

Chief Officer's Public Protection Group Report

Report by Chief ExecutiveAnnual Report from Chief Officers Public Protection Group 2021/2022**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. This report provides the Community Planning Partnership with an overview of the work of the Chief Officers Public Protection Group 2021/2022.

REPORT**PURPOSE OF THE CHIEF OFFICERS PUBLIC PROTECTION GROUP**

2. The Chief Officers Public Protection Group provides strategic leadership, scrutiny and the oversight of quality assurance and improvement of public protection arrangements within East Renfrewshire. This is achieved by providing strategic direction on priorities concerning risk and clear expectations for partnership arrangements on the safe delivery of services that keep people and their communities safe. It ensures that partnership working within East Renfrewshire meets with national standards around risk management and in addition considers how effective the local planning arrangements are within services and the partnership in managing risk.
3. The core business of the group is as follows:
 - Child Protection
 - Adult Protection
 - Violence against Women and Girls
 - Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) & Offender Management (specifically sex offenders and high risk violent offenders)

MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTION

4. The group is chaired by the Chief Executive of East Renfrewshire Council and has the following core members:
 - Chief Executive East Renfrewshire Council
 - Chief Officer Health & Social Care Partnership
 - Nurse Director NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
 - Divisional Commander of Police Scotland G Division (East Renfrewshire)
 - Chief Social Work Officer and East Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee Chair
 - East Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee Independent Chair
5. In addition there are associate members that may be called upon by the core group to attend when needed. These include; the Lead Officers for Public Protection (child, adult, MAPPA and violence against women / girls), as well as the Lead Officer for Prevent, the locality Reporter (SCRA) and the Director of Education. The group meets bi-annually in May and November.

6. A summary of the functions of Chief Officers Public Protection Group are as follows:
 - Provide leadership and accountability across all public protection arrangements within East Renfrewshire.
 - Coordinate strategic developments within public protection.
 - Approve annual plans, scrutinise self-evaluation of public protection activity and approve associated improvement plans.
 - Review and direct improvements on performance and audit.
 - Provide direction to chairs and members of Child Protection Committee, Adult Protection Committee and Violence against Women / Girls on local priorities.
 - Approve and consider the learning from Significant Case Reviews and be provided with assurance that the improvements and actions required are in place across the local authority.
7. Public Protection arrangements require agencies and partnerships to work together strategically, operationally, and effectively and this is supported through robust planning and quality assurance processes. Partners are required to provide significant commitment and contributions through the Child Protection Committee, Adult Protection Committee, MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group and Violence against Women / Girls, by contributing to the development of strategic plans and measures that identify and mitigate risk as well as promoting best practice. Alongside these statutory plans the Chief Officers are provided with regular data, quality assurance and improvement activity that assures that people and communities are kept safe from harm.

COVID-19

8. The impact of Covid-19 has resulted in increased risk and harm and as such increased, demand and complexity of needs in relation to our work in the protection of vulnerable adults and children.
9. Chief Officers Public Protection Group held extra-ordinary meetings during the restricted periods of the pandemic. This was to ensure ongoing oversight of the emerging trends in public protection, allowing timeous responses as needs arose.
10. There has been regular public protection data submitted to SOLACE, initially weekly, then fortnightly and currently four weekly. The Chief Officers Public Protection Group have received a summary of this data to ensure that we were able to be responsive to any fluctuations in our public protection activity.

SUMMARY OF AREAS OF ACTIVITY 2021/2022

11. During this time the group considered a range of national priorities and assured oversight of the implementation of local practice, by providing high level scrutiny and strategic leadership in response to performance information, self-evaluation activity and learning in each of the public protection areas:

Child Protection

- Oversight and scrutiny of child protection activity via the Child Protection Committee, its subgroups and the CPC Business / Improvement plan. This includes regular updates in relation to audit activity and data;
- Oversight and endorsement of the Public Protection Development Programme which delivers training across the partnership;

- Continued support of the implementation of the Signs of Safety approach, which focusses on relationship based practice as well as keeping the child and their network at the centre of all assessments and plans; and,
- Ensuring that concerns in relation to children are easily reported by the public through the Council's website.

Adult Protection

- Oversight and scrutiny of Adult Protection Committee, its subgroups and improvement activity.
- Successful test of change and development of a permanent dedicated Adult Support and Protection Team, ensuring continuity and focus on the most at need.
- Review of existing Adult Support and Protection procedures and the production and implementation of new procedures. Our newly developed Adult Support and Protection procedures help us to reflect on the work we do to address risk from the point of contact through to investigation, case conference and protection planning.
- Strengthened channels of communication and partnership working between partners, providers, care homes and others involved in adult support and protection.
- Developed a shared awareness of the complexity and multifaceted nature of risk, particularly in relation to violence against women, which has improved our joint working and understanding of the roles of other services and partners.
- Developed Adult Support and Protection Quality Assurance framework, to help ensure consistent and high quality standards are in place in relation to all aspects of Adult Support and Protection practice.
- Large Scale Investigation with respect to two care homes. These were particularly challenging pieces of work including the closure of one care home against the backdrop of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

- Oversight of activity and performance of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements;
- The justice service has prioritised contact with those offenders who are subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements requirements to ensure that Risk Management plans and statutory functions are adhered to.
- The nationally accredited sex offender treatment programme, Moving Forward Making Changes (MFMC) has been delivered on 2:1 basis due to Covid-19 restrictions.

- Throughout the COVID-19 restrictions, The North Strathclyde MAPPA Strategic and Operational Groups have continued to function to provide both oversight and support to address any issues

Violence against Women and Girls

- Oversight and scrutiny of the Violence Against Women & Girls Partnership, subgroups and improvement activity, including data, audit and self- evaluation;
- Implementation of the Domestic Abuse Pathway;
- Implementation of MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference);
- Implementation of Routine Sensitive Enquiry and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Training;
- Implementation of Safe and Together;
- Aligned improvement planning with the Community Justice Partnership;
- Improving Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Interventions for Victims of Domestic Abuse;
- Completion of quality standards self-evaluation and data in respect of the national Equally Safe Performance Framework.
- Implementation of Equally Safe in Practice Pilot
- Completion of quality assurance audit of Routine Sensitive Enquiry in Alcohol and Drug Services and Adult Mental Health,

EXTERNAL VALIDATION

Child Protection

12. We have just received our inspection report for the Joint Inspection of Services for Children at Risk of Harm. This has highlighted practice as being 'outstanding and sector leading' with a grade of 'excellent' for the impact on children and young people. The inspection covered most of the pandemic and restricted periods. It is a testament to the relationship based practice and commitment of our staff and partners to keeping children and young people safe.

Adult Protection

13. The Large Scale Investigations were particularly challenging pieces of work, undertaken in local care homes against the backdrop of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic. The dedication and hard work of the social work team, the wider Health and Social Care Partnership and partner organisations lead to documented positive outcomes. The dedication and hard work of the social work team, the wider Health and Social Care Partnership and partner organisations lead to documented positive outcomes. The Large Scale Investigation Team were put forward for an award under the "working together" category at the 2021 Scottish Social Services Awards. The team were

delighted to be shortlisted and to then subsequently go on to receive this prestigious award.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

14. Work is progressing at the national level on the revision of Moving Forward Making Changes to Moving Forward 2 Change (MF2C). A recent project scoping update highlighted that this work is currently nearing the end of the re-design process and in the early stages of the pilot and evaluation stage. This will continue to be monitored closely by East Renfrewshire Justice as the programme nears the anticipated submission for accreditation in 2023.

Violence Against Women and Girls

15. Independent observation of the East Renfrewshire Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference completed by Safe Lives. The report and findings highlighted a range of strengths and best practice and strategic oversight. This reflects the commitment of all agencies to share information and keep victims of domestic abuse and their children safe and improve outcomes.

DISCUSSION POINTS

16. It is recommended that the CPP Board:
 - i. Discuss the high level public protection activity outlined within the report and identify any areas for improvement to the Chief Officer Public Protection group on public protection partnership arrangements within East Renfrewshire.
 - ii. Agree the East Renfrewshire Chief Officer Public Protection Group continues to provide annual updates to the CPP concerning public protection scrutiny and improvement activity that provides assurance that people and communities are being kept safe.

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