

**PERTH AND KINROSS
CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE**
Tuesday 10 June 2025 at 09:30 – 12:30
MS Teams

MINUTE

Present:

Bill Atkinson, Independent Chair, Child Protection Committee	(BA)
Jennifer Reid, Detective Chief Inspector, Police Scotland	(JR)
Arun Singh, Strategic Lead – Children, Families and Justice / CSWO, PKC	(AS)
Ben Colvin, Consultant Paediatrician, Community Child Health, NHS Tayside	(BC)
Lisa Sutherland, Locality Manager SCRA	(LS)
Julie Baker, Child Protection Inter-Agency Coordinator, P&K	(JB)
Claire Wilson, Children Services Manager, Barnardo's Scotland	(CW)
Susie Turner, Inclusion Manager / Principal Educational Psychologist, Education and Learning, PKC	(ST)
Alice McInnes, Director of Midwifery, NHS Tayside	(AM)
Grace Gilling, Chief Nurse, Public Protection, NHS Tayside	(GG)
Michelle Nicol, Child Protection Learning and Development Officer, PKC	(MN)
Rhona Corbett, Head of Heritage and Culture, Culture Perth & Kinross (CPK)	(RC)
Julie Hutton, Chief Executive, Independent Advocacy Perth & Kinross	(JH)

In Attendance:

Sheila Wilson, Improvement Officer, Children, Families and Justice, PKC (<i>on behalf of S Cooper</i>)	(SW)
Debbie Reilly-Davidson, Team Leader, Child Protection Duty Team (<i>Bairns Hoose / SCIM input</i>)	(DRD)
Fiona Cochrane, Social Worker, Child Protection Duty Team (<i>Bairns Hoose / SCIM input</i>)	(FC)
Rona Urquhart, Social Worker, Child Protection Duty Team (<i>Bairns Hoose / SCIM input</i>)	(RU)

Apologies:

Sharon Cooper, Service Manager, Children, Families and Justice, PKC	(SC)
David Macluskey, Strategic Lead: Education & Learning (Chief Education Officer), Perth & Kinross Council	(DM)
Alison Fairlie, Service Manager, HSCP – Mental Health, PKC	(AF)
Zoey Pullar, Associate Nurse Director, NHS Tayside	(ZP)
Michelle Smith, Head Teacher, Coupar Angus Primary School, PKC	(MS)
Christine Couser, Depute Head Teacher Support, Bertha Park High School, PKC	(CC)
Elaine Ritchie, Strategic Lead – Housing and Communities, PKC	(ER)

Minute:

Claire Gray, Management Assistant, Business Support Team, PKC	(CG)
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	What	Who	When
1	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies		
	BA welcomed those present to the meeting. Introductions were made and apologies noted as above.		
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting, Action Points and Matters Arising – 01/04/2025		
	The Minute of 1 April 2025 was approved as an accurate record. <i>Action 1: Trafficking / exploitation data and case study – Action Ongoing.</i> <i>Action 2: CPC Development Day – Agenda Item. Action Completed.</i> <i>Action 3: CPC Week of Events – Agenda Item. Action Completed.</i> <i>Action 4: Strengthen collaborative working with Tayside counterparts in terms of the risk register, audit activity and more generally – initial discussions with BA / Dundee Chair who is keen; some ongoing work to be progressed and this action will be carried forward over the summer to see if progress can be made by autumn. Action Ongoing.</i>		 2025.04.01 CPC Minute Draft.docx
Action 1	Jennifer Reid to follow up on the data over the last 12 months and potentially look at a case study on trafficking / exploitation.	JR	Next Meeting
Action 2	CPC Chair / Julie Baker to progress with efforts to strengthen collaborative working with their Tayside counterparts in terms of the risk register, audit activity and more generally.	CPC Chair / JB	Ongoing
3	Tayside Bairns Hoose / Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM)		
	Debbie Reilly-Davidson, Fiona Cochrane and Rona Urquhart attended and provided a presentation on the work of the Bairns Hoose and SCIM.		

	What	Who	When
	 Bairns Hoose and Scottish Child Interv Key points included: • Trauma-informed interview spaces and child-friendly materials developed. • 108 interviews conducted, with 85% under SCIM. • Feedback from children and families has been overwhelmingly positive. • Development of therapeutic recovery support and collaboration with third sector agencies. • Wish list includes forensic medical space and outdoor area for families. Comments / Questions: BC asked about the timescale from IRD / referral to SCIM? SCIM team advised the average statistic is 6 days, but it is case by case dependent on the circumstances / child's needs – it can also take days to get a child's informed consent etc. JR commended the team for their progress and highlighted the positive impact across Tayside. Noted a full year evaluation report of SCIM is being finalised by Police and can share this with members once available. GG noted the benefits of getting a health room in P&K which is being explored. BA noted the uniqueness of the speech and language therapist in Perth. The SCIM team spoke about the positives around this. BA asked about the justice room. SCIM team advised this is for any involvement in the court system and they will get notified by the courts when the room is required. The PF is actively involved and linked in with the Bairns Hoose / SCIM. BA raised the wider issue of the PF, who in the past was involved in the CPC and suggested it would be worth exploring this again as a CPC. BA thanked Debbie, Fiona, and Rona, on behalf of the CPC, for presenting the Bairns' Hoose and SCIM updates. Members enjoyed the presentation and hearing about the progress of the work, which is going well and is a credit to all those involved.		
Action 3	Jennifer Reid to share the Tayside Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) Evaluation Report once this is available.	JR	Next Meeting
Action 4	New Independent Chair to explore the possible involvement of the Procurator Fiscal on the Child Protection Committee (CPC).	CPC Chair	Dec 2025
4	Scrutiny Update		
i)	Angus Inspection – GG / JR provided feedback on the recent Angus CP inspection. Key points included: • Positive staff engagement and strong multi-agency relationships. • Effective training and implementation of pathways including CARM and pre-birth protocols. • No case escalations and good feedback from inspectors. • Positive areas reflected on: ○ Staff recognised the training offered to make a difference in their jobs etc. ○ Trusting, respectful relationships – staff have clarity in terms of roles and responsibilities and where to escalate etc. ○ Strength of Bairns Hoose, IRDs, SCIM. BA thanked GG / JR for their insights on the positive inspection. JB suggested it would be helpful to bring a summary of the inspection report for the next meeting and GG advised that she would share the paper going to PPEG.		
ii)	Self-evaluation – AS provided an update on the Care Inspectorate (CI) scrutiny. The focus of the inspection model is moving away from children in need of care and protection to look at children looked after at home, aligning with The Promise and a UNCRC rights-based approach. The CI is developing a new methodology, with a webinar planned for summer 2025 to introduce this approach. AS suggested asking Winnie Burke, Link Inspector, to provide an update at the CPC.		

	What	Who	When
	The new focus may shift scrutiny more towards the Children, Young People and Families Partnership (CYPFP) rather than the CPC. However, the CPC must remain engaged, as some children looked after at home may have previously been subject to child protection concerns. The Corporate Parenting subgroup is expected to take ownership of data and scrutiny for children looked after at home. The CI is also actively engaged with Chief Officer Groups (COGs) across Scotland to assess how well they integrate public protection agendas etc. The CPC discussed the need to continue to strengthen links with other protection areas such as Adult Protection (APC), Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADP), Suicide Prevention and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).		
Action 5	Grace Gilling to share a summary of the Angus Inspection Report.	GG	Next Meeting
Action 6	Winnie Burke to be invited to a future meeting to provide an update on the new Care Inspectorate inspection methodology and any other relevant updates.	TBC	TBC
5	Mandatory Reporting		
	Members noted the paper from CPCScotland on mandatory reporting, which was prompted by the UK Government's response to the Alexis Jay Inquiry into child sexual abuse (CSA) and recommended introducing mandatory reporting for professionals and volunteers in positions of trust. Key points included: • Powerful evidence from the lived experience voice and from the independent inquiry supporting mandatory reporting. • Mixed views on the effectiveness and implications of mandatory reporting. • Concerns about impact on volunteers and professionals, and potential underreporting due to fear of prosecution. • Emphasis on training and cultural change rather than punitive legislation. Committee members had a full discussion regarding the positive aspects of the recommendation for mandatory reporting and the challenges it would bring, recognising that all professionals involved in this work are already required to report in terms of their professional codes of practice. Agreed JB to take comments back to CPCScotland and will keep members updated on how it develops.		 Mandatory Reporting CPC Scotland
Action 7	Julie Baker to feedback the CPC's comments on Mandatory Reporting to CPCScotland and keep members updated on how it develops.	JB	Ongoing
6	CPC Development Day – 6 May 2025 Follow Up		
	Members noted the report, and JB summarised the outcomes of the CPC Development Day. Themes included: • Promoting mental health through strategic connections. • Promoting links between first line practitioners and the CPC • Promoting a Learning and Development Culture. JB suggested the training needs analysis as a topic at the next CPC. BA noted an APC item from Iain Wilkie that might be worthwhile sharing at the next CPC. AS suggested connections with other partnerships. GG noted a joint committee (of all the committees) once a year in another local authority area and suggested this might be an idea. JH noted the CPC PIWG bringing alive the issues / themes that teams are dealing with etc. ST noted some of the data we already hold e.g. survey about implementing recommendations from learning reviews and what gets in the way etc. JB to circulate the Actions for discussion (page 5&6 of the feedback report) and ask members to provide comments.		 25.05.06 CPC DD Feedback Report.pdf
Action 8	Julie Baker to progress actions from the CPC Development Day and liaise with partners for comments.	JB	Next Meeting
7	Letham Week – Evaluation		

	What	Who	When
	Members noted the paper, and JB presented a summary of the Letham Week of Events. While community engagement was limited, valuable connections were made with local groups and future collaboration opportunities identified. JB to explore future engagement opportunities and report back. Members suggested changing optics (e.g. keeping safe or online safety for families etc) to get more engagement		 Letham Week - Evaluation.pdf
Action 9	Julie Baker to explore future engagement opportunities for the CPC and report back.	JB	04/11/25
	Standing Agenda Items:		
8	P&K CPC Joint Protocol: Care and Risk Management (CARM) and Joint CPC and APC Protocol: Transitions		
	No updates on CARM and Transitions protocols.		
9	CPC Community of Practice (CoP): Reflective Practice Sessions		
	Members noted the successful CoP session in May 2025 on Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Young People with Disabilities. Members noted the next session is on 4 September 2025 on Working Safely with Children and Young People. Further information / resources can be found on the CoP Padlet . CW referred to the infant pledge around non-verbal communication and the principles around that and whether it had been connected in any way. GG spoke about work in NHS Tayside by a psychologist around the voice of the child who is non-verbal and how that links to the responsibilities around UNCRC etc – suggested bringing an update to a future CPC meeting.		
10	Feedback from CPCScotland		
	i) ICON Cope – Members noted for information.		
	ii) The Criminal Exploitation of Children – Scotland's Framework for Practice – Members noted for information.		 Scotland's Framework for Practice CEC.pdf
11	Group Updates		
	i) CPC Practice Improvement Working Group – Members noted the update. Looking to develop a work plan for upcoming QA activities etc.		 2025.05.20 CPC PIWG Draft Minute
	ii) CPC Quality Assurance Working Group – Members noted the update. Positive feedback on the Safe & Together audit and the new approach for speed learning sessions for the workforce to learn from learning reviews.		 2025.04.15 CPC QAWG Draft Minute
	iii) Independent Schools Child Protection Group – Members noted the update. Attendance remains low; review of meeting format underway.		 Independent Schools Draft Minute
12	AOCB		
	i) Chair's Farewell – Bill Atkinson delivered a farewell message, reflecting on his tenure and thanking committee members for their support. He welcomed incoming Chair, Graham Binnie, and expressed confidence in the continued success of the CPC.		
13	Meeting Dates 2025		
	All Meetings on Tuesday 09:30 – 12:30: 9 September (in person); 4 November (on teams); 2 December (in person).		