

North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee

June 2021 – Issue 7



Name: Billy Brotherston

Job: Independent Chair, North Ayrshire Alcohol & Drug Partnership



You have been ADP Chair since January 2021, how have you found the role?

First of all, it's been a very steep learning curve – my previous role was as a Pastoral Depute Head Teacher which involved working with a range of agencies in support of children and families. I had some experience also of strategic working on various authority working groups and as a school senior manager but my current post is certainly a step up in that line.

Engaging with the Prevention & Service Support Team training has certainly helped in bringing my knowledge up to date as has having conversations with a range of very experienced colleagues. Working with agencies that I had minimal contact with in my previous role such as Justice Services and Third Sector Organisations has also enhanced my understanding of the bigger picture.

What is your favourite part of the role?

Without a doubt, meeting so many new people and looking at the issues from that range of perspectives, whether they be Heads of Service, senior managers, staff on the ground or those with Lived Experience. Encouragingly everyone appears to be pulling in the same direction and there is a huge level of commitment to the task in hand.

Certainly a challenge is meeting virtually as direct face to face meetings will always give a better understanding and sense of how things are going. My intentions are to get out and about once restrictions have lifted and visit the various locations, staff and groups supported by the ADP.

What do you think is the biggest challenge for child protection within your area of work?

There are lots of challenges. For example, and as we all are acutely aware, children can suffer as a result of alcohol and substance use within the family, emotionally and physically. It has to be kept in mind that children by their very nature are extremely protective of their parents, even if being neglected or harmed as a result of their parent's actions/ lifestyles and I think that continued vigilance and awareness of the sensitivities involved is paramount amongst front line staff across agencies and amongst those making decisions at a strategic level.

What are your current main priorities within your work?

The priorities for the ADP are quite clear – to reduce the number of drugs related deaths in North Ayrshire and to provide clear routes to recovery for those who need that to regain control of their lives.

My current priority is to get myself up to speed with the issues which the ADP is designed to address. The multi agency composition of the ADP reflects the complexity of the problems facing individuals, families, and communities as a result of the negative aspects of alcohol and substance use. Despite having spent most of my career in education working with families, including those with issues relating to alcohol and/or drugs, I feel I still have much to learn.

I hope that, as I become more familiar with my role, I will make a contribution to the work of the ADP that has an impact on those who need it.

Billy ended by thanking Rosemary (Whyte), ADP Lead Officer and all his colleagues in the ADP Strategic Management Team, whom he credited as a significant support since coming into the role.

For Kids' Sake

The Child Protection Committee have developed a new banner which will be displayed outside schools and other community hubs such as youth clubs and libraries. We are also working with young people to developed a new North Ayrshire CPC mascot...watch this space! If you are aware of an organisation or community who would benefit from child protection resources or training opportunities, please email cpc@north-ayrshire.gov.uk Training is being delivered virtually however bespoke sessions can be arranged.



A Scotland-wide summer social media campaign, **For Kids' Sake** launched on **Tuesday 22nd June**, on the public-facing Child Protection Scotland social media streams and website.

Everyone can play a part to keep children safe and we want to share these messages across North Ayrshire as widely as possible. We will be sharing information throughout the summer on **Tuesday and**

Friday mornings, you can find out more by following @NA_CPC on Twitter. Please follow and re-tweet!

The referral window for PRI Dialogue cases is now closed. Referrals have been received and we are now in the process of agreeing which cases will progress to a PRI Dialogue session. This means that practitioners across North Ayrshire may be invited to a PRI Dialogue session, **and this may be you.**

PRI Dialogue sessions have been developed to provide a safe space for practitioners to reflect and learn on cases where there has been an element of child protection; this concerns both areas of strength and improvement. **Cases can be identified from any practitioner from agencies within North Ayrshire.**

It is important to highlight that the purpose of these sessions is not to escalate cases, but to create an environment which supports all practitioners to reflect on practice and if anything could have been done differently.

PRI Dialogue sessions will be delivered by 2 trained facilitators. Both facilitators will be objective and have no prior involvement with the case. As the PRI Dialogue project is multi-agency, facilitators are from a range of different agencies and roles:

Amanda Ward, Team Manager NA HSCP
Pamela McCallum, Head Teacher St Palladius PS
Craig Ross, Senior Officer NA HSCP
Lorraine Sherry-Kerr, Service Manager, NA Women's Aid
Kirsty Aitken, Service Manager, Children 1st
Dan Duffy, Senior Officer NA HSCP
Elaine Crilley, Principal Teacher, Pupil Support Service
Frances Gunn, CP Health Advisor, NHS Ayrshire & Arran
David Nelson, Team Manager NA HSCP
Zoe Clements, Syrian Refugee Co-ordinator, NA HSCP
Joanne Inglis, Service Manager Children's Services, NA HSCP
Lindsey Reid, Deputy Head Teacher, Ardrossan Academy
Mhairi McLoone, Team Manager, NA HSCP

NACPC wishes to thank to all facilitators for supporting the PRI Dialogue project.

If you are involved in a case subject to a PRI Dialogue session, you will receive an invitation to attend, which at the moment will be via Microsoft Teams. You will be provided with a brief summary of why the case has been referred for a PRI session. To support a multi-agency approach to reflection, it is important that attendance is prioritised at these sessions. We understand that sometimes it won't be possible, however engagement from all agencies will be monitored by North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee. If you are invited to a PRI Dialogue session and you are unsure about anything, please do not hesitate to email PRIdialogue@north-ayrshire.gov.uk. More information can also be found on the CPC website:

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



NACPC have updated the 2020 – 2023 business plan. Priorities remain the same but some outcome indicators have been modified to ensure that we are measuring what difference our work is making to children and young people. Priorities include: safeguarding children and young people, suicide prevention in young people, actively involving children and their families in CP processes, an improved response to child sexual abuse and supporting professional reflection.

The link to the business plan is available here:

<http://childprotectionnorthayrshire.info/cpc/media/2014/04/NACPC-Business-Plan-2020-2023-2021-updated-version-public-01.07.21.pdf>

If you would like to find out further information on our annual workplan (which details the work that is being completed to meet the objectives in the business plan) please email cpc@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

