

North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee

March 2022 – Issue 9



Name: Sarah Foran

Job: Reporter Manager, SCRA

How are you enjoying the role of Reporter Manager?

I have only been in post since the turn of the year but so far I love the variety of challenges and opportunities that arise every day! One moment I can be supporting a Reporter with issues at Court or a Hearing, and the next working with partners, such as the CPC, to improve our service for the children and families of Ayrshire. I have come to the post at a time when the extreme challenges of the pandemic seem to be fading and we are left with an optimism about how the lessons we have learned during that time can help us improve things in the future, especially as we consider how to implement The Promise.



What are your current main priorities?

Inevitably a great deal of our current focus and priority is on recovering from the impact of the pandemic. Recovering both as an organisation and as a workforce – for this reason staff wellbeing is a top priority for us.

We need to increase our face-to-face Hearing capacity and return to the previous volume and efficiency of service. However in doing this we are not trying to turn back the clock. We want to learn lessons from what worked and didn't work over the past two years and incorporate that into our future planning. SCRA is acutely aware of our responsibility as Corporate Parents and so working closely internally and with our partners to shape how we will deliver The Promise is one of our main priorities now, and will continue to be moving forward.

What is the most challenging part of your role?

The most challenging part of the role is managing change. Changes in legislation, IT systems, how we work, where we work ... and there is no end in sight! The Promise offers the opportunity to finally deliver what children and young people have been asking for and we need to find a way to approach that work with open ears and minds and put our energy into change to deliver for them. Thankfully we have a workforce who are child-centred and understand their role in improving experiences and outcomes for the families we serve.

What is your favourite part of your role?

To be honest I'm not sure yet. I was a Children's Reporter for fourteen years before becoming a Reporter Manager and if you'd asked me then I would say working directly with children and young people. I don't know what is going to fill that space now I have less contact with the frontline. The reason I liked that part of my job was because I felt I could make a difficult experience a little easier and support people to understand and contribute to a sometimes complicated process. I hope now I will serve this same function in a different way – through partnership, strategy, and supporting change - and look forward to helping shape what our service will look like in the future.

The Ayrshire Learning Review Guidance replaces the Pan Ayrshire Protocol for conducting and Initial or Significant Case Review. The overall purpose of a Learning Review is to bring together agencies, individuals and families in a collective endeavour to learn from what has happened in order to improve and develop systems and practice in the future and thus better protect children and young people.

The criteria for undertaking a Learning Review is as follows:

*When a child **has died or has sustained significant harm or risk of significant harm as defined in the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland** and there is additional learning to be gained from a review being held that may inform improvements in the protection of children and young people and one or more of the following apply:*

- *Abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in the child's death or the sustaining of or risk of significant harm*
- *The child is on, or has been on, the Child Protection Register (CPR) or a sibling is or was on the CPR or was a care experienced child (i.e. looked after, or receiving aftercare or continuing care from the local authority). This is regardless of whether or not abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in the child's death or sustaining of significant harm, unless it is absolutely clear to the Child Protection Committee that the child having been on the CPR or being care experienced has no bearing on the case*
- *The child's death is by suicide, alleged murder, culpable homicide, reckless conduct, or act of violence*

Any member of the Child Protection Committee, agency or practitioner can raise a concern about a case which it is believed meets the criteria for a Learning Review and submit a notification to the CPC. If you become aware of a case that you feel meets the criteria for undertaking a Learning Review, please discuss with your Line Manager in the first instance and email cpc@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.



The referral window for PRI Dialogue cases is ongoing throughout **February and March 2022**.

These sessions are building on the existing PRISM (Practice Reflective Improvement Short Module) model within North Ayrshire which provides a multi-agency forum to reflect on areas of strength and learning within child protection cases.



Referral criteria:

- The case must have an element of child protection attached to it (please note that this does not necessarily mean that a child needs to be or has been on the Child Protection Register).
- There are issues within the case which you feel would benefit from further learning and reflection

All agencies within North Ayrshire can refer.

For this referral period, we are particularly interested in cases where practitioners feel that there have been significant strengths and there are opportunities to learn and reflect from good practice e.g. good multi-agency collaborative working to protect children – however all referrals will still be considered.

Please note, PRI Dialogue sessions have not been established to criticise professional practice or to blame individuals or agencies – the purpose is to provide a safe space for practitioners to reflect in a multi-agency forum.

Participants who have completed PRI Dialogue sessions have said:

'(The session provided me with) experience in allowing others to reflect on my practice and not just myself or own colleagues'

'I was anxious at the start but quickly settled and became comfortable with the safe space to talk.'

More information on the process and how to refer is provided on the attached flyer and is also available on the CPC website here:

<http://childprotectionnorthayrshire.info/cpc/professionals/introduction/>

(Please note although the top of the page details information on the Child Sexual Abuse strategy, further information as you scroll down details information on PRI Dialogue sessions).

North Ayrshire's Child Sexual Abuse Strategy is fast approaching the 1 year anniversary from when it was first launched.

The strategy is aimed at everyone in North Ayrshire, as it is important everyone knows their role in keeping children and young people safe, is prepared and knows the appropriate action to take in order to support and/or protect a child or young person if required.

A 7 minute briefing is attached below and we have also attached a leaflet, poster and an accessible version of the strategy for all. We are also able to provide hard copies of these resources. Please email cpc@north-ayrshire.gov.uk if you would like further information.

Practitioners from all agencies can also complete the module below: *An introduction to North Ayrshire's Child Sexual Abuse Strategy*. This awareness module will help you gain an understanding of North Ayrshire's Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and what it means for you as a practitioner.

[An Introduction to North Ayrshire's Child Sexual Abuse Strategy - Overview | Rise 360 \(articulate.com\)](#)

The module can be accessed through a mobile, laptop or tablet and will take approximately 15 – 30 minutes to complete.

We want to ensure children and young people in North Ayrshire are safe from sexual harm and well supported if they have experienced sexual abuse. If adults cannot talk about sexual abuse, then we cannot expect children and young people to be able to.

[North Ayrshire CSA Strategy 7 Minute Briefing](#)

[North Ayrshire CSA Strategy Leaflet](#)

[North Ayrshire CSA Strategy Poster](#)

[North Ayrshire CSA Strategy](#)