

UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF OFFICERS GROUP (COG)

Update from Meeting on 3rd October 2023

Following the launch of the “Aberdeen Protects” [website](#), members of COG agreed that they would provide a summary following each meeting. This will comprise a range of information; decisions taken, sharing of information, and providing updates on longer term pieces of work. We hope you find these updates helpful.

CHILD PROTECTION

Learning Event on Parental Substance Use and Safe Sleep

The meeting heard that Aberdeen City’s Child Protection Committee (CPC) had hosted a Grampian wide Learning Event on ‘*Parental Substance Use and Safe Sleep*’, in collaboration with Aberdeenshire and Moray’s CPCs.

The event was held on 27th September at King’s Church, Bridge of Don, and was attended by around 220 multi-agency professionals from across Grampian, as well as approximately 70 more who attended ‘virtually’.

Those who attended heard from a number of speakers, including a Consultant Clinical Psychologist, a representative of the Scottish Cot Death Trust, and Police Scotland Harm Reduction Officers, following which table discussions took place to consider how the learning from the event could be utilised and embedded locally.

Those who had attended the event had found it to be extremely relevant and informative, and recordings of the speakers were to be made available to a wider audience.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Chief Social Work Officer’s Draft Annual Report 2022-23

The Chief Social Work Officer shared his draft Annual Report for 2022-23 with the COG – this was required to be submitted on an annual basis to Scottish Government.

Thanks were conveyed to all staff, and the Annual Report was endorsed by COG.

Child Protection Committee Draft Annual Report 2022-23

The meeting also considered and endorsed the draft CPC Annual Report for 2022-23. This had been developed substantially from feedback gained at a recent CPC Development Day. The document was more evaluative than in previous years, and reflected the strength of partnership working. A version aimed at children and young people was also to be created.

COMMUNICATIONS

COG Public Protection Event – Follow-on

COG members noted that approximately 90 people had attended the in-person event on 31st May, including professionals from across the public protection committees and partnerships as well as members of the Adult Protection Committee Lived Experience Forum. The event had focused on a number of national and local developments, including [Bairns' Hoose](#), [Family Support Model](#), and the National Care Service (NCS).

Evaluation undertaken after the event had been very positive, with some suggestions for consideration for future sessions. On the basis of these, it was proposed and agreed that:

- there should be an annual event – in May each year; and
- topical emerging issues should be the key themes, of which potentially; violence against women and girls, homelessness and 'displaced persons' may be the topics for 2024.

It was agreed that feedback should be given to attendees about the outcome of the event, including updates on progress against the key themes discussed, ie Bairns Hoose and NCS.

Date of Next Meeting: 21st November 2023