



East Dunbartonshire
**Child Protection
Committee**

Annual Report 2022-23

FOREWORD – THE CHAIR OF EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

As Independent Chair of East Dunbartonshire Child Protection Committee (EDCPC), I am pleased to present, our Annual Report (2022-2023) that marks the work of the Child Protection Committee as a multi-agency partnership.

This year has seen the implementation of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 focussing on embedding the key changes outlined within the guidance and jointly writing our own multi-agency child protection procedures. We also participated in the Children at Risk of Harm inspection which showcased our practice and informs our action plans moving forward.

This report reflects the activity of East Dunbartonshire Child Protection Committee (EDCPC) over the past year. The report outlines our key achievements in relation to the protection of children and young people and our areas for improvement. It identifies how priorities and planned developments have been met or are being taken forward.

Child Protection is a complex, challenging and ever evolving area of business. The strong commitment, leadership and direction of the Chief Officers Group, the support of members of EDCPC and dedication of the associated multi-agency sub groups, means we work collaboratively in our approach to keep children and young people safe.

Carol Auld

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Background

The East Dunbartonshire Child Protection Committee (EDCPC) is the local strategic planning partnership, who are responsible for developing and implementing child protection policy and strategy across and between agencies as described in the National Guidance for Child Protection (2021). [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland \(2021\)](#)

The EDCPC performs a number of functions in East Dunbartonshire as described in Scottish Government publication, Protecting Children & Young People - Child Protection Committee & Chief Officer Responsibilities Guidance (2019). This includes the development of policies, procedures and protocols in securing the effectiveness and quality of local child protection services. The EDCPC provides high quality learning and development opportunities for a range of professionals, practitioners, and managers. It actively contributes to national work and embeds learning from national and local activity in striving for improvement across the child protection workforce.

EDCPC members meet quarterly at core meetings and within associated multi-agency sub-groups to support its work in considering local and national child protection matters.

Keeping children safe

Protecting children and young people cannot be done in isolation; it is only truly effective when we work collaboratively and restoratively with our partner agencies to 'Think Family' and protect children, young people and their families at risk of harm, abuse or neglect. In East Dunbartonshire we are embedding this approach across all of our services, whilst focusing on developing evidence-based approaches to safeguarding and child protection practice that balances the rights and choices of children and young people.

A key commitment for East Dunbartonshire Child Protection Committee (EDCPC) is in 'making the invisible visible' and our focus on better understanding vulnerability. This reflects the importance that child protection partners and relevant agencies apply to ALL children and young people living in groups and communities that are less engaged with protection services. It also includes a focus on improving outcomes for ALL through close cooperation with other key strategic forums.

All of our activity is underpinned by the following:

Our 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.

Our Principles - the commitment of the 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.

Policies, Procedures and Protocols

EDCPC designs, develops, publishes, distributes, disseminates, implements, and regularly reviews and evaluates clear and robust multi-agency child protection policies, procedures, protocols and guidance. We ensure that these fit with current legislative frameworks and reflect the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) alongside existing and emerging key issues that inform our practice at local level.

In 2022-23 we have continued to review our policies, procedures, protocols and guidance in light of national updates and our local schedules. EDCPC prioritise the principals of the Promise, UNCRC and changes as a result of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2021) and National Child Protection Learning Reviews Guidance for Scotland (2021).

Alongside other CPC's in the West of Scotland, (North Strathclyde Partnership, Pan-Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire) East Dunbartonshire Child Protection Committee commissioned two independent consultants to write joint procedures which could be adapted locally. This process took place from May 2022 until June 2023. Through initial scoping and continued consultation with frontline practitioners, a decision was made to produce straightforward, accessible procedures which would be based online, utilising hyperlinks to regularly updated resources and the national guidance itself. From July to September 2023, EDCPC have been adapting the draft to our local processes and in October 2023 a final draft was agreed by EDCPC and published and is now live on our public protection website [Child Protection Process - Public Protection \(protectingpeopleeastdunbarton.org.uk\)](http://protectingpeopleeastdunbarton.org.uk)

Moreover, the EDCPC updated our local Learning Review guidance to be compliant with the updated national guidance. The CPC considered key lessons from completing our Learning Review for Child A in 2020, which informed the updated local guidance. The changes reflect the movement away from a 2-tiered system of review and has a stronger focus on learning lessons as an organisation, in a supportive and trauma-informed way. There is renewed focus on having a family engagement strategy and a plan for communication with the media.

The CPC now also has membership on the East Dunbartonshire Aces and Trauma Collaborative's (EDATC) Policies and Systems subgroup where the aim is to ensure all guidance, policies and protocols have trauma-informed principals. This will be a consideration for all new documents moving forward, with the support from the Improvement Service.

In 2022-23 the newly established Missing Persons Steering Group (MPSG) had its protocol reviewed by Missing People as part of their support in the third stage of their implementation programme. They provided assurances that our progress to date was positive and issued additional licenses for the online return discussion training, which has now been offered to wide range of partners in the local authority. This includes, social work, health, education, police and youth services. The MPSG now has two established subgroup's to focus on

children and families and adults separately. The 'CYP operational group' has developed a process to consider live cases of potential harm in the community with the aim of preventing further missing person episodes through bringing multi-agency partners together. In 2023-24 the group hope to pilot use of this process following confirmation of information sharing agreements.

Since November 2022 the MPSG have implemented use of the RESPECT programme which supports residential establishments to avoid unnecessary criminalisation and introduces the 'not at home' category. This has also introduced each establishment to their own single point of contact from Police Scotland who are responsible for reviewing any concerning 'not at home' episodes on a weekly basis and building supportive relationships with young people and staff. Representatives from the MPSG provided a presentation to the Missing People Good Practice conference in February 2023. In 2023-24 we will be supporting the Open University research evaluation review on the implementation of RESPECT in G division.

The work of EDCPC is engineered by its subgroups to ensure that the identified priorities are delivered. Each group is chaired by a member of the partnership and has delegated responsibility from the EDCPC. Each group is subject to regular scrutiny and has a set of priorities embedded in its work. Action plans are reported quarterly to EDCPC and to Chief Officers Group as required.

EDCPC subgroups

- Management Information Self Evaluation Sub Group,
- Joint Learning & Development Sub Group,
- Trafficking and Exploitation Sub Group,
- Joint Public Information and Communication Sub Group,
- Learning Review Sub Group.

Management of Information and Self Evaluation

As a partnership, we have a broad dataset, (The national Minimum Dataset) which is tracked and scrutinised, via the Management Information Self Evaluation Subgroup (MISE).

In 2022-23, our focus has been the introduction of the Minimum Dataset, (MDS) version 2. This newer dataset has supported us in further embedding the culture of self-evaluation and understanding what our data is telling us. We have expanded the membership of our MISE group to include the Community Mental Health Team and Alcohol and Drugs Recovery Service. We have also reached out to Housing colleagues, who will join the group in 2023-24. The new dataset has also prompted the inclusion of broader health and police data which supports our understanding of the efficacy of child protection processes.

One area of focus during 2022-23 has been to create a consultation programme for children young people and their families, which is accessible and the views have a mechanism to impact on practice. We have developed a series of online questionnaires which will go live in 2023-24. These include seeking views of children, young people, parents carers and professionals throughout the child protection process. These would seek to compliment the Mind of My Own App and the support of advocacy. We have created a pathway for the information to be reported and considered by the MISE group for any service improvement to be considered.

Another priority area has been the introduction and embedding of the rolling IRD audit programme. We have adopted elements learned during the Children at Risk of Harm inspection case file read and have an established process of in-person audits, hosted by the Police and coordinated by Performance and Research. As a direct result of these audits, we have successfully added Education to the IRD process as standard. We have also been able to see improvement in the completion of paperwork and information provided to services in relation to recording of disclosures of abuse.

During the Children at Risk of Harm Inspection which commenced September 2022 and finished April 2023, the MISE group were able to demonstrate the high level of self-evaluation and scrutiny practice and the work of the group was seen as an area of good practice. As highlighted in the CARH inspection report, the priority moving forward is to ensure we can evidence outcomes are being achieved for children and families. The MISE group have updated their action plan to reflect the actions from the inspection and ensure a rolling quality assurance calendar is embedded.

In 2023-24 we will embark on our biennial large scale case file audit which will focus on understanding our early help approaches by reviewing child protection referrals which do not progress to investigation. This will be pertinent in understanding the needs of services and sharing good practice.

Learning and Development Subgroup

During the 2022-23 we moved from full online delivery of training using a secure Microsoft Teams platform to a hybrid delivery of training courses, with a mixture of courses being offered face to face and online. In general, the shorter courses which focussed on sharing

information remained online. Courses requiring a level of interaction and group discussion were prioritised for face-to-face delivery.

There continues to be a level of no-show activity which appears to be, in part, explained by the move to in person training and participants adapting to the additional time needed to attend, as well as the impact of the multi-agency CARH inspection between September 2022 and April 2023.

Between August 2022 and June 2023, the CPC held **46 learning opportunities**, a mixture of multi-agency opportunities advertised on the multi-agency calendar and in-house targeted agency briefings/events. Whilst this was a slight reduction in the number of opportunities, the number of participants has increased and the breadth of services engaging in the training has increased, demonstrating a more efficient mechanism of sharing information and learning.

Assessment of Care Toolkit

In 2021-22 we trained 6 trainers (health and social work) to facilitate training on the Assessment of Care Toolkit. In 2022-23 we embedded the delivery of programme into the Joint L and D Training calendar. **4** full day sessions were offered to Health Visitors / School Nurses and Children and Families Social Workers directly with an additional **2** half day sessions delivered to the wider multi-agency audience. A smaller number of the participants for the full day course are outstanding and will be prioritised in 2023-24. Moving into 2023-24, we are finalising a framework around the Neglect AoC toolkit and its use in practice and have agreed for a further 4 full day sessions and 2 half day sessions to ensure Education, Early years, Community Support Team and Third Sector have access to the toolkit as part of our commitment to 'Right help, right time', ensuring it is the best person for the family who would be supporting this assessment.

Intensive Child Protection

A priority from 2022-23 was to further develop the core training pathway, creating a sequential route to achieving the appropriate Child Protection input depending on the practitioners' roles and responsibilities. This was achieved this year with the addition of the half day Intensive programme, delivered as a pilot in June 2023. It utilised a role-play approach using mock core groups and Child Protection Planning Meetings. The feedback was positive, and participants commented on feeling 'more prepared'.

Public Information and Communication Subgroup

EDCPC routinely works to improve levels of public awareness, understanding and knowledge of, and confidence in child protection systems. As a legacy of the restrictions posed by the pandemic, we have adapted to increasing our use of Twitter, Facebook and other platforms to share public information about child protection.

We have promoted and supported CPC Scotland's ongoing media campaigns as well as sharing key public protection messages in a strategic way using existing national and local days of focus, including Internet Safety Day and 16 days of action.

However the focus of this subgroup in 2022-23 has been the creation and implementation of the Public Protection Website which went live in November 2022. The website provides a 'one-stop shop' of information and guidance for children, young people, parents, carers and professionals. Our leaflets, annual reports and multi-agency procedures can be found here. [Public Protection - Public Protection \(protectingpeopleeastdunbarton.org.uk\)](https://protectingpeopleeastdunbarton.org.uk). It should be

noted that on monitoring the traffic we have steady increase in the hits to website. This will continue to be monitored and the content updated as part of our annual action plan.

Learning Review Subgroup

Following completion of a Learning Review in 2021-22 on Child A, several learning and development areas were identified. As well as 3 sessions specific to the Learning Review itself, there was also an in person half day session targeted at multi-agency managers and frontline practitioners on Child A, the lessons learned and also had a focus on the progress of the action plan. Feedback from the in-person session was positive. Whilst participants welcomed the positive approach, some commented on wanting more opportunities to have time to work alongside colleagues to understand multi-agency practice issues. The Learning Review subgroup has therefore agreed to put on a further 2 in person sessions in 2023-24.

Following Child A learning review we have added training on the following as standard into the training calendar:

- Multi-agency Chronologies
- Introduction to Alternative and Augmentative Communication

As well as developing and delivering a bespoke Disability and Child Protection session to the new school for children with additional support needs 'Woodland View', our core pathway training has been audited by the Disability Safeguarding Working Group to ensure the input on additional vulnerabilities in children with disabilities is sufficient. Outstanding for 2023-24 is the creation of a multi-agency training input on Working with Resistance.

Trafficking and Exploitation Subgroup

A training need which came from the Trafficking subgroup and work ongoing with Glasgow HSCP resulted in a second training course in 2022 on Trafficking and NRM, directed at frontline practitioners. Participants who responded to evaluation recorded an increase in knowledge on the area and the conversation about the use of the NRM has continued within team meetings and within the subgroup itself. The group is keen for awareness raising sessions to remain on the calendar for 2023-24 to reach a wider multi-agency audience as well as acknowledging anticipated changes to the NRM process in 2023-24.

The group would like to focus in 2023-24 on bringing together an action plan which reflects the national priorities and considers the local challenges we are facing, particularly in light of the increasing number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who we are supporting in East Dunbartonshire. Understanding the risks of trafficking and the processes we should use to support potential victims will be critical.

Children at Risk of Harm Inspection

On 26 September 2022 the Care Inspectorate wrote to the East Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership to advise that the Care Inspectorate, Education Scotland, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland and Healthcare Improvement Scotland would undertake a joint inspection of services for children at risk of harm in East Dunbartonshire.

The active phase of the inspection took place between October 2022 and February 2023 and the inspection report was published 18 April 2023. The report can be accessed in this link [Joint inspections of services for children and young people \(careinspectorate.com\)](https://www.careinspectorate.com/joint-inspections-of-services-for-children-and-young-people)

The inspection report highlights areas of good practice and areas for further development and concludes on an assessment grading for a single quality indicator 2.1, from the inspection framework, 'impact on children and young people'. The inspection report has graded the services in East Dunbartonshire as '**Good**'. An evaluation of good is applied where performance shows important strengths which clearly outweigh any areas for improvement. The strengths will have been assessed as having a significant positive impact on children and young people's experiences and outcomes.

Strengths and Good Practice

The report highlighted the following strengths and areas of good practice:

- Many children and young people said that they got the right help to make and keep loving relationships with those they cared about. We saw how some were being supported to maintain relationships with brothers and sisters, as well as with parents.
- Support for children's wellbeing, planning of care and provision of good nurturing relationships was rated as good or better in regulated care inspections.
- Almost all children and young people told us they felt safe where they lived all or most of the time. Asylum seeking young people felt well supported, safe and helped to maintain cultural links. Interpreters were provided for individual children or parents.
- Young people were being listened to about what mattered to them, felt involved and were aware of their rights. Many children and young people had the opportunity to develop consistent and enduring relationships with key staff.
- Children and young people had been directly engaged in service developments such as the House project. In other examples, including record keeping, they were influencing changes in practice.
- Staff we spoke with demonstrated a child-centred approach to providing services to improve the wellbeing of children and young people.
- Statutory and voluntary agencies were working well together to provide practical support for children, young people and their families. A range of services from pre-birth to teenage, provided early and effective intervention in response to emerging concerns.
- Children and young people had benefitted from their safety and wellbeing having been a key priority for leaders throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Areas for Improvement

Scope for improvement was identified in awareness and consistent availability of advocacy services, further opportunities for the voices of children who were, or had been, at risk of harm to inform strategic planning, scope to improve the quality of chronologies, waiting times

for access to specialist CAMHS services and scope to further develop analysis of impact and outcomes for children and their families.

The scrutiny partners concluded that they were confident that partners in East Dunbartonshire have the capacity to make changes to service delivery in the areas that require improvement. This was based on the following factors:

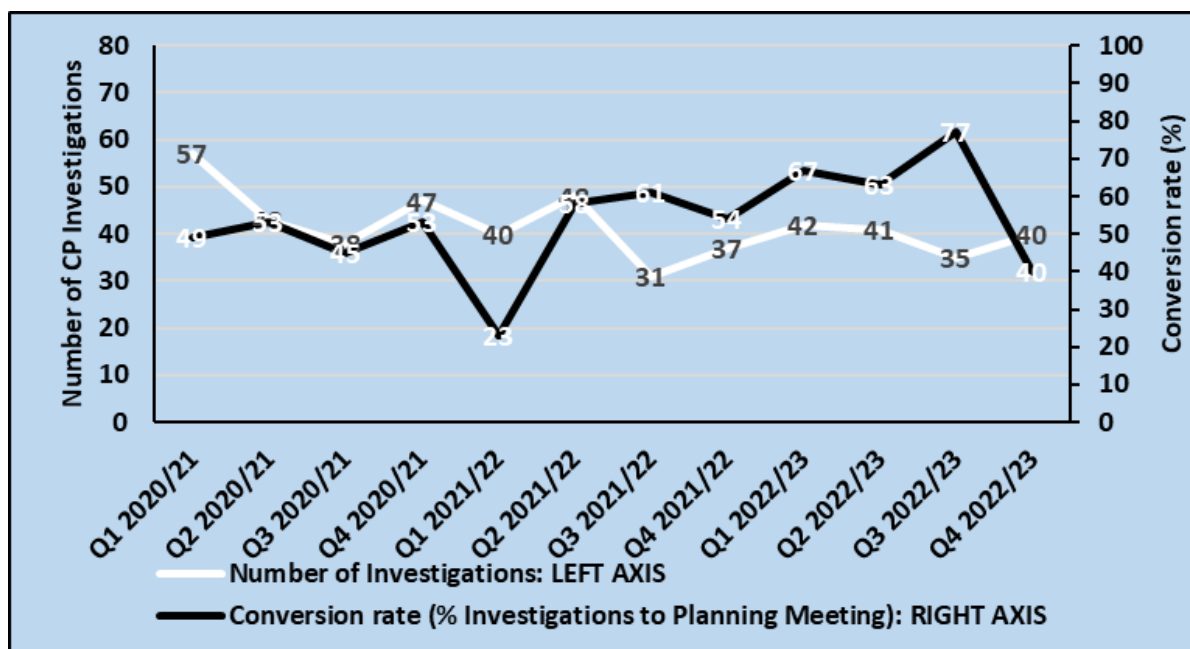
- Evidence of strong partnership working, and staff and leaders being committed to improving outcomes for children, young people and families.
- High levels of confidence from staff in their knowledge and abilities, supported by evidence from records reading.
- Similar levels of support from staff about their leaders' ability to continue to drive change and make improvements.
- Well-developed management information and self-evaluation practice capable of identifying areas for improvement and further action.
- Collaborative inter-agency practice, including the role of the third sector, providing services to children at risk of harm and their families.
- Recent commitments to changes in practice, including the introduction of the Safe and Together model, and an emphasis on trauma informed practice.
- The partnership's own self-evaluation had already identified many of the areas for improvement found by the inspection team, which showed that they knew themselves well and had a solid foundation to make improvements.

Annual Child Protection Statistics

It is the role and function of the MISE Subgroup, on behalf of EDCPC, to consider what the data tells us and how it can inform service delivery and improvement. Whilst the analysis below primarily happens at subgroup level, the wider committee has also been supported by the Performance and Research Advisor in 2022-23 to undertake some targeted scrutiny and discussion during CPC Business Plan development session in June 2023. EDCPC have agreed that this will continue during thematic committee meetings.

Investigation

Child Protection Investigations



Risk Factors at Investigation %

	YEAR 2020/21 LOCAL	Q1 21/22	Q2 21/22	Q3 21/22	Q4 21/22	YEAR 2021/22 LOCAL	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23
VULNERABILITY FACTORS										
Services finding it hard to engage	14%	10%	2%	32%	16%	13%	24%	22%	17%	3%
Child affected by Parent/Carer Learning Difficulty or Learning Disability	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	20%	0%
Child affected by Parent/Carer Mental Ill-Health	21%	20%	35%	32%	27%	29%	33%	34%	31%	33%
Child experiencing Mental Health Problems	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	0%
Domestic Abuse	38%	18%	38%	35%	30%	30%	40%	34%	26%	30%

Parental Alcohol Use	21%	10%	40%	13 %	24%	23%	24%	37%	17%	20%
Parental Drug Use	11%	0%	2%	29 %	27%	13%	12%	27%	20%	8%
Child displaying Harmful Sexual Behaviour	NEW	NEW	NEW	NE W	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	5%
Online Safety	NEW	NEW	NEW	NE W	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	5%
IMPACTS ON / ABUSE OF THE CHILD										
Physical Abuse	56%	65%	52%	77 %	49%	60%	40%	29%	71%	50%
Emotional Abuse	36%	50%	29%	26 %	27%	33%	48%	63%	71%	55%
Sexual Abuse	14%	10%	2%	6%	8%	6%	5%	7%	0%	13%
Criminal Exploitation	NEW	NEW	NEW	NE W	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	0%
Child Trafficking	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Neglect	15%	25%	17%	23 %	30%	23%	33%	34%	37%	25%
Female Genital Mutilation	NEW	NEW	NEW	NE W	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	0%
Honour-based abuse and Forced Marriage	NEW	NEW	NEW	NE W	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	0%
Child Sexual Exploitation	4%	0%	0%	0%	14%	3%	7%	0%	0%	0%
Internet-enabled Sexual Offending	NEW	NEW	NEW	NE W	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	3%	0%
Underage Sex	NEW	NEW	NEW	NE W	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Concern(s)	9%	5%	10%	3%	14%	8%	7%	10%	3%	13%
TOTAL NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS	185	40	48	31	37	156	42	41	35	40

Investigation by Source

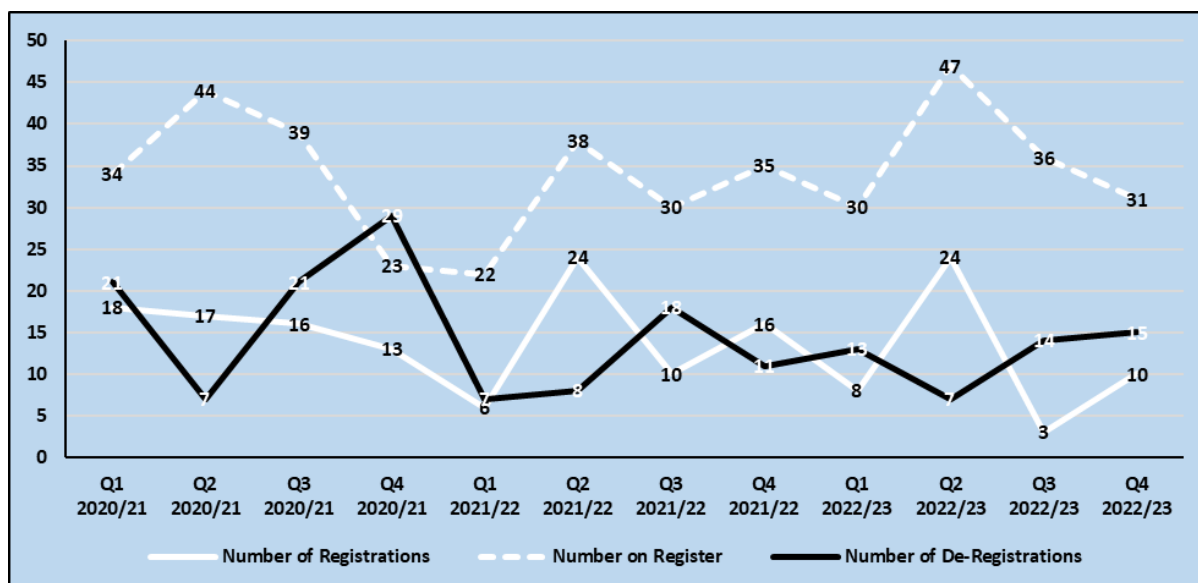
	2020-21			2021-22					2022-23				
	Feb-Apr	May-Jul	Year	Aug-Oct	Nov-Jan	Feb-Apr	May-Jul	Year	Aug-Oct	Nov-Jan	Feb-Apr	May-Jul	Year
Education	2	10	39	16	2	6	6	30	6	17	9	4	36
Health	6	3	20	4	3	2	2	11	6	5	3	1	15
Police	9	20	54	6	23	7	14	50	11	13	20	20	64
Social Work	9	13	42	10	14	7	12	43	8	6	3	13	30
Housing	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	12	1	27	4	6	9	3	22	11	0	0	2	13
Total	38	47	185	40	48	31	37	156	42	41	35	40	158

- With the exception of Q2, Police continue to be the highest source of referral. Education are the next highest source of referral followed by social work.
- Health have seen decreases over the last two quarters.
- In Q2 and Q3 there was a significant drop in referrals from the 'other' source following a few years of this source seeing an increase. It was thought to be as a result of social media campaigns and flyer drops. We will monitor this in 2023-24 and adjust public communication plans accordingly

- Action has been taken to make links with Housing to understand the lack of referrals over the last two years.
- The conversion rate from Investigation to Child Protection Planning Meeting was 40% in Q4, considerably lower than most other quarters shown. (p.5) This will be an area of further consideration in 2023-24
- Emotional abuse is the highest recorded category in 2022-23, closely followed by physical abuse, domestic abuse and neglect.
- In 2022-23 we saw use of the new categories of child displaying harmful sexual behaviour and online safety as well as internet-enabled sexual offending and child affected by parent or carer with a learning difficulty or disability.
- It is positive to see emotional abuse identified alongside other categories of concern. The MISE group would like further insight into parental mental ill-health and whether this would be the primary concern in any referrals. This will be considered within a future data exercise to determine any training needs.

Registration

Case Conference to Registration



Risk Factors at Registration %

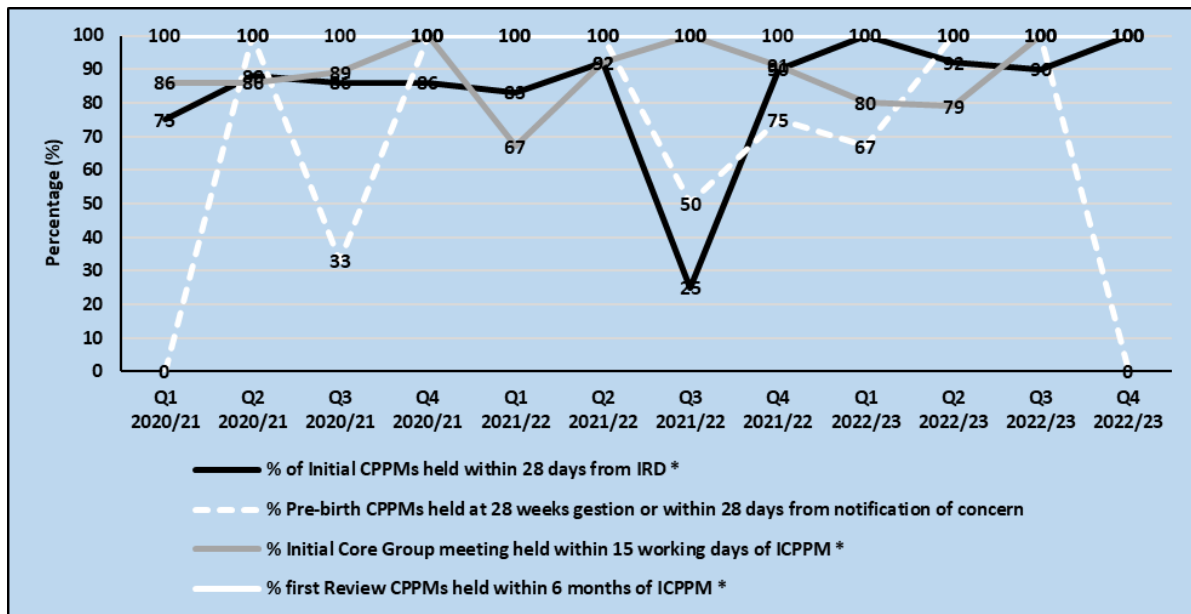
	Q1 21/22	Q2 21/22	Q3 21/22	Q4 21/22	YEAR 2021/22 LOCAL	YEAR 2021/22 SCOTLAND	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23
VULNERABILITY FACTORS										
Services finding it hard to engage	100%	17%	50%	62%	45%	23%	50%	21%	33%	10%
Child affected by Parent/Carer Learning Difficulty or Learning Disability	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	0%
Child affected by Parent/Carer	33%	46%	70%	69%	55%	41%	75%	54%	0%	30%

Mental Ill-Health										
Child experiencing Mental Health Problems	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	0%
Domestic Abuse	67%	42%	40%	62%	50%	46%	50%	50%	0%	40%
Parental Alcohol Use	0%	75%	0%	37%	43%	21%	25%	38%	0%	20%
Parental Drug Use	50%	13%	50%	50%	34%	30%	50%	42%	33%	10%
Child displaying Harmful Sexual Behaviour	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	0%
Online Safety	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	0%
IMPACTS ON / ABUSE OF THE CHILD										
Physical Abuse	0%	58%	80%	6%	41%	24%	38%	17%	67%	60%
Emotional Abuse	83%	71%	30%	37%	55%	38%	50%	83%	67%	70%
Sexual Abuse	33%	0%	0%	0%	4%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Criminal Exploitation	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	0%
Child Trafficking	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Neglect	33%	46%	60%	56%	50%	43%	38%	46%	33%	70%
Female Genital Mutilation	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	0%
Honour-based abuse and Forced Marriage	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	0%
Child Sexual Exploitation	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Internet-enabled Sexual Offending	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	0%
Underage Sex	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Concern(s)	17%	0%	10%	0%	4%	18%	0%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS	6	24	10	16	56	3,286	8	24	3	10

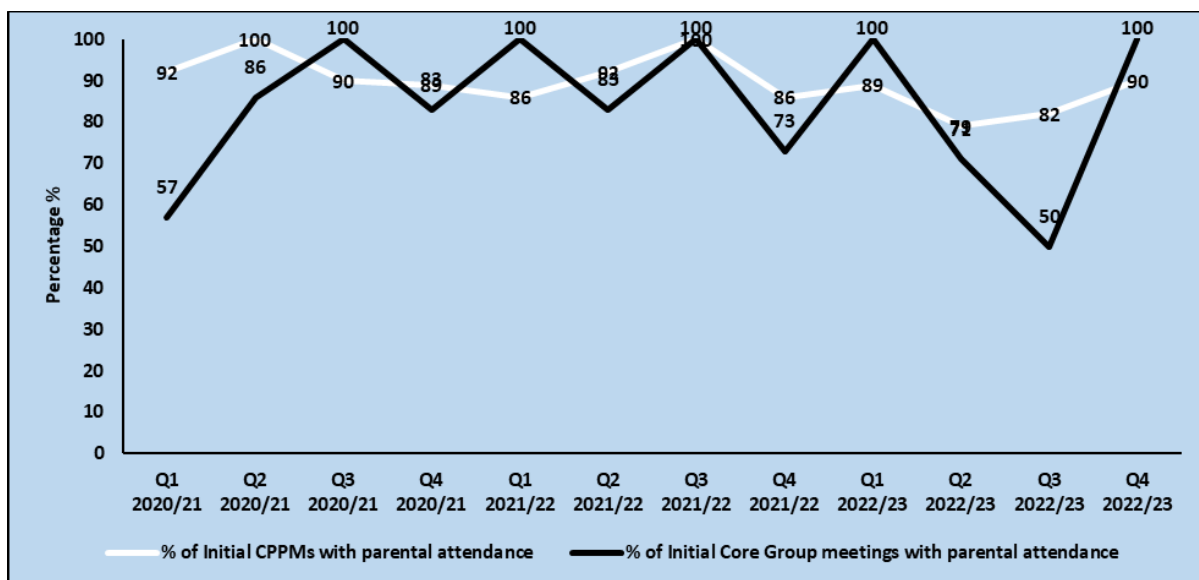
- Conversion rates in 2022-23 show a significant decrease in the last quarter showing that less children who were taken to Child Protection Planning Meeting (formally case conference) were registered. Further audit work in 2023-24 will monitor this shift more closely and make any recommendations to the CPC if necessary.
- Neglect identified at registration is now at the highest seen in the last 3 years. This is positive when linked to the training and introduction of the Assessment of Care Toolkit in 2022/23. There is now a need to ensure that all cases where neglect is identified have an Assessment of Care completed and outcomes monitored through Core Groups.

Timescales

Timescales continue to be good. The last quarter in particular shows that all initial planning meetings, reviews and initial core groups were held within timescales.



Parental Attendance and Consultation



- Parental attendance at initial planning meetings and core groups is consistently high with one drop noted in Q3. Parents are offered the opportunity to provide feedback after child protection planning meetings and most felt supported during the CP process and had their rights explained.
- Q4 saw one school aged child attending their CPPM with 4 children being supported to submit reports.
- An area of focus in 2023-24 is introducing our more robust consultation process. We will look more closely at the reasons why children have not shared their views at CPPM.

Our Achievements

Reflecting on the previous EDCPC Business Plan we have completed a number of self-evaluation tasks and developed further how we deliver child protection support to children, young people and their families including;

- Implemented IRD rolling audit programme
- Participated in the Children at Risk of Harm Audit.
- Implemented MDS 2 and extended the membership of the MISE group
- ED CPC business plan workshop
- Worked with partners across the West of Scotland to produce Child Protection Procedures
- Created a range of consultation tools to reflect views during Child Protection Planning Meetings
- Hosted large-scale learning events
- Implementation of Assessment of Care Training

Looking ahead, our priorities continue to be:

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.

The Voice of Children and Young People – In 2023-24 one of our commitments is to ensure we hear the voices of all of the people who participate in the child protection process, including children, parents, carers and professionals. We aim to embed our draft consultation process which would see families being offered some choice as to how they participate in consultation opportunities, with a choice of online forms, the MOMO app and telephone calls. This will support us to work towards enabling a culture of working that routinely seeks out and reflects the voices of children and young people. Further to this in 2023-24 we aim to explore with children, families and professionals the use of language in the reports we write and in the way we explain processes to work towards embedding further the principals of the Promise, in working alongside families.

Getting the Basics Right - Whilst committed to driving change and innovation, EDCPC is aware that good practice begins with getting the basics right. We will maintain a focus on ensuring that such basic principles are embedded in our work. This will include an emphasis on issues such as the effectiveness of multi-agency meetings, ensuring that not only that the right agencies attend, but that they send the right people and share relevant information. We will further our commitment to improving understanding, identification and response to neglect, the timeliness of engagement, maintaining good records and the application of strong visible leadership.

The Appetite to Learn – As the CARH inspection highlighted we have a strong quality assurance framework in EDC and commitment to service improvement. In 2023-24 we will strengthen our audit activity by embedding further our learning and improvement strategy and place emphasis on sharing the lessons we learn from practice through regular briefings and training opportunities and commitment to providing updates through seasonal newsletters and the exploration of online modules. We will also continue to consider the learning and development needs of the wider workforce, with a particular emphasis on supporting the workforce to become trauma-informed.

Vulnerability & Making the Invisible Visible – In 2023-24 we aim to understand the needs of children and continue to use our data to understand what vulnerability looks like in EDC to enable us to mitigate and prevent harm. This will include supporting early help approaches and processes, particularly in consideration of the refreshed GIRFEC guidance. This will also include the work of the Missing Steering Group and operational group in working towards a greater understanding of vulnerabilities outside the home, in our communities and in peer networks.