

Improving the Protection of Children and Young People in North Ayrshire



IMPROVING

North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is a multi agency strategic partnership between North Ayrshire Council, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, Strathclyde Police, Scottish Children's Reporters Administration, Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Procurator Fiscal, Children's Panel and the Voluntary Sector Forum. The purpose of the Committee is to ensure all agencies work together effectively to protect children and young people in North Ayrshire.

One of the key responsibilities of every Child Protection Committee is the promotion of continuous improvement in child protection services.

North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee promotes continuous improvement in a number of ways. These include learning from inspections and Significant Case Reviews; practitioner forums spotlighting good practice; inter agency learning and development opportunities and multi agency self evaluation activity.

IMPLEMENTING

North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is pleased to announce two key developments which further strengthen mechanisms to improve services for children:

1. Launch of Multi Agency Self Evaluation Strategy
2. Improved Evaluation of Learning and Development Programme

Multi-Agency Self Evaluation Strategy

The Audit and Evaluation sub group of North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee leads on multi agency evaluation of services across North Ayrshire. This group has developed a robust self evaluation strategy which will run over the next two years.

This strategy can be downloaded from the professionals page at:

www.childprotectionnorthayrshire.info

Critical to the success of this strategy is the involvement of stakeholders, including children, young people, families and members of staff.

Evaluation of Learning and Development Programme

Many of you will be familiar with the comprehensive inter agency child protection training programme which is offered by North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee. This programme can be downloaded from the training page at:

www.childprotectionnorthayrshire.info

These courses are subject to rigorous quality assurance processes to ensure they meet the needs of staff across all agencies working in North Ayrshire.

The framework for evaluating courses has been further developed to better understand how learning from these courses impacts on staff and, in turn, contributes to better outcomes for children.

INVOLVING

As a member of staff working in services to protect children in North Ayrshire, your input to both these developments is critical. As part of our Self Evaluation Strategy, you may be invited to participate in a focus group with other professionals in order to discuss a particular case you have been involved in, and wider child protection practise more generally.

The purpose of these focus groups is to hear directly from practitioners involved in child protection practice about what works well and what could be improved. This information will then be used to inform improvement plans.

Following participation on child protection courses, you may be contacted to take part in more in depth evaluation of how child protection training helps improve services to protect children and families.

The input from those delivering front line services is extremely valuable to the Child Protection Committee in developing and implementing improvements and the positive benefits of reflection and learning on a multi agency basis are well recognised.

CONCLUSION

North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee is firmly committed to the continuous improvement of services to protect children and young people in North Ayrshire. Those in front line delivery of services are invited to play a fuller role in developing improvement plans and encouraged to participate in the opportunities outlined above.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the Multi Agency Self Evaluation Strategy, please contact:

Jillian Russell
Child Protection Lead Officer

Tel: 01294 324737
E: jillianrussell@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

If you have any questions about the Evaluation of Learning and Development Programme, please contact:

Caren McLean
Child Protection Learning and Development Co-ordinator

Tel: 01294 324977
E: cmclean@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

www.childprotectionnorthayrshire.info