

Angus Child Protection Committee



*working together to protect
children in Angus*

Annual Report 2016-2017

ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017

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FOREWORD – CHAIR OF THE ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

I am pleased to present the 2016-17 annual report on the Angus Child Protection Committee. This annual report is a summary of the year of the Child Protection Committee in Angus.



The committee meets four times a year and there is a strong commitment from members with very good rates of attendance.

This time last year, the Care Inspectorate had announced our inspection and we were making our preparations. It was a demanding time for many people as they worked to give an honest and evaluative account of our work as a starting point for the inspection. The outcome of the inspection was largely positive and gave us some areas for improvement. We have since produced an action plan and are working to achieve the change required.

Last year, we were also involved in contributing to the consultation for the system's review and responded very quickly to the consultation papers. The resulting report "*Protecting Scotland's Children and Young People: it's still everyone's job*" told us that overall, the system is still fit for purpose, but greater consistency is required and importantly, greater attention to engagement with children and young people.

An important development for us this year has been the steps we have taken to work more closely with other partnerships, to share resources, training and approaches to our work. This has resulted in the new partnership body, **Protecting People Angus (PPA)**. I am confident that this initiative will enhance the work we all do across Angus.

The development of PPA has led to some changes in the team. We now have a Principal Planning officer to support all the partnerships within PPA. Senior planning officers and development workers will now share a more generic role. The team will also be enhanced by an additional part time post. As always, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the very effective work of this team who support the work of the committee so well.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Knight".

Christine Knight

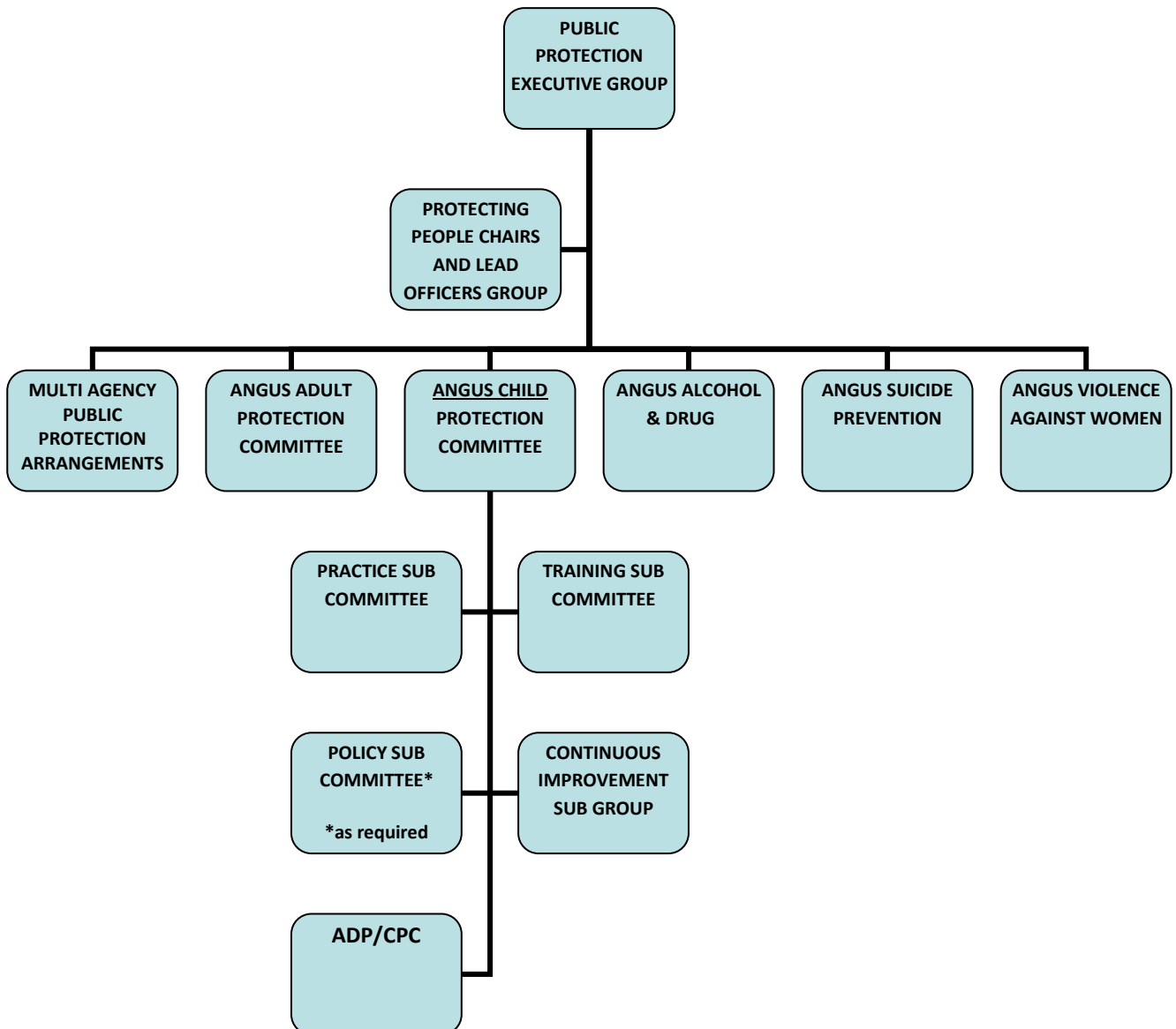
1. THE WORK OF ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

1.1 BACKGROUND



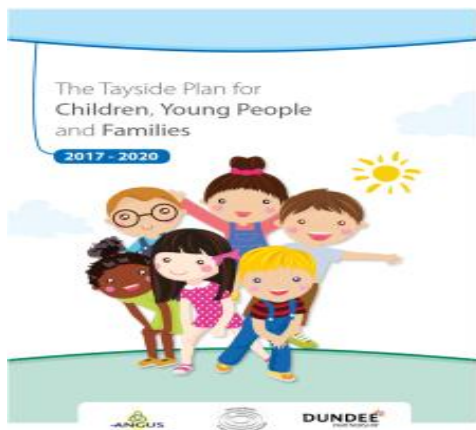
The [Angus Child Protection Committee \(ACPC\)](#) is the local strategic planning partnership responsible for developing and implementing child protection policy and strategy across and between agencies. The committee performs a number of crucial functions in Angus including the co-ordination of training for professional and other staff, the development of policies, procedures and protocols, ensuring the effectiveness and quality of local child protection services through continuous improvement and the provision of public information about child protection.

The ACPC, via the Independent Chair, reports directly to the Public Protection Executive Group (PPEG).



The work of the ACPC is supported by five established sub committees – Policy; Practice; Training and Continuous Improvement together with a joint sub-committee of the Angus Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) and ACPC, known as the ADP/CPC sub group. Last year we reviewed the efficiency of the sub-committees and, as a result, have combined the GIRFEC/CPC Training subs functioning alongside the Continuous Improvement and Angus Integrated Children's Services groups. Our plan is to continue this work under the Protecting People changes described below.

1.2 Our Vision



“Our children and young people are safe and protected from harm at home, school and in the community”

“Our children and young people will have the best start in life and Tayside will be the best place in Scotland to grow up”

This is a shared vision with our partners in the Tayside Plan, Young People and Families 2017 - 2020).

(Ctrl and click on image for full plan)

1.3 Our Values

Angus Child Protection Committee members have an agreed set of values which underpins our work. This means that every decision, development and statement made by the committee, the sub-committees and the members of the committee reflect our values. We ensure that our values underpin our planning, self-evaluation and improvement, partnership work and training. Our values sit well alongside the principles outlined in Tayside Children's Service Plan.

Our committee embodies the value of **respect**. In our language and our actions we treat all children, young people and their families, and staff who work to protect children in our area with **respect**. We demonstrate mutual **respect** between all partners and services that are represented on the committee, and within our meetings listen to and **respect** each other, and encourage full participation of all members.

1. The work of our committee is **child-centred**. The rights, needs and views of children and young people lead our work. In all our planning, decision-making and training, we ensure that our actions have a positive impact on children. We challenge decisions and actions, which in our view do not take sufficient account of the rights, needs and views of children and young people.

2. As a committee, we embrace **challenge**. We **challenge** ourselves to do our best, but also to be open to **challenge** from others and **challenge** each other within a supportive environment. We see **challenge** as a route to improvement rather than a threat.

3. We embrace **learning** as a core value and ensure our work is informed by **learning**. A key to **learning** is a strong ethos of self-reflection. We use formal and informal systems of reflective practice and rigorous self-evaluation to improve the experiences and outcomes for children and young people and their families. We also learn from national and international research and practice.

2 PROGRESS REPORT

2.1 Joint Inspection – Services for children and young people in Angus

Between the dates of 16 May and 24 June 2016, the Joint Inspection of services for children and young people in the Angus Community Planning Partnership area was implemented. The Inspection report highlighted as strengths:-

- “the effective use of Dartington research to inform planning and priorities to improve outcomes for communities
- partners’ joint commitment to their corporate parenting responsibilities which is improving outcomes for children and young people who are looked after
- staff who work directly with children and young people working flexibly across services to improve outcomes for children young people and families.”

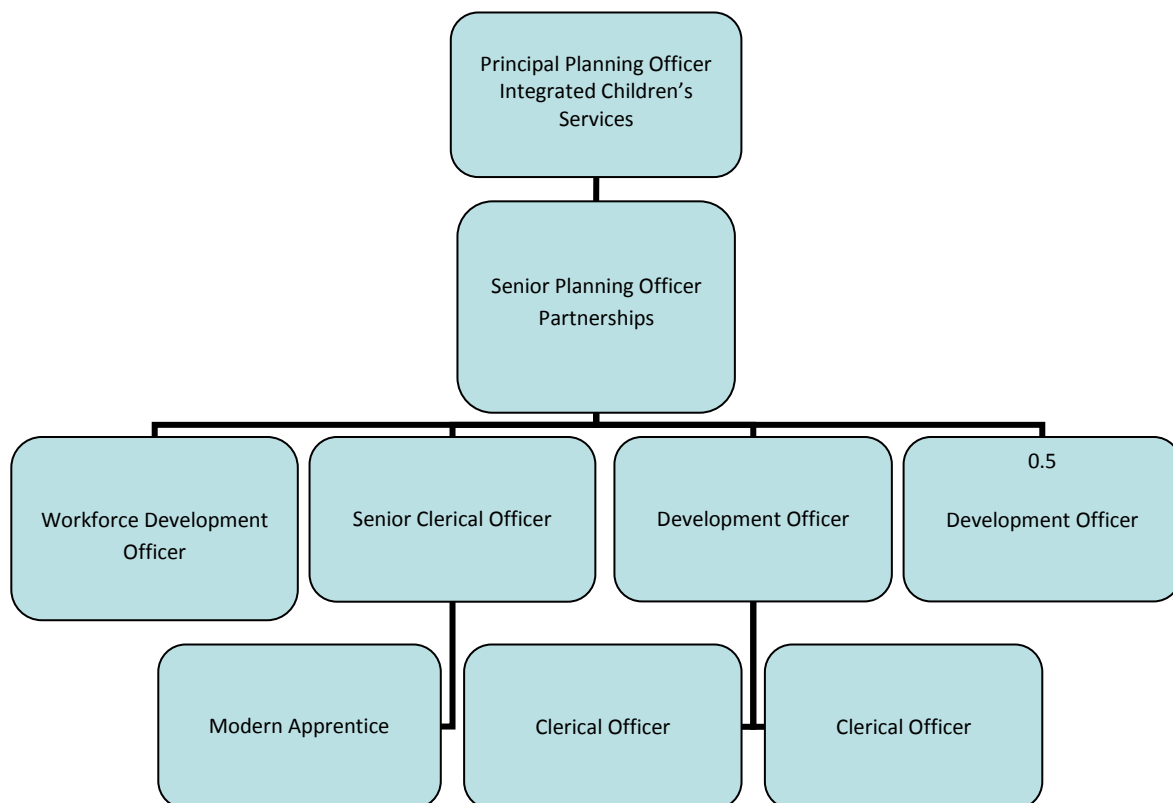
Key Points we needed to address included:-

- “improve the quality of chronologies and risk assessments and ensure staff take account of past and present experiences when assessing the immediate and ongoing safety of individual children and young people
- ensure that planning to meet individual children’s needs considers all aspects of their wellbeing and is outcome focused
- ensure that changes made to systems and practices after self evaluation or service redesign are underpinned by robust risk assessment and review to ensure that changes are delivering improved outcomes.”

We have prepared an Action Plan and are making the changes required to achieve improvement.

2.2 Protecting People Angus

In January 2017, Angus Public Protection Executive Group agreed that all 6 thematic partnerships would be brought under one structure; Protecting People Angus. Four of the 6 partnerships – Child Protection Committee; Adult Protection Committee; Suicide Prevention Collaborative and Violence Against Women Partnership - will be managed by one Lead Officer, with support from 1.5 FTE Development Officers and 1 FTE Workforce Development Officer.



We anticipate that by bringing all of the partnerships under one Protecting People banner, we will achieve the following:

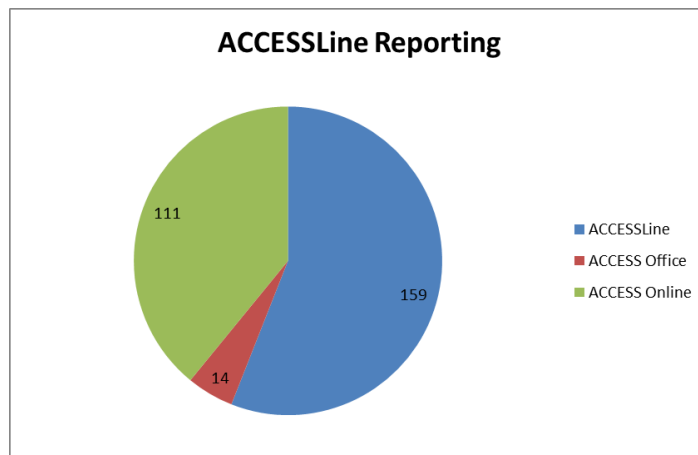
- More aligned and shared strategic planning including sharing of resources and budgets;
- More integrated training;
- A rationalised sub group structure.

2.3 See Something Say Something

Our aim is to increase public awareness of child protection and to continue to improve methods of communication and public reporting with confidence that information is acted upon. We have continued to promote the use of ACCESSLine as a point of contact for members of the public via our 'See Something Say Something' campaign and the launch of

an 'online reporting' option to encourage members of the public to share concerns about vulnerable children and adults. Members of the public can choose to share information anonymously or leave their details. We have monitored this closely to pick up on any malicious reporting and to date, have no evidence that this has been an issue.

From April 2016 until March 2017, there were a total of **284** ACCESS contacts.



This compares with the figure for 2015 – 2016 which was **140** ACCESS contacts – ACCESSLine 111; Access offices 20; Access online 9 (the online function was introduced in the last quarter of the previous reporting period). Overall, this represents an increase of 144 contacts (203%).

The increase in reporting concerns about children in Angus may be due to the visibility of promotional material and the online reporting option although further work needs to be undertaken to understand the views of the public.

2.4 Whole Family Approach

In 2016, the pilot phase of the Whole Family Approach was completed with recommendations regarding implementation provided by the designated Project Manager to the ADP Support team. This will continue to be a focus of work for the coming year 2017/18 with Children affected by Parental Substance Misuse an ongoing priority for the Angus Alcohol & Drugs Partnership. The pilot phase has seen an enhancement of the relationship between Adult Substance Misuse Services and Children's Services. It is anticipated that this model will be further developed to include other adult services; recognising the far reaching impact of substance misuse on all of our localities and communities.

2.5 Initial Case Reviews and Practice Learning

In 2016 – 17 ACPC received 1 referral for consideration against our Significant Case review process. The resulting ICR report was considered by the PSC in March 2017 and unanimously recommended that the ICR was not to proceed to a Significant Case Review. This decision has since been ratified by the CPC.

2.6 Priorities for 2016 – 2017 with updates as of 31 March 2017.

During 2016/17 we worked on undertaking improvements related to:

- chronologies
- neglect
- domestic abuse
- children's voices

National Outcome – We have improved the life chances of children, young people and families at risk

Chronologies

We will ensure children are safer and their needs met more effectively by basing decisions on a shared understanding of the child's life circumstances and history.

Progress

Angus CPC self-evaluation (2014) and Care Inspectorate Inspection of Integrated Children's Services (2016) highlighted the need for significant improvement in the quality of children's chronologies, both single agency and integrated. A small scale pilot was carried out to test a procedure for having chronology meetings as part of our staged intervention process.

Stage 1 of the pilot concluded in December 2016 with positive results supporting further exploration of embedding chronology meetings into practice. The outcome further supported adaptation of the chronology template to reduce from 7 columns to 4. Recommendations included:-

- multi-agency chronology meetings should become part of the multi-agency child's planning process locally and at key points;
- all services for children in Angus will implement use of the first 4 columns of the Tayside chronologies template

Angus CPC agreed that the chronology meeting was a good way to embed effective practice. Concerns were raised around staff time, and it was agreed to implement a Stage 2 of the Pilot focussed on the Child Protection Team.

Neglect

We will improve the lives of children at risk of neglect by developing our shared understanding of what neglect is; how to recognise when children are affected by parental neglect and intervene to improve outcomes for children and their families.

Progress

Angus Council is a partner Local Authority for the pilot implementation of the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) toolkit within Scotland. This toolkit is specifically aimed at adopting a multi-agency approach to identifying and measuring neglect for children. It promotes working in partnership with families to identify strengths and deficits in the care of children and leads to the development of a focussed plan in order to address any concerns around neglect and improve outcomes for children.

The toolkit has been implemented for 5 families within a pilot area in Angus and 28 multi-agency staff participated in a 1 day training programme. Initial feedback from the pilot area includes:-

- o 'the tool has highlighted positive strengths alongside areas of intervention and improvement'
- o 'a multi-agency tool which allows a common understanding'

The pilot is being evaluated and if the results show an improvement in the outcomes for children who are affected by neglect, the approach will be 'rolled out' across Angus, with training delivered using a multi-agency locality based model.

The pilot evaluation is ongoing.

Domestic Abuse

We will ensure a focus on children affected by domestic abuse by implementing the Safe and Together approach in Angus.

Progress

Funding has been secured to work in partnership with Dundee to deliver training to 20 Angus staff on Safe and Together. This training will be delivered from 6 – 9 June. ACPC have provided funding for AVAWP to commission Basic Awareness and Risk Assessment training for all participants prior to commencing the Safe & Together training.

Children's Voices

We will ensure that children in need of support and protection, have their voices heard and their needs met.

Key Activity

Whilst we are confident that we have a range of tools appropriate to gathering the views of children, including those with additional support needs, we have identified a need to modernise our approaches, including digital approaches.

We will implement the learning from an Initial Case Review carried out in 2015; we will ensure practitioners reflect on the issues as they relate to their practice and ensure that the needs and **views of children** are central to decisions and planning.

Progress

We have continued to promote the learning from ICR V15 based on a '7 minute briefing' and 'spheres of influence' learning model. This approach sees the key learning points summarised in 7 minute long summaries with the rest of the session based around key questions:

- What can I do in my own practice (as a team manager) to influence the change required?
- What can I influence the change in my service?
- What needs to be changed in our organisation?

This approach supports the development of team/service/organisational improvement plans.

Learning sessions have now taken place with SW Team Managers, Head Teachers with further sessions planned for all CPDO's in schools and Team Leaders in Health during 2017. The model will also influence learning on a Tayside wide basis.

Next Steps

Based on the progress achieved towards the outcomes identified above, we will devise a 3 year strategic plan, setting the way forward. This plan includes the following areas for future developments.

Participation for children, young people and families

We will explore opportunities for CYP & families to share their views, participate and engage in their individual circumstances and in the wider development of services.

We will review the provision of Viewpoint and scope other applications.

We will work with partners to use existing engagement opportunities to include child protection and key protection themes such as online safety.

Approach to Significant Case Reviews

We will assess national approaches to SCR's to determine the best approach for Angus. We will work across Tayside and the CNE Consortium to explore opportunities for shared work.

Impact of Child Protection Improvement Programme

We will assess the recommendations against our performance locally and use this to enhance our approach to protecting children.

2.7 Costs

The Child Protection Committee spent a total of £15,337 during 2016/17. These costs included:-

- £4677 for Staff Training e.g. pre-training courses for Safe and Together
- £2339 for publicity and publication costs
- £8287 for third party payments

3 UPDATES FROM THE SUB COMMITTEES

3.1 Self-Evaluation and Continuous Improvement Sub

The main focus for the SECI sub-committee during the past year was supporting engagement with the Care Inspectorate with regard to the Inspection of Services for Children and Young People. Following the inspection the sub-committee coordinated the response to the draft report and took on responsibility for developing an inspection action plan. The sub-committee is now leading on monitoring the implementation of the action plan.

In line with the sub-committee's wider remit for self-evaluation a new programme of self-evaluation activities was finalised.

Future priorities:

- Actively monitor implementation of inspection action plan
- Take on a leading role in progressing strand 3 of the new CPC 3 year business plan.

3.2 CP/GIRFEC Training Sub

2016 - 17 saw the amalgamation of the CP and GIRFEC Training Sub reflecting the inclusive focus of the current training programme. It is hoped that this change will facilitate a robust, integrated approach to learning and development that makes best use of available resources.

In terms of new initiatives:-

Graded Care Profile Training (Training for Trainers) took place in March 2017. A total of 20 staff are now trainers in this approach and will go on to deliver training to staff across agencies in Angus. This will enable many more staff to utilise the Graded Care Profile Assessment Tool to ensure that those children suffering from neglect receive effective and timely support from professionals.

Domestic Abuse Training took place in March as a precursor to the introduction of the **Safe and Together model** in Angus. 20 staff from agencies across Angus will be trained as

champions in this model of working and will roll out training and awareness-raising for all staff over the months ahead.

Work is underway to develop and relaunch training around **Multi-Agency Assessment and Decision-Making and Working with Hostile/Non-Engaging Families**, both courses will be piloted later in 2017.

New training opportunities around **Child Sexual Exploitation** are being developed, in conjunction with staff from Barnardo's Children's Services, including a 90 minute briefing session delivered in localities to specific groups of staff.

Links with the **Tayside Child Protection Learning and Development Group** continue to be strengthened and efforts are underway through this group to move, where possible, towards a Tayside-wide shared approach to workforce development. This approach capitalises on the knowledge, skills and expertise of learning and development staff across all three local authority areas

The training programme continues to attract good levels of attendance from across the majority of agencies. **(See Appendix 1)**

The monthly 2 hour Lunchtime Learning Sessions have proved to be successful, the year ahead will include sessions on:-

- Changes to the Welfare Benefits System
- Bereavement and Loss
- Autism
- Harmful Traditional Practices
- Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Services

3.3 Practice Sub Committee

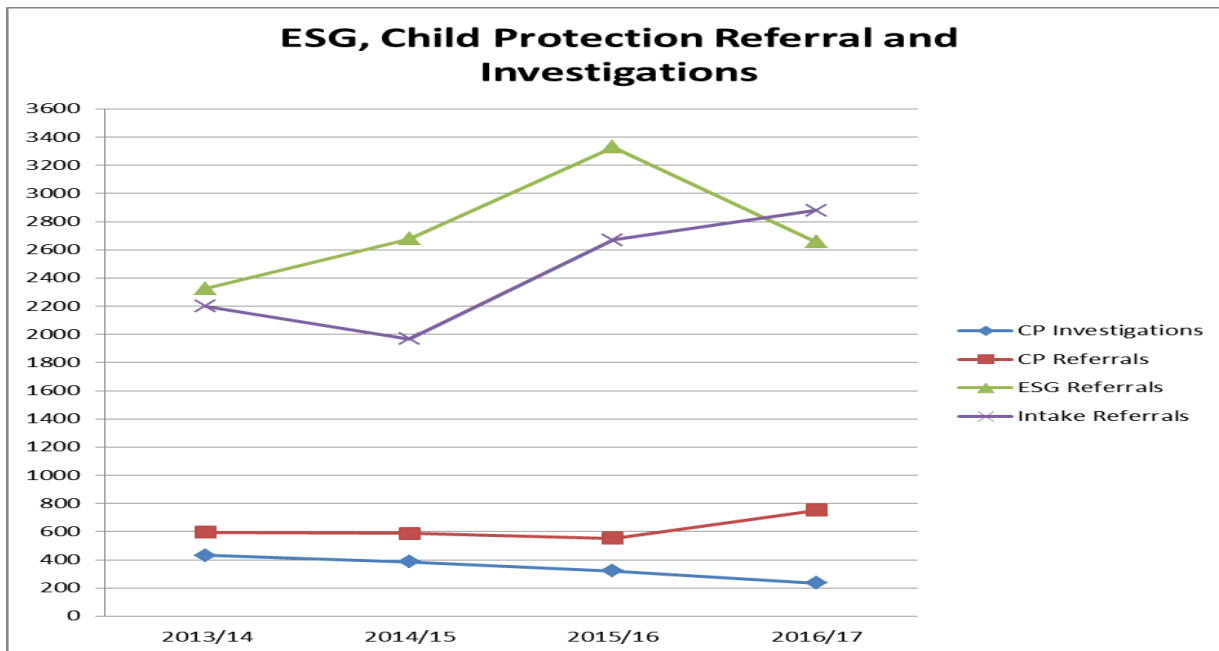
The practice sub-committee deals with practice improvement work. This year we have developed an action plan on sexual exploitation. We have delivered 1 ICR and produced a comprehensive learning resource to embed learning. We have worked jointly with the Angus Adult Protection Practice Sub Committee to identify shared areas of practice and identify risk including work around transitions.

4 CHILD PROTECTION STATISTICS

4.1 Early Screening Group (ESG)

We have continued to operate effective early screening of Police 'vulnerable person' reports. We are developing our systems to support early, effective and proportionate intervention by sharing information with named persons and where appropriate, lead professionals. During 2016/17 we have worked with partners to review the effectiveness of the arrangements and ensure they are fully in line with Getting It Right For Every Child.

FIGURE 1



The number of child protection referrals to social work services have increased by 199 (from 553 to 752). This is a significant increase and warrants further investigation. 31% of CP referrals proceeded to CP Investigation.

We have a commitment to ensuring that children subject to joint investigative interview (JII) are interviewed by trained staff using, where possible, DVD facilities. 189 children were subject to a JII (an increase of 84 from 2015 - 2016); 100% were recorded on DVD. We strive to maintain a high standard of investigative interviewing by training staff across Police and Social Work and establishing a programme of review and support.

Angus Council receive notification of young people living in the Rossie Young People's Trust (secure care/residential care) and maintain an oversight of child protection investigations. There were 4 Child Protection referrals for young people who live at Rossie which led to 2 Child Protection investigations. This compares to 12 investigations in the previous year. Regular liaison meetings occur between the local authority and Rossie Young People's Trust where practice issues and developments are discussed.

4.2 Child Protection Orders

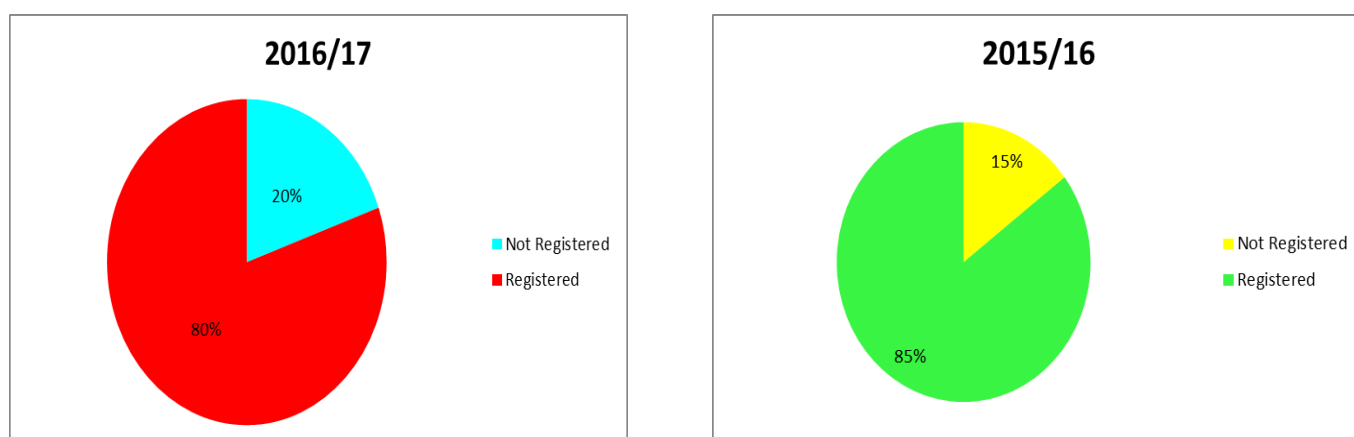
Angus Council Legal team had 25 queries regarding child protection orders for individual or sibling groups of children during 2016/17. In respect of orders, we had 10 applications granted for individual children (1 of these only after additional information was provided) and 1 order was refused.

| Financial Year | No. of Child Protection Files Opened (advice) | Number of CPO's taken |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|
| 2013/14 | 28 | 20 |
| 2014/15 | 34 | 1 |
| 2015/16 | 22 | 5 |
| 2016/17 | 25 | 10 |

4.3 Child Protection Case Conferences

In 2016/2017 there were 98 initial child protection case conferences which considered 189 children. 80% of the children presented to a case conference were deemed as being at significant risk of harm and required a child protection plan to keep them safe. This is a decrease of 5% from the previous year.

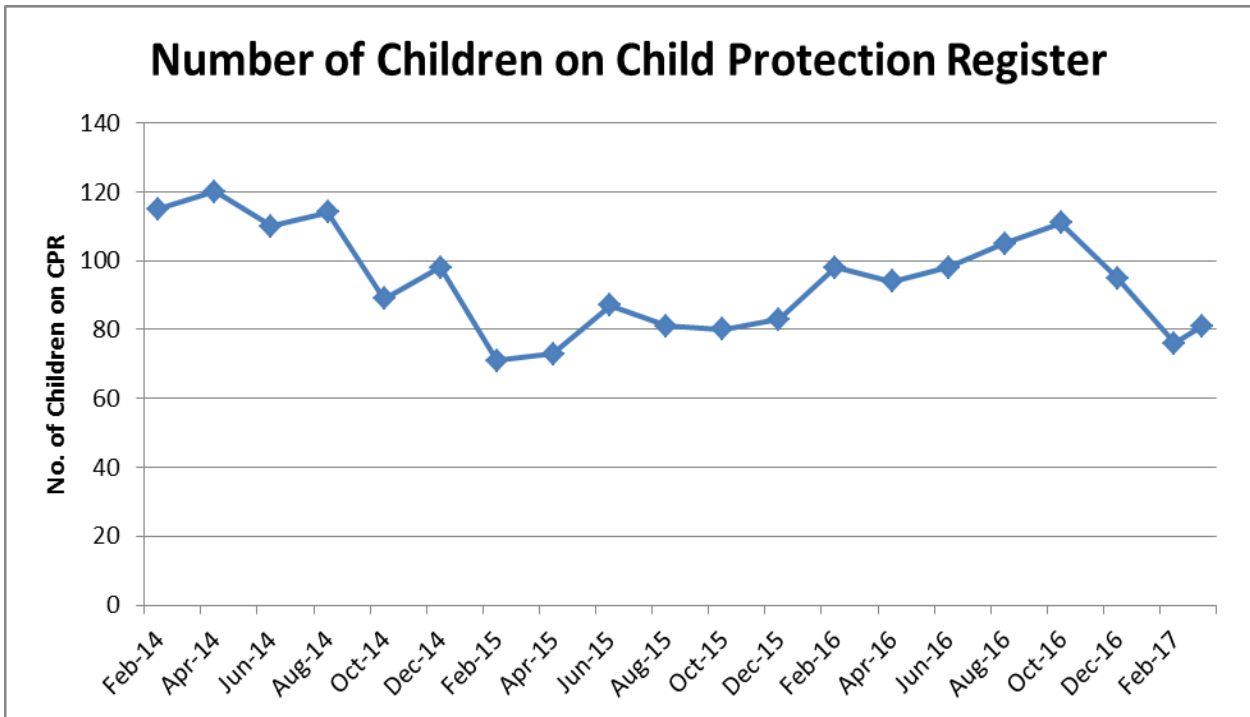
FIGURE 2



4.4 Child Protection Registration (Local)

As at 31st March 2017, there were 81 children on the Child Protection Register. On average throughout 2016/17 there were 95 children on the Angus Child Protection Register. This figure gives a more accurate reflection of the trend and shows an increase from an average of 83 children in 2015/16. The line graph in figure 3 shows a downward trend from 2014.

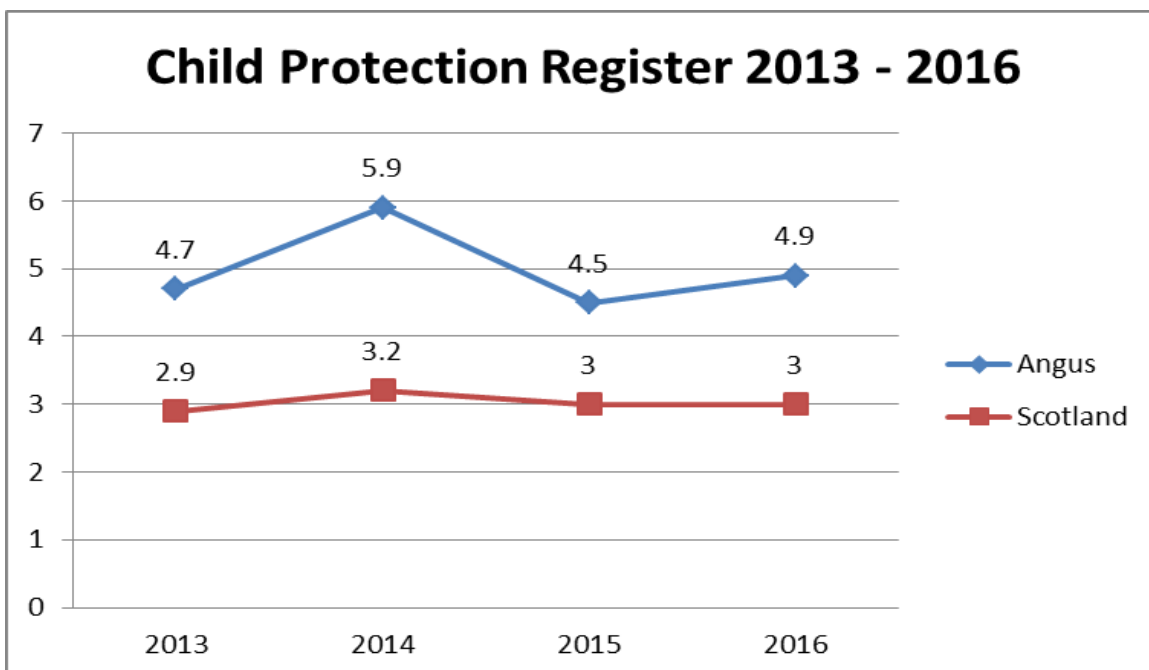
FIGURE 3



4.5 Child Protection Registration (National)

Child Protection rates in Angus continue to be higher than the Scottish average (figure 4). Angus has the second highest rate of children on the child protection register in Scotland with an average of 4.9 children of every 1000 on the register; an increase from 4.5 last year. Glasgow City has the highest rate (5.2); and the average rate across Scotland is 3.0.

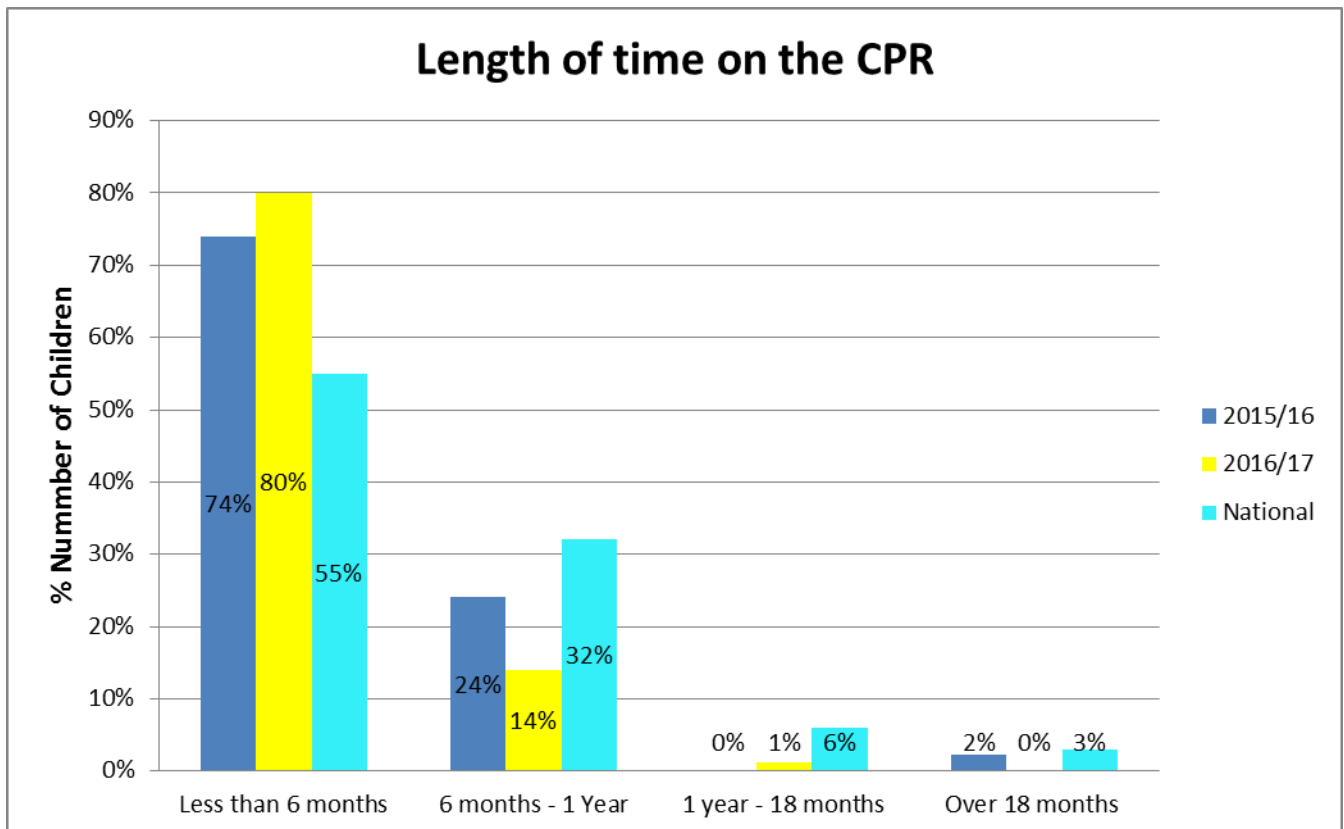
FIGURE 4



4.6 Length of time on the Child Protection Register

Of the 81 children on the Child Protection Register on the 31st March 2017, 80% had been registered for less than 6 months showing an improvement of 6% on last year. This reflects an ongoing yearly trend for Angus and was 25% higher than the national average. We had 4 children on the register for more than 12 months.

FIGURE 5



4.7 Factors Affecting Children on the Child Protection Register

Children on the Child Protection Register affected by Parental Substance Misuse

As at 31st March 2017, 54% of child protection registrations related to concerns of parental substance misuse compared to 62% of child protection registrations as at 31 March 2016, a decrease of 8%.

Angus has been a pioneer site with Scottish Government focussing on improved outcomes for new-born babies where there are issues of maternal substance misuse. The ultimate aim of this work is that babies are born without neonatal abstinence syndrome and at optimal health (good birth weight >2.5kg and born at full term). A project to support women in pregnancy and beyond where there is substance misuse was piloted in Angus last year with positive outcomes for children and families. This approach has been embedded into practice.

Children on the Child Protection Register affected by Domestic Abuse

As at 31st March 2017, 42% of child protection registrations related to children affected by domestic abuse, an increase of 8% from the previous year. This continues to be a priority area for Protecting People Angus and will remain a priority within the ACPC development plan.

Additional issues affecting children assessed as being at greatest risk is poverty (debt issues and family in receipt of benefits); parental mental health and neglect.

5. CONCLUSION

2016/17 has signified a period of change for the Angus Child Protection Committee. There have been changes to the Lead Officer role; Committee sub structure and also to the partnership structures within Angus, leading to the development of the Protecting People Angus Partnership and a more co-ordinated and streamlined structure for Protecting People in Angus.

As anticipated, the Joint Inspection – services for children and young people in Angus has impacted on the work of ACPC over the past year. The recommendations relating to Child Protection will be key areas for the 3 year development plan.

The Child Protection statistics in Angus tell us that whilst the ESG referrals have dropped, the Child Protection and Intake referrals have risen over the same period. Investigation rates have dropped however. These figures have been influenced by the success of the See Something Say Something campaign and the online reporting facility which was introduced in the first quarter of 2016. Social Work referral services have been under review throughout the past year and it is likely that there will be changes to the current service - Intake and Child Protection Teams. Referral and investigations rates will continue to be monitored in light of these changes.

Appendix 1

| | Health (NHS) | Children & Learning (Schools) | Children & Learning (Other) | Angus Council (Other) | AHSCP | Voluntary Sector | Private/Independent (Nurseries etc) | Other (Police etc) | TOTALS |
|--|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Roles and Responsibilities in Child Protection (x7) | | 17 | 20 | 3 | 43 | 13 | 9 | 6 | 111 |
| Introduction to Child Sexual Exploitation (x3) | 7 | 6 | 22 | 4 | 0 | 4 | | 5 | 48 |
| Effective Chronologies in Child Protection (x7) | 15 | 18 | 48 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 100 |
| Undertaking the role of Named Person/Lead Professional (x3) | 18 | 18 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 5 | 1 | 47 |
| Multi-Agency Assessment, Decision Making and the Child's Plan (x2) | 1 | 6 | 3 | | | | 2 | 2 | 14 |
| Information – Sharing to Protect Children and Young People (x3) | 2 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 36 |
| Role of the Reporter (x1) | 1 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 18 |
| PRAM (Pre-birth Allocation Meeting) (x1) | 7 | | 11 | 3 | 1 | | | | 22 |
| Foster Carer Training (x1) | | | | | | | | 16 | 16 |
| Internet Safety Session (x1) | 1 | 12 | 12 | | | 10 | | 1 | 36 |
| Graded Care Profile (x2) | 5 | 5 | 22 | | | 1 | | | 33 |
| Graded Care Profile - 2 Day Session (x1) | 5 | 4 | 8 | 1 | | 2 | | | 20 |
| Domestic Abuse – Basic Awareness (x2) | 1 | | 30 | 1 | 5 | 4 | | | 41 |
| Domestic Abuse – Risk Assessment and Safety Planning (x1) | | | 20 | | 3 | | | | 23 |
| Lunchtime Learning Session (x8) | 9 | 1 | 68 | 4 | 29 | 2 | | 5 | 118 |
| TOTALS | 72 | 104 | 279 | 19 | 85 | 55 | 29 | 40 | 683 |