

Dundee's future lies with its children and young people. They deserve the best this city can give them. We will provide the protection they need, when they need it, to keep them safe from harm.

## Child Protection Directory available on CYPCC Website

Part of the work of the Self-Evaluation Task Group established to progress the Child Protection Improvement Plan was to draw up a directory of all the groups and fora that exist and whose work is directly, or indirectly related to the protection of children and young people.

That work is now complete and the result is loaded on the CYPCC website at [http://www.dundeeprotects.com/pwwc\\_cpd.htm](http://www.dundeeprotects.com/pwwc_cpd.htm). This link takes you to the page from which you can access a description of all the groups.

## Implementing the new framework for multi agency self evaluation

As previously highlighted, the multi-agency self-evaluation framework will contain 3 elements:

- A Case File Audit Team
- A Practice Review Sub-Group
- A Scrutiny Sub-Group

### Case File Audit

Twice per year, for 2 week blocks, a multi-agency team made up of staff from the key agencies will be put together to carry out multi-agency audit, with case records being the basis for evidence-gathering. The model will mirror that employed by HMIE in joint multi-agency inspection and by a number of other local authority areas in their self-evaluation work.

On each occasion, a number of the Quality Indicators in 'How well do we protect children and meet their needs' will be focused upon. So, for

example, we might, on one occasion, focus on 'Children and young people are listened to, understood and respected' (QI 2.1) and on another on 'Involving children and families in key processes' (QI 5.1).

Following a preparation/training programme on 10 and 11 May, the first case file audit team will pilot the model during June. If you are interested in developing your skills to encompass multi-agency self-evaluation activity and would like to be involved now or in the future, please speak with your line manager and ask for your name to be considered.

### Practice Review

The last edition of this Briefing Note gave details of the development of Practice Review. The first Practice Review meeting

will take place on 13 May.

### Scrutiny

The role of this group is to analyse, review and report on the impact of joint agency working arrangements. So, for example, the group will consider the effectiveness of multi-agency meetings, child protection core groups, etc, in terms of their impact on the lives of children and young people and how well they contribute to positive outcomes being achieved.

All of the above does, of course, sit alongside the extensive evaluation activity that already goes on within agencies. It is the pulling together of all this single and multi-agency self-evaluation that will allow us to build-up a very clear knowledge and understanding of the impact of our services and of the outcomes they achieve for children and young people, and of what improvements we need to make into the future.

## **Delivering on the Child Protection Improvement Plan**

At its meeting at the end of March, the Chief Officers Group heard that 50% of all the tasks in the child protection plan have now been delivered. All the others, apart from one, are on schedule to be completed by the target date set. The one task that was scheduled for completion in March, but will not now be completed until June, relates to the processes for assessing emergency placement requirements outwith normal office hours and developing and implementing contingency plans for times when placements are not available.

The Chief Officers again noted the enormous effort made by all members of staff, to delivering on the tasks in the plan.

## **Staff Events - May 2010**

As previously trailed, two more events for all staff will take place in the Al Maktoum Institute. The first is on 12 May, with the second on 21 May.

These events are aimed at ensuring that as many people as possible who work in key services, have the chance to be directly involved in considering the quality of our services and looking at their ongoing development.

The Chief Officers have again emphasised their intention that the participants should be front line practitioners involved in directly delivering services, along with those directly leading these practitioners.

In November 2009, the two days were exactly the same. On this occasion they will not. The 12 May is aimed very directly at front-line practitioners and will involve input from local practitioner forums.

On 21 May, the focus will be on self-evaluation, with the target audience being team managers and leaders.

More detailed information, including booking arrangements will be issued soon. But please clear one or other day in your diary if you would like to be involved - and watch out for the information arriving in your mailbox.

## **The Principles that Guide our Work**

Each of these briefing notes starts with our vision for child protection services in Dundee. That vision is supported by a series of statements that the CYPPC agreed represent the principles that should govern our work. These are:

1. We all share responsibility for protecting children and young people in Dundee. Our agencies will work together to plan and deliver our services.
2. We will work with neighbourhoods and communities to support them in protecting their children and in providing a safe, happy place for them to grow up.
3. We will work hard to support children, young people and their families through difficulties and times of crisis.
4. We will ensure that children and young people who need help get the right kind of help at the right time from the right people and we will deliver services which are appropriate, proportionate and timely.
5. We will always consider the welfare of children and young people to be paramount when we make decisions and plans that affect them.
6. We will quickly share information about children where there is concern for their safety within agreed standards of confidentiality.
7. We will strive to raise awareness of child protection issues and create a culture in which people acknowledge that protecting children and young people is everyone's responsibility. We will consult children, young people and families as we develop our care and protection services.
8. We will provide and participate in joint training to drive forward high quality joint working and services for children and their families.

As always, any views or comments you have about this briefing note or child protection services in general, should be fed back through the office of the Children & Young Persons Protection Committee at [dundeeprotects@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:dundeeprotects@dundeecity.gov.uk).