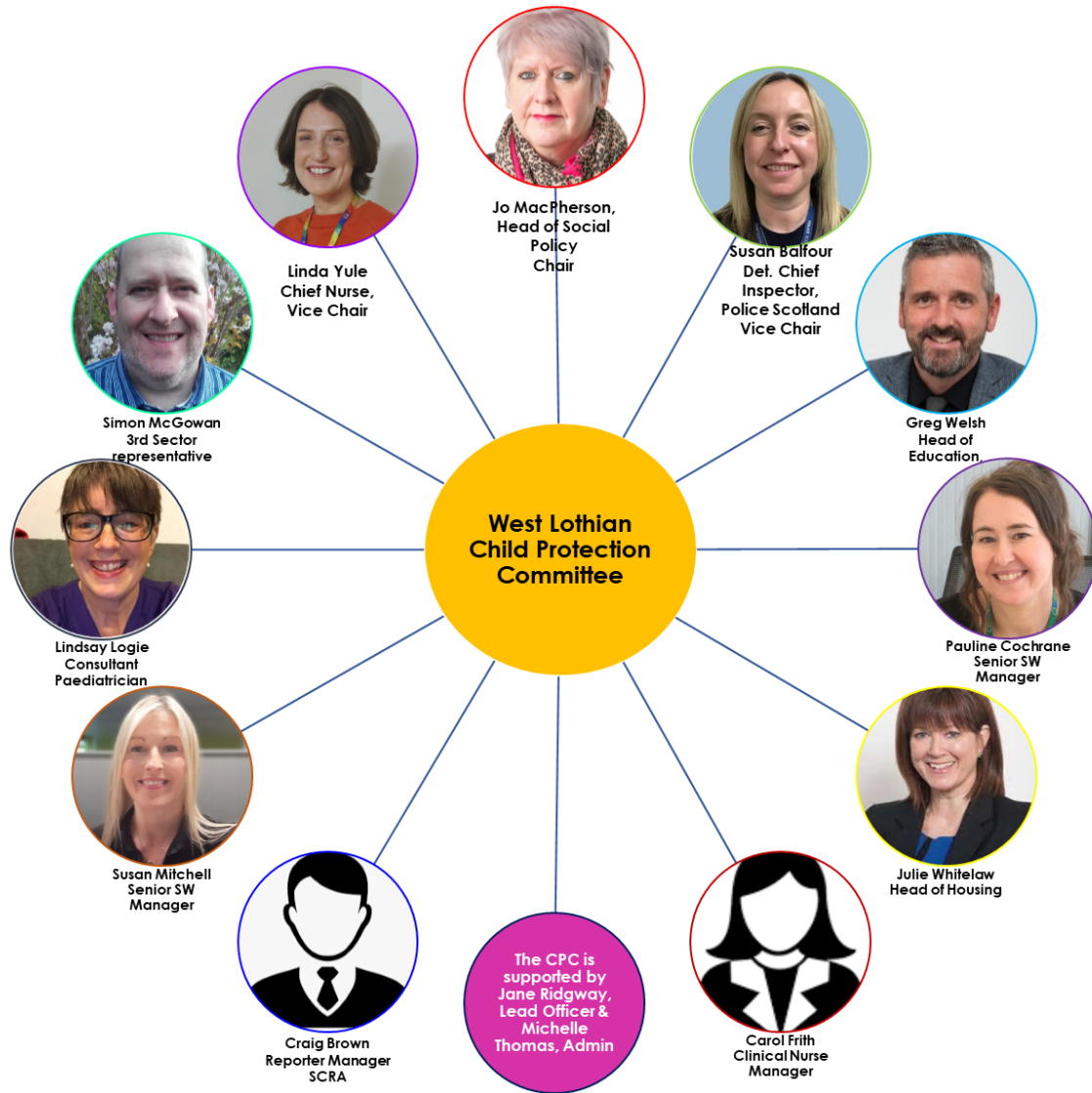


Child Protection Committee Newsletter

June 2022



The Child Protection Committee (CPC) is the driving force for ensuring that agencies individually and collectively work to protect children and young people. The CPC is a multi-agency group of senior managers with responsibility for ensuring effective child protection services across West Lothian. The CPC is clear that it's everyone's job to make sure children are alright and that staff need to feel confident and competent in their role.

The CPC meets 4x a year and a newsletter will be circulated after every meeting to keep staff updated on its work.

Vision: All West Lothian children have a right to be safe and protected. All services have a responsibility to ensure children are safe and their needs are met. The Child Protection Committee will work in partnership with children, families and the community to achieve this.

The CPC annual report and improvement plan can be found on the Public Protection website along with other useful resources.

<https://publicprotectionwestlothian.org.uk>

The CPC has four subcommittees:

Quality Assurance & Self Evaluation (QASE) – this group undertakes audit and self-evaluation activity;

Practice & Training (PT) – this group considers any practice improvements and devises training and learning events;

Learning Review (LR) – this group considers information from all involved agencies when there are lessons to be learned, either from cases where things have gone well or ones where there are issues about agencies working together and makes a recommendation about the need for a formal review;

Management Information (MI) – this group analyses management information every quarter, considering themes or trends.

At its meeting in May the CPC received a presentation from Kellie McNeill, Care Inspectorate, about the revised child protection inspection regime. West Lothian has not yet been notified of any inspection but all agencies are committed to improving practice, regardless of the inspection cycle.

The CPC agreed to adopt use of a toolkit to help practitioners assess the impact of neglectful parenting on children. Training will be provided in the near future.

A recent Learning Review focused on why some practice changes have not been embedded locally was recently presented the CPC. Some of you will have been involved in focus groups with the independent reviewers to consider what supports changes in practice. The report has not yet been published but the CPC and Chief Officer Group (COG) have approved an action plan which will form the basis of the CPC's 2022 – 2024 Improvement Plan.

The aim of the CPC is to develop a learning culture in West Lothian, increasing the opportunities for staff in all agencies to meet, discuss and learn from each other, not only when things have gone wrong but also when our interventions have made a positive difference to the lives of children, young people and their families. This will be supplemented by single and multi-agency formal training, e-learning, webinars etc. and national events. Learning is important as we continue to improve practice and all agencies are committed to ensuring that learning is regarded as a priority for staff.

As you are aware, revised National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland was published in 2021. Lead Officers in the Lothians and Scottish Borders are working to produce new Child Protection procedures for the area. In the meantime, our current Edinburgh and the Lothians Child Protection procedures still apply.

Message from the CPC Chair

The Child Protection Committee is well aware of the complex nature of child protection work in West Lothian and the dedication of staff in all agencies to improving the lives of West Lothian's most vulnerable children. If you have any suggestions, views or information you would like the Child Protection Committee to know about, please feel free to email the Lead Officer at jane.ridgway@westlothian.gov.uk

Jo MacPherson
CPC Chair