all probationer officers receive further child protection input during their operational service. Officers out with their probation receive updated inputs in respect of legislative change and operating procedure. Officers with supervisory responsibility are provided with further training in respect of child protection, domestic abuse and vulnerability, which includes the IRD process.

National Framework for Learning and Development

Training programmes are being reviewed and e-learning packages developed and these will be made available to staff and other agencies.

Self Evaluation

SBCPC recognises the responsibility of all partner agencies who work with children and their families, to offer services which meet national standards for child protection, and where possible, to exceed them.

SBCPC are committed to creating a positive and transparent culture of continuous learning based upon feedback from those who use and experience our services – children and young people, their families, local communities, staff and volunteers from front line practitioners to senior strategic managers.



Gathering Children and Parents Views

The views of children and families is important to SBCPC in order to inform and improve child protection practices.

Children’s views are gathered through ‘Viewpoint’, a computer based interactive programme which gathers the individual circumstances and experiences of children involved in the child protection process. Where appropriate, children (over 8 years) are invited to attend case conferences. The bi-annual Young People’s Survey asks school age children specific questions around child protection.

A questionnaire for gathering parent’s views on their experiences is currently being piloted. It is planned to role this out early 2014.

Inspections

There was no social work or child protection inspection in the year 2012-2013.

SBCPC continued to monitor the action plan developed following the Care Inspectorate inspection of child protection services in the Scottish Borders in September 2011.

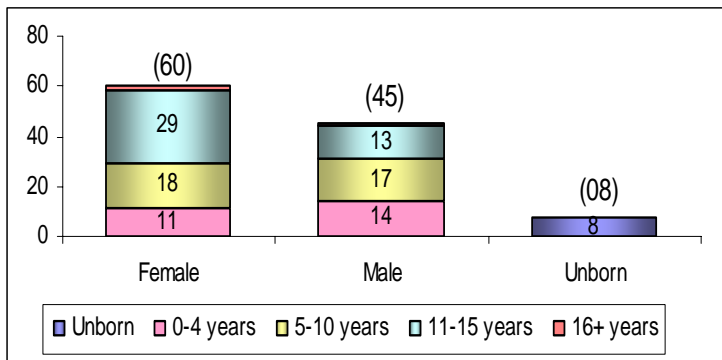
One of the areas highlighted for improvement in the 2011 inspection was around identifying and following up on the wider health needs of children when a child protection medical examination has not been necessary. In response to this the Child Protection Health Action Group developed, piloted and introduced a NHS Borders ‘Health Needs Assessment Form’ for looked after children and children involved in the child protection process. The form identifies any wider needs of the child and referral to relevant agencies where appropriate. The feedback from staff has been very positive.

Local Child Protection Data

A total of 88 children’s names appeared on the Scottish Borders Child Protection Register between 1st August 2012 and 31st July 2013. There was an average of 33 children on the register per month which is down compared to the previous year. The number of children on the Register as of 31st July 2013 was 29.

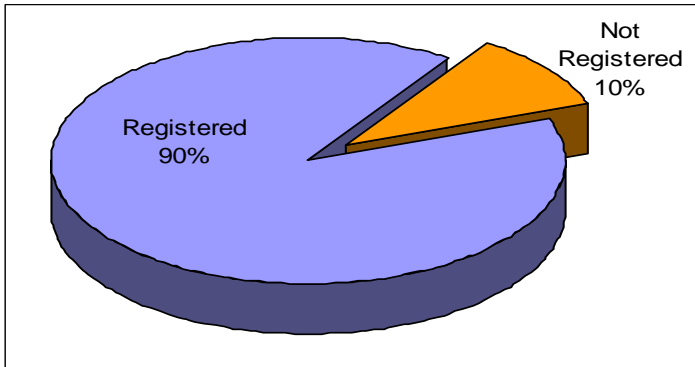
There were 489 child protection referrals made in the year with the main source coming from professionals within education, health, social work and police. The number of referrals from the public has decreased slightly on the previous year.

Investigations by Age/Gender (Age at investigation end date)



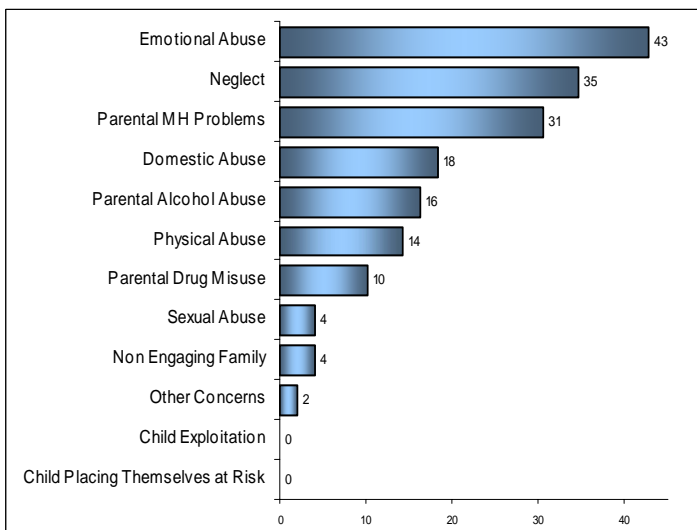
There were 113 Child Protection Investigations completed in the year and 53% of these were female and 40% male. The remaining 7% were unborn.

% Case Conferences leading to registration



A total of 49 Initial/pre-birth/transfer-in child protection case conferences took place in the year with 90% of these leading to the child's name being placed on the child protection register. It could be said this evidences the appropriateness of referrals.

Concerns identified at Case Conference



The concern around the child is identified at the initial case conference and our statistics show that emotional abuse (43%) and neglect (35%) continue to be the main concern. Other areas of concern are parental mental health problems (31%), parental substance misuse - alcohol (16%) and drugs (10%), domestic abuse (18%), non engaging families (4%) and sexual abuse (4%). In many cases children have more than one concern identified.

Public Information

SBCPC, through the Education Sub Group, has been successfully raising awareness in schools of human trafficking /sexual exploitation. The 'Dangerous Loverboy' short film on the subject has been endorsed by Parents Councils and Education staff in the Borders and it will be rolled out to secondary schools in 2013.

Practitioners and members of the public continue to be sign posted to the SBCPC [website](#) for information on local and national child protection news as well as information on training, the child protection procedures and what to do if they have concerns about a child or young person.

The Scottish Government provided CPCs with child protection leaflets with local telephone numbers printed on them. The leaflets have been distributed widely within the Borders including Schools, health centres, hospitals, voluntary organisations, family support centres and community centres.

A biannual SBCPC newsletter is disseminated widely to staff across all agencies. The newsletter is available on the SBCPC [website](#).

Business Plan

SBCPC's priorities for the forthcoming year 2013-2014 are:

- Implement the National Risk Assessment Toolkit for child protection across all agencies in the Scottish Borders.
- Implement an inter-agency chronology system to improve information for assessment and planning
- Develop and introduce a questionnaire for gathering the views of parents / carers
- Develop and implement an inter-agency case file audit reporting process
- Maintain, evaluate and update Inter-agency child protection training and adapt or introduce courses as required
- Review the findings in the Care Inspectorate report of all joint child protection inspections 2009-2012 to assess if improvements in local practice are required.
- Ensure adequate training and support is in place for secondary school pupils who are taking more responsibility with younger pupils
- Develop and introduce a single pathway to manage emerging needs, concerns, vulnerability, significant harm and risks to children / young people.
- Review and update the Scottish Borders Vulnerable Young Persons (VYP) Protocol.
- Increase public awareness of child protection and what to do should people have concerns.
- Improve cross border child protection links with Northumberland and Cumbria.

Conclusion

The past year has presented many challenges for the SBCPC in respect to the current economic climate and the ever increasing requirement to evaluate services in order to continually develop and improve outcomes for children and their families involved in the child protection system.

SBCPC acknowledges the work of all concerned in protecting children in the Scottish Borders and is committed through its Business Plan to building on the progress that has been made.

What to do if you have a concern

Child Protection is everyone's responsibility!

If people suspect a child or young person is at risk of harm they should act without delay. For advice, information or to report a concern they should contact the **Integrated Children's Services (ICS) Locality Team** in which the child lives:-

ICS Berwickshire
Tel 01361 886115

ICS Eildon
Tel: 01896 664158

ICS Cheviot
Tel: 01573 227421

ICS Tweeddale
Tel: 01721 726310

ICS Teviot & Liddesdale
Tel: 01450 364777

OUT OF OFFICE HOURS
Social Work Emergency Duty Team
01896 752111 or the police



If there is no answer, don't give up, try another ICS office.

If you consider the child / young person is in **immediate** danger, call the police on 999 without delay.

List of Acronyms

SBCPC	–	Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee
CPC	–	Child Protection Committee
GIRFEC	–	Getting it Right for Every Child
MAPP	–	Multi-agency Public Protection Agency Arrangements
VAWP	–	Violence Against Women Partnership
IRD	–	Initial Referral discussion
ICS	-	Integrated Children's Services



Child Protection is Everyone's Responsibility!



**Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee website
www.onlineborders.org.uk/community/cpc**

Borders NHS Board



SCOTTISH BORDERS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

Aim

To advise the Board of the activity undertaken by the Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee during the period 2012/13.

Background

Scottish Borders Council Protection Committee oversees the development of all multi-agency child protection policies and procedures in the Scottish Borders.

Summary

The Annual Report was submitted to Scottish Borders Council on 30 January and the multi agency Critical Services Oversight Group on 17 February 2014.

The report is due to be submitted to a future meeting of the Police Scotland Board for noting.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to **note** the Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2012/13.

Policy/Strategy Implications	As detailed within the report.
Consultation	Not applicable.
Consultation with Professional Committees	Not applicable.
Risk Assessment	As detailed within the report.
Compliance with Board Policy requirements on Equality and Diversity	Compliant
Resource/Staffing Implications	None

Approved by

Name	Designation	Name	Designation
Evelyn Fleck	Director of Nursing & Midwifery		

Author(s)

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Iris Bishop	Board Secretary		

