



# Annual Report | 2018-2019

working together to protect children in Angus

# ANGUS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2018 -19

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# Foreword

## Chair Of The Angus Child Protection Committee

I am delighted to be the new chair of Angus Child Protection Committee and look forward to providing information on our work and progress both in this year and in the future. I would like to thank Christine Knight, the previous Chair for her commitment and work for the committee and in shaping the Strategic Plan that has been progressed.

Angus Child Protection Committee has continued to develop and improve services and remains committed to further embedding good multi-agency working in protecting children and young people and supporting families. We have continued to work toward the strategic goals identified in our 3 year strategic plan with a strong commitment and focus on partnership working, continuous improvement and self-evaluation.

We continue to work with partners across the Angus area and across Tayside through the Tayside Collaborative for Children, Young People and Families, with a focus on improving consistency, sharing experience and maximising our resources both in terms of experience and finance.

I would like to thank all the staff who contribute to the work of the Committee for their hard work and commitment to our work. We have dedicated practitioners and support staff who demonstrate their commitment to children and families every day and who work with us to improve and shape services so they are the best for children and their families



Alison Todd  
Independent Chair

# 1 Angus Child Protection Committee

## **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 to support public engagement and participation in keeping children safe.

Angus Child Protection Committee (ACPC), via the Independent Chair, reports to Angus Chief Officer Group (COG). COG has a rotational Chair. This was held by Angus Council in 2017, Police Scotland in 2018 and NHS Tayside in 2019.

The Values and Vision of the Committee underpin the work that has been delivered over the last twelve months.

ACPC meet minimally four times per year. Attendance of members or delegated members is recorded and reported to COG to ensure membership and participation is fully supported.



# 2 Protecting People Angus

ACPC believes it is important to retain a committee focussed on the business of child protection work in Angus. However within this we are fully committed to collaborating across all of our protecting people partnerships to ensure that our work is coordinated with the work of other partnerships, considers a whole family approach to child protection and makes best use of the resources we have available. With this in mind, we have worked closely with our 5 thematic partnerships (Angus Adult Protection Committee, Angus Violence Against Women Partnership, Angus Suicide Prevention Collaborative, Angus Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and MAPP) to develop a 'Protecting People' identity and structure that supports collaboration.

The Chairs and Lead Officers of the partnerships have been working together to lead collaborative work on shared policy, learning and development opportunities and to plan events where cross cutting themes can be explored.

The focus has continued to be on reviewing and improving access to good quality learning and development opportunities, including a proposal to develop a Protecting People Training Sub Committee with representation from all the partnerships.

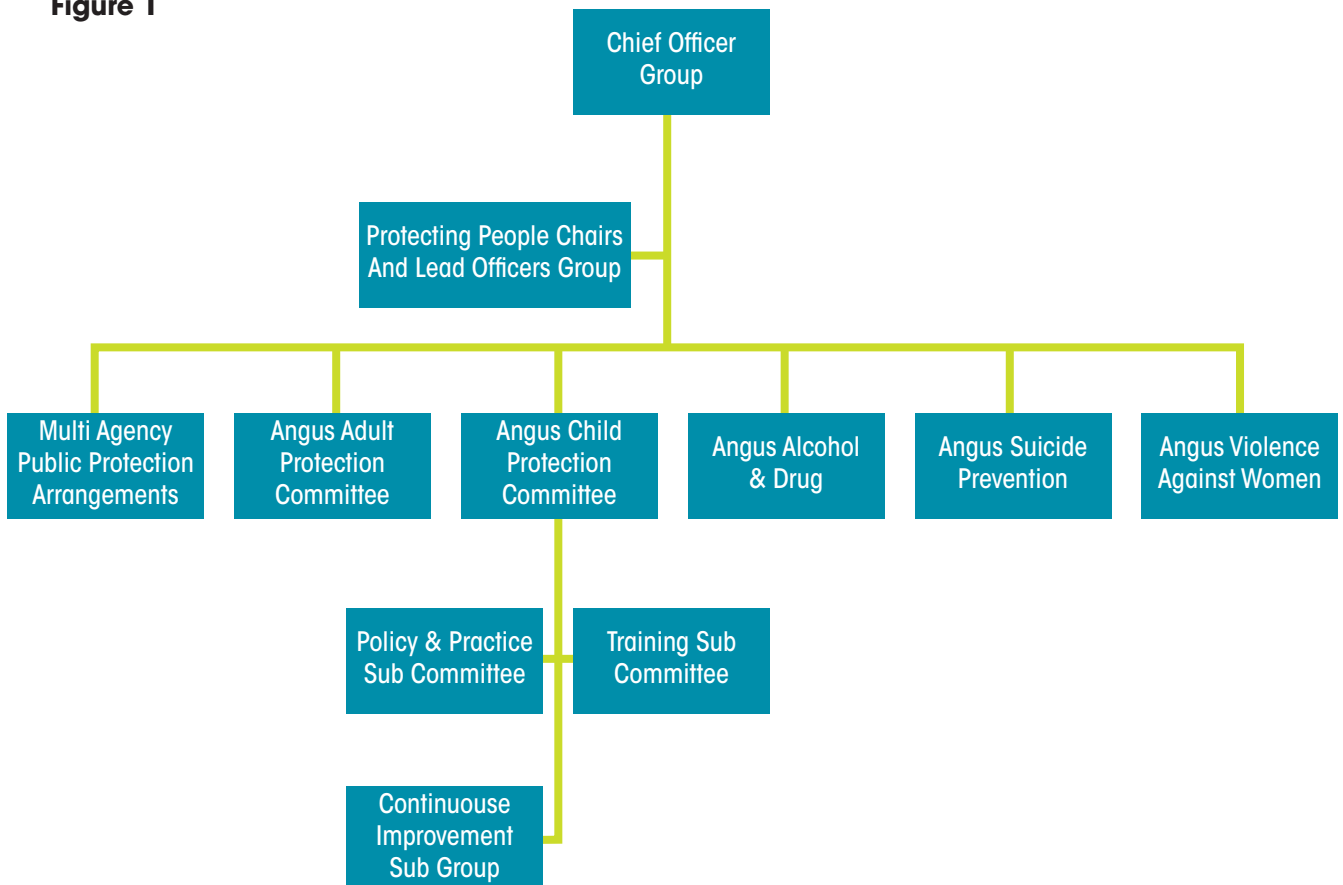
A Missing, Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy has been developed on a protecting people basis, with work taking place with partners to implement this in Angus.

A review of the function and purpose of the Chairs and Lead Officers Group has been proposed, to ensure a clear focus, direction and governance for the work of Protecting People Angus.



**Angus CPC is represented in the governance structure at figure 1 below.**

**Figure 1**



# 3 Strategic Goals

During 2017-18, ACPC developed and began operating a 3 year Strategic Plan. This plan was developed around the following four overarching strategic goals.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL 1**

We will have a confident, competent and supported workforce; skilled and equipped to identify, support and protect children and young people from harm.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL 2**

We will have strong approaches to tackling and mitigating the effects of childhood neglect.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL 3**

We will work in partnership with children, young people, parents and wider families in the choices, decision making and planning processes in order to keep children and young people safe.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL 4**

We will ensure strong leadership and accountability through Angus CPC and COG, by improving the use of data, performance reporting, self-evaluation and planning.

The strategic goals have been identified as areas requiring improvement through our self-evaluation activity and from the outcome of our 2016 Inspection findings. We have continued to work through our inspection action plan and the work identified has helped us to make improvements in the necessary areas.

A short summary of our key areas of work and achievements is outlined in figure 2 below. The ACPC sub groups are responsible for progressing the work and the outcomes are described in more detail below.

Our continuous practice evaluation processes and our joint work with Tayside colleagues have enabled us to identify our priorities for the year.

In line with the Tayside Plan for Children Young People and Families, we will ensure that we have a consistent and sustained focus on improving outcomes for children, young people and families. We will regularly collate and analyse information on a range of indicators to assess the extent to which we are making progress; where good practice can be shared and extended; and how we can address areas for improvement.

The following Care Inspectorate Quality Indicators were agreed by ACPC as the areas for improvement within the 3 year Strategic Plan:

### **Q.I. 5.2 Assessing and responding to risks and needs:**

- Initial response.
- Chronologies of significant events.
- Assessment of risks and needs.

### **Q.I. 5.3 Planning for individual children and young people:**

- Quality of plans.
- Reviewing progress, joint planning and decision-making.
- Securing stable and caring environments.

**Q.I.** 2.1 Impact on children and young people

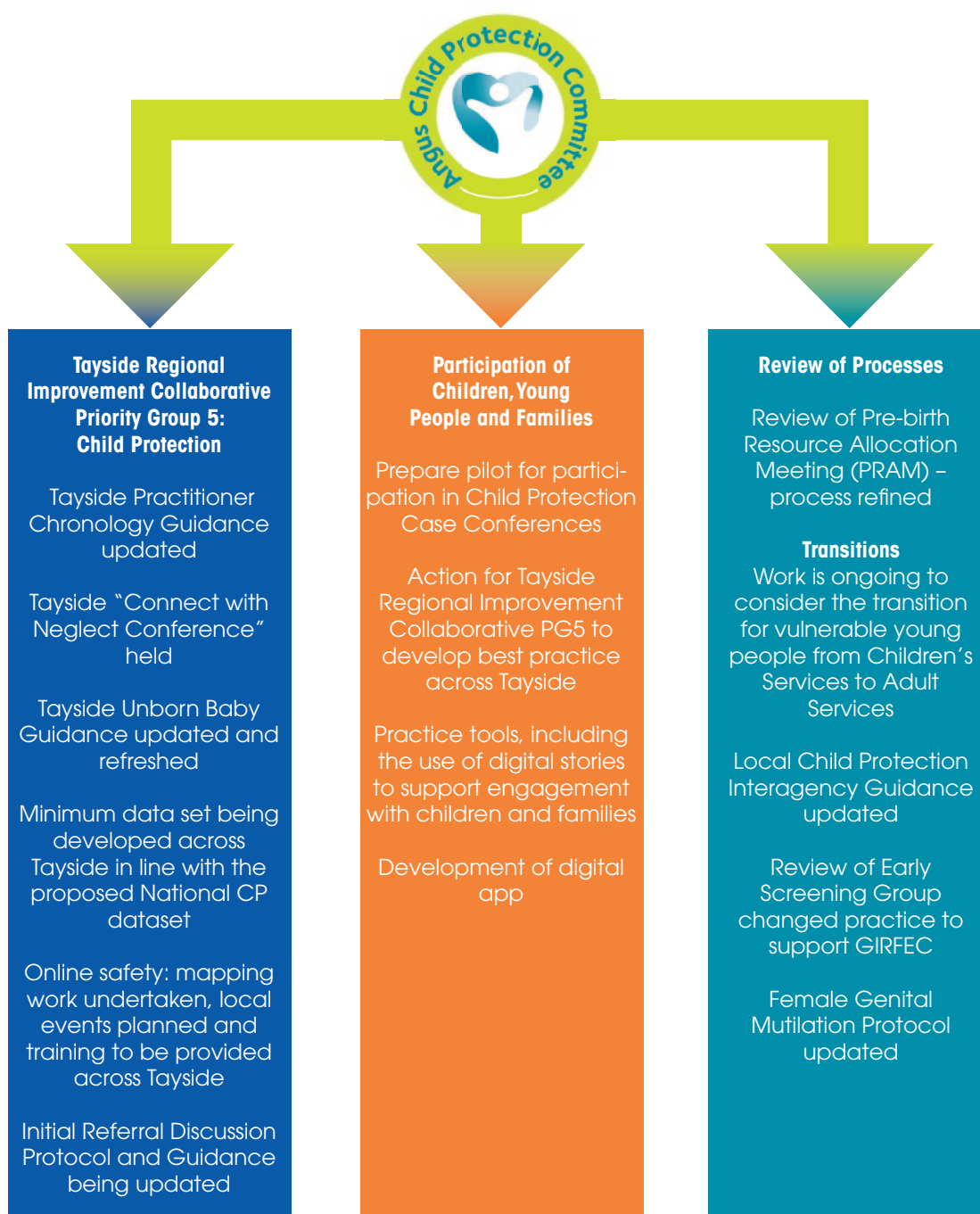
- The extent to which children are safe.

**Q.I.** 6.3 Participation of children, young people, families and other stakeholders:

- Involvement.
- Communication and Consultation.

The work and improvements within these Quality Indicators is detailed within Section 4, Progress towards our Strategic Goals in this report.

Figure 2 – Summary of priorities and key achievements



# 4 Progress Towards Our Strategic Goals For 2018 – 2019

## Strategic Goal 1:

### **We will have a confident, competent and supported workforce; skilled and equipped to identify, support and protect children and young people from harm**

Angus CPC have continued to develop the range of supports to our multi-agency workforce, including access to different approaches to learning, development and reflection.

In collaboration with colleagues in Dundee City a Child Protection Induction Pathway has been developed and implemented. This is aimed at social workers with a focus on identifying child protection concerns, assessing and reducing risk and supporting families through child protection systems including case conference and registration. This Pathway is mandatory for those who are new to child protection work, including those who are newly qualified. An important component of this is an online learning resource, which all participants complete during the first year of employment. Two cohorts have so far completed this Induction Pathway. A full evaluation is not yet complete, however early indications suggest that this has been a positive development for staff, bridging the gap between academic education and day-to-day professional practice.

Social Work practice is also supported by a new series of learning events supported by Dundee University. Talking Social Work was set up in September 2018 and is a quarterly forum for social work professionals and those interested in social work to come together. It is run and organised in a joint venture by Dundee University, Angus, Dundee, Fife and Perth and Kinross Council and is a mixture of academic research and practitioner input.

The multi-agency workforce now also have access to additional online resources:

- Getting it Right for Every Child in Angus (developed by Angus Council and NHS Tayside staff)
- Protecting Children in Scotland (with acknowledgements to the original work of Fife Child Protection Committee)

A new course "Meeting Children's Needs – Assessment and Decision-Making" is now part of the core training programme. This course brings together the skills and knowledge around best practice, including professional analysis and assessment, use of chronologies, appropriate information-sharing and planning to meet children's needs.

Both the Child Protection Induction Pathway and the Meeting Children's Needs training courses feature ROSIE 2 – an innovative interactive simulated scenario of a family which provides a platform for more in-depth discussions and exploration of issues.

Domestic Abuse and its impact on children and young people continues to be an area of concern both locally and nationally. Within Angus 20 members of staff have been trained in the 'Safe and Together' approach to working with families affected by domestic abuse and these 'Champions' now meet on a regular basis to review and share their own learning and to develop guidance and tools that the whole workforce can use, representing best practice in this area. It is anticipated that these tools will be available by autumn 2019 with support offered to embed these into practice. Our improvement work on Safe and Together is also developing to offer practice advice sessions where staff can bring any case involving domestic abuse to a group hosted by Safe and Together Champions who will help staff consider Safe and Together approaches and support practitioners to work in a strength based way with victims and their children.

In April 2018 a licence to screen the film "Resilience – The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope" was purchased with a view to raising awareness of adverse childhood experiences for both professionals and communities. This film highlights the impact (sometimes, lifelong) of adverse childhood experiences and looks at examples of trauma-informed professional practice with people of all ages. Since that time a series of screenings have taken place for all staff from across the Protecting People workforce in Angus. We have worked closely with a Head Teacher from an Angus Primary School who has developed and implemented trauma informed whole school approaches and his facilitation has enabled participants to identify practical ways to make a difference. A larger scale event showing the film was also open to and attended by members of the public.

Monthly Lunchtime Learning Sessions are now a key part of the Learning and Development Programme. Sessions this year have included Domestic Abuse, Drug and Alcohol Services and Services for Women and Girls. These and other cross-cutting themes have brought the workforce as



a whole together with the ongoing aim of promoting collaborative working. The sessions attract approximately 20 participants per session and staff are represented across different agencies. The informal, participative approach is well evaluated by practitioner and we continue to support this approach into 19/20.

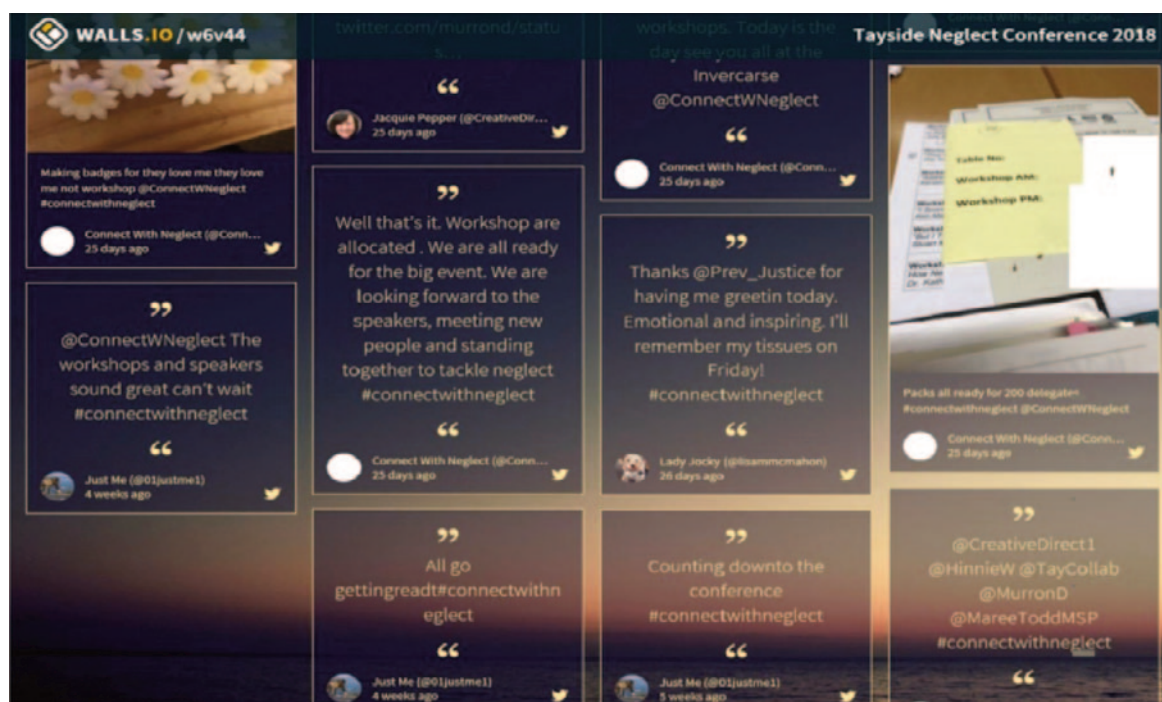
The proposal to amalgamate the Child Protection and Adult Protection Training Sub Committees to a Protecting People Training Sub Committee, including other Protecting People partners, will continue this whole service approach to Learning and Development and enable identification of shared goals/areas of focus whilst maximising available resources and avoiding multiple demands on the workforce.

The implementation of the new training courses and resources has seen a significant change to the programme provided by ACPC. This, alongside the amalgamation and formation of the new Protecting People Training Sub Group will be evaluated in due course and reported on in the coming year.

## Strategic Goal 2:

### We will have strong approaches to tackling and mitigating the effects of childhood neglect

The Tayside Child Protection Learning and Development Group have been instrumental in bringing some of the stated aims of Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative Priority Group 5 to fruition; by coordinating time and resources to achieve results including "Connect with Neglect", a Tayside wide conference in November 2018. 160 individuals from across Tayside attended, with around 40 of these from Angus. Angus practitioners provided a workshop on the Graded Care Profile 2 approach to neglect, which was positively evaluated. 71% of 111 feedback responses to the Conference reported increased confidence in responding effectively with families where neglect was a feature following the conference.



It is anticipated that this relationship between the two groups will continue to yield positive results, with increasing levels of confidence and competence for staff across the whole of Tayside.

Graded Care Profile 2 Training continues to be offered to all staff working with families where children may be experiencing neglect. Since the training programme started in 2017 220 staff have now received this training. In November 2018 in partnership with East Ayrshire, ACPC commissioned NSPCC to deliver 'Train the Trainers' to support a whole service roll out of the assessment tool. A review of the training provided and the use by staff of the Graded Care Profile has resulted in a streamlining of the training, with trainers and training being locality-based and shorter information sessions for groups of staff. Evaluations of this tool from professionals and families alike has been extremely positive. A further progress review of impact will take place to inform our work in 2019/20.

As at end of March 2019, 41.8% of children's names placed on the Angus Child Protection Register was due to the primary concern of neglect. This remains at a similar level from previous years; 43.9% at March 2018. Neglect continues to be a significant risk factor for our children and young people and we are contributing to the work being led Angus Community Planning on reducing child poverty in recognition of the significant impact child poverty plays in poor outcomes. Trends and children's lived experience will continue to inform this plan.

The quality of interagency assessment and evidenced base decision making has been an improvement theme for the ACPC. Work has focussed on increasing the use and reliance on good quality chronologies and chronology meetings to inform assessment and clear and accessible assessments to inform decisions and plans. Graded Care is a tool to support the above and not replace and we will continue our work to embed evidence based practice.

As noted above, the Connect with Neglect Conference was well evaluated and 82.8% out of the 111 returns stated that they continue to observe neglect very often or often in their everyday working lives and can see the added value in using assessment tools to engage with families. This shows a high rate of workers in attendance at the event identifying neglect in children and young people.

### **Early Screening Assurance Arrangements**

Angus Child Protection Committee Interagency Early Screening Group (ESG) was established in 2008 and revised thereafter to ensure appropriate management and reduced delay in screening, prioritising and responding to Police Child concern. As part of our post inspection improvement work, we have undertaken a full review of the effectiveness and efficiency of this practice model.

On 1 February 2018, ACPC adopted a test of change for processing Police Child Concerns Reports (PCCR's), which involved support for the role of Named Persons and Lead Professionals and reducing the need for 'group screening' arrangements. In order to support the changes, a short life multi-agency group called the 'Early Screening Assurance Group' (ESAG) met monthly to review the arrangements and undertake quality assurance and improvement work. This was with a view to supporting Named Persons and Lead Professionals to undertake their role in relation to PCCRs and support the family at an early point. The group met monthly from January 2018 to quality assure and test the above method; identify any practice issues and agree how to address these. It was also an opportunity to provide direct support to practitioners if required. After successful evaluation and assurance the revised process was adopted by Angus Child Protection Committee in November 2018 and there is no longer a group screening model in place.

#### **Key benefits for the model include:**

- Clarity around role of Named Person, particularly in relation to decision making and actions for children, by professionals who know them well;
- Named Persons noted an improvement in communication with Care & Protection Service workers prior to any additional involvement with the family;
- Timely sharing of information with Named Persons and Lead Professionals and the quality of information shared;
- Removal of the need for a weekly ESG meeting and the resource that this entailed and improved information governance and compliance with data protection;
- Identification of areas for improvement on a multi and single agency basis in relation to how both Named Persons and Lead Professionals respond to Police Child Concern Reports and opportunities to influence practice at the time.

Based on the success of this change in practice, ACPC have moved to apply the learning to Pre-birth screening and allocation.

### **Strategic Goal 3:**

**We will work in partnership with children, young people, parents and wider families in the choices, decision making and planning processes in order to keep children and young people safe.**

There are a number of activities around participation and co-production in Child Protection currently underway in Angus.

## **Listening, hearing and acting on children's views**

It is the duty of the lead professional to ensure that a child's views are represented at a Child Protection Case Conference. A variety of tools and engagement methods can be used, dependent on the child's preferences and people who have a relationship with the child are also encouraged to link with the lead professional and report on the child's views. Review Officers sometimes meet with the child or young person prior to the Case Conference but the current system does not support best practice. This is a focus of a practice improvement pilot reported below, PREpare.

ACPC have commissioned short digital stories to be used as a training tool for workers and students. Six short chapters model a range of simple and creative ways in gathering and representing children's views, engaging with children, young people and families and working on strength based practice. Family Group Decision making and access to advocacy are also promoted.

## **Parent questionnaires**

Questionnaires for parents have been developed for before and after a Case Conference to ensure parents' views can be heard. Parents have been consulted during the trial phase of these questionnaires and feedback taken into consideration. These were adopted into practice from September 2018. Paper questionnaires are not accessible for everyone or in line with more current methods of communication and this is part of the planned development for a digital app during 2019/20.

## **Parent leaflet**

The leaflet for parents outlining what to expect from a Child Protection Case Conference has been updated. This offers clarity on parental participation and gives ways of contacting Review Officers in advance of the conference. The development of this is complete and used in practice from 6th November 2018.

## **Wellbeing web**

This is a self-report tool for a child to scale how they perceive their own situation under the SHANARRI headings (Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible, Included). There is an adapted wellbeing web for younger children or those who have particular communication needs. An animation of the original wellbeing web power point presentation is under development to support ongoing promotion of the use of this tool.

## **Digital participation**

A digital app has been designed and developed in partnership with Angus Council and care experienced young people to enable views to be shared for a meeting or matters to be raised with Review Officers and Social Workers using technology that is familiar to them. This exciting development is intended to facilitate easier participation and to augment the existing ways in which we gather children's views. Children will hold their own account which will include adaptations for those who have particular communication needs and preferences. It will have facilities for key managers to access aggregated data to inform future practice. The app is in the early stage of development and is being trialled with looked after children and young people before we expand into child protection. ACPC are supportive of this development and the plan to extend use to child protection for young people and parents and carers.

## **PREpare Approach to Child Protection**

The Angus Child Protection Committee Policy and Practice Sub Group have made a successful bid to the Challenge Fund (Lloyds PDI) to support our work under this strategic goal; the work will see changes to how we engage families in Child Protection Case Conference.

We will pilot the PREpare approach in a limited number of child protection case conferences during 2019/20 following a strength based approach:

**Engagement of children and young people:** Barnardo's will provide an advocacy service for children and young people attending case conference to gain a good insight into their views, to support attendance and/or present these views using established tools.

**Engagement of parents and carers:** Parents will be invited to attend a PREpare meeting in advance of the case conference where Barnardo's will facilitate a discussion focussing on the strengths and concerns from the assessment and support the family to represent their own solutions. The social

worker and review officer will also attend the informal meeting to work with parents to enable them to feel more prepared and empowered to engage in the case conference.

**Delivery of the Case Conference Meeting;** The case conference will use the statements developed in the PREpare meeting to support the family to have a voice, to be partners in the protection of their children and work as part of the plan. The conference will focus on resilience as well as risk to facilitate good partnership working.

The pilot will be subject to evaluation and will report to ACPC in 2020 on a future approach to develop inclusive systems for families.

#### **Strategic Goal 4:**

**We will ensure strong leadership and accountability through Angus CPC and COG, by improving the use of data, performance reporting, self-evaluation and planning.**

The Angus Self Evaluation and Continuous Improvement Sub Committee (SECI) have led on this strategic goal and have developed a framework for audit and self-evaluation based on the revised care inspection model.

Multi-agency practice evaluation work is planned for 2019 and this will be supported by a Masterclass from the Care Inspectorate. This evaluation will focus on child protection work with an additional focus on domestic abuse, an opportunity to follow up on the findings from the 2016 inspection which highlighted domestic abuse as an improvement area.

This is an area that is also on the work plan of the Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative Priority Group 5 and a dataset for Tayside, reflecting the national one currently in development, is being developed. This will allow for a baseline across Tayside, the identification of any Tayside trends and opportunities for further collaboration.

Work has begun on the implementation of a shared dataset for child protection and looked after children within Angus. This, reflecting both the Tayside and national datasets, when available, will be used alongside the above noted framework to support performance reporting, self-evaluation and plans for future improvement

The Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative Priority Group 5 have planned a leadership event for Child Protection Committee members and Chief Officers to consider the implications of the updated national guidance "Protecting Children and Young People, Child Protection Committee and Chief Officer Responsibilities" and to identify areas for further collaboration around the protecting people agenda.

## 5 Highlights

### **Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative- Priority Group 5**

The Tayside Children's Services Collaborative is led by the Councils of Angus, Dundee City, and Perth & Kinross, with NHS Tayside, Police Scotland and third sector organisations. The three Child Protection Committees collaborate as one of five priority groups (Priority Group 5) organised to take forward the priority for safeguarding and child protection set out in the Tayside Children's Services Plan 2017 – 2020.

Priority Group 5 is responsible for ensuring that approaches to protecting vulnerable children and young people are integrated, focussed on early identification and immediate and effective intervention to remove and reduce the risk of significant harm.

#### **Progress and Priorities of the group**

- The Tayside wide "Connect with Neglect" Conference took place in November 2018, sharing good practice and learning with regard to approaches to neglect across Tayside. This was well attended from representatives across Angus and feedback for the event was extremely positive.
- Chronologies - Tayside Practitioner Chronology Guidance has been revised with the aim of ensuring consistency and best practice.

- IRDs – work is ongoing across Tayside to develop a consistent and best practice approach to IRDs.
- Unborn Baby Protocol – Tayside Unborn Baby Guidance to improve early identification and support to expectant mothers has been drafted and will be published in the very near future.

### **Care and Protection Service Review**

In 2018, Angus Council Social Work undertook a Service Review to improve on delivering early help and support in local areas and promoting relationship based practice.

The redesigned Locality Children's Services incorporating 4 teams has been undertaken on a whole service locality model; this is in recognition of the importance of relationships in affecting change for families. The previous model included a number of transition points for families some of which coincided with points of extreme stress for families e.g. a Child Protection Case Conferences. In addition to this our intention is that social work Locality teams are firmly rooted in local communities and are knowledgeable about all they have to offer.

Consequently we have realigned Locality services so that there are now four teams covering the Angus Localities These teams service a 'locality area' providing one point of access for people requiring a service in that area and early help and support will also be delivered and sign-posted from the locality team with one worker providing ongoing support to children and families therefore minimising points of transition.

Children who require a joint interview and specialist investigation will be supported by a trained investigations team – this reflects the national development of a new Joint Interview Training which will be piloted in late 2019 and rolled out thereafter. The Angus Council Investigations Team replaces the previous model whereby two teams provided the point of entry into the service. In this model the team have a more specialist remit which is to undertake Child Protection Investigations including specialist Joint Interviews across the whole service thus ensuring a high standard is maintained.

The changes will be introduced in April 2019 and while they will take some time to be established, it is anticipated that we will be able to demonstrate that:

- Children and families do not experience regular changes of Social Worker
- Joint Interviews are completed to a high standard
- Families receive the support they require when they need it

### **Pre-birth Resource Allocation Meeting (PRAM)**

A review of Angus PRAM and future arrangements for meeting the needs of unborn babies has been undertaken.

A full review of PRAM took place and reported in February 2018 and considered PRAM information and outcomes over the period April 2014– September 2017; minutes were sampled and one of the most significant themes reported on was the delay in screening and allocating referrals. Whilst PRAM provided a forum for multi-agency discussion on the potential risks and needs of unborn babies, the actual system itself led to significant delays in making decisions.

In December 2018, Angus CPC tasked an alternative model be drafted with a view to having a system that supports early and effective systems to support pregnant women who may have support needs impacting on the care and wellbeing of their baby. A consultation led by the Practice and Policy Sub Committee was undertaken with the outcome that the current model was not fit for purpose and a new model proposed. This was agreed by ACPC and will begin in April 2019. The proposed changes build on the learning from the Early Screening Assurance Group that has supported and managed the change away from large group screening.

### **ICR/SCR**

An ICR was undertaken in 2017 which has progressed to an SCR. This process is almost complete with some further refining of the final report required. We have used the SCIE approach for this SCR and worked closely with the family of the young person concerned and staff who were involved. This SCR will focus on improvements for young people in transition.

A further ICR was undertaken in 2018 and an action plan developed, focusing on the key recommendations from the ICR. This action plan is being led by health with a focus on improvements in collaboration and communication between NHS services and is due to be reviewed in the summer of 2019.

## Continued Development of Child Protection in Schools

Throughout 2018, a Review Group worked together to review the way that information was stored for Angus pupils and to suggest new approaches to improve practice. The purpose of the review was to:

- Eliminate duplication in PPR processes
- Maximise use of digital technologies
- Eliminate any inconsistencies in existing practice e.g. between Primary and Secondary schools
- Devise a process which will provide comprehensive and accessible information to individuals who require it.
- Enhance record keeping procedures for school pupils, particularly for those pupils who are at risk.
- Reduce pressures on Schools and Learning staff

With the hoped for outcome that:

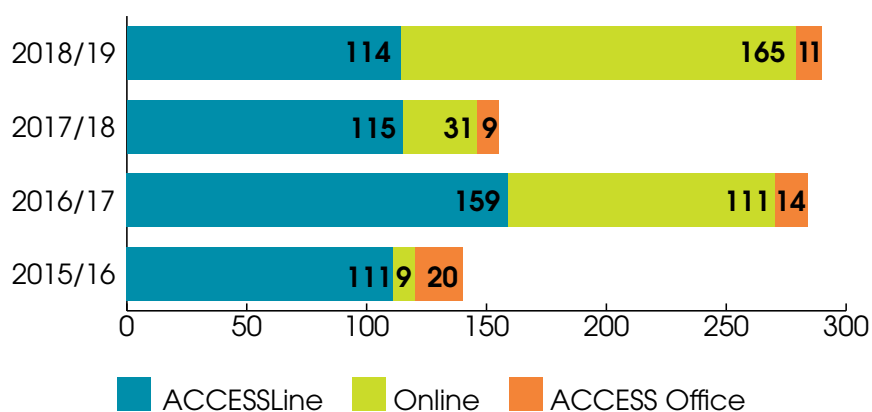
- The process is clear and concise and easily understood by school staff.
- Key information for pupils is recorded and stored in a manner that ensures that their needs are met throughout their school career.
- Paper based and digital processes will be aligned in order to reduce duplication.
- There will be improved practice in other areas e.g. Chronologies.

The review group recommended that all schools use Latest Pastoral Notes for recording information and the new guidelines 'Storing Information for Angus Pupils' were launched on 1st February 2019.

# 6 Child Protection Statistics

## 6.1 Engagement with the Public - Initial Contacts

### Initial Contacts



A total of 290 contacts were made to the ACCESSLine regarding concerns for children and young people, an increase of 135 from the previous year. ACPC promote one point of contact for members of the public and other concerned parties to report concerns for children and young people. In 2017 ACPC launched an online reporting option based on feedback from the public. The above statistics show the following:

- Consistent use of ACCESSLine phone number to report concerns;
- Consistent use of Access office space to report concerns;
- Significant use of online reporting in 2016/17 and 2018/19 but with a significantly less use in 2017/18.

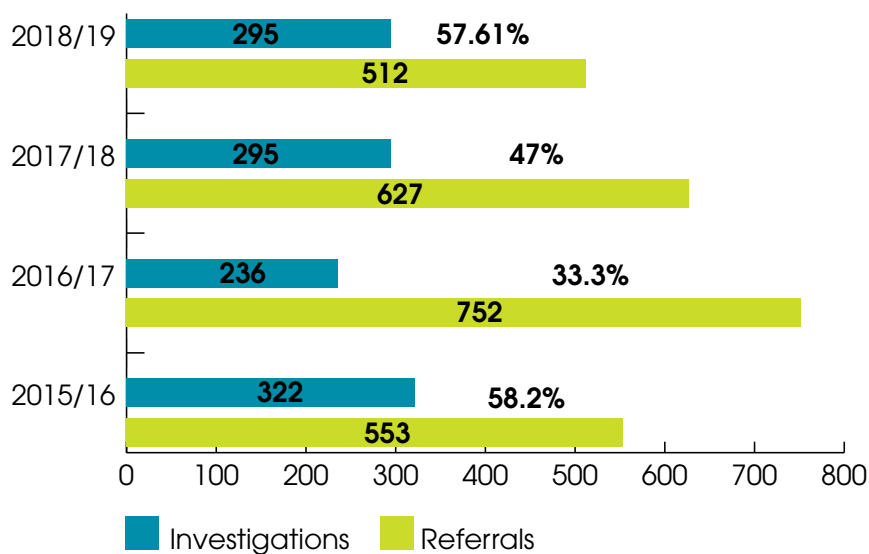
There is no clear explanation for the reduced use of online reporting in 2017/18 although changes and prominence of the website may offer some explanation. ACPC will continue to promote the single point of contact to engage with the public in sharing information. ACPC have undertaken significant evaluation of the referrals received by ACCESSLine in order to improve communication and information management.

A total of 290 contacts were made to the ACCESSLine regarding concerns for children and young people, an increase of 135 from the previous year. There was a significant increase in the number of online referrals and although there does not appear to be any particular reason for this increase, it may be that there is greater awareness of the option to report concerns for children online. This will continue to be monitored.

## 6.2 Referrals and Investigations

There were 2204 Child Protection referrals in 2018/19. Of these, 512 progressed to a referral requiring follow up action. This is a slight decrease from the previous year's 2360 referrals,

### % of CP Referrals to Investigations

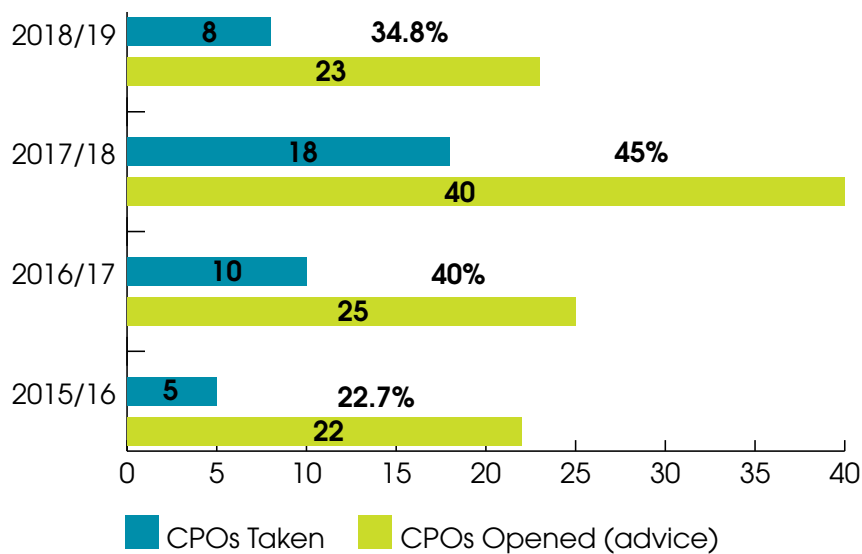


however there were a significantly smaller number this year proceeding to investigation. 83.58% of these were responded to within the 24 hour timeframe. There has been a change in the way initial contacts are recorded which have an impact on figures.

Of the 512 referrals, 57.61% of these progressed to investigation. This has been an increasing trend since 2015, suggesting more appropriate assessment of referrals requiring follow up action. This may also be related to the service review and the change in the way in which initial referrals are responded to. This will continue to be monitored to ensure consistency in response, particularly given the further structure review and change that will be implement in the near future.

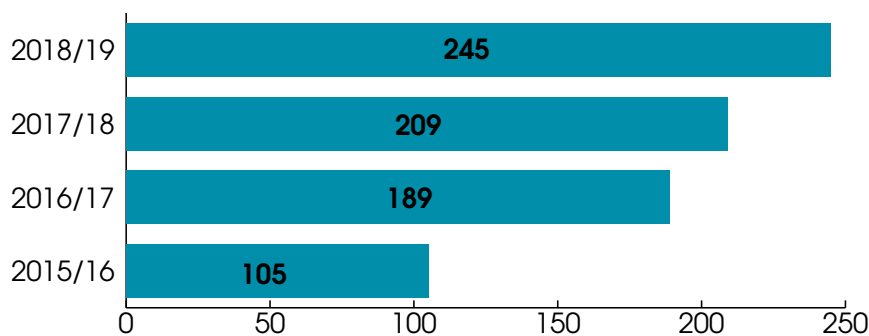
### 6.3 Child Protection Orders

**Child Protection Orders**



The number of Child Protection Orders considered by Angus Council legal services has decreased by 57.5% along with the number of Child Protection Orders taken, which has decreased by 44.4%. The numbers are small and can be easily impacted by sibling groups therefore the number must be treated with caution. ACPC continue to monitor any significant trends in CPO's to allow for additional analysis of other related processes. All Child Protection Orders that were granted were continued at the Second Working Day Children's Hearing suggesting they were sought appropriately. The number of Child Protection Orders is very low and consequently any percentage change appears significant, however this equates to a small number of children.

### 6.4 No of Joint Investigation Interviews



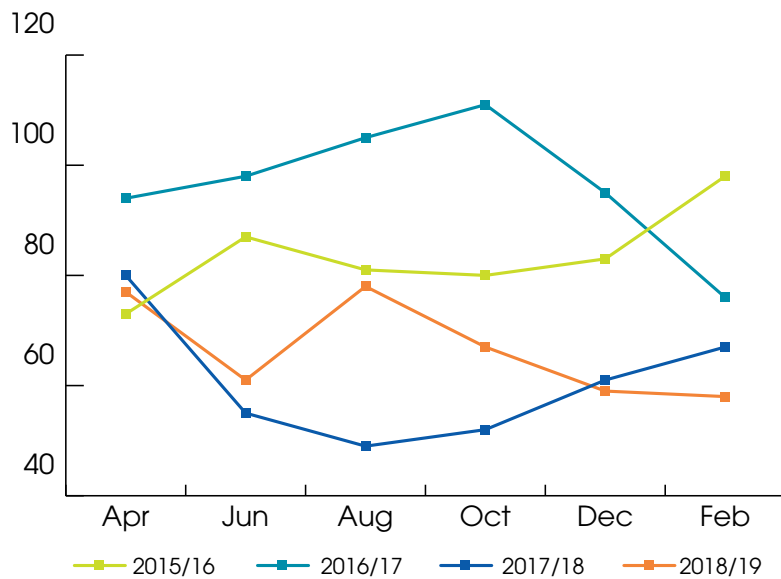
#### **Joint Investigative Interview**

The number of Joint Investigative Interviews has increased year on year since 2015. This is the case across Tayside and it would be expected that this trend will continue once new legislation and practice becomes embedded. ACPC support the practice that any child suspected of being a victim of abuse or exploitation is offered a child centred joint interview with trained practitioners.

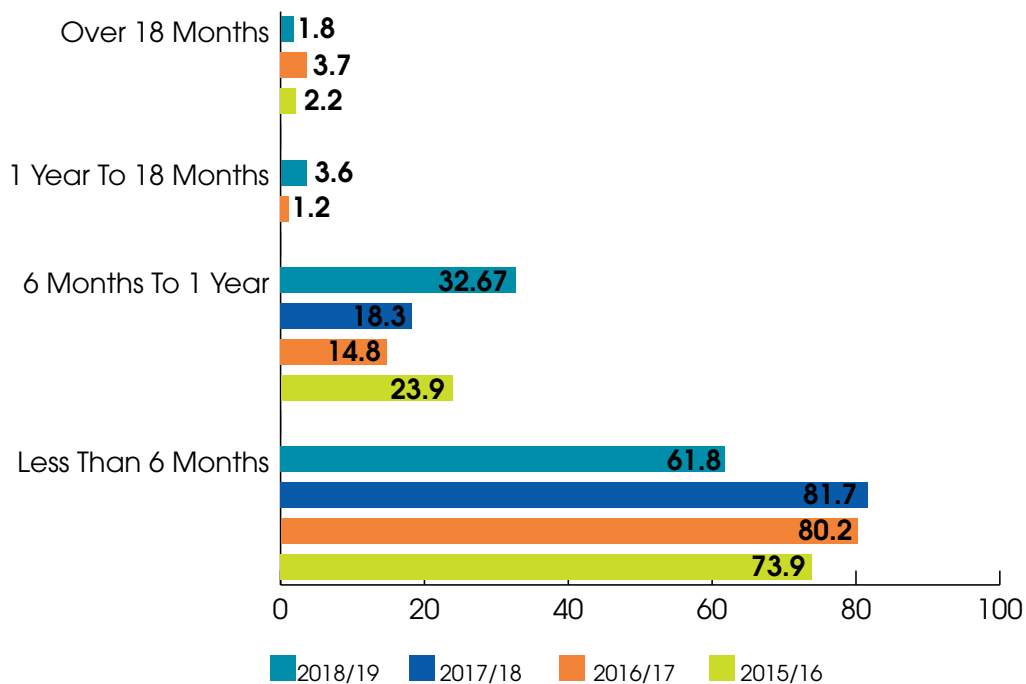


## 6.5 The Child Protection Register

No of Children on CP Register as at 31 March 2019



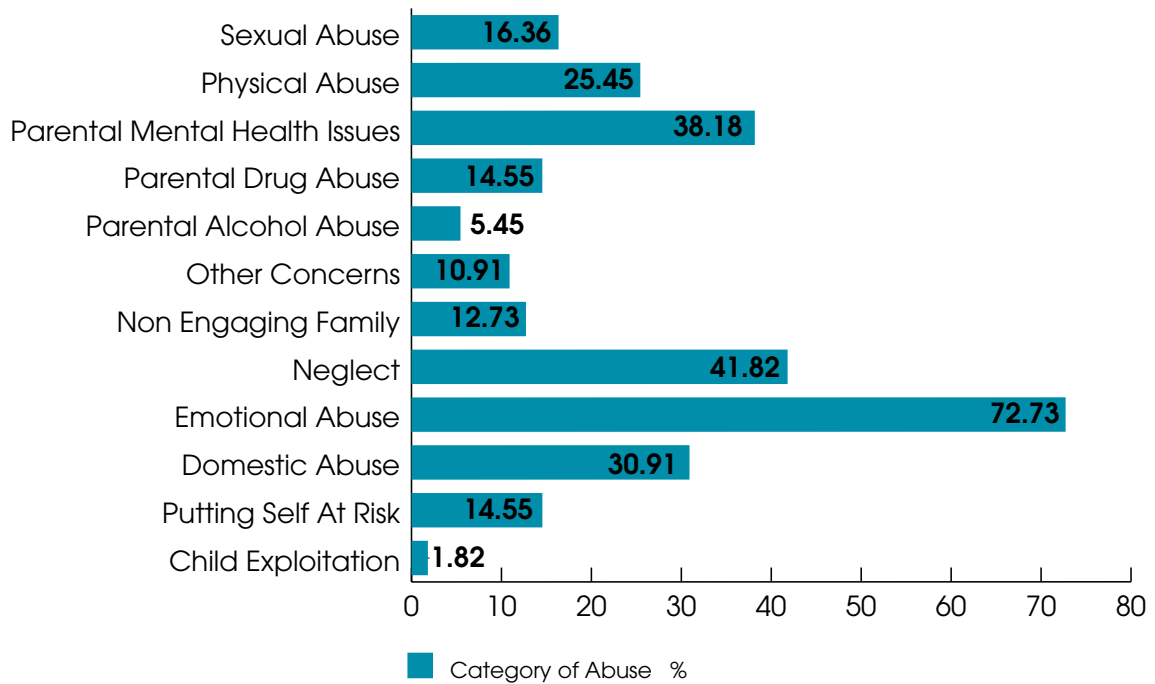
% of Children as at 31 March 2019 - Time on Register



The average length of time that children's names are on the Child Protection Register has fallen from 77 days in April 2018 to 55 in February 2019. 61.8% of children's names were on the Child Protection Register for less than 6 months.

There has been a continuing fall in the number of children's names on the Child Protection Register in Angus. There has been an increase this year in the number of children whose names are on the CP Register between 6 months and a year and length of time on the register will be closely monitored to ensure appropriate supports are available for families.

### % Children on Register as at 31 March 2019



Emotional abuse is the highest category of registration in 2018/19, followed by neglect. As noted previously, this suggests neglect and emotional abuse are being identified earlier and measures taken to protect children living in such situations. An intended outcome of the work of ACPC around neglect; increasing awareness and assessment of the impact of neglect on children and the figures noted above suggest that this work has resulted in improved recognition and protection for children living in neglectful circumstances.

Parental mental health issues and domestic abuse remain high, suggesting an increased awareness of the impact of both on children. Work has continued in Angus over the past year to improve practice in domestic abuse using the Safe and Together model.

### 6.6 Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)

SCRA have identified Angus as a stable local authority partner.

Referral rates and/or Child Protection Order conversion rates have remained steady during the past year and not subject to any major fluctuations. Conversion rates of referrals resulting in Hearings remain high at 43% which is significantly higher than the national average. This high conversion rate indicates good pre-referral screening by agencies. Angus CPO rates are lower than that of other local authority with a current figure of 3.8 for every 10,000 children being subject to a CPO.

The period between May 2018 and April 2019 saw a total of 160 care and protection referrals. This is the most common type of referral in Angus, to the Children's Reporter. The majority of referrals were from Children, Families and Justice, followed by Education. 68 of these were taken to a Children's Hearing and 88 were referred to the Local Authority for voluntary guidance and assistance.

The most common Grounds were as follows:

- Lack of parental care: 78
- Failure to attend school: 35
- Child's conduct is harmful to self or others: 19
- A close connection with a person who has carried out domestic abuse: 14

A new national agreement has been released between SCRA and Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). There is now a stated presumption that all young people up to the age of 18 (if subject to a Compulsory Supervision Order) will be dealt with within the Hearing System.

## 7 Conclusion

2018/19 has been a year of progress for Angus Child Protection Committee, with a number of work areas progressing. There have also been a number of reviews and changes to systems and processes with the aim of improving outcomes and the safety of children and young people in Angus.

The new Independent Chair is now in post and will bring her own experience to the Committee and in taking forward new developments.

A development session will take place in the summer of 2019 with a view to developing the Strategic Plan for the coming 3 years.