

Borders NHS Board**SCOTTISH BORDERS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015****Aim**

This report informs the Board of the activities of the Child Protection Committee during the period 1st August 2014–31st July 2015 aimed at protecting children and young people in the Scottish Borders from abuse and neglect.

Background

Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee (SBCPC) is an inter-agency group of senior staff which provides leadership in promoting the continual improvement of services in this area of work. NHS Borders has three representatives at the SBCPC, Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Child Health Commissioner and Lead Paediatrician for Child Protection. This entails ensuring that there is an efficient and effective multi-agency response to reports of abuse through, for instance, reviewing and revising practice guidelines, joint training and reviewing of individual cases – all conducted within a culture of continuous learning. In addition, the Committee has a role to promote the safety of children through raising awareness in communities across the Scottish Borders of the key role which members of the public play.

The Child Protection Committee reports directly to the Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG) consisting of Chief Executive (SBC), Chief Executive (NHS Borders) and Divisional Commander Police Scotland (Police).

Summary

The work of the Committee is detailed in the Annual Report and a summary of the key issues are highlighted below.

The Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee (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. During this period a number of new sections and protocols were added or updated to ensure best practice and that they are in line with national guidance and legislation.

There was a change to the Scottish Borders online child protection procedures. They are no longer hosted by the Reconstruct website, as of 1st November 2015. A new host website was set up via Scottish Borders Council IT department.

The management of child protection performance and practice is overseen by SBCPC. Performance information and self evaluation reports continued to be routinely reviewed by CPC and on a single agency basis to identify trends and inform practice as required. The

report details that 408 child protection referrals were made with 71 child protection investigations completed.

Lessons learned and good practice examples from National and local child protection case reviews were brought to CPC through the Practice Development and Review Sub Committees. Where required, updates were made to the child protection procedures.

CPC continued to maintain and develop strong working links with local and national strategic groups. The CPC Chair, Lead Officer and CPC Training Officer attended a number of National Child protection meetings during the period.

The CPC Independent Chair has actively promoted the role and remit of the CPC and given numerous presentations to various parties about the Committee. These include the Scottish Borders Locality Teams, the Borders General Hospital to meet Paediatricians and the Early Years Team in Selkirk.

CPC continued its commitment to raising awareness of child protection through the delivery of child protection training events, the CPC website and CPC newsletters.

Child Protection Training remains a key responsibility of CPC with a range of multi-agency and single agency events being held throughout the year. These are detailed in the report and over 1,000 people attended training courses.

Child Sexual Exploitation has been a key focus and a new course was introduced during this period with 84 professionals attending this.

CPC continued its commitment to creating a positive and transparent culture of continuous learning based upon feedback from those who use and experience our services.

Work has continued to promote Child Protection in schools and a planning group was formed to help to further the aims of the Scottish Borders Youth Voice (The Child Rights Group). An extensive questionnaire on what, how and when child protection is taught to pupils was completed by all Scottish Borders schools including the 2 private schools.

CPCs priorities for the forthcoming year (2015/2016), which are the basis of the CPC business plan, are included in the annual report.

This report has been presented to the following Committees/Groups:-

- Child Protection Committee
- Critical Services Oversight Group
- NHS Borders Child Protection Health Action Group
- Clinical Governance Committee (13 July 2016)

Recommendation

The Board is asked to **note** the Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2014-2015

Policy/Strategy Implications	Child Protection Procedures and Child Protection Committee
Consultation	-

Consultation with Professional Committees	Report and business plan which has been approved by the membership of the Child Protection Committee and been to Chief Officers Strategic Oversight Group
Risk Assessment	In line with National Guidance for Child Protection Committees
Compliance with Board Policy requirements on Equality and Diversity	It is anticipated that there are no adverse impact due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from the proposals in this report.
Resource/Staffing Implications	No additional implications. Met within current resources

Approved by

Name	Designation	Name	Designation
Evelyn Rodger	Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Acute Services		

Author(s)

Name	Designation	Name	Designation
Mandy Brotherstone	Child Health Commissioner		



Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee

Annual Report 2014-2015

Our 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 2014/2015 which provides a summary of the key work of the Committee over the year.

Since the 24th October 2014 I have been chairing the Child Protection Committee meetings and the Review and Practice Development Sub Group meetings.

SBCPC key strategic planning for the year continues to focus around its comprehensive Business Plan. Priorities include improving self-evaluation processes and outcomes for children, monitoring the trends in respect of numbers on the Register and comparing these against national trends. Over the past year we have contacted parents and children to gather their opinions on our service and their feedback has been invaluable. We continue incorporating the GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) principles, reviewing the Scottish Borders Child Protection Procedures and the Training and Development team have introduced an updated training programme.

I believe effective partnership working and strong leadership is a key strength in the protection of Scottish Borders children and young people.

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

Duncan MacAulay
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, for example:-

- The Keeping Scottish Borders Children Safe Tool was changed to 'Keeping Children and Young People Safe and Well Tool'.
- Police Scotland and Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee Child Sexual Exploitation Procedure - A collaborative between CPC and Police Scotland which defines what CSE is, provides a checklist and explains fully the procedures to follow.
- Supporting Children and Young People at risk of Self harm and Suicide - A resource to all staff who are working with children and young people to help them recognise and provide appropriate support when faced with self-harm or suicidal behaviours.
- Vulnerable Young persons (VYP) Protocol for children/young people who place themselves at risk – This has been rewritten and a new flow chart introduced.
- National Risk Assessment Framework - explains when the National Risk Framework, which was published by the Scottish Government in 2012, should be used.
- A Practitioner Guide to New Information Sharing Guidance and the PAN Lothian Information Sharing Protocol - these have replaced the ELBEG guidance.

Performance Management

In previous years the Quality Improvement Sub Group was responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring child protection performance management activity on a multi-agency basis. In September 2014 this group was disbanded and the work was taken up by the other sub groups. This brought the audits to the attention of more senior managers and to a wider audience as membership of these other sub groups was more diverse, including legal and voluntary sector representation. The audit reports have become more effective as they are now looked at alongside case studies.

The multi-agency child protection performance / self-evaluation framework, which provides a clear and measurable data set, is used to understand the activity and outcomes of the current child protection practices. This highlights questions that need to be asked and answered about the effectiveness of that practice. There are a range of auditing tools and processes which 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.

Over the past year the CPC has audited Protection Plans and reviewed cases subject to Interagency Referral Discussion (IRD) which did not proceed to Child Protection Case Conference (CPCC). An independent quality assurance consultant undertook the Protection Plan audit in May 2014 centered around six key questions. A report was produced for CPC and the following changes made:

- The front page of the new plan format was adapted to be more explicit on what the specific concerns are.
- The name and role of the Core Group Member is now included.
- There will be clear links to any supporting documentation.
- Staff were reminded that Plans should be SMART and should involve all key people at meetings, not just social work.
- Consideration would be given to reissuing the generic mandate form for signing off Protection Plans.

Review of IRDs which did not proceed to Child Protection Case Conference (CPCC)

At the end of 2014 CPC noticed a significant reduction in the number of children on the Child Protection Register through its regular reporting structure. This resulted in the commissioning of a piece of self-evaluation to identify the reasons for the reduction to ensure it was not due to a less robust response to children requiring consideration within the Child Protection process. 78 out of 222 IRDs were audited. As Frameworki had undergone a significant update just after the period this audit covered, a few more IRDs were audited to see if there had been improvements. Where Risk Assessments had not been found in previous cases, they were clearly visible in the updated system. The Audit did not identify any change in threshold and was positive about decision making and inevitably, with any large audit of Practice, there were some learning points of which the auditors communicated any concerns/good practice to Team Leaders throughout this audit and all relevant points have been actioned.

Joint Investigative Interviews (JII)

In the previous financial year- 1st April 2014-31ST March 2015, 51 interviews of children and young people were conducted as visual recordings. The majority of these interviews took place at Eildon View, Langlee, where a child friendly interview room has been specially equipped for interviewing children.

An evaluation process has been undertaken in the past year, sampling interviews to ensure best practice. Of this sample the lead interviewers demonstrated that the interview model, as set out in the guidance on joint investigative interviewing of child witnesses in Scotland, is being used effectively across the Scottish Borders

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.

Inter-Agency Practice Review which displayed Good Practice

There was a situation where one parent mentioned the very serious, risky behaviour of another parent to their social worker. This social worker then asked enough questions to identify the child and notified the relevant social worker who was involved with that family. The child was then protected from a potentially significant risk.

Information sharing by the Independent Chair

Duncan MacAulay has been out and about ensuring staff teams are aware of the CPC and can raise issues and concerns. He has visited Borders General Hospital to meet Paediatricians, the ICS Localities of Eildon, Tweeddale, Teviot & Liddesdale, Cheviot and Berwickshire to meet team members and has visited the Early Years team in Selkirk. At these meetings the Independent Chair gave a brief presentation about himself and his role within the Child Protection Committee and a general overview of the role and remit of the CPC. He gave a presentation at the Border Time Meeting, held at Tweed Horizons Centre for Primary Care Administrators, Community Nurses, GPs, Allied Health Professionals and Practice Nurses. Duncan MacAulay has met with Health Practitioners and Educational staff at various meetings throughout the past year to strengthen relations and remind staff about the role and remit of the Child Protection Committee and its Independent Chair. A follow up letter including a brief summary paper on the CPC, including its membership, has been sent to all the locality offices.

Communication and planning

Effective links are in place between SBCPC and wider partnership planning groups such as Integrated Children's Services, Children and Young People Planning Partnership and Violence Against Women. 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.

Engaging with Young People

Further to Duncan MacAulay's meeting with the Scottish Borders Youth Voice (Child Rights Group/West Youth Voice Team) on 11th March 2014 a Planning Group was formed to give clear guidance and focus on the aims of this group. Membership comprised of: The Child Protection Lead Officer; Head of Children's Services, NHS Borders; Chief Officer for Schools; a DCI from Police Scotland; and the Lead Participation Officer, Children and Young Peoples Services. An extensive questionnaire on what, how and when child protection is taught to their pupils was completed by all Scottish Borders schools including the 2 private schools. The high level outcome of this is *Every Child in the Scottish Borders Knows where to get help and is Able to do so.* The focus needs to be kept on **when children should, how they can and feeling able to get help.**

The report and feedback from schools was that a generic child protection package of materials would be very welcomed. Due to recent staff changes in the Scottish Borders Council it is hoped to identify a member of staff to lead on this and roll this out across our schools in the borders over the next year. It is also hoped to involve young people in the design of these materials and in the initial roll-out.

Training and Staff Development

Scottish Borders Child Protection Committee is fully committed to ensuring all workers who come into direct or indirect contact with children, young people and other family members have access to learning and development opportunities which provide them with the appropriate level of knowledge, skills and values needed to carry out their roles and responsibilities in child protection effectively. In 2012, the Scottish Government published a National Framework for Child Protection Learning and Development. This framework moves away from the notion of levels (e.g. level 1 and level 2 child protection training) to take account of the complex nature of work carried out when protecting children and young people and working with families, and the range of roles that may be involved. The framework focuses instead on workforce groups within the different agencies each of which requires different competences, knowledge and skills based on the nature and extent of their contact (direct or indirect) with children, young people and other family members (and their consequent roles in relation to child protection).

The three workforce groups identified within the framework are:

- The 'general contact' workforce
- The 'specific contact' workforce; and
- The 'intensive contact' workforce.

The Child Protection Committee's Learning and Development Programme has been reviewed to take account of the above and a Learning and Development Guide for Staff and Managers has been developed to assist in the identification of the most appropriate course to meet the particular training needs of staff (paid and unpaid).

Essential Issues in Child Protection Practice is for all staff (paid and unpaid) who have contact with children, young people and/or family members. The aim of this course is to assist those attending to recognise where there may be concerns about a child's wellbeing; and to know the procedure and take the appropriate action. This course is directed at those identified as the 'general contact workforce'.

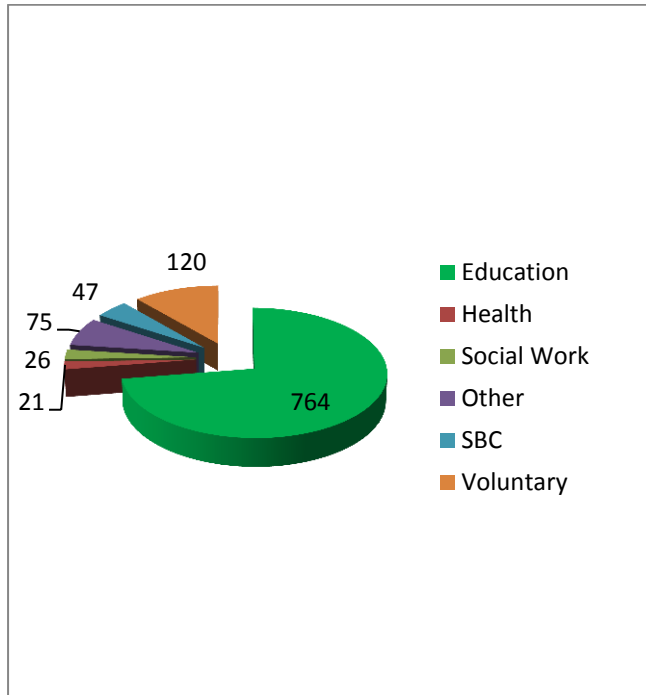
Essential Issues, Roles and Responsibilities in Child Protection Practice has been developed for practitioners who need to know about the child protection process but would not be expected to attend child protection case conferences or children's hearings and is directed at those identified as the 'specific contact' workforce.

A Child's Journey through Child Protection is for practitioners who could be or who are heavily involved in the child protection process and would be expected to attend child protection case conferences, core group meetings and children's hearings on behalf of their agency. This course has been developed for those in the 'specific contact' workforce.

A number of specialised courses are also available to meet the needs of the 'intensive contact' workforce and includes; **Joint Investigative Interview training; Visual Recording of Joint Investigative Interviews (VRI) Training; Chairing Child Protection Case Conferences, and Court Skills – Giving Evidence in Court.**

A **Child Sexual Exploitation** course has also been developed and is available to all staff (paid or unpaid). The aim of this course is to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation; explore our own attitudes towards Child Sexual Exploitation and dispel any myths; refresh our knowledge on the law and guidance which surround underage sexual activity; identify the risk factors associated with Child Sexual Exploitation and raise awareness of our local procedures with regards to Child Sexual Exploitation.

Awareness raising training



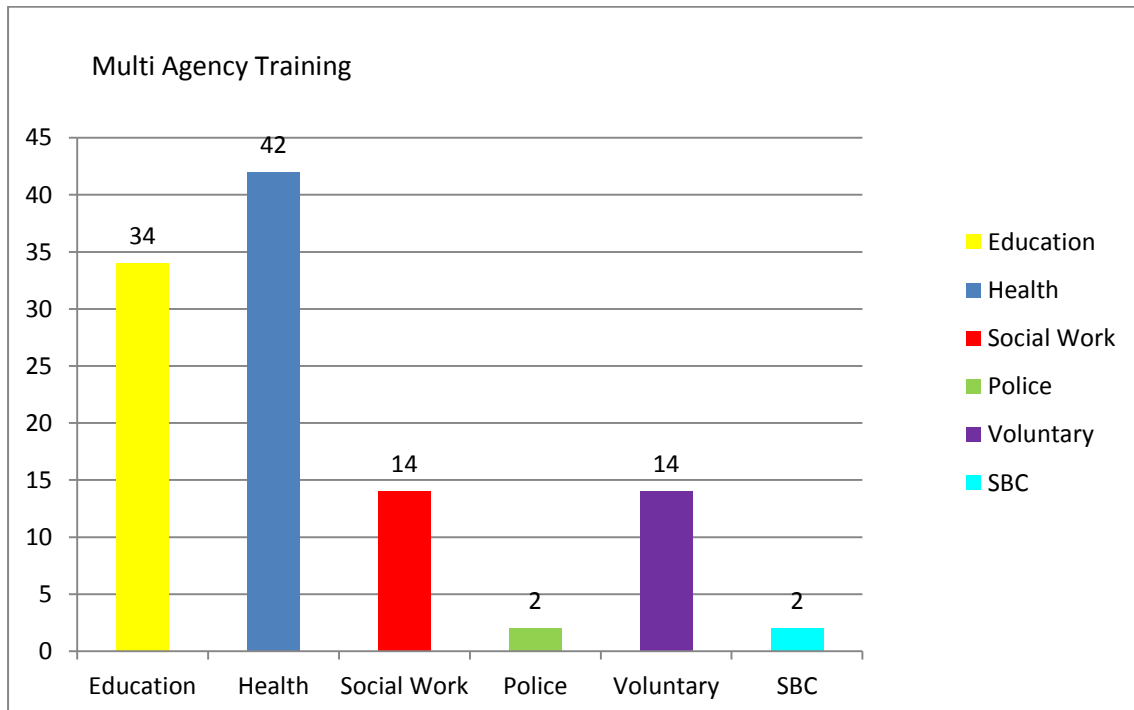
A number of Courses were held throughout the Scottish Borders and 1,053 people attended. This half day course is open to anyone who works with children or families/carers. A number of other awareness raising courses were held during the year including single agency/group courses. The importance that all sub groups pass on information and help raise the profile of the CPC continues to be recognised.

Colleagues in the People Department (Education) are the highest attendees of this level of course. Courses have been arranged to meet this high demand.

This figure has increased greatly since last year.

Multi-agency Training

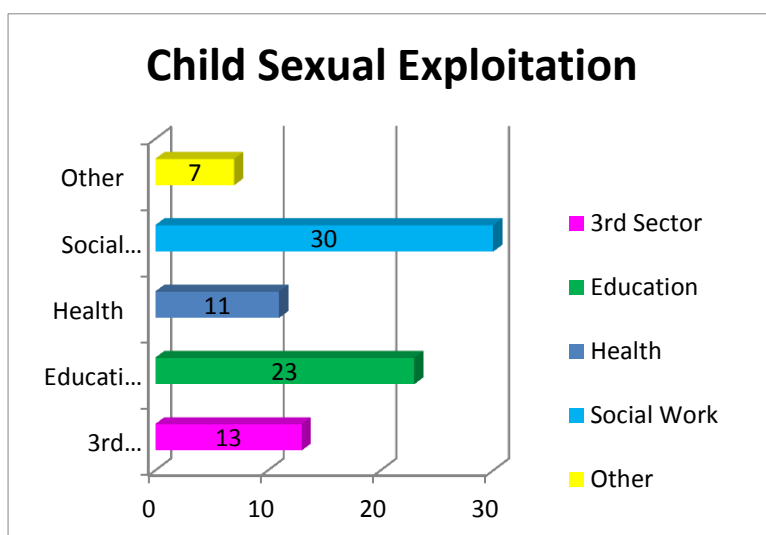
This full day course is designed for practitioners, volunteers and managers from all agencies who are in regular contact or carry out direct work with children and/or their parents/carers and who have an organisational duty to learn more about child protection as they may regularly attend child protection case conferences or Core Groups in the course of their work. A number of sessions were delivered with a total of 108 people attending. The greater number attending this training course came from Health.



Attendance at both these courses has risen slightly from last year's figures.

Child Sexual Exploitation Training

Over the past reporting period the CPC Training Sub Group team have been reviewing the courses. The Child Trafficking course was rewritten to highlight and focus more on the subject of Child Sexual Exploitation, where Child Trafficking is part of that process. The New Course was introduced on 2nd February 2015 and was well received. Demand has necessitated additional courses being added to the Training Calendar. The graph below shows the number of professionals, by agency, who have attended training.



Joint Investigative Interview Training (JIIT)/Video Recording Interviewing (VRI) Training

Refresher training was delivered in the Borders in November 2014. 12 social work interviewers and 4 police interviewers attended this opportunity. It was very helpful to have a speech and language therapist from Borders General Hospital involved in this training.

The event was well evaluated and some examples of comments below:

'Good theory, reminder of good practice, good net-working opportunity.'

'Good all round; helpful course.'

'I like being reminded of the actual procedure. Also thinking about communication methods.'

In the past financial year three basic JII training courses were delivered. 3 social workers and 1 police officer from the Scottish Borders Public Protection Unit attended these courses.

The training was well evaluated and some examples of comments below:

'I enjoyed the course and the interaction with the tutors. I found the use of exercises, role play, interview with actors and feedback all to be beneficial.'

'Very useful training, amazing to think how much we've learned in a week. Lots of interaction and participation which helped me to stay engaged and absorb the learning.'

'Really enjoyed the training and doing the training alongside social work really gave 2 different perceptions of a joint interview and why its joint. Training will also help with other aspects of police work. Great course!'

Attendance by Agency

We have had a variety of people from a number of agencies attending courses including Citizens Advice Bureau, 5th Formers, 6th Formers, Library staff, Taxi Drivers, Borders College staff, Supermarket Staff, Social Workers, Health staff, Housing staff, Voluntary sector staff and Education staff. By offering training in various venues and on different days and times, attendance and geographical cover has increased.

National Risk Assessment Framework

Multi-agency briefing sessions were successfully held and the tools were piloted by staff. A survey was completed and managers asked to give staff feedback. The result of this survey was that no NRA Tools would be made mandatory. This is due to them being more bespoke to particular situations and staff would use them should these arise.

Drivers

In the Scottish Government's Action Plan for CSE and following a number of other unrelated incidents involving the wellbeing of child passengers a Professional Driver's Briefing Session was developed which raises awareness of the issues including CSE and how to report matters to Children's Services. To date over half a dozen briefing sessions have been run and have all be well attended. Due to the large numbers of drivers contracted to Scottish Borders Council, work is ongoing to include this briefing session in the Taxi Driver Induction Course when new licences are granted.

Other training Groups targeted

As part of the Training Sub Groups work with staff at the Borders College a joint briefing session was held covering both Child and Adult Protection issues as well as the multi-agency Vulnerable Young Person's Protocol, which operated in the Scottish Borders. The aim is to repeat this briefing session, with the management and staff at the college, on a regular basis. In extending the range of courses and briefing sessions to the general workforce contact has been made with large supermarkets, namely ASDA and Tesco and Hotels/Licensed premises with bespoke briefing sessions. These draw attention and raise awareness of child protection issues and CSE. Both Asda and Peebles Hydro Hotel are in the pipeline for briefing sessions to take place end 2015.

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 e.g. dental practices at their request. Adult and Child protection training is designed to be multiagency and is free and accessible, to SBC staff, NHS Borders, Police Scotland and anyone from the independent care sector.

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 need.

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.

CAPSM (Children affected by Parental Substance Misuse)

During 2014-15 a series of five CAPSM briefing sessions were provided as well as a training session with GP colleagues. Overall these sessions reached 97 individuals. Sessions were delivered in partnership with Action for Children, Addaction, ADP Support Team and Child Protection, STRADA also delivered a Working with Children and Families Training. Two sessions are scheduled for 2015-16.

Engagement with the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS)

In June and early July, 2015, 3 briefing sessions were held and 21 members of the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) attended. The briefings were well received and the background about the new legislation, Children and Young People Scotland Act (C&YP(S)) 2014 and the duty to assist the “named person” has been identified as a matter the SAS will have to consider in relation to its practical application for them. Contacts between the CPC Training and Development Officers have now been established and are being worked on to maintain them in the future.

E- Learning / Workforce Development

On-line child Protection Training e-learning module has been developed for all staff (paid or unpaid) who work for either NHS Borders or Scottish Borders Council. The module is mandatory and is part of the individuals Personal Development Plan. As at 1st July 2015 2,084 members of staff have completed this induction course online.



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. Some results were discussed earlier.



Gathering Children and Parents Views

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

Gathering Parents Views

Originating from the last Care Inspectorate Report dated December 2011 it was agreed to launch an Audit to gather the opinions of parents/carers who had experienced the initial stages of the Child Protection process. The IRD Review Sub Group select the families to be surveyed and ask a worker, who continues to be involved with the family, to contact them and get consent to contribute. CPC agreed, at their meeting on 20th February 2014, to employ Children1st who organise Parentline to conduct the telephone survey. This ensured that those involved are employed supervisors who are experienced with this type of process and are able to work from a script. CPC read the results of this survey and were happy to note these as being very positive.

Promoting the rights of Children and Young People

The CP team actively encourage children to attend CPCC. A CPCC leaflet, (see below), specifically designed for children, is given to them which gives them all the information they need, in easy language to explain the CPCC process and what may or may not be asked of them. Children are encouraged to write down their thoughts and feelings, especially if they do not wish to attend a CPCC, and these will be taken into account by the Chair of the CPCC.

Children's Leaflets for CPCC

The CPCC leaflet for children was updated after a small forum was held in October 2014 to ask children their views on the leaflet. They had felt the pictures were 'scary' and some of the wording required clarity. This continues the work with engaging with young people which began in March 2014 when the Independent Chair met with Scottish Borders Youth Voice (Child Rights Group/West Youth Voice Team).

WHAT IS A CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER?

- This is a list of all the children who are felt to be at risk of harm and need extra help to be kept safe. It is kept very private and only people who can help you like your social worker, teacher, school nurse, doctor, police, will know that you are on the list.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- There will be regular meetings to make sure the plan is working and that you are safe. This is a lot of information to understand, so DO TALK through things with your social worker and/or an adult that you trust.

For further information or advice, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SOCIAL WORKER.

CONTACT DETAILS

For copies of this leaflet in large print, CD or other languages and format please contact 01835 825080

information for children
ABOUT CHILD PROTECTION CASE CONFERENCES

WHAT IS A CHILD PROTECTION CASE CONFERENCE?

- It is a meeting to talk about you because people are worried that you are not being kept safe or being looked after as well as you should be.

WHO WILL BE THERE?

- You, if you want to be.
- Your parent's and/or carers.
- People who know you and your family, like your teacher, school nurse, social worker and health visitor. A police officer always attends.
- A person will be in charge of the meeting and will make sure that everyone gets a turn to speak.
- A person will be taking notes of what is said at the meeting and they are called a minute taker.

HOW DO I TELL THE MEETING HOW I FEEL?

- Whether you go to the meeting or not it is important that the people at the meeting know what you think. You can do this by telling your Social worker and/or write down how you feel (you can get help with this). The meeting will always be told what you have said.
- If you do go you may wish an adult you trust to come with you. You would need to tell your social worker in good time so that this can be arranged.

WHAT IS THE MEETING FOR?

- To discuss the worries and concerns people have about you.
- To think about what could help you.
- To decide whether your name should be on the child protection register.
- To make a plan about what needs to happen or change to make sure you are safe and looked after properly.

More opportunities for engaging with young people are being actively pursued.

Significant Case Reviews

A Significant Case Review is a multi-agency process for establishing the facts of a situation where a child has died or been significantly harmed, within a child protection context, in order to learn lessons with and make improvements to services.

The SBCPC Lead Officer read 48 National SCRs over the past year. 11 were forwarded to colleagues, 1 was used in the CPC Newsletter, a brief summary was written from 2 which were taken to the Practice Development Sub Group. 25 were issues which were already being dealt with. 9 required an inter-agency discussion and were taken to the Practice Development Sub Group in order to cover any gaps identified. A couple of examples of what was progressed are:

- Hampshire Baby V SCR published in November 2014 raised medical issues and was forwarded to the Nurse Consultant Vulnerable Children and Young People and the Senior Nurse for Child Protection. As a result an 'Agency Protocol for Bruising in a non-mobile child' is in the process of being rolled out to all medical practitioners first half of 2016.
- Southampton SCR for Child K - this was discussed at the CPC Meeting on 25th June there were 3 issues that required consideration in the Borders:
 - Chronologies – there should be an inter-agency chronology at the first RCPCC. It is on the Chairs check list but it is not recorded so we do not know if this is happening.
 - Risk Assessments – a risk assessment is to be completed by the first RCPCC. It is always on file however CPC wanted to be sure the standard was being met.
 - Staff calling to report something and giving up - staff are reminded regularly they have a responsibility to ensure the information has been received. All telephone referrals must be followed up with a CP confirmation of referral form.

Due to these 3 issues exception reporting to the CPC Review Sub Group is now in place.

Initial Case Reviews (ICRs)

An Initial Case Review is done when a child dies or has a 'near miss'. A multi-agency discussion takes place on whether to proceed to SCR. Over the past reporting year the SBCPC have completed 3 ICRs and none proceeded to SCR.

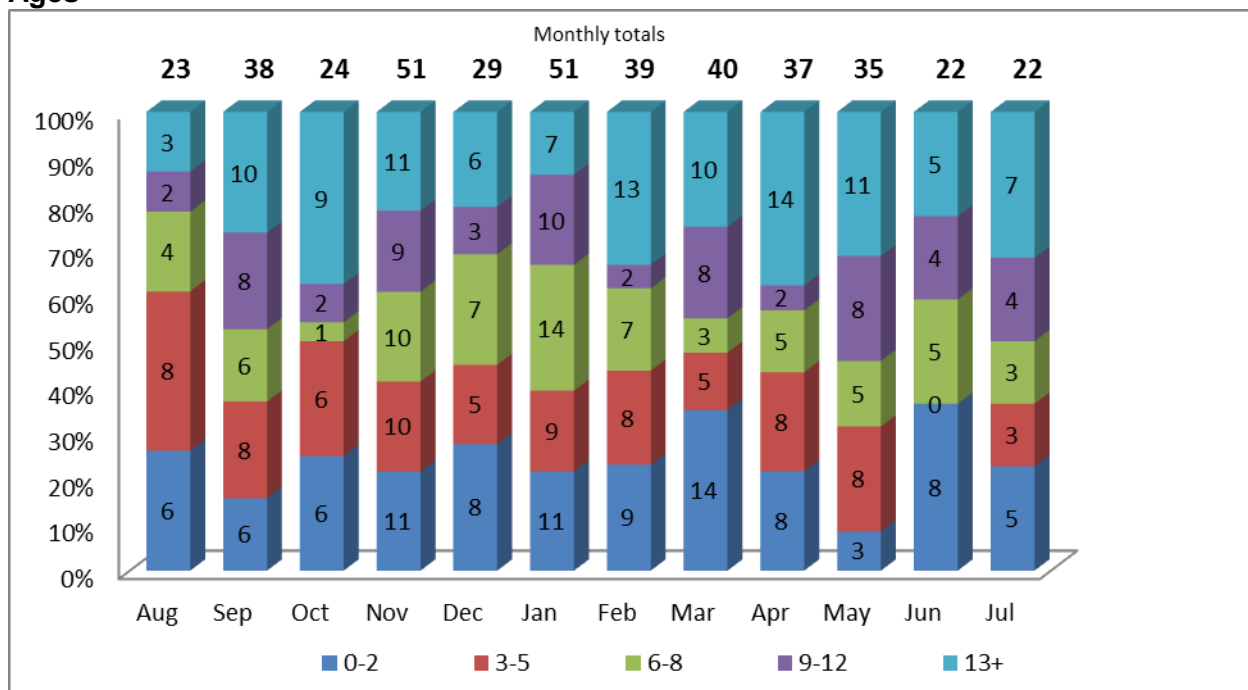
Local Child Protection Data

(Source of data from Social Work Frameworki as of 1st November 2015)

A total of 275 children’s names appeared on the Scottish Borders Child Protection Register between 1st August 2014 and 31st July 2015.

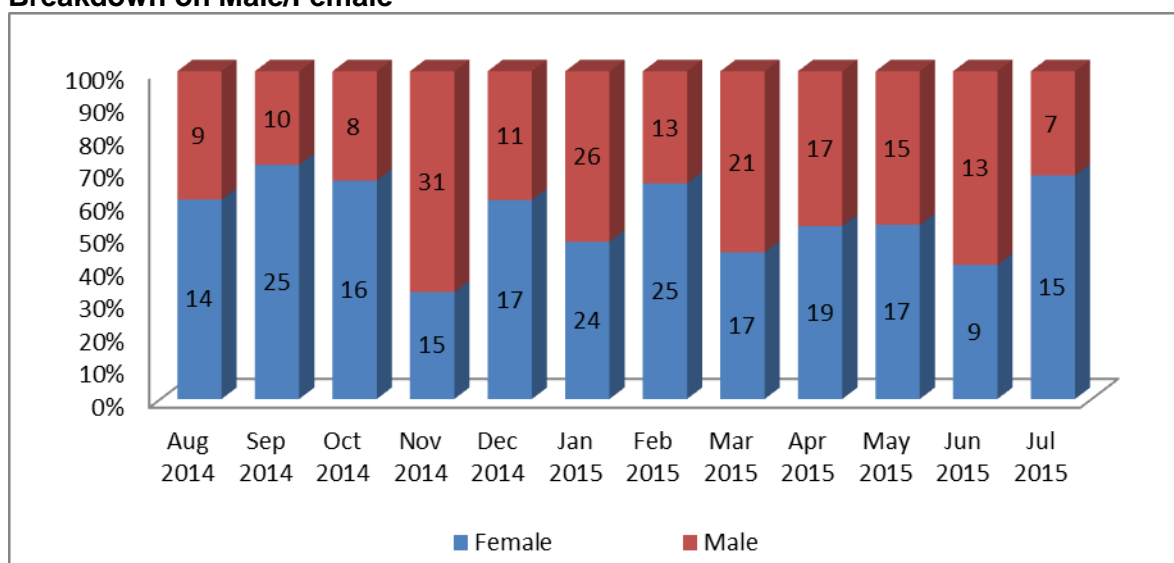
The number of children on the Register as of 31st July 2015 was 22, the following graphs show a breakdown by ages, male/female and family groups:-

Ages

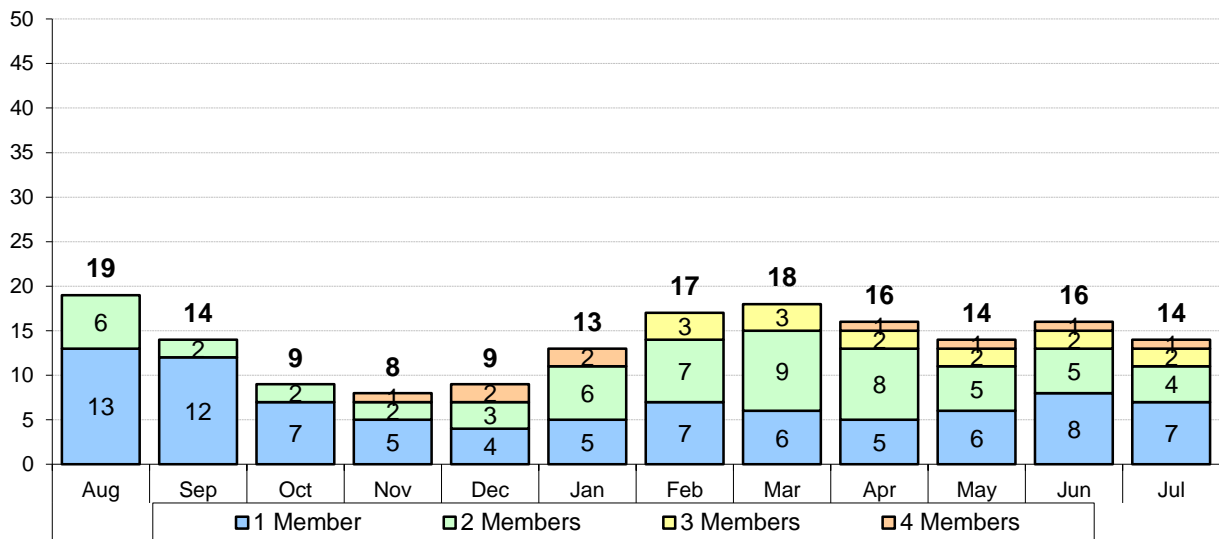


In September 2014, February and April 2015 there were more teenagers’ names on the CP Register than younger children. The majority of months show a higher number of children in the 6-13 age brackets appearing on the Register. This is a change to the previous year where the majority age group was 0-4.

Breakdown on Male/Female



Family Groups

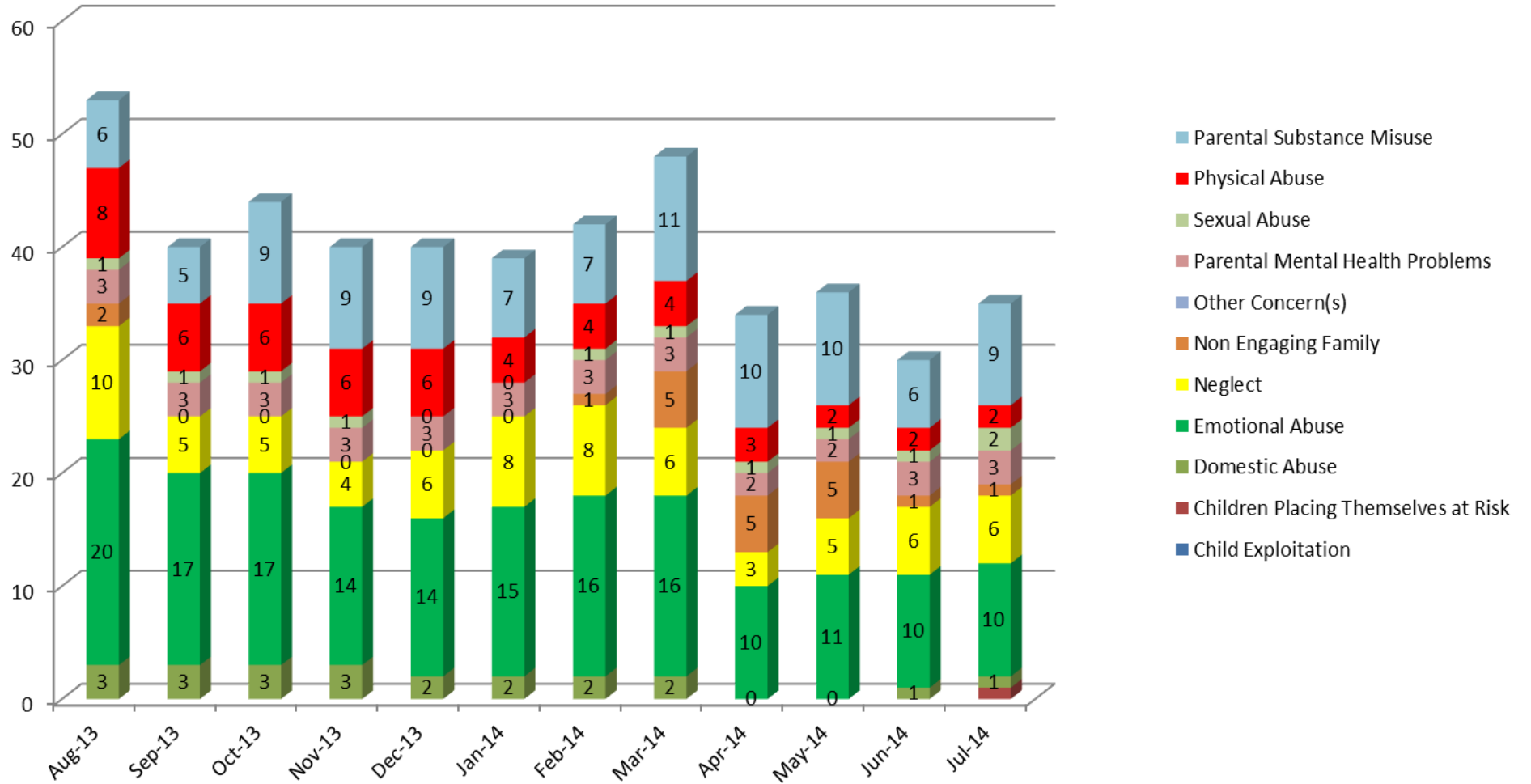


At the end of 2014, as part of the regular review of performance data, the Child Protection Committee (CPC) became aware that the number of children on the Child Protection Register had dropped. The CPC commissioned 2 experienced social work practitioners to do a short and very focussed piece of action research to provide a review of practice to determine whether the inter-agency processes to protect children were robust enough. The purpose of this research was to ascertain the reason for the low numbers on the Register and has not provided any evidence to support that the IRD process and multi-agency discussions are not keeping children safe. A reason for the fall in numbers was not identified but this exercise provided a useful consideration of the Inter-agency processes involved in the protection of Scottish Borders children. The report findings have been considered initially by the Child Protection Committee and have highlighted some areas of improvement which will form the basis of the CPC's 15/16 Business Plan with specific actions being monitored as part of this process.

Child Protection Case Conferences

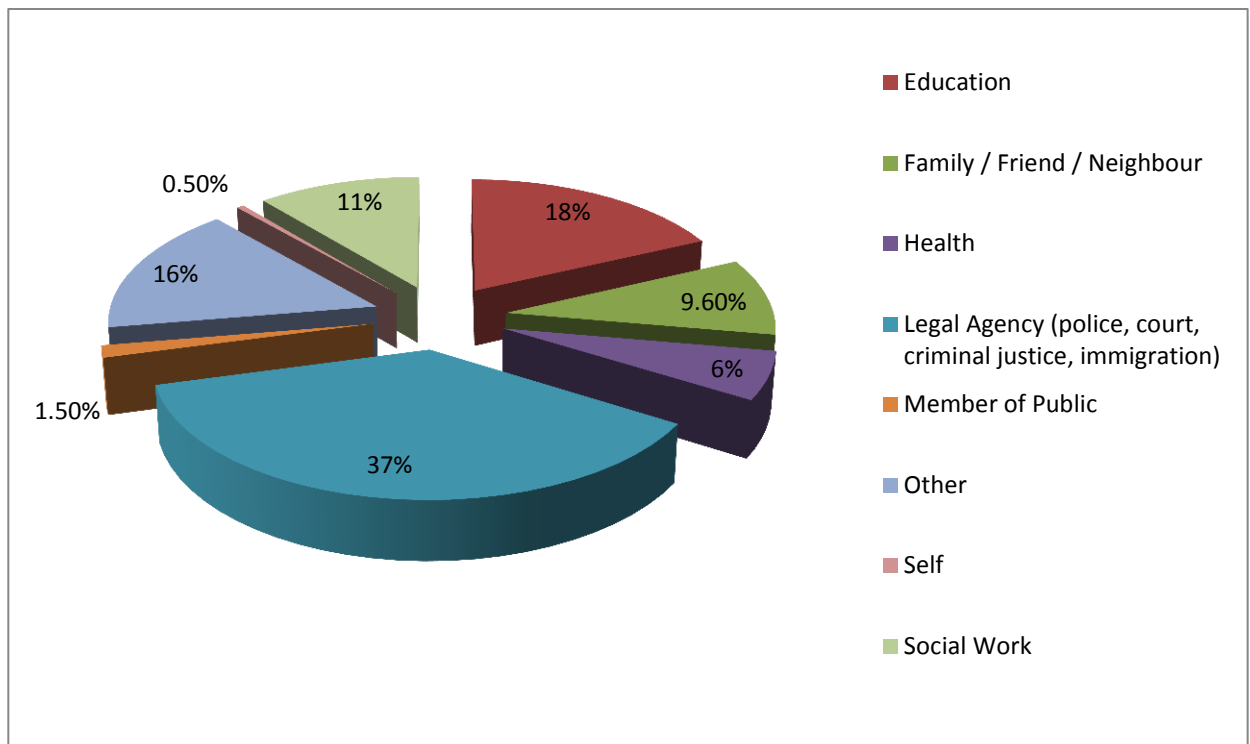
A total of 52 Initial/pre-birth/transfer-in child protection case conferences took place in the year with 81% of these leading to the child's name being placed on the child protection register. This evidences the appropriateness of referrals. The main concerns identified at the Case Conferences are displayed on the graph on page 14. Domestic Abuse has risen since last year (8%-21%) and emotional abuse has fallen (52%-20%). Both Parental alcohol (25%-8.5%) and Drugs (25%-10%) misuse statistics have fallen. Parental Mental Health problems have risen slightly (8.3%-10%) and physical abuse has also risen from (1%-6%). Neglect issues have fallen (19%-7%). In many cases children have more than one concern identified. There were no Child Sexual Exploitation concerns raised.

Concerns identified at Case Conference



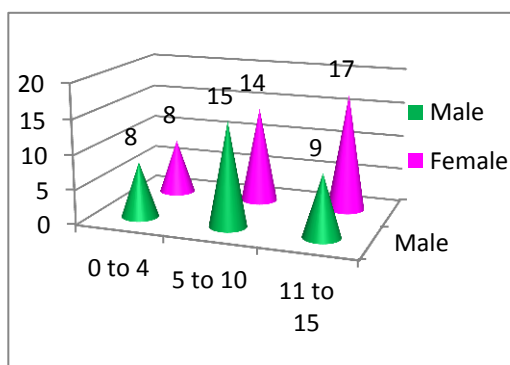
Referrals

There were 408 child protection referrals made in the year, the breakdown of the sources are as follows:



Police/Legal Agency remains the most prominent referral agent at (37%) with Education referring (18%). Members of the public referred only (1.5%) with self-referrals at (0.5% - This figure always looks low because there is a tendency for workers completing the form from which these figures are taken to say that the referrer is whoever told them rather than who actually initiated the referral i.e. A child tells a teacher that something has happened to them, the teacher is noted as the referrer but it is actually the child who came forward in the first instance). The 'other' source (16%) encompasses other local authorities or council departments. This flags up areas of weaknesses and strengths in our advertising campaigns, posters and general public awareness raising training over the full range of age groups. These statistics are therefore encouraging as referrals are now coming from most sectors.

Investigations by Age/Gender (Age at investigation end date) for the year

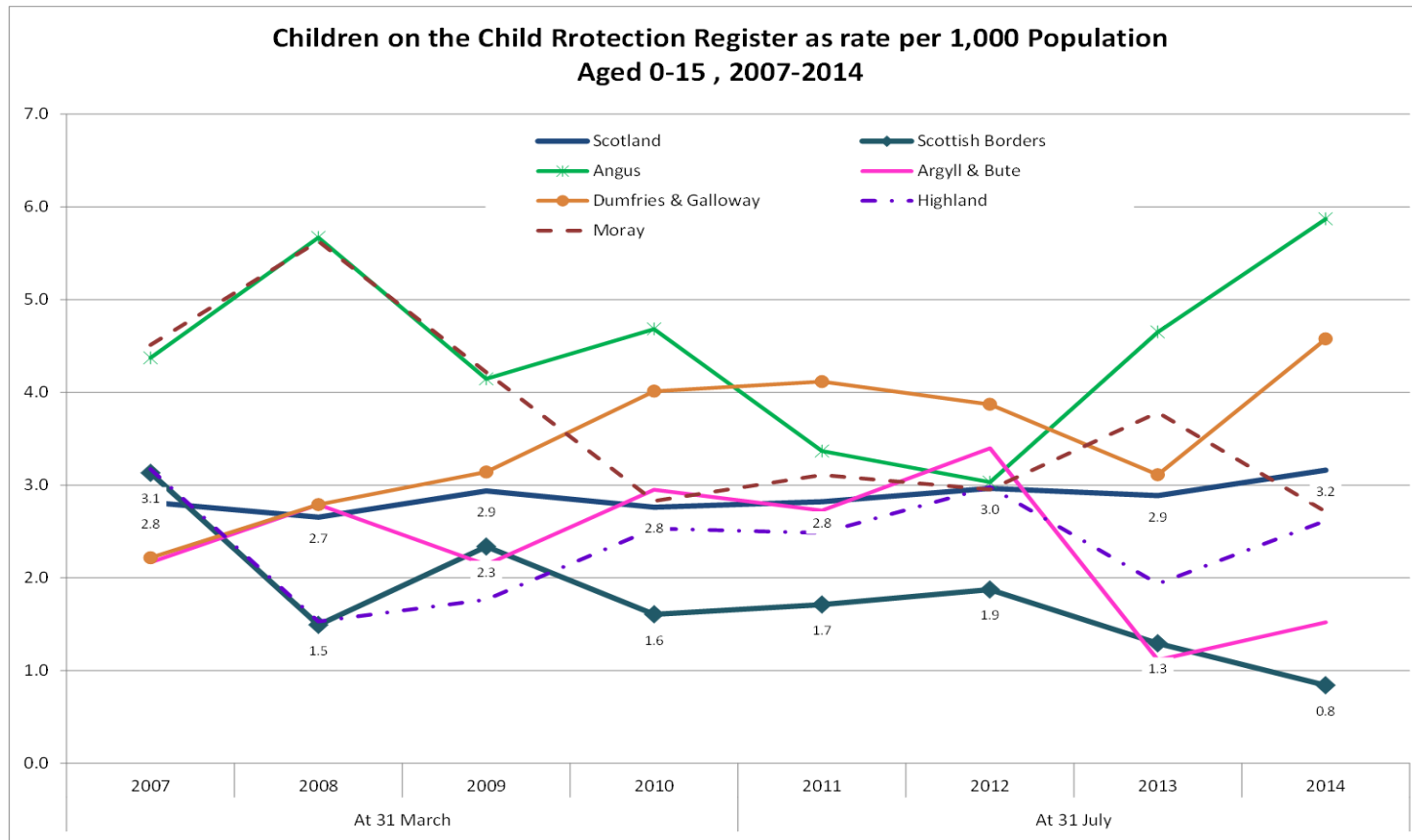


There were 71 Child Protection Investigations completed in the year and 55% of these were female and 45% male.

National Child Protection & Comparator Data

National Comparator Figures taken from the Scottish Social Work Statistics

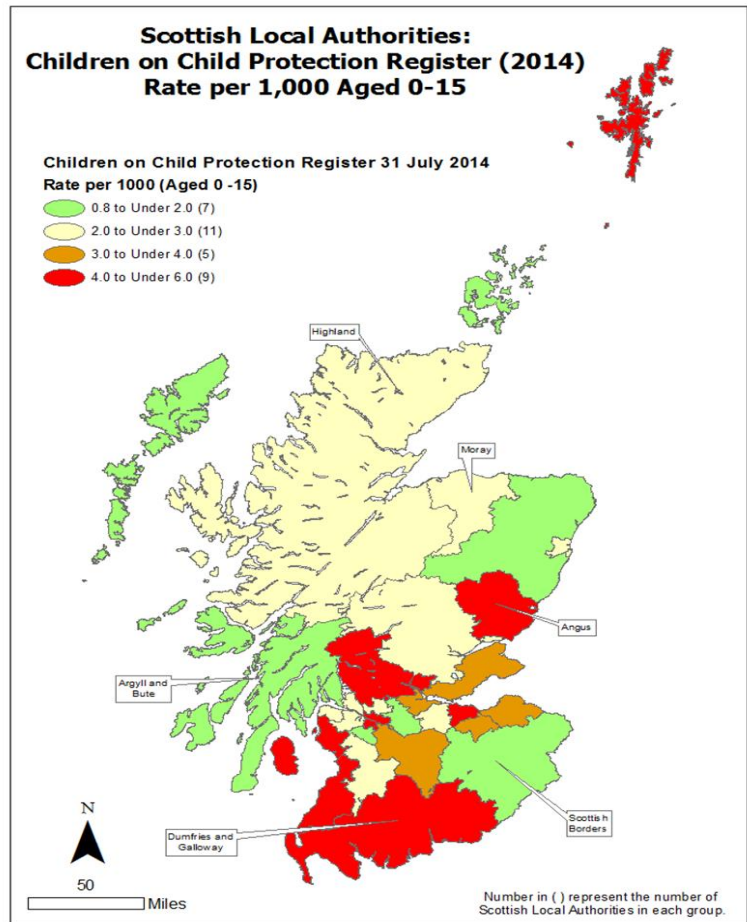
The SBCPC has five comparator authorities and the following graphs show figures from 2013-2014.



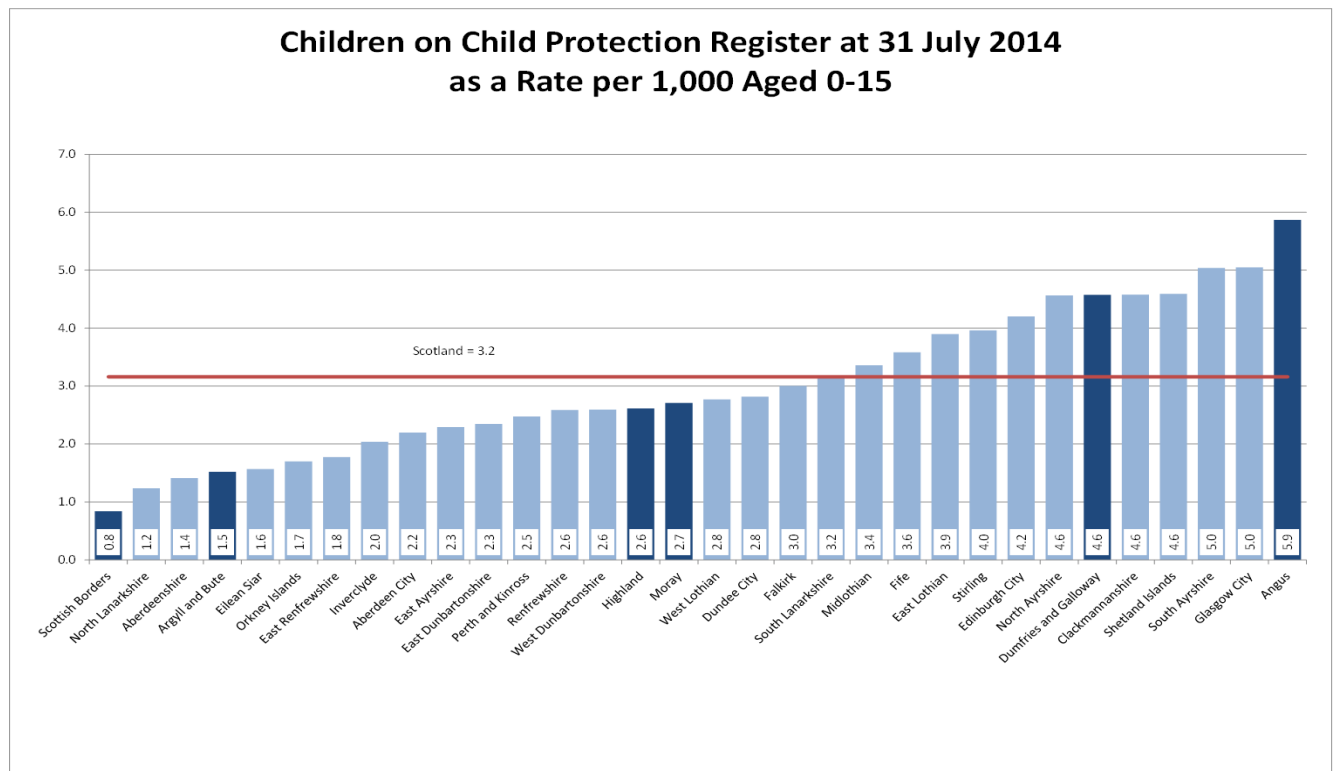
From this graph it is interesting to note that other authorities also experienced drops in numbers on the register. Please also see the geographical map and bar chart on page 17.

Number of Children on the CP Register as at 31st July 2014 rate per 1,000 aged 0-15

The map shows the situation throughout Scotland and the bar chart below explains in more detail the breakdown for each authority.



Children on Child Protection Register at 31 July 2014 as a Rate per 1,000 Aged 0-15



We noted that we were lower than everyone else and did a review on this to ensure that we were not missing children that should be on the register. The review confirmed this.

Public Information

SBCPC has been raising awareness in schools of child trafficking /sexual exploitation and through its recent survey is fully aware what is taught to children and at what age, stage and ability.

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.

A biannual SBCPC newsletter is disseminated widely to staff across all agencies. It has recently concentrated on Child Sexual Exploitation.



The newsletter is available on the SBCPC [website](#).

Business Plan

SBCPC's priorities for the forthcoming year 2015-2016 are:

- CPC considers the results of all feedback from stakeholders and messages from Audit by discussing all relevant statistics, self-evaluation/audit reports from joint CPC lead and single agency audits and reports. To fully undertake this leadership function by ensuring staff understand the value of and contribute to self-evaluation and the audit processes and to implement any required improvements.
- Involve and consult children, young people and their families ensuring the CP message is reaching them and that they know how to get help if needed by taking full account of stakeholder views.
- increase public awareness of child protection and what to do should people have concerns, in order to keep children safe by using local communication networks, to raise awareness e.g. newsletters, intranets, CPC website, training, CP Procedures.
- Increase the visibility of the CPC by raising awareness through meetings which involve staff to support the focus on the importance of protecting children from all forms of abuse.
- Maintain, evaluate and update inter-agency CP training by analysing training evaluation reports and adapt or introduce courses as required.
- Improve CP Training by ensuring training reflects new national practice including focus on Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation.
- CPC is aware and alerted to changes in individual agencies regarding legislation and organisational process changes and members will bring changes to CPC meetings; The CPC will respond to consultations, developments will be changed which compromise the quality of CP service and CPC will ensure appropriate membership of planning groups relating to GIRFEC and early intervention. Members attending will ensure planning fully considers Child Protection.
- Review CPC Procedures to ensure they provide a helpful guide to staff in respect of Child Protection's position in the GIRFEC process.
- Chronologies and Risk Assessments are completed for all children on the Child Protection Register.

- Ensure the CP Procedures are transferred to a new platform.
- Continue to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation to ensure children are safer by being fully informed about the risks of CSE
- Respond to the findings of the key self-evaluation activities around the child protection process to improve child protection services.

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 **Children & Families Social Work Team** in which the child lives:-

C&FSW Berwickshire
Tel 01361 886115

C&FSW Eildon
Tel: 01896 664158

C&FSW Cheviot
Tel: 01573 227421

C&FSW Tweeddale
Tel: 01721 726310

C&FSW 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 Locality 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
MAPPA	–	Multi-agency Public Protection Agency Arrangements
VAWP	–	Violence Against Women Partnership
IRD	–	Initial Referral Discussion
CSE	-	Child Sexual Exploitation
C&FSW	-	Children and Families Social Work Team



Child Protection is Everyone's Responsibility!



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