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In-service Cluster Training

Child Protection

# Objectives :

- Refresh our knowledge in relation to roles and responsibilities relating to child protection.
- Refresh our knowledge relating to classification and indicators of abuse.
- Refresh /enhance our knowledge of processes involved in child protection.



# Protecting Children:



Everyone has responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Social workers, health professionals, police, educational staff and anyone else who works with children and their families, as well as members of the community, need to appreciate the important role they can play in remaining vigilant and providing robust support for child protection.

National Guidelines Children Protection Scotland 2010



## What is child abuse ?

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting, or by failing to act to prevent, significant harm to the child. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger.

## What about child protection ?

“Child Protection” means protecting a child from child abuse or neglect. Abuse or neglect need not have taken place; it is sufficient for a risk assessment to have identified a *likelihood* or *risk* of significant harm from abuse or neglect.

## Significant Harm

'Significant harm' is a complex matter and subject to professional judgement based on a multi-agency assessment of the circumstances of the child and their family. Where there are concerns about harm, abuse or neglect, these must be shared with the relevant agencies so that they can decide together whether the harm is, or is likely to be, significant.

## Considerations

- the nature of harm, either through an act of commission or omission;
- the impact on the child's health and development, taking into account their age and stage of development;
- the child's development within the context of their family and wider environment;
- the context in which a harmful incident or behaviour occurred;
- any particular needs, such as a medical condition, communication impairment or disability, that may affect the child's development, make them more vulnerable to harm or influence the level and type of care provided by the family;
- the capacity of parents or carers to meet adequately the child's needs.
- the wider and environmental family context.



# Classification of Abuse :

- Physical Injury
- Emotional Abuse
- Physical Neglect
- Sexual Abuse



# Physical Injury

- “Actual or attempted physical injury to a child, including the administration of toxic substances, where there is knowledge, or reasonable suspicion that the injury was inflicted or knowingly not prevented”

- *Scottish Executive*

## Possible Signs & Symptoms:

- Unexplained injuries or burns
- Improbable explanation for an injury
- Non accidental injuries
- Untreated injuries
- Withdrawal from physical contact
- Refusal to discuss injuries
- Fear of returning home
- Chronic running away



# Emotional Abuse

- Failure to provide for the child's basic emotional needs such as to have a severe effect on the behaviour and development of the child

- *Scottish Executive*

- **Possible Signs & Symptoms:**
- Developmental delays
- Sudden speech disorders
- Self-mutilation
- Compulsive stealing
- Over-reaction to mistakes
- Drug / Alcohol Abuse



# Physical Neglect

- This occurs when a child's essential needs are not met and this is likely to cause impairment to physical health and development. Such needs include food, clothing, cleanliness, shelter and warmth. Severe exposure to negligence can endanger the child

## Possible Signs & Symptoms:

- Poor personal hygiene
- Constant tiredness
- No social relationships
- Lack of routine
- Inappropriate clothing
- Low self esteem
- Hunger
- Emaciation



# Sexual Abuse

- Any child may have been sexually abused when any person(s) by design or neglect, exploits the child, directly or indirectly in any activity intended to lead to the sexual arousal or other forms of gratification of that person or any other person(s) including organised networks. whether or not the child is aware what is happening.

## Possible Signs & Symptoms:

- Behave in a sexually inappropriate way
- Cry hysterically at nappy changing time
- Have unexplained sources of money
- Have urinary infections, bleeding and soreness
- Have low self esteem
- Third party disclosure



# Trafficked Children

- Phone calls or letters from adults outside the usual range of social contacts.
- Missing for long periods, with no known base.
- Placement breakdown.
- Pattern of street homelessness.
- Possession of large amounts of money with no plausible explanation.
- Acquisition of expensive clothes, mobile phones or other possessions without plausible explanation.
- Having keys to other premises.
- Low self-image, low self-esteem, self-harming behaviour including cutting, overdosing, eating disorder, promiscuity.
- Truancy/disengagement with education;
- Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults;
- Going missing and being found in areas where the child or young person has no known links.
- Possible inappropriate use of the internet and social media.



# Trafficked Children

- Physical symptoms (bruising indicating either physical or sexual assault);
- STI or unplanned pregnancy;
- Young person known to be sexually active;
- Reports from reliable sources suggesting the likelihood of involvement in sexual exploitation;
- Reports that the child has been seen in places known to be used for sexual exploitation;
- Evidence of drug, alcohol or substance misuse
- Significantly older boyfriend.
- Accounts of social activities with no plausible explanation of the source of necessary funding.
- Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation.
- Returning after having been missing, looking well cared for despite having no known base.
- Leaving home/care setting in clothing unusual for the individual child (inappropriate for age, borrowing clothing from older people);

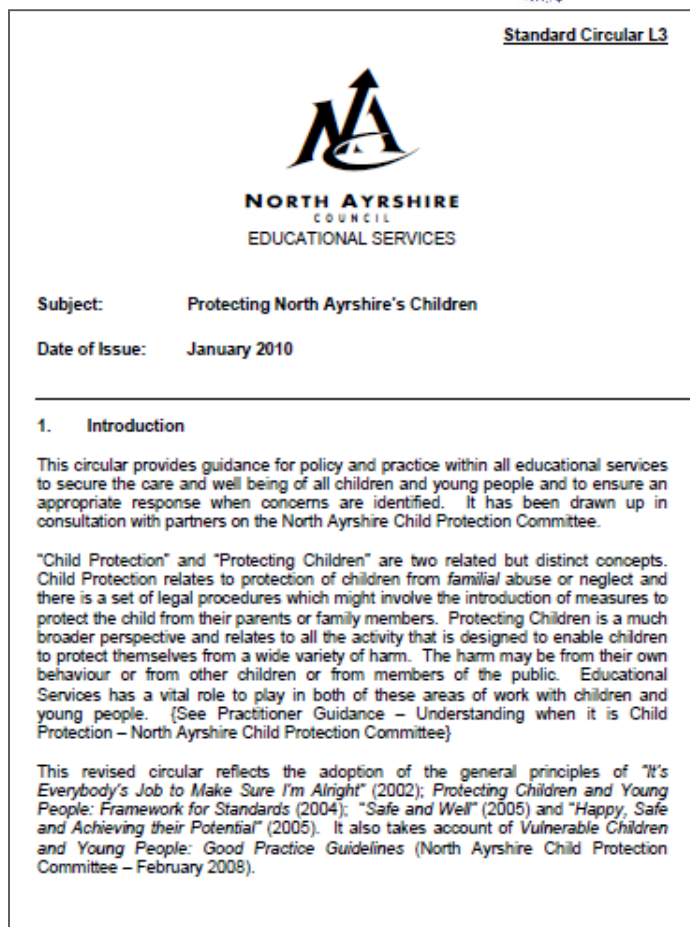


# Roles and Responsibilities of Education and Skills staff :

## Protecting North Ayrshire Children Standard Circular L3 North Ayrshire Council

- Head of Establishment
- Child Protection Co-ordinator
- All Staff

Operational guidance.



# All Staff

- Responsibility for the welfare and protection of children.
- Should be aware of the signs of indicators of potential abuse:
- Where there are indicators :
  - Make a note of the concerns :
  - Verbatim account
  - Time and date of when concern arose.
- Discuss with the Child Protection Coordinator
  - Agreement on further course of action and whether to alert social services.
  - Agree on how the concerns should be recorded.
  - Agreement on follow up tasks and paperwork.



# Becoming aware

- The Child Discloses
- Observation of injuries.
- Sustained concern about the presentation or behaviour of the child.
- Information from another agency.
- Information from another parent, child, friend or community member.
- Specific Circumstances which may pose risk :
  - Domestic violence
  - Parental Mental Health
  - Parental Substance Misuse
  - Non engaging families
  - Trafficked Children

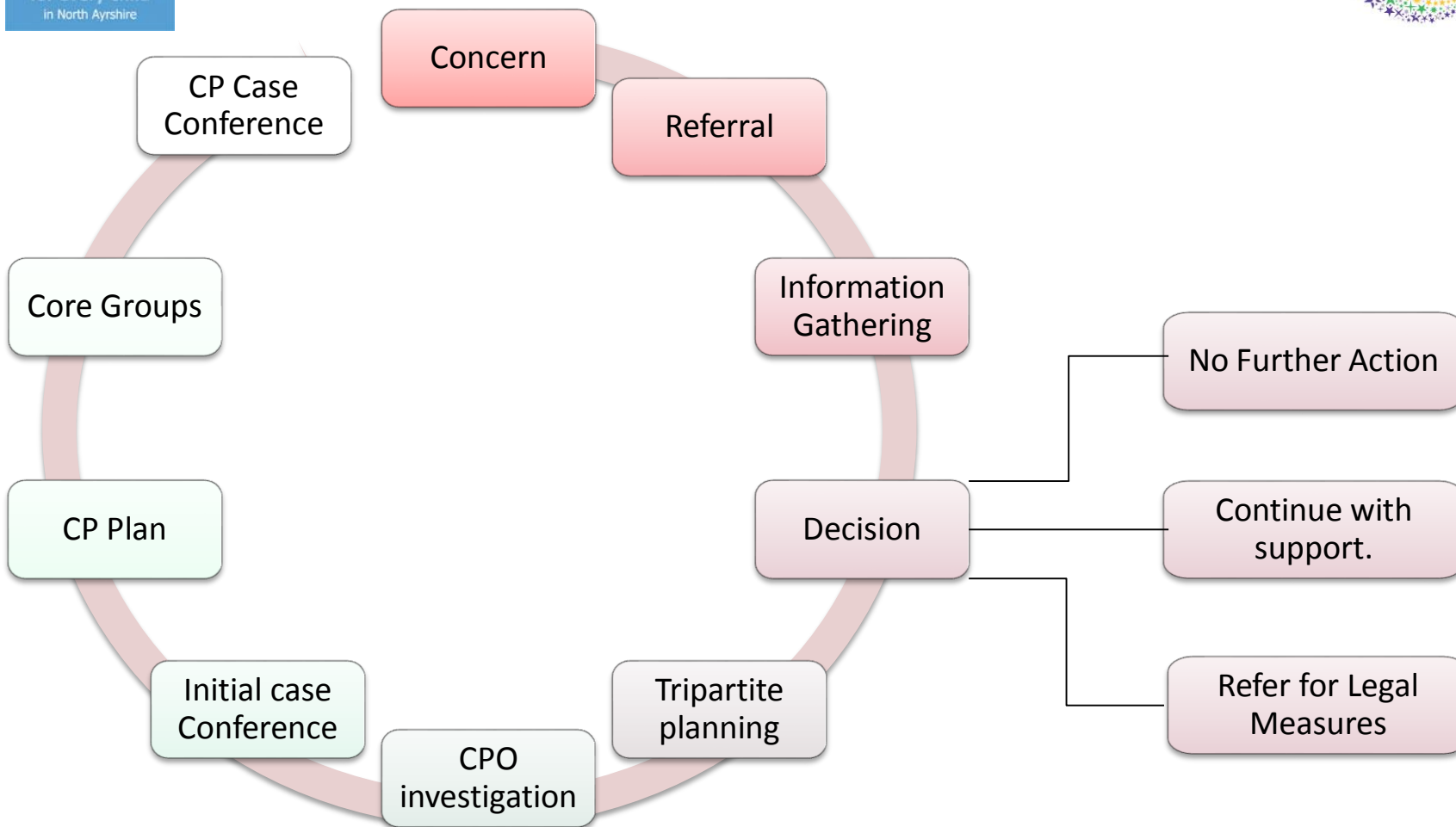


# Responding to allegations / disclosures

DO	DON'T
Pay immediate attention	Ignore, minimise or dismiss
Stay Calm	Ask to many questions
Reassure the child	Express shock , anger or disbelief
Tell them what will happen next	Interpret or form opinions.
Record what the child has said	Promise justice
<b>NEVER</b>	
Carry out an investigation or gather photographic evidence Never promise that things will be confidential.	



# Process of Child Protection



# What should I do if I suspect a child is at risk ?

Do something.

Pass it on.

- Child Protection Coordinator
- Head of Establishment

## Strathclyde Police

0141 532 2000

999

01563 505092

## Reception Services

Kilbirnie	01505 684551
Irvine	01294 324800
Saltcoats	01294 605261
Arran	01770 600742

## Ayrshire out of hours :

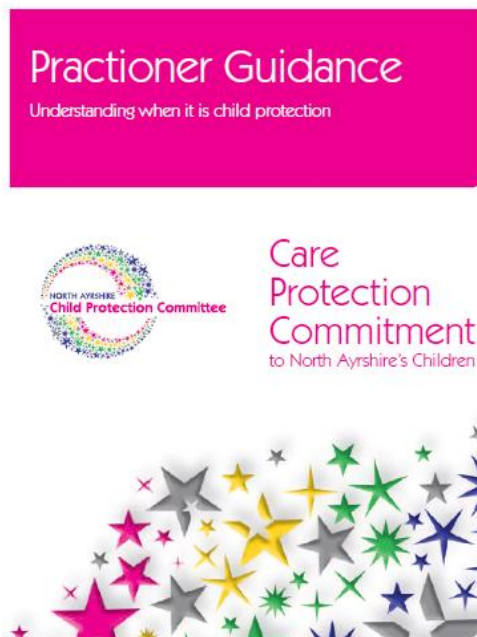
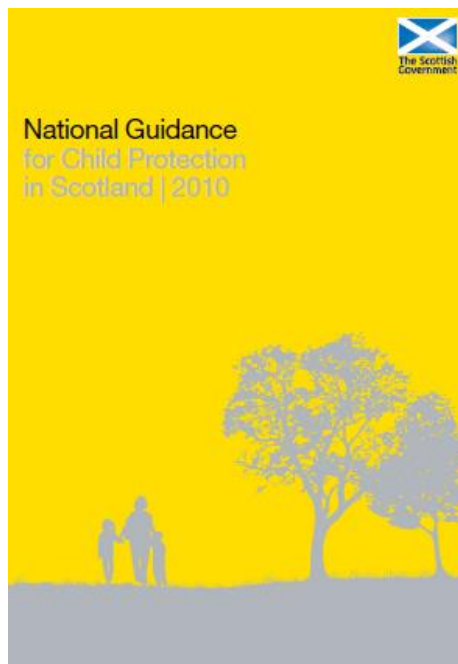
0800 328 7758

Care  
Protection  
Commitment


To North Ayrshire's Children



# Further reading :



Standard Circular L3



**NORTH AYRSHIRE**  
COUNCIL  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Subject: Protecting North Ayrshire's Children

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## 1. Introduction

This circular provides guidance for policy and practice within all educational services to secure the care and well being of all children and young people and to ensure an appropriate response when concerns are identified. It has been drawn up in consultation with partners on the North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee.

"Child Protection" and "Protecting Children" are two related but distinct concepts. Child Protection relates to protection of children from familial abuse or neglect and there is a set of legal procedures which might involve the introduction of measures to protect the child from their parents or family members. Protecting Children is a much broader perspective and relates to all the activity that is designed to enable children to protect themselves from a wide variety of harm. The harm may be from their own behaviour or from other children or from members of the public. Educational Services has a vital role to play in both of these areas of work with children and young people. (See Practitioner Guidance – Understanding when it is Child Protection – North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee)

This revised circular reflects the adoption of the general principles of "It's Everybody's Job to Make Sure I'm Alright" (2002); *Protecting Children and Young People: Framework for Standards* (2004); "Safe and Well" (2005) and "Happy, Safe and Achieving their Potential" (2005). It also takes account of *Vulnerable Children and Young People: Good Practice Guidelines* (North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee – February 2008).

<http://www.childprotectionnorthayrshire.info/professionals.php>

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**Care  
Protection  
Commitment**  
To North Ayrshire's Children





Thank you

Questions ?