
Report to: Audit and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 June 2025

**Subject: Clackmannanshire Child Protection Committee Annual Report
2023-24**

Report by: Child Protection Lead Officer

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. To present the Clackmannanshire Child Protection Committee Annual Report reflecting the reporting period for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 (attached as Appendix 1).

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that Audit and Scrutiny Committee:
- (i) Considers and notes the Clackmannanshire Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2023-24 (appended);
 - (ii) Notes that the Clackmannanshire Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2023-24 has been endorsed by the Public Protection Chief Officers group.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. The Clackmannanshire Child Protection Committee is the local inter-agency strategic planning partnership responsible for developing and implementing child protection strategy, policy and practice across Clackmannanshire. Child Protection Committees must produce and publish an annual report, endorsed by Chief Officers, which sets out the work of the committee, delivery against key performance measures in that year as well as identified priorities for the year ahead.
- 3.2. The Clackmannanshire CPC Annual Report 2023-24 provides an overview of the ongoing multi-agency activity and work to keep children and young people in Clackmannanshire safe. The report highlights the key activities, improvements, and progress made by the multi-agency partnership, and offers assurance that multi-agency operational systems and processes are effective in identifying and supporting children at risk of harm.

3.3. The report covers:

- Key local performance data and trends.
- Range and impact of early intervention strategies.
- Efforts to involve children and young people in decisions about their care.
- Range of multi-agency child protection training and workforce development delivered.
- Progress on child protection national guidance implementation and The Promise.
- Collaborative initiatives such as the Respect Programme, Bairns' Hoose developments and implementation of the Scottish Child Investigative Model.
- Multi-agency audits, performance reviews, and quality assurance findings.

3.4. Key Points to highlight are:

- The reduction in the number of children subject to child protection referrals, attributed to the success of early intervention initiatives.
- Ongoing commitment to embedding child-centred, trauma-informed practice.
- Progress on delivering the CPC Strategic Improvement Plan 2023–2025.
- Children's views are actively sought and shaping service development (e.g. use of Viewpoint, "My Story," and youth involvement in the CPC logo design).
- National learning from learning reviews and audit activity continue to inform local practice improvements.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1. No direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. Financial Details – *No direct financial implications arising from the report*

5.2. Staffing – *No direct staffing implications arising from this report.*

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1 Is this report exempt? Yes ☐ (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No ☒

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) Our Priorities

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all ☒

Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life ☒

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential ☒

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish ☒

(2) Council Policies

Complies with relevant Council Policies ☒

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes ☐ No ☒

No full EIA is required as this report is for information and scrutiny.

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ☒

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Clackmannanshire Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2023-24

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)


Yes ☒ (please list the documents below) No ☐

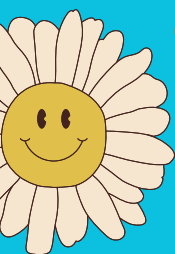
Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2023-24

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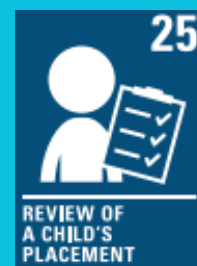
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CLACKMANNANSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE (CPC)

ANNUAL REPORT

CHILD FRIENDLY VERSION



Keeping Children Safe in Clackmannanshire 🌟

The report shares what Clackmannanshire is doing to make sure children are safe, healthy, and happy. Here's a quick look:

1. What Is This About?

It's all about making sure children are protected from harm and have the best possible future. The Child Protection Committee (CPC) works with schools, police, doctors, social workers, and other groups to keep children safe.

2. Why Is This Important?

Some children face tough challenges like neglect, abuse, or family problems. The CPC helps by making plans, listening to children's needs, and acting quickly when help is needed.

3. How Are Children Heard?

Children's views are super important! A special tool called Viewpoint lets children and young people share their feelings about their care and protection. There's also something called My Story, which helps children and young people keep memories and important documents safe.

4. What's Happened This Year?

- Helping Families Early: Social Work Early Help Team work with families before problems get worse.
- Listening to children & young people: they are part of decision-making, like designing the CPC logo!
- Better Interviews: Police and social workers use new ways to talk to children kindly and safely when there's trouble.

5. What Are the Big Goals?

- Teach everyone to protect children.
- Make sure plans and rules are clear and helpful.
- Use kind words children understand.

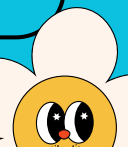
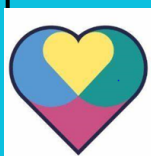
6. Fun Facts!

- Clackmannanshire is one of the smallest places in Scotland, but it has a big heart for children!
- Children and young people helped design the CPC's new logo.

What Can You Do?

Speak up if you're worried about a child.

Remember, it's everyone's job to keep children safe!



Clackmannanshire Child Protection Committee

Annual Report



2023-2024



Contents

Introduction by Independent Chair	2
Demographics	3
CPC Structure and Functions	4
Development Day	7
Obtaining Childs and Young Persons Views	10
Respect	11
Missing Person	12
UNCRC	13
Forth Valley Child Interview Team	14
Bairns Hoose	15
Clackmannanshire Children's Service Plan Annual Report 2023/24 (Learning & Development)	16
Quality Assurance and Performance Management	18
Initial Referral Discussions (IRDs)	19
Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)	20
Third Sector	21
Strategic Improvement Plan 2023-2025	22
Children's Services performance data 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024	34

Introduction by Independent Chair

As the Independent Chair of Clackmannanshire's Child Protection Committee, I am pleased to present our first Annual Report from the academic reporting period August 2023 to July 2024. This report provides an overview of the Child Protection Committee's (CPC) commitment to multi-agency collaboration, cooperation and recognises the excellent ongoing work in Clackmannanshire to identify and protect children and young people from abuse and neglect.

Clackmannanshire CPC has close working ties with the other public protection groups including Clackmannanshire and Stirling Adult Protection Committee, Violence Against Women and Girls, Community Justice and MAPPA. We acknowledge the benefit of working closely with Falkirk and Stirling's Child Protection Committee's as this ensures continuity of approaches and recognises the benefits for colleagues from Police Scotland, NHS and third sector with a Forth Valley remit.

The Annual Report contains both national and local child protection performance and management information, identifies national learning from learning reviews, and our audit activity. It provides us with evidence to support or review our policies and procedures and ultimately to monitor the impact of our work and if we are making a difference to the lives of children and young people in Clackmannanshire. We will continue to adapt and monitor our multiagency Risk Register that we review and update at every CPC. This information allows us to identify trends, practice issues and enables early intervention strategies.

I would like to thank all members of the Clackmannanshire CPC for their dedication, commitment and support over the past year and look forward to continuing with the emphasis of aspiring to make Clackmannanshire a welcoming safe community for children, young people and families.



Cecilia Meechan

Independent Chair,
Clackmannanshire Child Protection Committee

Demographics

Clackmannanshire is one of the smallest mainland councils in Scotland, covering an area of 61.4 square miles, with 292 kilometres of road, and classed as semi-rural. The population of Clackmannanshire is 51,750 and of which 9,909 are children aged 0-17 years.

Clackmannanshire has 18 publicly funded primary schools, 3 publicly funded secondary schools, 2 Special Schools [Secondary School Support Service & Lochies], 4 Specialist Provisions [Alloa Academy [EASN], Alva Academy [ASD], Alva PS [ASD] & Primary School Support Service] and 4 standalone Early Learning & Childcare [ELC] establishments.

The proportion of children and young people is also slightly higher than average – 19.1% aged under 18, while this is 18.5% across Scotland.

29.2% of children in Clackmannanshire live in poverty (after housing costs); the 2nd highest rate in Scotland, where the overall result is 21.8%. Despite this, however, 82.5% of children are meeting their developmental milestones compared to 82.1% across Scotland.

225 children were being cared for by the Council (July 2023), representing 2.3% of under 18-year-olds and higher than the Scottish rate of 1.2%. As the same point, the rate of children on the Child Protection Register (per 1,000 children aged under 16) was 1.7; below the Scottish rate of 2.3.

77% of primary school pupils and 21% of secondary school pupils are registered for Free School Meals compared to the previous year [63.7% and 18.7%].

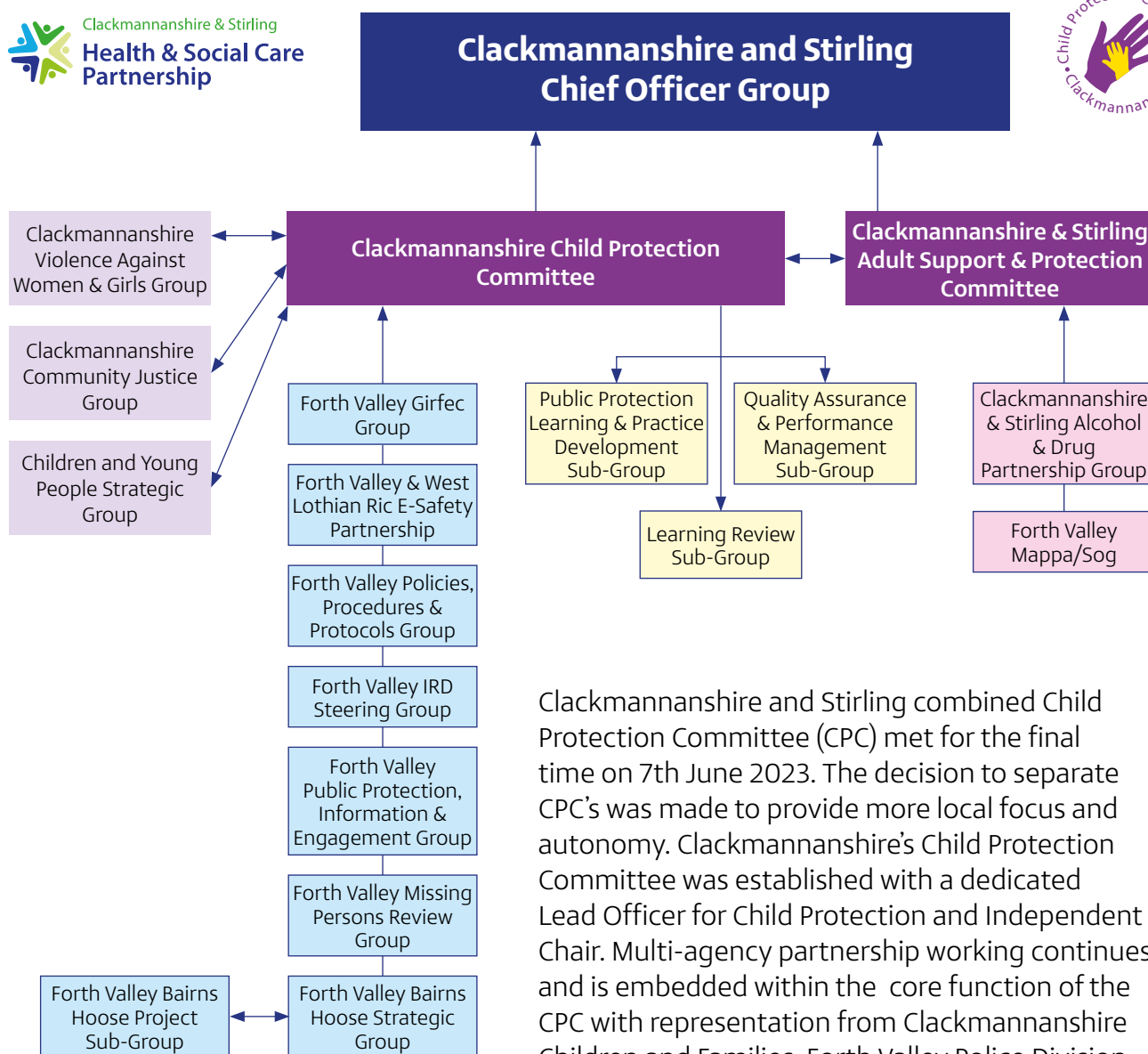
26.7% of primary school pupils and 38.2% of secondary school pupils have additional educational support needs.

School attendance rates are higher than average – 91.0% for all children & young people and 86.1% for those who are care experienced, with Scottish rates of 90.2% and 84.4%, respectively.

The academic attainment gap between the most and least deprived areas has reduced. In primary schools, we are close to the Scottish average for numeracy and have the 4th lowest gap for literacy. In secondary schools, however, attainment remain below average, including in deprived areas.



CPC Structure and Functions



Clackmannanshire and Stirling combined Child Protection Committee (CPC) met for the final time on 7th June 2023. The decision to separate CPC's was made to provide more local focus and autonomy. Clackmannanshire's Child Protection Committee was established with a dedicated Lead Officer for Child Protection and Independent Chair. Multi-agency partnership working continues and is embedded within the core function of the CPC with representation from Clackmannanshire Children and Families, Forth Valley Police Division, NHS Forth Valley, Education, Scottish Child Reporter Administration, Third Sector, Violence Against Women and Girls, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Care Inspectorate, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Adult, Support and Protection Lead Officer and Public Protection Learning and Development Advisor.

Clackmannanshire's CPC set out its functions, as per the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, 2021 (updated 2023), continuous improvement, strategic planning, public information and communication. These core business functions, as applied to local needs and practice, provide a working framework for the CPC Improvement Plan 2023 to 2025:

Continuous Improvement

- Policies, procedures and protocols
- Self-evaluation, performance management and quality assurance
- Promoting good practice including learning from local and national case reviews.
- Training and staff development

Strategic Planning

- Communication, collaboration and co-operation
- Making and maintaining links with other planning for a
- Communicating, benchmarking and sharing resources and good practice with relevant partners and groups across Scotland

Public Information and Communication

- Raising public awareness
- Involving children and young people and their families through participation and in line with the Promise.

The CPC maintains and monitors a Multi-agency Risk Register and Implementation Plan which are based on local needs and areas of improvement identified through self-evaluation and the implementation of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021, updated 2023. The implementation plan details:

- The partnership should fully embed quality assurance and self-evaluation processes for child protection.
- The partnership's workforce and child protection processes and guidance are trauma informed
- Coordination and continuity of support for each vulnerable young person at risk of harm, as they make their transitions to adult life and services.
- Contextual Safeguarding (extra familial harm) being embedded within Clackmannanshire with partner agencies.
- Practitioners involved in Child Protection work are skilled and confident in applying the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021, updated 2023.
- Children views are sought listened to and acted upon with child friendly communication tools. They have a choice on how their views are shared in Child Protection processes.
- Continuous improvement from Learning Reviews, both locally and nationally.
- Improve the rights of children and young people who are in looked after and in care in line with The Promise.



CPC Logo

In line with involving children and young people suggestions were sought from local secondary school children on the design of a new Child Protection Committee logo to provide its own identity on all local and regional partnership policies and guidance documents. Alva Academy pupil Abby Dowell's design was selected by the committee as the new logo and she received a certificate of thanks for her work at the CPC Development day on the 28th May, 2024 at Alloa Town Hall.



Councillor Ellen Forson, Leader of Clackmannanshire Council, Abby Dowell and Sharon Robertson, Chief Social Work Officer for Clackmannanshire Council

Development Day

Multi-agency collective learning is at the heart of Clackmannanshire Child Protection Committee and a development day was held at Alloa Town Hall on the 28th May, 2024. Multi-agency partners including social work, police, health, education and third sector attended the event which was hosted by Jim Young, Lead Officer for Child Protection and Cecilia Meechan the Independent Chair of Clackmannanshire Child Protection Committee



From left to right: Clackmannanshire Community Inspector Nicky Collison, Graeme Armstrong, Chief Social Worker Sharon Robertson and Jim Young, Clackmannanshire Lead Officer for Child Protection.

The theme of the event was to explore youth violence, substance use as well as how domestic abuse affects young people, to understand the impact and to look at what we can do collaboratively to reduce this.

Graeme Armstrong, author of the Young Team novel and creator of the BBC Documentary 'Street Gangs' (which you can view on BBC Iplayer) delivered a presentation on Street Belonging: Violence, Connection and Healing. This was a hard-hitting talk which dealt with serious violence, suicide, drug deaths and it was acknowledged that this can be emotional for those with lived / living experience. Graeme held a Q & A session at the end of his talk.

Representatives from both Clackmannanshire and Stirling's Women's Aid also provided an informative and sobering insight into domestic violence and how it affects children and the support available in Clackmannanshire.

Quality Assurance and Self-Evaluation

In October 2023, Clackmannanshire Child Protection Committee submitted a self-evaluation to the Scottish Government updating them on our progress of implementing the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021, updated 2023. Areas for improvement helped formulate the CPC implementation plan which is a work in progress for all CPC members.

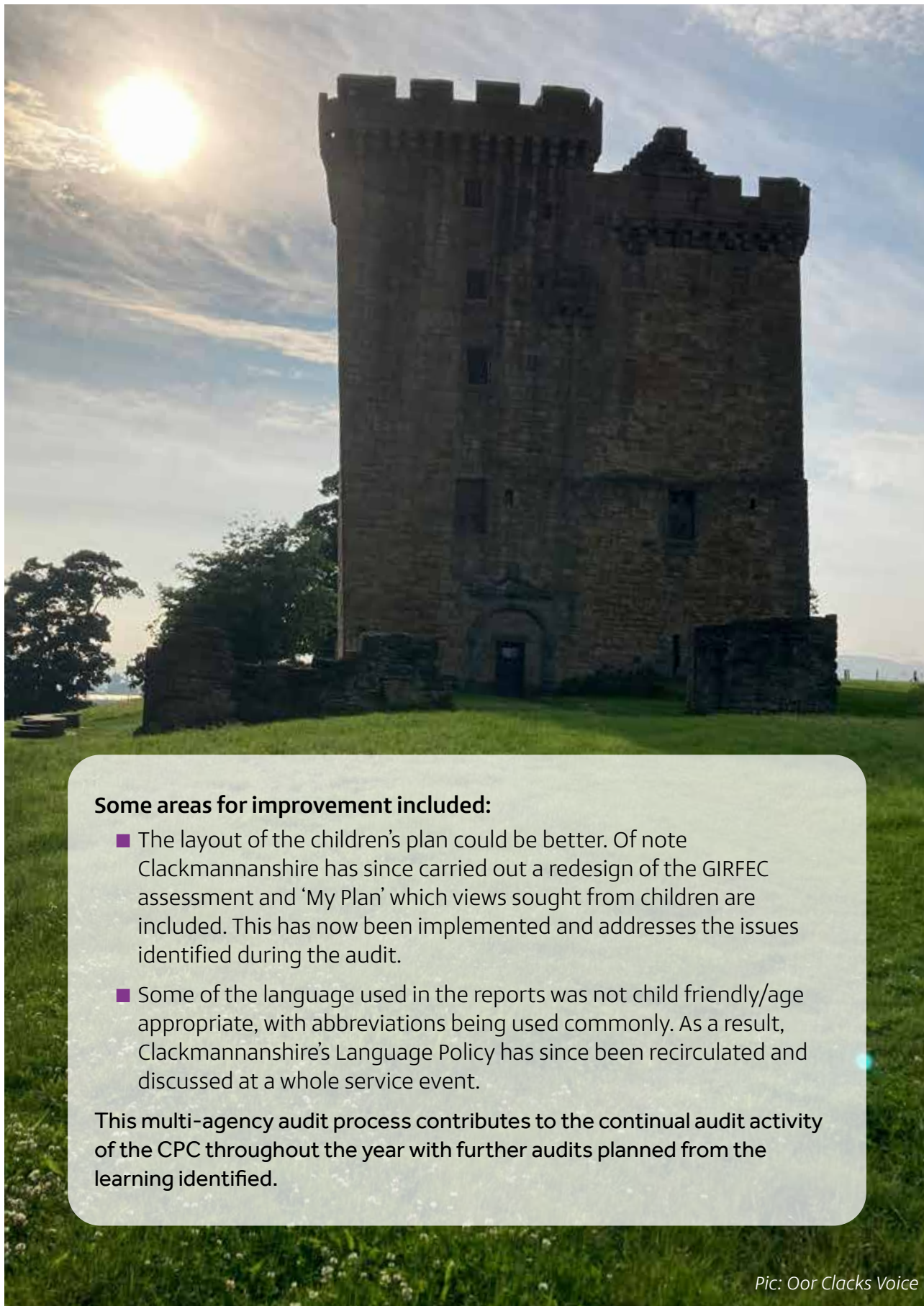
In February 2024 a multi-agency audit of children who were identified as 'at risk of harm', took place involving a Review Team consisting of core agencies namely Forth Valley Police Division, NHS Forth Valley, Clackmannanshire Education and Children Services Social Work. The purpose of this quality assurance review was to demonstrate compliance with recognised national and local child protection standards and to highlight any learning opportunities for all CPC partners; highlighting key strengths and identifying areas for improvement. The focus was children / young people who were the subject of an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion (IRD), and a child protection concern had been raised.

Prior to the review being undertaken, a training session was held for the Review Team. Care Inspectorate Strategic Inspectors provided a training session on the Care Inspectorate's (Care Inspectorate: A quality framework for children and young people in need of care and protection. (Revised November 2022) this was used to benchmark the findings. This included the record reading template and guidance to be used. The Review Team used the Care Inspectorate's 6-point evaluation grading scale, ranging from Excellent to Unsatisfactory. Two secondary school deputy Head teachers who were not part of the Review Team also attended the training and found this beneficial.

Information reviewed included minutes of IRD meetings, Child Assessments, Plans and agency chronologies from Health, Police and Social Work. No children, young people or families were involved in this multi-agency review; although information and advice leaflets for children, young people and their families were made available and provided to them, in advance of the review, by the Lead Professionals (Social Workers). 41 separate reviews were carried out as part of the audit.

Some of the key Strengths identified during the audit included:

- There was evidence of really good multi-agency working throughout.
- The quality of the initial multi-agency response to the notification of concern and eIRD (electronic Inter-agency discussion) was deemed mostly very good, excellent or good.
- The overall quality of the follow up of concerns to a child were mostly very good, good or adequate.
- The overall quality of the multi-agency meeting for the child was mostly very good, good or adequate.
- Meetings in the majority were being held on time which is a great benefit to the Child Protection process and children and families involved.
- The quality of the assessment of needs, protective concerns and risks were again mostly very good, good or adequate.
- Multi-agency chronologies were on a whole good.
- The quality of the children's plan were very good, good or adequate.
- The quality of reviews were mostly very good with one recorded as good and one as adequate.
- How well the child has been listened to, views documents and heard, and included by staff was positive but more mixed. Either very good, good or adequate with some areas for improvement This was a similar picture to parents and carers.
- The evaluation of the effectiveness of the work carried out to reduce the risks of abuse and/or neglect to the child was very positive. It was either very good, good, or adequate.



Some areas for improvement included:

- The layout of the children's plan could be better. Of note Clackmannanshire has since carried out a redesign of the GIRFEC assessment and 'My Plan' which views sought from children are included. This has now been implemented and addresses the issues identified during the audit.
- Some of the language used in the reports was not child friendly/age appropriate, with abbreviations being used commonly. As a result, Clackmannanshire's Language Policy has since been recirculated and discussed at a whole service event.

This multi-agency audit process contributes to the continual audit activity of the CPC throughout the year with further audits planned from the learning identified.

Pic: Oor Clacks Voice

Obtaining Childs and Young Persons Views

Viewpoint is a communication tool which has been implemented in Clackmannanshire to seek the views of looked after children at key points in their lives such as when attending review meetings. Viewpoint are questions based on Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) and SHANARRI wellbeing indicators and is also United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) compliant and reflects certain articles.

In 2023 Clack's CPC supported the decision to extend the use of Viewpoint to children going through Child Protection processes and/or working with children services regarding their wellbeing. The question sets were reviewed by children's services staff with some minor changes made by Viewpoint to ensure they were more current and child friendly in language. Not all children want to provide their views using Viewpoint and may prefer providing this verbally prior to and at meetings which is supported but workers are encouraged to offer this service.

39 additional staff were trained in the use of Viewpoint in 2024 including the new Independent Review Officers who would be chairing many of the meetings that children's views would be sought beforehand. Further training has been organised for new members of staff early 2025.

Expanding the use of 'My Story' has also been a focus of Viewpoint. It provides children and young people with digital access to their life story, all their memories and documents in a very secure and private way. Each young person has an individual account which is accessible if they change where they're living and into the future even when they leave care.

**Have your say!
Get Heard!**

what's important to you?

Use the QR code, or
Click on [myView wellbeing](#)

Use your phone, tablet or laptop

*'It's a better way of communicating'
'Helps me discuss my feelings'
'lets you write down stuff instead of talking face to face'
'I can write down my thoughts and feelings better than I can say them.'
'helps if you are shy in front of people and too scared to say what you feel'*

Select start **My Wellbeing (Young Person)** **Start**

Click on one of the pictures to choose the display you prefer. One with avatars and different background pictures or a plainer version. Click on the speaker buttons in both versions to hear text

Click on this arrow at side of the screen to show the console.

You can change:

- the background and the avatar
- text size and colour, and
- type additional comments in the notepad box

You are asked about how things are going for you. What is going well and what not so well. Select an option and click on forward arrow and your answer is saved. The % button shows progress.

At the end, your view about how things are going is displayed in a picture with your responses shown below. You will have a chance to talk about what's going well and not so well, what is most important to you and your priorities for change and improvement. Some young people find it helpful to use this report to help them talk about what they want at any meetings about their care and support.

For Viewpoint helpdesk email helpdesk@vptorg.com

Respect

The Respect Programme is a partnership approach designed to ensure a more appropriate and trauma-informed approach to children and young people in residential care who go missing and strengthen police, education, social work and care staff interactions with children and young people in these settings, with a view to improving relationships, reducing missing episodes and delivering better outcomes for children.

It seeks to align any police response with that which would be expected for a child or young person in a more 'traditional' family home, reducing formal contact between police officers and care experienced children and young people, and ensure that instances of minor crime or "not at home" periods are dealt with in the most appropriate way by care staff.

Respect Programme Training on the principles took place in March 2024 with Clacks Community Officers and Woodside children's house staff and was well received. Guidance for Forth Valley has been developed and an agreed implementation date to roll out this transformative piece of work is expected in the coming months. Community Officers visit Woodside on a weekly basis providing advice and support to staff and young people with the principles of the approach already becoming embedded. The regular communication and good relationships that exist between community officers and staff and young people at Woodside has had an additional benefit to ensure that concerns about young people's safety or behaviour within the community is identified at an earlier stage to ensure that young people can receive timely support and guidance.

The principles of the Respect Programme were taken to the Oor Clacks Voices which is a group for care experienced children in Clackmannanshire that provides a voice on policy and procedures that affect them and other children. They endorsed the Respect Programme.



**Scotland made a promise to care
experienced children and young
people. You will grow up loved
safe and respected and by 2030
that Promise must be kept.**

Missing Person

During 2023 and 2024 Forth Valley partnership which includes Clackmannanshire Children's Services and Lead Officer have been working on a Forth Valley Missing Person Protocol. The Respect Programme has been embedded into this protocol after agreement from all three Forth Valley CPC's. The partnership had taken guidance and training from the Missing Persons charity on return discussions. The decision as to who undertakes the return discussion is now more trauma informed with the traced person now identifying who they would want to have that discussion with. It is believed this is more trauma informed and will help identify better supports that the person requires. The Forth Valley Missing Persons Protocol will soon be published.

A new scheme was introduced by Police Scotland known as the Philomena Protocol aimed at ensuring officers can trace children and young people reported missing in a timelier fashion. The protocol is primarily targeted towards children and young people living in care facilities and with foster carers. It encourages staff, families, and friends to compile a standardised form of useful information which could be used in the event of a young person going missing. The local Community Policing Team has a good working relationship with the staff at the children's care home in Clackmannanshire, who has adopted this protocol. This greatly assists police if or when a young person is reported missing, or were at risk of going missing, that they receive support from the most appropriate agency.



Philomena Protocol Form

The Philomena Protocol is an information gathering tool to assist the police to find a young person, who is been reported missing from a care setting as quickly as possible.

Please fill in these sections and keep the form in a safe place where it can be easily located if the person it refers to goes missing. If you are concerned about the whereabouts of the young person then you **must** contact the police on 999. Please tell the call handler you have a Philomena Protocol Form.

This form is designed to be completed by a carer / care staff.

UNCRC

United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the underpinning, international agreement on children's rights and sets out the fundamental rights of all children. The UNCRC is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in the world and sets out the specific rights in a series of 54

interlinked, equally important Articles that all children should enjoy and be supported to fulfil their potential. These include rights relating to health and education, safety, leisure and play, fair and equal treatment, protection from exploitation and the right to be heard.

In July 2024 the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 became law. It means that public bodies like Councils must consider children's rights in any actions, decisions or service delivery.

UNCRC principles are already well engrained in our Child Protection processes as detailed in the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, 2021, updated 2023 and the Forth Valley Inter-agency Child Protection Guidance 2023. The UNCRC Articles also underpin the national approach to GIRFEC - Getting It Right for Every Child - which has been incrementally implemented since first published in 2006.

To work towards compliance across all areas of Clackmannanshire Council, a UNCRC Short Life Working Group was set up with membership from Education, Housing, Children Services and Third Sector. The role of the group is to review our policies and procedures to ensure they are UNCRC compliant and to look at best practice across Scotland. Creating a Child Friendly front page to policies and procedures and a Council Child Friendly complaint process are two areas that the group will have established in 2024 amongst other work streams such as staff and community awareness of Children's Rights.



Forth Valley Child Interview Team

The Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) approach for joint investigative interviews with our Forth Valley partners came into effect in February 2024. This trauma-informed, best practice model is helping to improve the quality of the investigative process for children and young people who are at risk of harm. The approach ensures that all interviews take place in a safe, child friendly, age-appropriate way and that all children and their families receive the practical and emotional support they require to recover. The dedicated Forth Valley Child Interview Team consisting of Police Scotland and social work staff from the three local authorities, including Clackmannanshire, have been undertaking all Joint Investigative Interviews across Forth Valley. Staff feel confident and prepared when interviewing children and that their training and skills allow them to obtain and understand the views of the child in a far more sensitive manner. Feedback on SCIM implementation has been very positive, as identified from the 4 weekly multi-agency audits, where the Joint Investigative Interviews completed by the Forth Valley SCIM team were assessed as being more trauma informed, child centred and UNCRC compliant.

There has been 11 SCIM interviews for children and young people in Clackmannanshire since this new approach commenced on 12th February 2024.



Bairns Hoose

The Forth Valley Bairns' Hoose Strategic Group (a partnership with Police Scotland, NHS Forth Valley and the three Forth Valley Local Authorities) is at the early stage of development of creating a Bairns' Hoose model, a transformational, whole-system approach to delivering child protection, justice, and health support and services to child victims and witnesses of abuse and harm that ensures access to holistic, wrap-around, trauma-informed recovery, support and justice. This is based on the Icelandic model of 'Barnahus'.



In the absence of a standalone Forth Valley Bairns' Hoose, the Forth Valley Child Interview Team have been utilising 'The Meadows' in Larbert which brings together a number of services which provide support for people who have experienced trauma and provides children and young people a comfortable, safe and supportive space to carry out joint investigative (SCIM) interviews. A Bairn's Hoose Project subgroup has been established to progress this project with oversight by the Forth Valley Bairns' Hoose Strategic Group.

Forth Valley partnership submitted a development fund bid to the Scottish Government in March 2024 to request funding for a Project Manager/Coordinator/Admin support to carry out a feasibility study which is now ongoing due to the funding being awarded.



From left to right: Louisa Power, Forth Valley's Bairns Hoose Coordinator, Bragi Gudbrandsson the founder of Iceland's Barnahus Model and Jim Young, Clackmannanshire Lead Officer for Child Protection.

The partnership also submitted a Thematic bid in May, 2024, for funding of three thematic areas including independent evaluation of the current forensic services for children and young people, including how this was experienced by young people, review the knowledge/skills of practitioners in assessing the cognitive maturity & social circumstances of young people in regards to Bairns Hoose, and an independent review of the support children and young people's need during/after an incident and formal proceedings. Funding has also been approved for these three thematic areas. This will help shape how Forth Valley provides support to vulnerable young people/children through all aspects of interview and court processes, medical and therapeutic support.

Clackmannanshire Children's Service Plan Annual Report 2023/24 (Learning & Development)

Throughout 2023-24 we have continued to provide a comprehensive multi agency public protection training calendar which has included the multi agency training priorities outlined in our Multi agency Public Protection Learning & Practice Development Workforce Strategy 2020-23. These trainings have included:

- Monthly Child Protection for the General Contact Workforce
- Quarterly Child Protection Key Processes Roles & Responsibilities
- Bi annually Safe & Together Briefings and 4 - Day Core Practice
- Quarterly Impact of Parental Substance Use (IPSU)
- Quarterly Neglect Toolkit
- Thrice annually Child Protection IRD
- Thrice annually Multi agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Thrice annually Trigger Trio (Parental Substance use, Parental Mental ill Health and Domestic Abuse)
- Quarterly Identification of Need, Risk and Desired Outcomes (INRDO)
- Thrice annually Under Pressure

The attached table includes a breakdown of the Learning & Development stats both venue based and completed e-modules for 2023/24

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Number of Courses delivered	18	16	16	13
Attendance Multi -agency Child Protection Training	60	59	56	43
Total number of completed Child Protection related e-modules	167	63	49	19

NB: E-modules include the following: Child Protection for the General Contact Workforce, Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness, Criminal Exploitation across the Lifespan, Professional Curiosity and Challenge and Public Protection is Everyone's Responsibility.

**Feedback from those who attended venue you based training:
Which aspect of the training did you find most useful and why?**

Neglect Toolkit training – Participant Feedback

“The delivery and ability to walk through an example using the neglect assessment tool was an excellent way to be introduced to this useful working tool.”

Identification of Need, Risk and Desired Outcomes – Participant Feedback

“The use of a case study, really made you think about how you would use your current and then knowledge gained through the course in a real-life situation”.

Impact of Parental Substance use and Guidance – Participant Feedback

“Learning the way to carry out an IPSU, not in one appointment but across many appointments. The podcast from parent and worker is useful”

Child Protection for the General Contact Workforce – Participant Feedback

“Clarification around definitions and getting the legal overview and where legislation sits within that”.

Child Protection IRD – Participant Feedback

“Reviewing the case study as it meant I got to physically see what an IRD would look like”.

Pic: Oor Clacks Voice

Quality Assurance and Performance Management

The Quality Assurance and Performance Management subgroup at each quarterly year meeting assesses the child protection data as laid out by the National Minimum Dataset for Child Protection Committees in Scotland. The review for any trends and areas for learning and development and report to the Child Protection Committee and then the The Chief Officers Public Protection Group (COG).

Below is a summary for the period 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024:

There are 9,909 under 18 year old's residing in Clackmannanshire. There were 204 child welfare concerns in 2023/2024 a 17% reduction from 2022/23 where there were 247.

There were 110 child protection concern reports (number of children) in 2023/2024 which is a 23% reduction from 142 in 2022/23. This is a rate of 12.6 per 1000 0-15 years population. A reduction from last year where the rate was 15.9 in 2022/23. (A further reduction from 21/22 where it was 19.9 per 1,000 0-15 years).

Clackmannanshire Children Services redesign introduced the Early Help Team in 2023 which supports families at the earliest point when they first experience challenges therefore stopping problems from escalating. This we believe has contributed to the reduction in child protection reports being received due to the early intervention.

The Early Help team handles initial family support, ensuring only the most critical cases proceed to statutory services. They managed 63.5% of referrals in the year.

We use the data we collect to help us understand the needs of the community and tailor our approach in how we deliver services and training to multi-agency partners. Use of trauma-informed approaches like the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM), Viewpoint communication tool and a focus on strengthening family involvement through Family Group Decision Making are examples of this.

Domestic abuse has consistently been a factor for children being placed on the Child Protection Register which has resulted in an enhanced intervention effort made by all partners. The Justice Team in particular have strengthened early interventions through the referral process in Safeguarding Through Rapid Intervention (STRIVE) for non-court mandated intervention which is aimed at providing targeted support to prevent escalation and further harm whilst also providing appropriate safety planning. Specialist roles with the Women's and Perpetrator Support Workers co-funded by Police Scotland and Clackmannanshire Housing Services and further added to this by recruitment of an additional Women's/Tenancy Support Worker to assist vulnerable families. Other initiatives such as providing ring doorbells for enhanced safety for victims of domestic abuse are making a positive impact.

In 2023/2024, 37 couples who were involved in some kind of incident which attracted the attention of the police (non-criminal) involving conflict or potentially abusive behaviours, were referred by STRIVE with contact made (or attempted) with 74 people. A Men's Self Referral helpline, offering high quality evidenced based support to men who have concerns regarding their behaviours is operational with information posted through Clackmannanshire's social media and partner organisations. In 2023/24 Justice Services also ran a weekly Women's Group (co-facilitated with Women's Aid, SHINE and Apex) and a Road Traffic Group.

Education have also been pivotal in combatting domestic abuse. Within Clackmannanshire Schools, Clacks Courage is delivered by Clackmannanshire Women's Aid. They work in all of the schools across Clackmannanshire. They offer one to one support and group work, supporting children and young people that have experienced, or are vulnerable to experiencing abusive behaviours within relationships. In these sessions, they explore healthy and unhealthy relationships, children's rights, safety planning, triggers and safe coping strategies, respect and boundaries and friendships and bullying.

Mentors in Violence programme is a peer education programme that helps young people challenge and speak out against bullying, violence and other forms of abuse and is particularly informed by gender-based violence and tackling misogyny. Senior students are trained up to be mentors and can provide another form of support to other pupils.

Clackmannanshire has recently formed a White Ribbon Steering Group that aims to tackle Gender Based Violence (GBV) from the perspective of boys as a form of prevention. This group is heavily involved in schools, and has already had interest from Lornhill High School and the community for students to set up a stall and chat to their peers about GBV. An S5 student has also expressed interest to be trained as a White Ribbon speaker for the community which is very positive.

Initial Referral Discussions (IRDs)

Initial Referral Discussions (IRDs) are a meeting that is initiated when social work, police or health has received information or a referral which indicates a sharing of concerns is required to assess the safety and wellbeing of a child, unborn child or young person and appropriate action needs to be taken in response. Education and Health are important partners who will be involved in IRDs involving children and siblings of school age or who attend early years provision. Information gathering may also involve other key services including third sector and adult services

There were 153 initial referral discussions in 2023/24. (rate of 17.6% per 1000 0-15 years).

There were 171 initial referral discussions in 2022/23 (rate of 19.2% per 1,000 0-15 years). This is a decrease of 18% from 21/22 where there were 208.

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)

In 2022/23, 118 children were referred to the Children's reporter, 27% less than the previous year. The highest proportion of referrals again came from Police (65%). The highest referral was in relation to parental care/neglect which accounts for 25% of the referrals followed by committed an offence (20%) and experienced domestic abuse (10%). This mirrors the National picture for Scotland where 80% of referrals were received from Police and the highest referrals were in relation to parental care/neglect (30%), committed an offence (24%) and then experienced domestic abuse (19%).

(source: SCRA website)



Pic: Oor Clacks Voice

Third Sector

Clackmannanshire Child Protection Committee has strong links to Third Sector working within the community. A Children's Services Manager from Action for Children is a member of the current committee and is key to helping the delivery of the implementation and strategic plans. The committee acknowledges the excellent work of all Third Sector in supporting children and families and there is support is key to improving outcomes.



Pic: Oor Clacks Voice



Clackmannanshire Child Protection Committee

Strategic Improvement Plan 2023-2025

Reviewed And Updated September 2024



The aim of the Child Protection Committee Strategic Plan is to keep our children and young people safe.

The functions of a Child Protection Committee, as set out in the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, 2021 (updated 2023), are continuous improvement, strategic planning, public information and communication. These core business functions, as applied to local needs and practice, provide a working framework for the CPC Improvement Plan:

Continuous Improvement

- Policies, procedures and protocols
- Self-evaluation, performance management and quality assurance
- Promoting good practice including learning from local and national case reviews.
- Training and staff development

Strategic Planning

- Communication, collaboration and co-operation
- Making and maintaining links with other planning for a
- Communicating, benchmarking and sharing resources and good practice with relevant partners and groups across Scotland

Public Information and Communication

- Raising public awareness
- Involving children and young people and their families through participation and in line with the Promise. .

In addition, the emphasis of the Child Protection Improvement Programme on leadership leads to us making explicit a key function of the CPC:

Leadership and Governance

The improvement process described in the Plan takes direction from the Care Inspectorate's 2022 quality framework – A Quality Framework for children and young people in need of care and protection. The Improvement Plan sits within the wider context of integrated children's services planning and Getting it right for every child, promoting the ethos that "child protection is everyone's job", with preventative and protective work using the GIRFEC approach.

The actions detailed in this Plan which relate to the above strategic priorities will be monitored through a traffic light system as set out below:

Strategic Priority Leadership and Governance						
OUTCOME 1 The Child Protection Committee provides effective leadership and direction in child protection and is accountable for its actions						
OBJECTIVES What we want to achieve	ACTIONS What we are going to do	LEAD & Key People involved	TIMESCALE When we will do this	EVIDENCE or OUTCOME MEASURES How we will know we are achieving outcomes	PROGRESS REPORT	STATUS
1.1 Committee members understand their role and responsibilities and are supported to exercise these effectively.	A flexible induction to the CPC is provided for all new members.	Independent Chair, Lead Officer, Committee Members	As required	All members have been consulted on the Clacks CPC TOR which details roles and responsibilities	Ongoing	
	Alternate CPC meetings include a learning and/or delivery in child protection topic relevant to improvement planning	Independent Chair, Lead Officer, Committee Members	When planning CPC meetings	Will be recorded in the minutes of each CPC meeting	Ongoing	
	An biennial Development Day (or as requested by CPC) is held for Committee and sub-group members	Independent Chair, Lead Officer, Committee Members	As required	These will be detailed at the CPC meetings and in the relevant minutes.	Ongoing	
1.2 The Committee demonstrates its strategic direction and activity through delivery of appropriate business plans	Produce and implement a biennial Strategic Improvement Plan	Independent Chair, Lead Officer, Committee Sub-Group Members	Biennial	The first plan has been produced and implemented	Continual	
	Produce and implement an annual multi-agency Learning and Development Workforce Strategy based on current and emerging learning needs of staff and agencies.	Public Protection Learning and Development Advisor, Lead Officer, Committee Members	Annually	2020 – 2023 Multi-agency Public Protection Learning and Practice Development Workforce Strategy	Complete	
	Produce and implement a Communication Plan	Lead Officer, Forth Valley Public Information, Engagement and Participation Subgroup	Ongoing	Through FV PPIE subgroup	Ongoing	

Key	On Target	Progress Delayed	Outwith Deadline Revision Required	Complete
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OBJECTIVES What we want to achieve	ACTIONS What we are going to do	LEAD & Key People involved	TIMESCALE When we will do this	EVIDENCE or OUTCOME MEASURES How we will know we are achieving outcomes	PROGRESS REPORT	STATUS
1.3 The Committee undertakes Learning Reviews as appropriate, and reports and acts on findings.	Learning Reviews are conducted according to Forth Valley Protocol based on national guidance.	Independent Chair and Review Group, Lead Officer	As required	As required	As required	
1.4 The Committee takes opportunities to engage with front-line staff, to demonstrate the supportive role of the CPC and hear directly from staff their perspectives on child protection.	Involvement to include: • Sub-group members attending CPC events • Briefings for staff following ICR's\ SCR's or Learning Reviews to cascade learning • Chair and relevant CPC members to attend • Biennial Conference on child protection • CPC members attend/host etc.	Independent Chair, Lead Officer, Committee Members	As required	As required	As required	
1.5 The Committee monitors current and anticipated emerging priorities and issues in child protection and ensures these are addressed in strategic plans and operational practice	Address key local and national messages from Inspections with local strategic response	Independent Chair, Lead Officer, Committee members	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	
	Share information relating to emerging national issues in child protection, LAC/ LAAC and report to CPC with proposals for responding to these.	Independent Chair, Lead Officer, Committee members	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	

OBJECTIVES What we want to achieve	ACTIONS What we are going to do	LEAD & Key People involved	TIMESCALE When we will do this	EVIDENCE or OUTCOME MEASURES How we will know we are achieving outcomes	PROGRESS REPORT	STATUS
1.6 The Committee reports to the Chief Officer Group on matters relating to policy and performance, as required, and takes appropriate direction from the COG	Reliable communication established between CPC and COG • Clarification on reporting schedule, format and expectations of content to ensure relevant reports. • Matters arising from COG reported to CPC for appropriate action.	Independent Chair, Lead Officer	COG report submitted prior to each COG	As per COG report	Ongoing	
1.7 The Committee monitors its own processes through a Risk Register and takes mitigating action as necessary	Risk Register agreed by CPC, reviewed and appropriate action taken, with reporting of issues to COG as necessary	Independent Chair, Lead Officer, CPC Members	Risk Register is reviewed and reported at quarterly CPC / COG.	As per the Risk Register and COG report	Ongoing	

Strategic Priority Continuous Improvement						
OUTCOME 2 Processes are in place to support continuous improvement						
OBJECTIVES What we want to achieve	ACTIONS What we are going to do	LEAD & Key People involved	TIMESCALE When we will do this	EVIDENCE or OUTCOME MEASURES How we will know we are achieving outcomes	PROGRESS REPORT	STATUS
2.1 CPC has robust systems to monitor, measure and to report improvement	Receive, evaluate and act on Performance and Quality Assurance reports Actions to improve procedures & practice agreed and implemented Multi-agency data set developed based on National Minimum Data Set	Independent Chair, CPC members, Lead Officer	Quarterly subgroup meetings prior to CPC	Minutes of action log of subgroup meeting	Ongoing	
2.2 CPC continues to develop its approach to self-evaluation with a planned cycle of multi-agency audit and ad hoc activity in response to practice concerns or learning needs	CPC agree multi-agency audit proposal from QA subgroup Multi-agency audit proposal for 2023 to be agreed by QA subgroup and CPC	Lead Officer, Performance Management and Quality Assurance subgroup	March, 2024	Outcome report of audit	Ongoing	
	Learning from local and national Case Reviews and Learning Reviews is collated for action & dissemination	Lead Officer, Performance Management and Quality Assurance subgroup, Learning and Practice Development sub group	As required	As required	Ongoing	
2.3 Reflective Learning through sharing of practice across partner agencies contributes to practice improvement, innovation and good practice governance	Information is shared to make professionals/teams aware of good practice: • Lessons learned from Learning Reviews (see 1.3) • 7 Minute Briefings	Lead Officer, Agency Leads	As required	As required	Ongoing	
	Series of multi-agency practitioner engagement events to provide opportunity for shared learning are included as part of the L&D programme	Public Protection L and D Advisor, Lead Officer	Training Calendar	Training Calendar	Ongoing	

OUTCOME 3 Staff in all partner agencies access and apply policy and practice guidance that is up to date and fit for purpose, to keep children safe						
OBJECTIVES What we want to achieve	ACTIONS What we are going to do	LEAD & Key People involved	TIMESCALE When we will do this	EVIDENCE or OUTCOME MEASURES How we will know we are achieving outcomes	PROGRESS REPORT	STATUS
3.1 Policies and procedures are reviewed and revised to take account of changes in practice and legislation and staff are informed on these.	Ensure FV Policies, Procedures and Protocols Subgroup <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sets priorities for review/revision • proposes programme for revision & development & presents to CPC • produces agreed policies & procedures & presents to CPC 	Lead Officer, Forth Valley Policies, Procedures and Protocols Subgroup	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	
	CP Guidance is updated in accordance with the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, 2021 (updated 2023)	Lead Officer, Forth Valley Policies, Procedures and Protocols Subgroup, CPC members, Forth Valley National CP guidance implementation group	December, 2024	FV CP Guidance	Ongoing	
3.2 Children are kept safe from harm by agencies working effectively together to deliver effective responses to risks and needs and to maximise opportunities for early intervention and sustainable change.	Review, evaluate and quality assure the effectiveness of the Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (E-IRDs)	IRD Steering Group	5 dip-sample reviews carried out monthly	Emerging themes or practice issues are highlighted to Service Manager, Quality Assurance subgroup and CPC	Ongoing	
	Examine and quality assure minimum dataset and with any identified themes specific to Clackmannanshire / Forth Valley.	Performance Management and Quality Assurance Sub Group	Quarterly subgroup meetings	Through dataset report to CPC and COG	Ongoing	
3.3 A robust, multi-agency response to unborn baby child protection concerns; early effective information sharing and provide a joint response with planning at the heart	Multi agency pre birth pathway, pre birth planning guidance and associated training.	NHS Lead, Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group	Complete	Complete as per the National Guidance	Complete	

OUTCOME 4 Staff in partner agencies demonstrate the necessary skills, competences and knowledge to undertake their roles and responsibilities in relation to protection of children						
OBJECTIVES What we want to achieve	ACTIONS What we are going to do	LEAD & Key People involved	TIMESCALE When we will do this	EVIDENCE or OUTCOME MEASURES How we will know we are achieving outcomes	PROGRESS REPORT	STATUS
4.1 National CP Guidance and GIRFEC Guidance is implemented and evidenced across the partnership.	Embed changes in multi-agency CP training 7-minute briefings developed, disseminated and delivered with the changes	Lead Officer, Performance Management and Quality Assurance Sub Group, Public Protection L and D Advisor, Learning and Development Subgroup	December, 2023	FV CP Guidance and 7-minute briefing	Ongoing	
4.2 A multi-agency training programme develops a competent, confident, knowledgeable and skilled workforce	Review & identify new training needs across the partnership Produce CPC Annual Learning and Development Plan with Training Programme Monitor CP training attendance by Services/agencies uptake of courses & non-attendance (performance report) and notify to agencies. Agencies take action on any attendance issues. Monitor CP follow up evaluations	Public Protection L and D Advisor, Learning and Development Subgroup	Annually	As per the Development Plan and Training Programme incorporating national and local learning needs. As detailed in quarterly report to CPC	Ongoing	
4.3 Staff make use of agreed assessment frameworks/ tools to assess needs and risks to inform their professional judgements and decisions.	Identify, agree and review use of recognised assessment tools/ frameworks including the National Practice Model, IPSU, neglect toolkit and Safe and Together/alternative. Identify training needs of relevant staff in use of tools and ensure relevant training completed. Ensure agreed assessment tools/ frameworks are accessible to staff and are being used appropriately	Public Protection L and D Advisor, Learning and Practice Development Subgroup, Performance Management and Quality Assurance Sub Group	Complete	Implemented	Complete	

OBJECTIVES What we want to achieve	ACTIONS What we are going to do	LEAD & Key People involved	TIMESCALE When we will do this	EVIDENCE or OUTCOME MEASURES How we will know we are achieving outcomes	PROGRESS REPORT	STATUS
4.4 Staff working with children and families maintain chronologies of events and share them to identify significant and accumulated events that may adversely affect the child's wellbeing	Agree a consistent format and content for chronologies. Ensure all relevant staff attend training in the use of chronologies Chronologies awareness and guidance is embedded into the Interagency Child Protection Key Processes (training)	Public Protection L and D Advisor, Learning and Practice Development Subgroup, Performance Management and Quality Assurance Sub Group	Ongoing	Care Inspectorate guidance on Chronologies. Reviewing Pan Lothian chronology guidance.	Ongoing	
4.5 The CPC makes tackling Neglect, Parental Substance Use and Domestic Abuse priorities across the Partnership	Multi-agency Neglect Toolkit, IPSU and Safe & Together/alternative training is delivered	Public Protection L and D Advisor, Learning and Practice Development Subgroup, Performance Management and Quality Assurance Sub Group	Ongoing	Identified with the annual training calendar. Highlighted through the minimum dataset reports.	Ongoing	
4.6 The CPC ensure the learning from local ICRs/SCRs is shared across the partnership	Learning from local Learning Reviews is embedded into multi-agency child protection training. 7 minute briefings developed, disseminated and delivered with the key learning from the local ICR/SCRs.	Public Protection L and D Advisor, Learning and Practice Development Subgroup, Performance Management and Quality Assurance Sub Group	As required	As required	Ongoing	

Strategic Priority STRATEGIC PLANNING						
OUTCOME 5 Collaboration across Public Protection raises awareness of cross-cutting challenges and opportunities for shared solutions in child protection						
OBJECTIVES What we want to achieve	ACTIONS What we are going to do	LEAD & Key People involved	TIMESCALE When we will do this	EVIDENCE or OUTCOME MEASURES How we will know we are achieving outcomes	PROGRESS REPORT	STATUS
5.1 Protection of children is a key aim across public protection planning and delivery, particularly in relation to children affected by: adult mental ill health; domestic violence; substance use; and criminality	CPC develops stronger links and influence through information sharing, joint training, membership of other Partnerships as appropriate, with: Integrated Children's Services Partnerships/Strategy Groups, Early Years Collaborative, Health and Social Care Partnership, Adult Protection Committee, MAPPA, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Gender Based Violence Partnerships, West Lothian and Forth Valley e-Safety Partnership and Community Justice Partnerships.	CPC members Lead Officer	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	
5.2 Adult services have awareness to identify and act appropriately when a child is vulnerable and in need of care or support.	Multi-agency CP training is delivered to all relevant i.e. non-children's services staff, to raise awareness Multi-agency Public Protection training is delivered to all relevant staff. Joint training for children's and adult services staff is delivered on the impact of substance use, domestic abuse & parental mental ill health issues on children (Trigger Trio)	Public Protection L and D Advisor, Learning and Development Subgroup	Ongoing	As per training calendar	Ongoing	

Strategic Priority Public Information and Communication						
OUTCOME 6 Children, their carers and their families are supported to be fully involved in child protection decision making processes						
OBJECTIVES What we want to achieve	ACTIONS What we are going to do	LEAD & Key People involved	TIMESCALE When we will do this	EVIDENCE or OUTCOME MEASURES How we will know we are achieving outcomes	PROGRESS REPORT	STATUS
6.1 Children and families experience the CP process as child centred and focussed on positive outcomes for children as referenced in the national CP guidance	Seek & monitor feedback from children & families including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reports from Who Cares? Scotland (Clacks) & Lead Officer • views recorded in Child's Plan • reports from 3rd sector provider agencies • reports from advocacy services • Embed with new GIRFEC guidance around involvement of parents/carers in CP processes 	Lead Officer, Children's Rights Officer (Stirling), Who Cares? (Clacks), Corporate Parenting Leads	Ongoing	Roll of Viewpoint training so that children views are sought at key times	Ongoing	

OUTCOME 7 The views of children & families inform Child Protection planning						
OBJECTIVES What we want to achieve	ACTIONS What we are going to do	LEAD & Key People involved	TIMESCALE When we will do this	EVIDENCE or OUTCOME MEASURES How we will know we are achieving outcomes	PROGRESS REPORT	STATUS
7.1 Effective methods are used to gather the views and feedback from children in need of protection and families at risk and these inform the work of the CPC to improve outcomes	Promote principle of meaningful involvement Involve children, families and public in design and promotion of CP information through a variety of media Develop links through Who Cares? Clackmannanshire Number of completed questionnaires, Viewpoint (Clacks)	Corporate Parenting Leads Lead Officer Who Cares? Youth Forums Young Carers Forth Valley Public Information, Engagement and Participation Subgroup	Ongoing	Oor Clack Voices are consulted on new policies and procedures. Alva Academy student design Clacks CPC's new logo Viewpoint training has been increased amongst staff working with children. Who Cares? Advocacy is available within Clackmannanshire	Ongoing	
	Engage with Children and Families in policy planning and service development Monitor feedback from direct engagement with children and families	Lead Officer Corporate Parenting Leads Forth Valley Public Information, Engagement and Participation Subgroup	As above	As above	As above	

OUTCOME 8 There is evidence of greater public awareness of child protection						
OBJECTIVES What we want to achieve	ACTIONS What we are going to do	LEAD & Key People involved	TIMESCALE When we will do this	EVIDENCE or OUTCOME MEASURES How we will know we are achieving outcomes	PROGRESS REPORT	STATUS
8.1 Basic awareness of how to keep children safe from harm is increasing and members of the public and staff know what to do if they are concerned about a child.	<p>Promote the key message</p> <p>It's everyone's job to protect children and young people from harm and abuse, to keep them safe and to protect their wellbeing</p> <p>Promotional events & materials support national, Forth Valley and local campaigns.</p> <p>Create opportunities for direct engagement with community groups on Child Protection issues.</p> <p>Child Protection website for public access reflects current activity for information and awareness raising</p>	<p>CPC Members</p> <p>Lead Officer Child Protection</p> <p>Forth Valley Public Information, Engagement and Participation Subgroup</p>	Ongoing	<p>Practitioner Pages in Forth Valley contains materials and support.</p> <p>Oor Clack Voices consulted over policy and procedures.</p> <p>Clacks Gov website being updated to show updated practice and policies.</p>	Ongoing	
8.2 Children, parents, carers and staff are informed of risks in the use of information technology and of measures to keep children safe.	<p>Information and awareness raising is promoted regarding E-Safety for relevant staff in children's services, adult services (young people in transition) and foster carers</p> <p>Liaison/linking with other initiatives & Schools</p>	<p>Lead Officer</p> <p>Public Protection L and D Advisor</p> <p>Education Leads</p> <p>West Lothian and Forth Valley E-Safety Partnership</p>	Ongoing	School Based Police Officers provide e-safety messages within Clack's schools	Ongoing	
8.3 Children tell us they feel safe. We take action when they report safety concerns	Results from Schools surveys etc. reported to CPC	Child Protection Education leads	Ongoing	Developing multi-agency safeguarding group	Ongoing	

Children's Services performance data 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

New Referrals

There were 1401 requests for assistance (new referrals) during 2023/24. This is a 16% increase from 2022/2023 where there were 1180 new requests for assistance. (2021/2022 there was 1375)

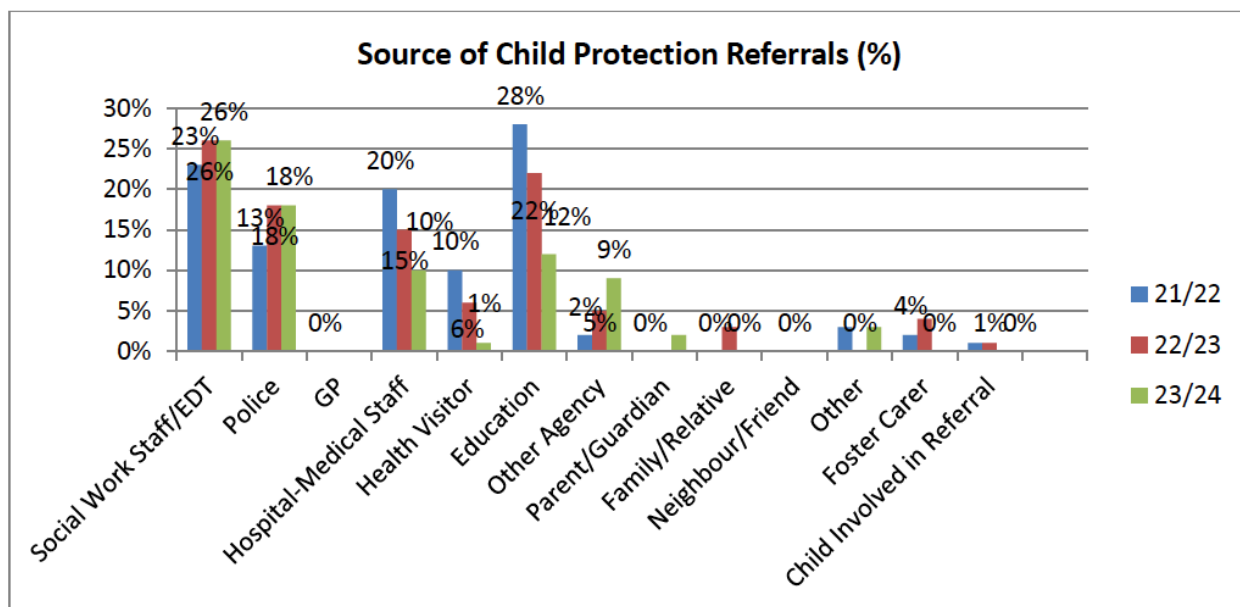
Children open to Children's Social Work Services

There were 716 open cases as at 31st March 2024. This was a slight reduction to 22/23 where there were 741 open cases as at 31st March 2023 (3% reduction).

Child Protection Investigations

In 23/24 there were 64 child protection investigations involving a total of 110 children. This compares to 22/23 where there were 65 child protection investigations involving 142 children. This is a rate of 12.6 per 1000 0-15 years population compared to last year where the rate was 16.1 in 2022/23. This compares to the 2022/23 Scottish figure of 13.2 per 1,000 0-15 yrs.

The highest number of child protection concerns were from Social Work/EDT (26%), Police (18%) and Education (12%) whereas in 22/23 the highest number of child protection concerns were from EDT (26%), Education (22%) and Police (18%). In 2021/22 Education (28%) was the highest referrer for child protection followed by EDT (23%) then Hospital/medical staff (20%).

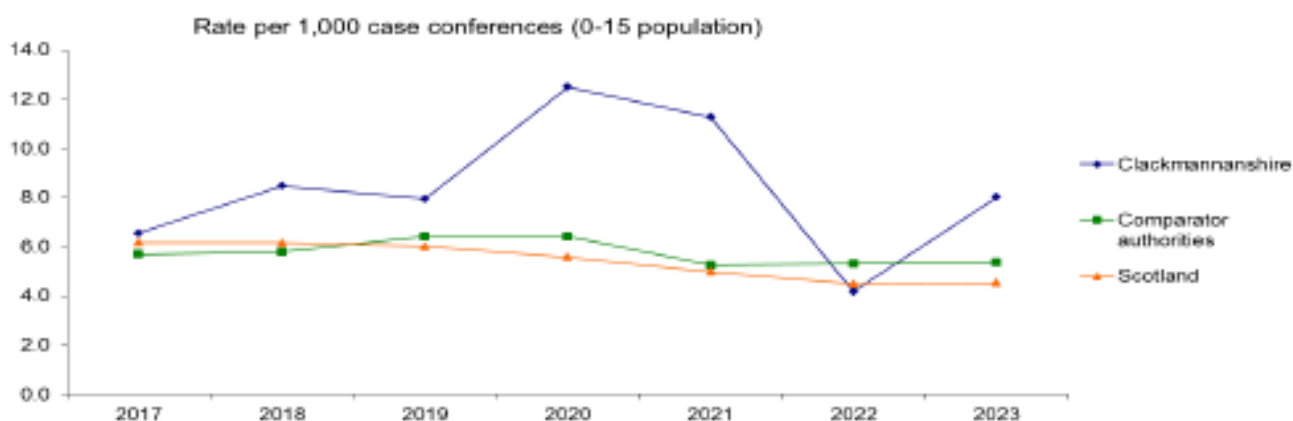


Child Protection Investigations to Initial Child Protection Planning Meeting (CPPM)

Of the 110 children subject to a child protection investigation, 66% (73 children) were subject to an Initial CPPM and of those 59% (43 children) were registered.

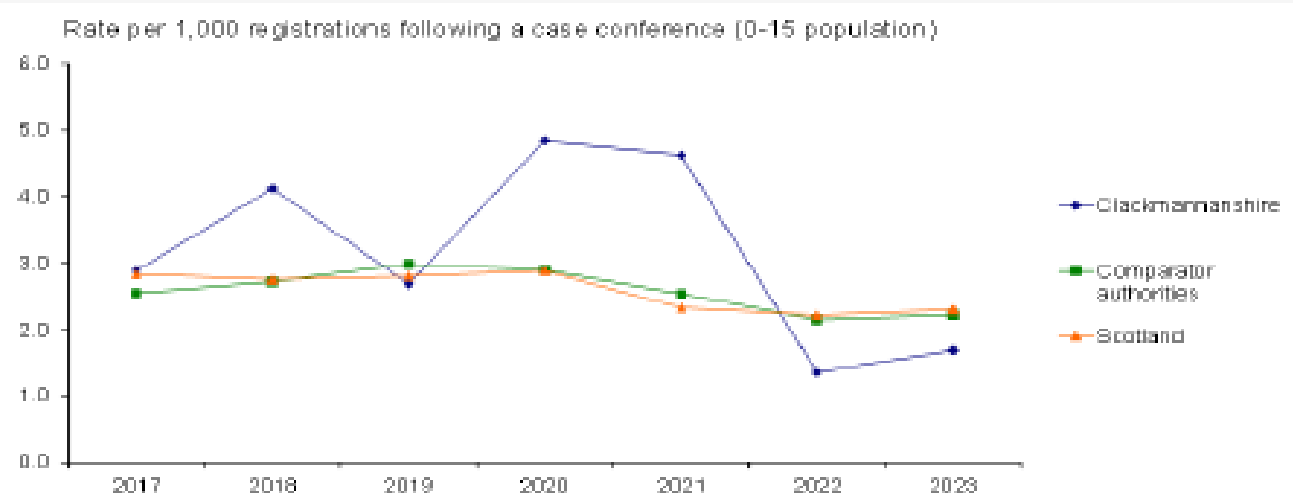
In 22/23, of the 142 children subject to a child protection investigation, 44% (63 children) went to an Initial CPPM and of those 81% (53 children) were registered.

The number of child protection referrals that resulted in a case conference in Clackmannanshire in 2023 was 71 (an increase of 91.9% from 37 in 2022), a rate (per 1,000 pop 0-15) of 8.0. This is greater than the comparator average rate of 5.3 and greater than the Scotland average rate of 4.5. This shows that more children subject of a child protection investigation progressed to a case conference.



Child Protection Registrations (CPR)

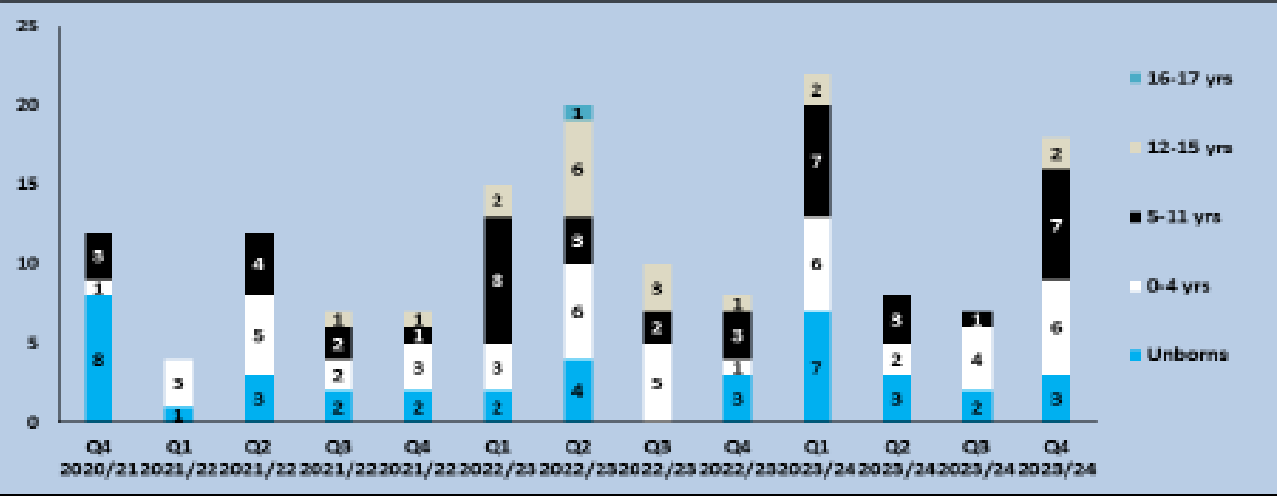
The number of registrations following a case conference in Clackmannanshire as at 31 July 2023 was 15 (an increase of 25% from 12 in 2022). The rate (per 1,000 pop 0-15) is 1.7. This is less than the comparator average rate of 2.2 and less than the Scotland average rate of 2.3 as at 31 July 2023. This shows that whilst more children were subject to a child protection planning meeting there is a lower rate of children who were then registered on the child protection register.



The total number of de-registrations in Clackmannanshire during 2023 was 50 (a decrease of 10.7% from 56 in 2022). The rate (per 1,000 pop 0-15) is 5.6. This is greater than the comparator average rate of 2.1, and greater than the Scotland average rate of 3.5.

During 23/24 there was 2 child re-registered within 6 months and 2 children within 2 years. The previous year in 22/23 there was 1 child re-registered within 6 months and 5 children within 2 years. In 21/22 3 children were re-registered within 6 months and 1 within 12 months.

Age of Children at the point of Registration



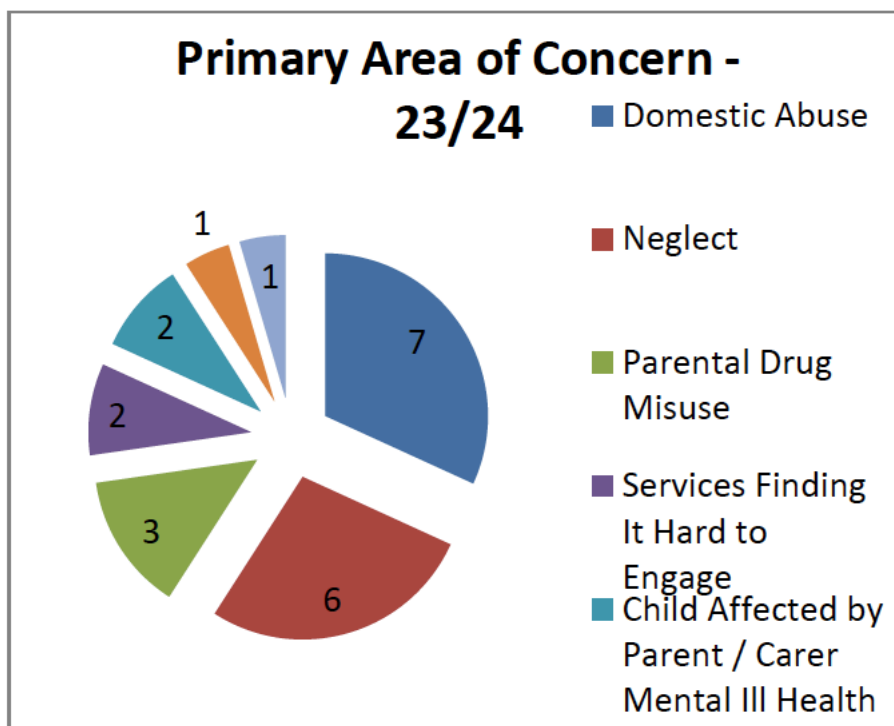
The last 12 months on the chart (4 academic quarters) present a total of 55 new registrations, 33% are aged 0-4 and aged 5-11 years, 27% are unborn babies and 7% are 12 – 15 years. The previous year 2022/23, there were 52 new registrations, 33% aged 0-4, 27% aged 5-11 years with 12 – 15 years accounting for 23% and unborn babies 15% of new registrations. In 2021/22 there were 35 new registrations, 40% unborn babies, 31% 0-4 years and 26% 5-11 years and 2.85% age 12-15 years. (source: CPC Minimum Dataset academic quarters)

The table below shows the number of children on the register and sibling groups that were registered.

As at	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON REGISTER	TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES	NUMBER OF SIBLING GROUPS
March 2021	44	21	11
March 2022	19	9	5
March 2023	30	13	7
March 2024	22	13	5

As at 31st March 2024 – Primary Concern of those children on the register

The most common primary area of concern as at March 2024 was Domestic Abuse and then Neglect. In 2022/23 the primary area of concern for registration was Neglect and then Domestic Abuse.



Feedback

If you would like to provide any feedback in regards to this annual report please contact:

James Young

Lead Officer for Child Protection

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