



Child Protection Committee Newsletter March 2024

The Child Protection Committee met on the 19th February.

The CPC:

- Received updates about Bairns' Hoose, children's participation and contextual safeguarding;
- Heard that the briefings about the revised [Edinburgh and the Lothians Multi-agency Child Protection Procedures](#) had been well attended and noted that the procedures went live on 22nd January, with minor issues noted to date;
- Welcomed Alison Smith as the representative from Housing Services onto the committee;
- Heard that IRD participants are exploring more effective ways of conducting IRDs;
- Endorsed guidance about the [transitions between children's and adults' services](#);
- Heard about the learning from a recent Learning Review – Child E. Due to ongoing legal proceedings the report cannot yet be published but the CPC will work closely with the Children and Families Strategic Planning Group to ensure that staff in all agencies have appropriate guidance and support to understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to GIRFEC and that staff in all agencies remain professionally curious. The [7-minute briefing](#) and Professional Curiosity Guidance are available on the [website](#). A guide to having Challenging Conversations has also been produced, is attached with this email and will shortly be available on the website. An executive summary of the review will be published when we have permission from the Procurator Fiscal to do so;
- Noted the number of children's names on the Child Protection Register is at its lowest for a number of years and that parental attendance at Child Protection Planning Meetings has improved.

It is important to learn from cases where multi-agency working has resulted in positive outcomes for children and families, as well as those cases where things have not turned out so well. If you or your team would like a case where things have gone well to be considered please contact the Lead Officer for Child Protection jane.ridgway@westlothian.gov.uk to discuss how the learning can be shared.

The CPC agreed a date for its next virtual "Meet the CPC" event – Tuesday 16th April from 2.00 – 3.00 and we hope to see as many people as possible there.