



East Dunbartonshire
**Child Protection
Committee**

BUSINESS PLAN

2022-2025

NOVEMBER 1, 2022
EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

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Vision

“That all children in East Dunbartonshire are seen, heard and helped; they are effectively protected, safeguarded, properly supported and their lives improved by everyone working together”

The purpose of East Dunbartonshire Child Protection Committee (ED CPC) is to develop, implement and improve child protection strategy across and between agencies, bodies and the local community as outlined in [Protecting children and young people: Child Protection Committee and Chief Officer responsibilities - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

The subsequent vision of ensuring children are safeguarded and protected, is translated into this three-year Business Plan. Each ED CPC work stream has a dedicated Subgroup or Working Group, who have a delivery plan with annual priorities, actions, timescales and lead responsibilities that is aligned to the strategic Business Plan and overall ED CPC Priorities.

The oversight of the strategic Business Plan lies with the Strategic Partners.

Our Principles

The commitment of East Dunbartonshire Child Protection Committee (EDCPC) is to work together to make the lives of children safer by protecting them from harm; preventing impairment to their health and/or development, ensuring they receive safe and effective care at the right time; and ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for them to live in.

EDCPC endeavours to make sure that everyone who works with children across the local area of East Dunbartonshire has the protection of vulnerable children and young people at the heart of what they do, by adopting basic principles of child protection practice.

In practice, this means that children are seen, heard and helped:

- **Seen:** in the context of their lives at home, friendship circles, health, education and public spaces (both off-line and on-line).
- **Heard:** by professionals taking time to hear what children and young people are saying - putting themselves in their shoes and thinking about what their life might truly be like.
- **Helped:** by professionals remaining curious and by implementing timely, effective and imaginative solutions that help make children and young people safer.

Priorities

The ED CPC Business Plan 2022-2025 is intentionally brief and focused on strategic priorities that form the basis of the work of the Committee over the next three years. These priorities support the partnership response to protecting vulnerable children and young people, preventing harm and promoting their welfare. These priorities will remain flexible for the duration of this Business Plan and will be sharpened through ED CPC's ongoing engagement with children, young people and the workforce. Annually, ED CPC will identify the specific actions required against each of these priorities with the detail being set out in the specific action plans of the Committee's sub groups and working groups.

Priority 1: The Voice of Children and Young People: Multi-agency child protection practice reflects the lived experience of children and young people. The voices of children and young people are central to all aspects of intervention.

Priority 2: Getting the Basics Right: Child Protection practice in East Dunbartonshire is proactive. Children and young people are effectively protected from harm by early, robust, timely and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support.

Priority 3: The Appetite to Learn: Child Protection partners and relevant agencies are actively engaged in EDCPC’s learning & improvement framework. Leaders encourage scrutiny of their child protection arrangements, challenge performance, disseminate, and embed lessons across their agencies.

Priorities for Children and Young People

The views and experiences of children and young people are currently captured through a range of different mechanisms used by both individual agencies and ED CPC. Over 2022-2025 ED CPC is eager to capture the authentic voice of children and young people. We will do this through:

- Ad-hoc engagement based on specific projects
- Continuing to capture the voice of children and young people through well-established forums such as the Champions Board and Pupil Forum.
- Implementing a range of mechanisms designed at widening our reach and learning about what matters most to children and young people in the area that they live and in the context of how they live their lives.

Based on our engagement to date, the following top 3 priorities will be scrutinised by ED CPC in terms of Priority 1, The Voice of Children and Young People:

CYP Priority	Outcome	Action 2022-2025
<p>The Voice of Children and Young People: Multi-agency child protection practice reflects the lived experience of children and young people.</p> <p>Hearing and Acting on the Voices of Children and young people.</p> <p>They have told us that often, they don't feel listened to and that adults don't act on the issues or concerns that they raise.</p>	<p>The voices of children and young people are better reflected in the ED CPC's business planning process and that actions taken by the Committee directly respond to issues and concerns raised by young people.</p>	<p>Implement a strategic framework that enables ED CPC to systematically engage children and young people, identify key issues of concern to them - with ED CPC coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of the response to these issues.</p>

Priorities for the Partnership

Continuous improvement remains the focus of all our work. Based on our own learning and that arising from a range quality assurance improvement work streams, all of our work will be underpinned by a focus on making sure that we adopt a collaborative approach to safeguarding and child protection practice that is effective and of high quality.

Priority 2: Getting the Basics Right: Child Protection practice in East Dunbartonshire is proactive. Children and young people are effectively protected from harm by early, robust, timely and coordinated multi-agency intervention and support.

Priority 3: The Appetite to Learn: Child Protection partners and relevant agencies are actively engaged in EDCPC's learning & improvement framework. Leaders encourage scrutiny of their child protection arrangements, challenge performance, disseminate, and embed lessons across their agencies.

A key focus within Priority 2 & 3 is how ED CPC commit to “**Vulnerability & Making the Invisible Visible.**” This reflects the importance that the Committee apply to ALL children and young people living in the local authority area of East Dunbartonshire and our collective focus on hard-to-reach groups and communities that are less engaged with our safeguarding and protective services.

Strategic Priority	Outcome	Action 2022-2025
Getting the Basics Right Early Help & Early Intervention	Children & young people receive effective early help and appropriate interventions when needs are identified and/or problems arise.	To evaluate the effectiveness of early help arrangements across East Dunbartonshire
The Appetite to Learn	Focus on how to safeguard & protect children and young people in the context of their lives and in the context of what matters most in the areas that they live, context is key. Children & Young People are Seen, Heard and Helped.	<p>Evaluate our improvement journey and embrace opportunities to learn, refocussing our quality assurance activity and ensure our commitment to undertaking local reviews is maintained, whilst capturing opportunities to learn from others.</p> <p>To work collaboratively to deliver comprehensive, multi-agency arrangements that address the identified priorities set out below; and to evaluate their impact on children and young people.</p> <p>- Strengthening oversight of child protection interventions across the local area</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying and responding to neglect - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities - Support a competent skilled Workforce - Implementing opportunities for multi-agency reflection
<p>Strong Leadership & Strong Partnership</p>	<p>ED CPC leads the safeguarding & protection agenda and commits to an approach that learns lessons, embeds good practice and is continually influenced by children, young people and their families.</p> <p>Making the Invisible Visible: ALL children and young people are seen, heard and helped; with the public and professionals alike being alert to risk, being able to identify it and knowing how to respond to make sure children are safe & protected.</p>	<p>ED CPC will continue to commit to engaging in robust arrangements that coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of how children and young people are safeguarded & protected.</p> <p>The Committee successfully deliver against the Business Plan and associated work streams set for ED CPC and its sub-groups / working groups.</p> <p>Continue to strengthen the governance between ED CPC and other key strategic forums.</p> <p>Maintain the Learning & Improvement Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scrutinise & challenge performance; - identify, disseminate & embed lessons; - engage with children, young people & families and evaluate the impact on outcomes. - ensure learning is shared with wider governance fora and assurances provided to CPC regarding embedding required changes to practice. <p>To communicate and raise awareness about safeguarding & child</p>

		<p>protection to individuals, organisations and communities.</p> <p>To consistently promote the importance of effective and prompt sharing of information, promoting a culture that puts the protection of children before the protection of information.</p>
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