

CITY OF EDINBURGH CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 25



Lillian Cringles, Chair

EDINBURGH CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

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Introduction by the Chair

Welcome to the annual report for the work undertaken by the City of Edinburgh Child Protection Committee. As I reach the end of my first full year as Chair, I want to extend my thanks to those staff and partners who rose to the challenges over the past eighteen months, as we began the process of building the foundation to progress child protection priorities, responsibilities and to formalise the strategic, and operational arrangements identify and address areas of change that required to be made by the Committee. During the reporting period the multi-agency partners have actively contributed towards strengthening their level of joint working in relation to meet the increased demand for the protection of children within the City of Edinburgh.

In addition, we have completed 16 out of 19 actions of our 2024-25 Child Protection Improvement plan ([Appendix 1](#)), with the additional 3 actions commenced and continued into our latest Improvement Plan for 2025-28 ([Appendix 2](#)). The plan outlines the work we have done in the last year to continually improve our services. The Child Protection Committee and associated Subcommittees have continued to meet throughout the reporting period to ensure the protection of Edinburgh's children.

I hope you will see within this report the range of work undertaken across the child protection agenda to specifically improve the lives of and protect those who are the most vulnerable in our community.

The report provides some of the highlights of our achievements during the reporting period, however, importantly it also identifies what we need to plan and implement moving forward.

As advised in last year's annual report we have now developed an ambitious three-year strategic plan that will run from 2025-28 ([Appendix 2](#)).

To meet the desired outcomes of our Child Protection Improvement Plan we will need the commitment of all multi agency partners. We know that this will requires ongoing collaboration and cooperation, from all, these are qualities which I have seen throughout the multi-agency partnership, and which continues to provide strong foundations going forward.

I trust this annual report provides the Chief Officers' Group (COG) with the detail and assurance required, alongside the recognition of the challenges faced within the services delivery of child protection for all multi agency partners.

It is a privilege to present this report on behalf of the committee and reflect on the dedicated work undertaken across all partner agencies.

Lillian Cringles

Independent Chair, Edinburgh Child Protection Committee

Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Structure

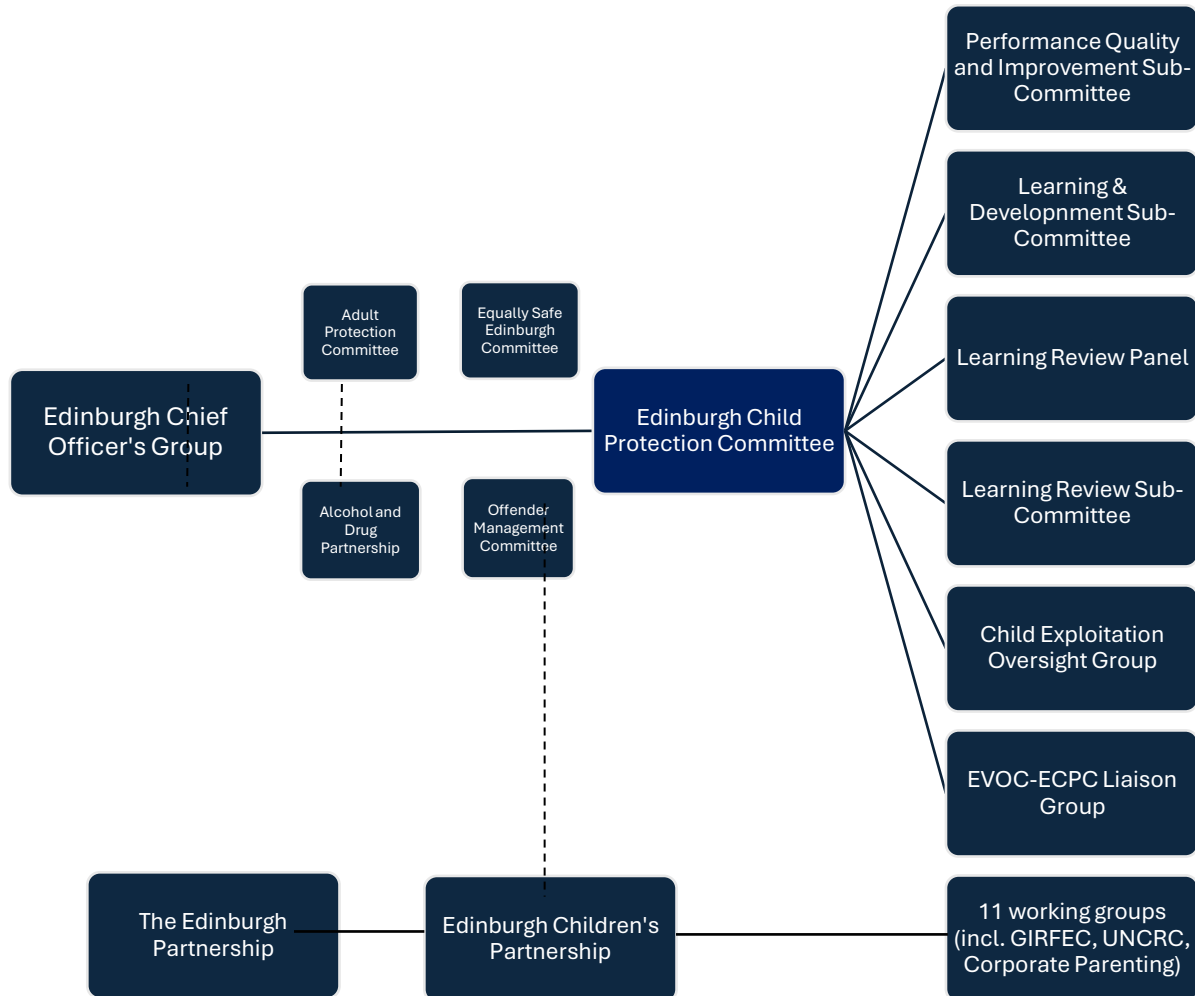


Figure 1- Committee Structure

Our Vision

*Children, young people and their families
in Edinburgh are safe and protected from
harm or risk of harm*

In doing so, we share a collection of values and approaches such as

- promoting children's rights
- supporting whole families
- developing trauma informed, preventative and responsive practice.



Edinburgh Context

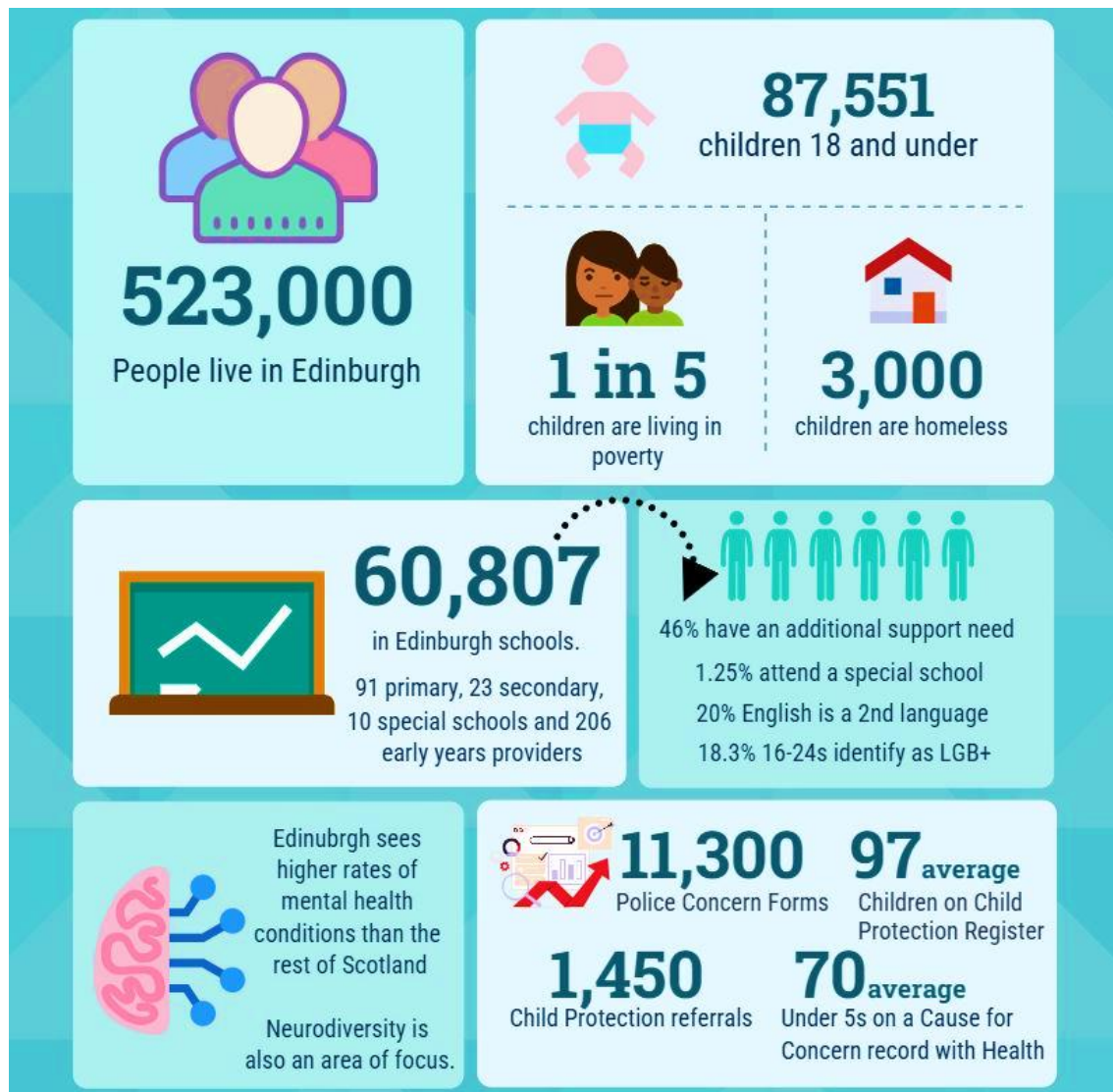


Figure 2 - Contextual Data (see [Appendix 3](#) for sources)

Our Priorities

1. Leadership and Structure

Why is it a priority?

Within our first full year as a newly formed Child Protection Committee, with its first independent Chair, it has been vital to build strategic leadership by ensuring there is a shared collective vision and appreciation of the role the Child Protection Committee fulfils in Edinburgh. Reviewing the membership, structures and contributions of our Committee and Sub-Committees aided this in 2023-24.

This year's Child Protection Improvement Plan enabled us to embed the new structures, invite new services and disciplines to aid the process and build collective ownership to support the aims and objectives set out by any future strategic planning.

Having improved the stability and security of the Committee, it is now incumbent upon us to improve the visibility of the Child Protection Committee for the partnership and public and ensure we have a sustainable and well-functioning Committees system moving forward.



What have we done?

Structure of the Committee:

Further to the structural changes made in 2023-24, the Committee has constituted two further Sub-Committees over the last year:

1. The EVOC-ECPC Liaison Group

While this group had been meeting informally for some time, as agreed within the CP Improvement Plan 2021-22, the group's role had not been formalised by a Terms of Reference. Over spring/summer 2024 the group met to explore the purpose and expectations and a newly agreed Terms of Reference was signed off by ECPC in November 2024. This has come at a good time as the Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC) went through its own restructure and appointed a new Service Delivery Lead in early 2025. The Liaison Group has had

changes in membership, as Third Sector representatives to the Committees have naturally moved and changed, and a work plan is being developed in line with the 2025-28 CP Improvement Plan.

2. Child Exploitation Oversight Group

Based on the prevalence rates and growing concerns about all types of exploitation of young people in Edinburgh, it had been the intention of the Chief Social Work Officer, City of Edinburgh Council, to set up a multi-agency strategic oversight group for some time. This group was commenced in January 2025 and has been working on formalising a Terms of Reference. It includes representation from City of Edinburgh Council (Social Work, Education, Lifelong Learning); Police Scotland; NHS Lothian; and the 3rd Sector. The group has already made some progress in agreeing the need for further multi-agency guidance, workforce learning pathways and shared understanding of how we use data from across the partnership to understand and respond to current trends and risks in this area of practice.

The introduction of new sub-committees has led to some natural movement in the membership of all committees to suit the needs of the group and subject matter expertise.

This year we have built upon the new set of Terms of Reference for all Sub-Committees by developing an [Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Induction Pack](#) and a calendar of committee meetings.



The CP Lead Officer meets with any new committee members to provide induction and orientation. This has been used on several of occasions since launching in September 2024 and the feedback from new members is that the pack and follow up meetings have provided clarity about the purpose of each committee/sub-committee and the expectations of committee members. Over the last

year, this has included 2 different Chairs to the Performance Quality and Improvement Sub-Committee, as there has been an unsettled period of staffing in one of our core public protection agencies. Similarly, the chairing arrangements of the Learning and Development Sub-Committee has now been taken up by City of Edinburgh Council's Heads of Service for Education (Inclusion), who has been supported by the CP Lead Officer and Chair of the Child Protection Committee to settle into the role.

'The induction process really helped me to get my head around the Committee process and think myself into the role and purpose of a multi-agency Chair.'

The CP Improvement Plan 2024-25 set an expectation of holding regular meetings with the Chair and Vice Chairs, from the 3 core child protection agencies. It was also intended to review the effectiveness of the ECPC through regular development sessions between leaders within the partnership and Sub-Committee Chairs. This has not been easy to facilitate, however, due to the busy calendars of senior leaders. Planned development sessions in spring/summer 2024 had to be postponed due to availability and other intended development sessions did not come to pass.

The ECPC does have a Development Afternoon scheduled for August 2025, where the intentions moving forward will be discussed. This will include inputs from Public Protection Committees in other areas of the country; the Care Inspectorate and messages from local research.

In reviewing the ECPC membership last year, the Chair has been proactive in continuing to build relationships and connections with Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Housing, Education, and Justice, for example, to explain the vital role these services play in contributing to Child Protection strategy across the city and seek to include them in ECPC membership.

In February 2025 the ECPC Chair re-addressed Committee and Sub-Committee attendance in a formal paper. This acknowledged that poor attendance can impact multilateral decision making as a key strategic forum. The ECPC Chair has continued to meet and communicate with some partners who struggle to make it along or send a delegate.



The ECPC work exceptionally hard to maintain close working links with locally specific colleagues in the British Army, Scottish Council of Independent Schools, faith organisations and other community groups. This is ongoing work in close connection with Lead Officers in the other areas of public protection.



In improving the visibility of the ECPC online, the CP Lead Officer has also been available to various members of the workforce and public with queries or concerns and has been able to offer advice and signposting.

Communications:

The ECPC has a complicated communications approach with several different City of Edinburgh Council landing pages that were set up a different time for different needs (Figure 3). We are aware that this area of work requires a more cohesive communication strategy and tracking to ensure our needs as a committee are understood and met.

City of Edinburgh Council Web Team report on click-throughs to pages with content (included in Figure 3) but not the number of times proformas, briefing, procedures, protocols and guidance documents have been downloaded. This means we only have partial information on how our pages are used, which does not provide the ECPC with confidence that the role and contribution of the ECPC is visible, accessible and understood. We continue to look at ways to resolve this issue.

While the Child Protection information available to the public and to the workforce through the City of Edinburgh Council website does require further development, it is currently updated regularly and cleansed on a 6-monthly basis by the Child Protection Lead Officer.

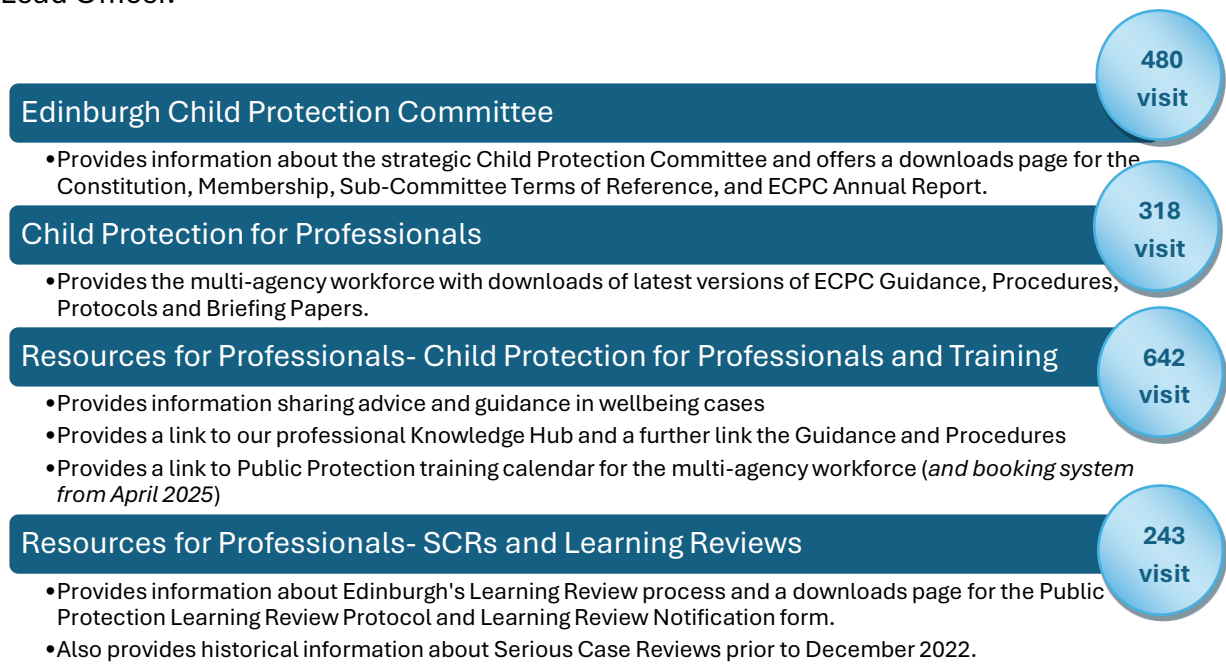


Figure 3 - Sources of Information and Visits

The ECPC Knowledge Hub also continues to be used as a platform for information sharing, signposting and learning resources for multi-agency partners who are members. Below are some figures related to the Knowledge Hub:

| 2023-24 | | 2024-25 |
|---------|-------------------|---------|
| 570 | Membership ↓ 3.5% | 550 |
| 1400 | Visits ↑ 31.4% | 1837 |

Figure 4 - Knowledge Hub

In June 2024 the CP Lead Officer, along with another public protection colleague, presented a concept paper around a Public Protection satellite website, which may have better managed our individual and cross-cutting needs, but this did not progress at the time.

Further work is required through the 2025-28 Child Protection Improvement Plan to develop a communications strategy and offer platforms and resources that aid the Child Protection Committee, along with the other public protection functions, in public communications and engagement. We also continue to carry out some of this work in partnership with other Public Protection committees, Edinburgh Children’s Partnership and other forums.

Public Campaigns:

The [Edinburgh Talk PANTS Campaign](#), a joint venture between ECPC and [NSPCC Scotland](#), ran from October 2023 – December 2024. The overall aim was to help protect children from sexual abuse by encouraging parents, carers, and professionals to have conversations with children in an age-appropriate way about how to stay safe.

This was a truly multi-agency endeavour involving the following partners:

| | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| City of Edinburgh Council Libraries | NSPCC Scotland | NHS Lothian | City of Edinburgh Council Social Work | City of Edinburgh Council Communications |
| Police Scotland | City of Edinburgh Council and partner Education and Early Years | Dad's Rock | City of Edinburgh Council Family and Household Support | Sign-along, the communication charity |
| other local third sector representatives | Edinburgh Zoo | Edinburgh International Book Festival | Edinburgh Canal Festival | Portobello Book Festival |

The campaign involved a series of professional learning events both in person and online, in order to equip the workforce to support conversations with children and families. Contributors included:

- Stuart Allardyce, Lucy Faithful Foundation
- Matthew McVarish, survivor, human rights advocate and founder of the Brave Movement
- As well as numerous local partners.

The campaign was keen to engage as fully as possible with Education and Early Years settings reaching,

- 87 primary schools
- 13 special schools
- 40 early years (including forest schools).

The Campaign also delivered a Rhyme Time event to all 31 of Edinburgh’s Libraries and presented at Portobello and Edinburgh International Book Festival.

Figure 5 shows the overall reach of the Campaign and a final evaluation report was presented to ECPC by NSPCC Scotland and local steering group members in April 2025.

| Audience | Number |
|--|--------|
| parents and carers directly reached | 1,503 |
| children directly reached | 2,571 |
| professionals directly reached | 582 |
| schools and early years packs sent out | 220 |
| Family-facing in person activities | 40 |
| professional facing activities | 24 |

Figure 5 - overall reach of the Public Campaign

Finance:

The Chief Social Work Officer, alongside key public protection partners and the Chairs for CPC, Adult Protection Committee and Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee have been working to ensure the Committee's finances are fit for purpose and supported by agreements and operating procedures to sustain public protection activity into the future. This resulted in a new Public Protection Partnering Agreement being developed in March 2025, which will be reviewed on an annual basis and supported with quarterly Budget meetings between the Chief Social Work Officer, Accountant and Chairs of the Committees.

There have been aspects of the Child Protection Improvement Plan 2024-25 ([Appendix 1](#)) that were harder to progress because of capacity, and resource prioritisation within single agencies. The Christie Commission (2011) recognised that public sector organisations were likely going to have to evidence being able to 'do more with less' and this has never felt truer than with the ever-increasing roster for risks, concerns, themes and multilateral working approaches required for child protection. With the recognition that there can be service-generated risks in areas of strategic planning that drift or hit unexpected hurdles, the Child Protection Committee is in the process of developing a Risk Register, as requested by Chief Officers.

The Child Protection Committee has also contributed over the first part of 2025 to the development of a Public Protection Information Sharing Agreement in the event of a cyber attack or risk presenting to either singular or multiple systems. There is also further systems planning required in the next period of improvement to ensure the shared e-IRD records system used by core public protection agencies across Edinburgh and the Lothians is resourced and sustainable into the future. A Lothian-wide e-IRD steering group meets regularly to explore this and yet, further assistance may be required from the Chief Officer's Group once software and hardware upgrade needs become clearer.

What we've still to do?

This year was intended to act as a bridging opportunity to ensure structures and connections were in place to allow for a high functioning Committee in years to come. This was achieved and, in the process, some worthwhile projects also came together with the support of all partners. Outlined below are the key objectives for the CP Improvement Plan 2025-28:

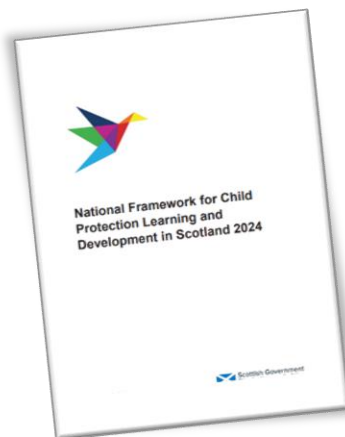
1. Improve the visibility and transparency of the ECPC's strategic oversight by agreeing the publication of redacted ECPC Action Minutes.
2. Develop a Child Protection Committee Risk Register that is aligned with the other public protection committees.
3. Ensure effective use of the multi-agency Public Protection Budget in progressing local and national priorities.
4. Hold regular Child Protection Committee meetings, including inputs from key services and project that complement the CP Improvement Plan. This should include opportunities to meet in person, throughout the year.
5. Monitor and address any ongoing issues with structure, membership and roles within the ECPC or associated sub-committees.
6. Develop a Communications Strategy for the ECPC and mechanisms for recognising and celebrating good practice. It has already been agreed that this should include the introduction of an ECPC Newsletter.
7. Re-developing the public protection committee's webpages, in line with views from children, families and other stakeholders.
8. Continue a programme of Policy, Procedure, Protocol and Guidance review and ensure these are readily available to the workforce (There is more on this topic within section (c) of this report).

More detail can be found in [Appendix 2](#)

2. Learning Culture and Relationships

Why is it a priority?

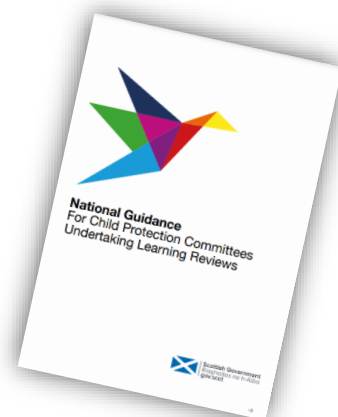
In January 2024 we launched the Edinburgh and Lothian's Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures. This involved carrying out implementation briefings, as highlighted in last year's annual report. The ECPC continues to update other guidance, procedures and protocols to align with the National Child Protection Guidance and local Child Protection procedures and therefore also revise the training and learning offered in relation to Child Protection principles, knowledge, understanding, skill, and confidence.



This has been greatly aided by the implementation of the renewed National Framework for Child Protection Learning and Development in Scotland in March 2024, which led Edinburgh Child Protection Committee's Learning and Development Sub-Committee to develop our own local Child Protection Learning and Development Strategy that will help inform reviews of current learning opportunities; developing new, self-directed or blended forms of learning; and also in considering new or revised learning opportunities for members of the workforce in intensive or specialist child protection roles.

In 2023-24 we experienced challenges in progressing learning and development opportunities due to staffing and capacity issues. It is for this reason that last year's Child Protection Improvement plan ([Appendix 1](#)) had a large section sitting on red for some time. Therefore, it is great to be able to report below that, as we moved into 2025, the prognosis of multi-agency learning events was much brighter and we are starting to see the fruit of a larger pool of Learning and Development staff to progress areas of learning development.

Having initially implemented the National Guidance for Child Protection Committees Undertaking Learning Review (2021) in early 2023, the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee has learned a great deal from the Learning Review processes and systems that have been embedding over the last two years. It is important to continue to review and grow these processes, alongside our colleagues in Adult Protection.



What have we done?

Multi-agency Learning Strategy:

The Learning and Development Sub-Committee is responsible for promoting, commissioning, and assuring the quality and delivery of inter-agency training. The Committee:

- ensures that ECPC provides high-quality multi-agency learning and development opportunities to all staff, providing the opportunity to acquire, update and maintain the skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary to respond to protection concerns.
- assures ECPC of the uptake and effectiveness of multi-agency training across Child Protection.
- assures ECPC that dynamic review of the implementation of the Child Protection learning and development strategy is undertaken to ensure it is fit for purpose considering current and future needs.

Following the instalment of a new Chair in May 2024, the Sub-Committee quickly got to work in developing a [Child Protection Learning & Development Strategy](#), which was agreed by ECPC in December 2024 and published on the Child Protection for Professionals webpage.

The Strategy implements the National Framework for Child Protection Learning and Development in Scotland (2024) and encourages:



The Strategy therefore places an onus on agencies and services to explore and address the learning needs of their workforce and provides a framework to support managers and leaders to do so, while also setting multi-agency aims and objectives to support how we learn together.

Following on from this fundamental piece of work, the Learning and Development Sub-Committee have been developing a robust work plan and ensuring the limited access to operational training resource is utilised effectively. This is especially as the Sub-Committee start to break down the tasks identified in the ambitious Child Protection Improvement Plan 2025-28 ([Appendix 2](#)) and explore workforce learning actions anticipated from completed Learning Reviews (covered in more detail below).

Learning Events

Despite operational challenges in delivering all the anticipated multi-agency learning events this year, learning was offered through the ECPC in 2024-25 in the following learning areas of practice:

- Introductory Child Protection
- Inter-Agency Risk Assessment
- Neglect (2 different learning events)
- Non-accidental or Inflicted Injury to infants and young children
- Domestic Abuse
- Neo-natal Abstinence Syndrome
- Child Exploitation
- Honour Based Abuse and Female Genital Mutilation
- LGBTQ+ Awareness Raising
- Giving Evidence at Court.



This has been bolstered by the City of Edinburgh Council re-modelling a Public Protection Learning and Development team in summer 2024, which resulted in welcoming 5 new staff members who would work across Child Protection, Adult Protection, Education, Community and Justice within both the single-agency and multi-agency learning spaces.

In April 2025, the ECPC received the first formal report of inter-agency course figures, based on the learning events offered in the 2024 calendar year, which provided stark evidence of what had been suspected for some time. ECPC offered a total of 39 events across the ten subject areas identified above; of these 28 learning events went ahead in full, 10 were cancelled and one event ran in part. This means that more than a quarter (27%) of the events offered were cancelled due to combination of poor sign-up and facilitator availability.

Sadly, where learning did take place, there was also a very poor conversion from places offered > places booked > places used:

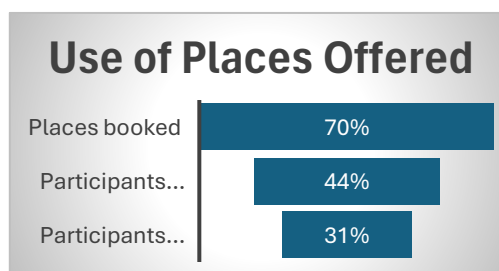


Figure 6 - Multi-Agency Learning Events

The Report made the following recommendations, which are being considered by the L&D Sub-Committee as they plan for future multi-agency learning:

1. Improve process to record cancellations, including reason for non-attendance, which will help to help explore barriers to filling learning events.
2. Explore channels to better advertise learning events to improve uptake of participants.
3. Improve process to collect registers of attendance after events in order to allow for more robust data-collection.
4. Conduct a review to understand if the learning offer is in line with demand.

Throughout spring 2024 NHS Lothian undertook a staff engagement survey, which has informed our understanding of staff development needs.

Similarly, in early 2025 City of Edinburgh undertook a large-scale Learning Needs Analysis across all areas involved in Child and Adult Protection work in the local authority and the ECPC is awaiting the findings from this process as another opportunity to learn about the views of the workforce in their personal, professional development.

The Child Protection Lead Officer has a dedicated session on Learning Culture planned with the EVOC Children, Young People and Families Network late in 2025, which will cover outcomes from Learning Reviews and wider workforce learning needs.

Initial Referral Discussion (IRD) Participants Workshops:

The ECPC also set a target to resume learning opportunities for the intensive workforce, which will be an area of ongoing development in the next reporting period. In 2024-25 this focused particularly on resuming IRD Workshops. These are largely planned and facilitated by the Child Protection Lead Officer. Two face-face IRD Workshops were held in in the reporting period:

- May 2024 – IRD Practice Workshop
- February 2025- Non-Accidental Injuries and IRDs



These involved contributions from subject matter experts in Police Scotland, Scottish Government, Social Work Scotland, NHS Lothian, City of Edinburgh Council Social Work, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Scotland. Both events were attended by over 60 IRD participants and other interested parties, with resources made available after the event for those unable to attend.

Attendees of IRD Workshops have also started taking some of this learning back to share with their wider teams and services.

These events have been subject to exit-evaluations and participants have been extremely positive about the value of the experience:

“The real-life case studies and chance to practice robust discussions between professional disciplines was invaluable.”

“This greatly enhanced my knowledge in terms of the language used for the medical side of things and knowing what other professionals are talking about.”

“Really interesting and helped me to understand my role and also the role of other services.”

Other Cross-cutting Learning Events:

Further to the regular learning events we have been offering, ECPC also partnered with [SW Grid for Learning](#) in October 2024 to offer an Online Safety Live event for around 50 practitioners from across schools, youth work and social care services primarily.

The Child Protection Lead Officer is also a [Child Exploitation Online Policing](#) (NCA) Ambassador and, along with a handful of other local staff, stays informed on CEOP activity and attends the annual conference, sharing the learning as appropriate after the event. This is in-line with several events and meetings offered by Child Protection Committees Scotland, who have also focused on emerging digital risks to children and young people over the last year.

As part of the [Edinburgh Talk PANTS Campaign](#), discussed in Section (a), a series of workforce learning events were offered in relation to preventative and responsive approaches to child sexual abuse with events on accessible communication, typical and atypical sexual development dependent on age and stage, and a Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse closing event held in December 2024.

In spring 2024, members of the Learning and Development Sub-Committee expressed concern that the Children Affected by Parental Substance Use learning events had not

been able to run for some time and also that there were increasing concerns for young people and adults using new and emerging substances or engaging in poly-drug use and the anecdotal uncertainty about the children's services workforce awareness and skill in assessing risk. Similarly, when the drug-related deaths results were released nationally in November 2025, a discussion took place at ECPC about how to address some of the concerns by providing staff with relevant information and advice.

A focused piece of work began between the Edinburgh Drug and Alcohol Partnership and ECPC to:

- Produce a 7 Minute Briefing on Drug Use and Risk of Overdose
- To offer a series of webinars from subject matter experts in child-care and drug support to both staff groups.

The project commenced in late 2024 and so far, we have provided a Briefing Paper and offered 2 Webinars to between 25-50 staff across the partnership on:

- Young People's Substance Use and Support pathways
- New Drugs Trends and Overdose Awareness.



There is a series of further events and workshops planned for the remainder of 2025, in line with Getting Our Priorities Right (Scottish Government, 2013) and family inclusive practice (Families Affected by Drug and Alcohol Use in Scotland: A Framework for Holistic Whole Family Approaches and Family Inclusive Practice, Scottish Government and COSLA, 2021).

The Adult Protection Committee also offered a day of events linked to Protection through Partnership that linked with Adult Support and Protection Awareness Day in February 2025, which was publicised by ECPC and children's services workforce also benefitted from.

Multi-Agency Briefing Papers

The ECPC has shared or developed the following Briefings and resources over the last year:

Action Against Stalking resources March 2025
Domestic Abuse Safety Planning Booklet March 2025
Substance Use Awareness resources March 2025

UK Safer Internet Day Resources March 2025
Talking to Men about Wellbeing Briefing January 2025
Top Tips for Trans Inclusion in Youth Work January 2025
Public Protection Disclosure Guidance December 2024
Drug Abuse and Risk Briefing December 2024
Inter-Agency Referral Discussions Briefing October 2024
Inter-Agency Adult Protection Procedures October 2024
SARCS Campaign September 2024
Care Inspectorate's Thematic Review of Disabled Children and Young People's Experiences August 2024
Poverty Awareness and local resources August 2024
FGM and the Gambia Briefing June 2024
Scottish Government Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework May 2024
NCA Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion Alert April 2024
NSPCC Physical Abuse Statistical Briefing April 2024
IRISS Understanding age in Child Protection guidance and Adult Support and Protection legislation April 2024
NSPCC Talk PANTS resources throughout 2024

Child Learning Reviews:

Throughout 2024-25 we have continued to develop and embed the Learning Review process and a menu of learning options following a Learning Review notification.

While initially running as a joint public protection Learning Review Panel, the volume of work across Child and Adult Protection proved too great causing the group to split into adults and children's. This year there has been six Child Learning Review Panels.

The Child Learning Review Panel accepts notifications on all children under 18 and care experienced people up to the age of 26. Membership includes senior officers from City of Edinburgh Council's Children, Education and Justice directorate; NHS Lothian's Public Protection Team and Police Scotland's Public Protection Unit. Other members of staff can be invited in line with the children or young people being discussed. Learning Review notifiers attend to present the case, which has allowed for rich discussion of the background and potential organisational learning, before a recommendation is made about whether the case meets the criteria for a Learning Review and what type of learning would best aid the situation.

We received seven new Learning Review notifications during the reporting period, although we were also continuing to address six previous notifications initiated prior to April 2024. These notifications followed two key themes around:

- Children with complex health conditions and parental engagement;
- The deaths of care experienced young adults.

Learning Review Notifications were received from the following agencies:

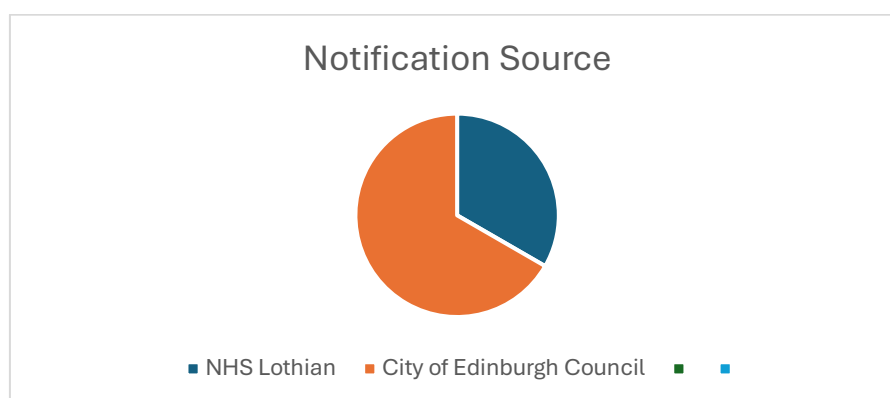


Figure 7 - Learning Review Notification Sources

The information requested, recommendations made, decisions by Chief Officer's Group and notification to the Care Inspectorate are all tracked and will be reported to ECPC on an annual basis. Recent tracking has already allowed us to consider revising the Public Protection Learning Reviews Protocol and improve timescales on decision-making by setting new targets around this objective.

During 2024-25, we ran the following formal Learning Review activity:

Young Person D – concluded in March 2024 but experienced lengthy delays in action planning. So the Learning Review Report and Action Plan was not fully signed off by COG until January 2025.

The ECPC did receive constructive feedback from the Care Inspectorate on submission of the Learning Review Report.

The ECPC has also carried forward efforts to brief the workforce on the outcomes from this Review.

Child E – The Learning Review commenced in August 2024 and the report was received in April 2025. This included the Lead Reviewer presenting the learning points, strategies for improvement and good practice examples to the ECPC and the participants who had been involved in the Review in early April 2025. Action Planning and workforce briefings are in progress.

Adult A – The Child Protection Lead Officer also took part in the Learning Review for Adult A. This was run by Adult Protection as, although it involved the death of a care experienced young adult (under 26), the learning related to Adult Protection concerns. Action planning and workforce briefings are now progressing.

Child F & G – The Learning Review commenced in February 2025 and is currently in progress with a Learning Review Report due in August 2025.

Young Person H – A Multi-Agency Reflective Discussion was agreed to take place in March 2025. This was progressed quickly over the next few months.

The ECPC is working on proportionate reporting of all the learning activity for both Chief Officers and Care Inspectorate.

The Child Learning Review Sub-Committee, chaired by the Chief Social Work Officer, continues to develop the approach to tracking and reviewing the strategies for improvement and learning points identified in a Learning Review report. There has been a great deal of reflection as we go through each Learning Review and improvement journey that is built into future Learning Review activity as we continue to adapt and streamline the approach.

Quarterly meetings of the Child Learning Review Sub-Committee have been taking place since February 2025 and the Terms of Reference are due to be revised early into the new year (2025-26), based on experiences.

This year saw the first annual Learning Review Report presented to ECPC in February 2025 by the Child Protection Lead Officer. This covered our own Learning Review activity, take-aways from the Care Inspectorate's, Learning Reviews for Children in Scotland Data Report 2024 and also assurance on how ECPC had used the outcomes for Learning Reviews in other parts of the country.

The Child Protection Lead Officer has also worked to develop a briefing process on Learning Reviews undertaken from other areas of the county, which is disseminated to the PQI Sub-Committee and L&D Sub-Committee for consideration at both single and multi-agency levels. So far, this has involved outcomes from seven different Learning Reviews throughout 2024-25.

What we've still to do?

1. Last year's work on developing a Child Protection Multi-Agency Learning and Development Strategy now requires implementation and a clear work plan, developed by the Learning & Development Sub-Committee.
2. This will involve reviewing all our current learning opportunities in line with the staff engagement, needs analysis work and current priorities, identified in other areas of the CP Improvement Plan 2025-28. The Learning & Development Sub-Committee has plans to take a blended approach to learning and develop further e-learning and build on the webinar approach, alongside the courses and workshops we run.
3. To aid this, the ECPC will also launch a new booking management site to allow the workforce to self-manage their Child Protection learning.
4. The ECPC will continue to develop opportunities for IRD Workshops and provide a suite of information for different levels of staff on the same topics.

5. The ECPC also intends to partner more closely with the Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee in understanding and meeting the workforce learning needs around violence against women and girls.
6. We are eager to map the availability of support and supervision for our staff groups. The ECPC also continues to partner with the Edinburgh Children's Partnership on ensuring trauma-informed and responsive practice is rolled out.
7. The ECPC will develop increased opportunities for consultancy and co-development of materials with people with lived experience of services.
8. The ECPC continues to develop robust Learning Review practice, alongside building alternative approaches to learning.

3. Self-evaluation and Assurance

Why is it a priority?

The Performance Quality and Improvement (PQI) Sub-Committee has had a very busy year, which included a lot of changes to membership. Despite these adjustments, the Sub-Committee continues to carry out the [National Minimum Dataset version 2 Reporting](#) on a bi-annual basis. In 2024-25 the ECPC also committed to resuming multi-agency child protection audits and to build a new multi-agency quality assurance framework that allowed us to track the journey and experience of children and families from Child Protection concern through formal investigation and response. Both these projects have been progressed by the PQI Sub-Committee and have formed the basis of the self-evaluation and assurance work and is described in more details below.

Key Mechanisms for Continuous Improvement Work



What have we done?

This year we have worked closely understand what the National Minimum Dataset Reports are telling us, given changes to personnel; adaption of local child protection practice that took place in January 2024; implementation the [Edinburgh and Lothian's Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures](#).

Below are some of the key indicators and what we have learned through this time.

Child Protection Referrals:

Over this year we have interrogated the data to understand how Child Protection referrals are addressed, via routes in from all 3 core services (Police Scotland, NHS Lothian and City of Edinburgh Council). This has been based on our National Minimum Dataset work and anecdotal evidence.

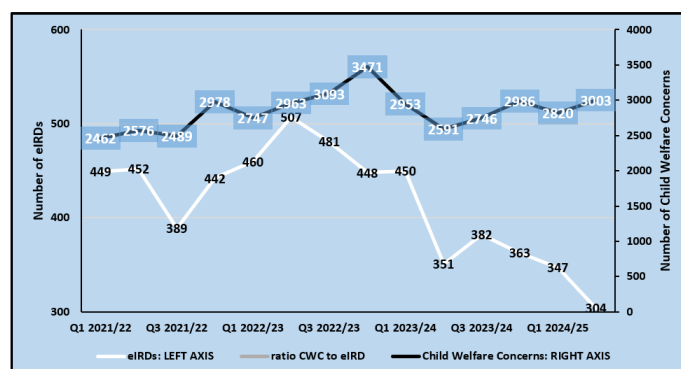


Figure 8 - Child Welfare Concerns and IRDs

This will result in ensuring our reporting measures in 2025-26 are SMARTer better reflect the child protection element of referrals. It will further be positively impacted by City of Edinburgh Council's new Social Work client recording system expected spring 2026, which will improve ease and confidence in reporting.

Initial Referral Discussions (IRDs):

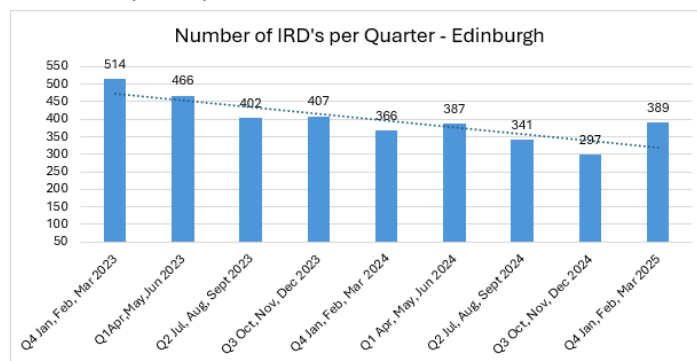
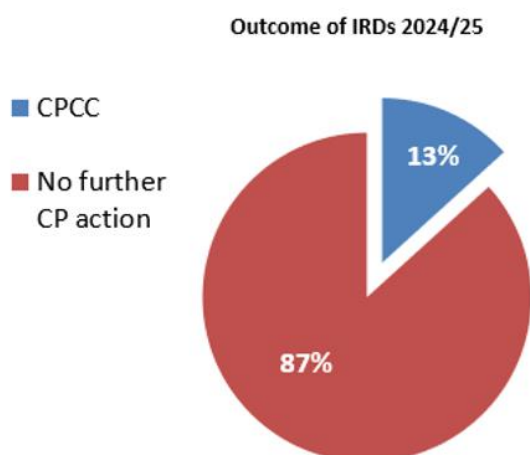


Figure 9 - IRDs

In Edinburgh the rate of IRDs per 1,000 children (Aug 2023- July 2024) was 18.1 in comparison, compared to 18.7 nationally.

Since September 2024, the IRD process has been evaluated as part of the resumption Multi-Agency Child Protection Audits. The auditors have developed an IRD check-list and exemplar of good, adequate and weak IRD practice to support the auditing, which is helping us to delve into better understanding the quality of our work at this stage of the Child Protection process.

This, along with other processes such as our weekly IRD Review Group, give us confidence that comprehensive child protection investigations are being undertaken through the IRD process. As a result, many children and young people have their IRD's



closed with the decision that the risks have reduced due to the assessment and interventions put in place. For others, particularly elder young people or those who are victims of emerging risks, there are other pathways that do not result in Child Protection Planning Meeting such as Child Criminal Exploitation Strategy Meetings; Care and Risk Management processes; and Contextual Safeguarding approaches.

Figure 10 - Outcome of IRDs

In May 2024 Edinburgh invited Scottish Government and Police Scotland to deliver a taster of the national IRD training course to over 60 IRD participants. We are also developing further IRD Guidance, currently in progress, which will encompass both best practice in information sharing and decision making through the IRD process and how this is ideally recorded on the shared e-IRD system. In the interim a short IRD Guidance note has been developed for all staff.

Joint Investigative Interviews and Child Protection Medical Examinations:

While Edinburgh has contributed to new national data collection on the above, the PQI Sub-Committee have also been tracking quantitative and qualitative aspects both of adopting the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) and of the different types of children's medicals being undertaken. We have been particularly interested in children and young person's experiences of these processes and also times when these processes do not proceed because the child or parent/carer (in the case of Medicals) withdraws consent.

Further, we have been cognisant of the needs and views of young people with disabilities or additional support needs who services may find hard to engage or hear from.

These areas of identified work have led to areas of specific audit work being undertaken to provide more depth to our understanding of these issues and how to develop services in line with children's needs and wishes.



Child Protection Planning Meetings:

As part of the Edinburgh and Lothians Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures, it is the expectation that all Initial Child Protection Planning Meetings take place within 28 days of the start of the IRD.

In 2023-24 there was concern that the ICPPMs taking place within timescale were only 42-52% and performance improvement plans were implemented. Therefore, we are pleased to report that, except for a slight dip in January 2025, Initial Child Protection Planning Meetings arranged within timescale have always been above 60%, with a current performance target of 70%. This is despite continued challenges in staffing front-line child protection work.

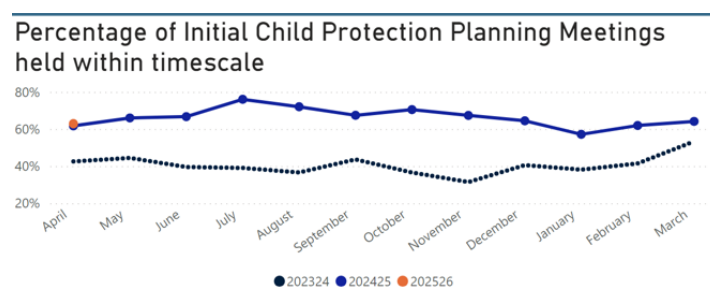


Figure 11 - CPPMs within Timescales

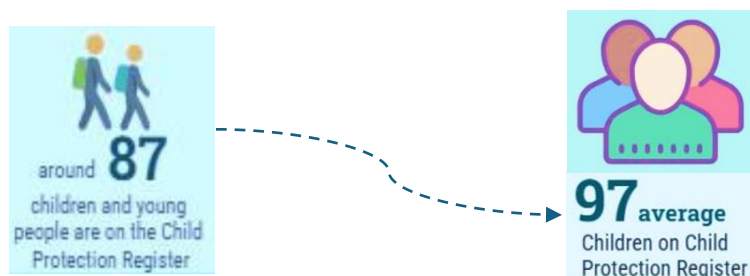
As a result of Learning Review activity, Edinburgh is working hard to ensure all relevant professionals involved in the team around a child or family are in attendance at CPPMs and contribute to assessment of need and risk. This is an area of ongoing work for 2025-26.

Child Protection Registrations:

| | |
|---|--|
| Edinburgh Children on Child Protection Register 2024 | National Children on Child Protection Register 2024 |
| 1.3 | 2.1 |
| Rate per 1,000 children | Rate per 1,000 |

There has been much debate on the average number of Edinburgh children who *should* be on the Child Protection Register at any given time, especially in relation to the relatively high number of Child Protection referrals and Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) reported above.

While 2023-24 saw a reduction in the number of children on the Child Protection register, as highlighted in the ECPC Annual Report 2023-24, numbers have risen again in 2024-25. Several pieces of audit and self-assurance work were undertaken by the PQI to understand our local practice, which satisfied the Child Protection Committee that children's needs for care and protection were effectively being addressed.



Analysis carried out over this time showed that elder children were being considered at IRD and CPPM. Also, the range of concerns and vulnerability factors was changing to include growing concerns in Edinburgh about issues such as close connection to Serious Organised Crime, Exploitation, Trafficking and Harmful Sexual Behaviour.

Edinburgh is continuing to try and develop consistent practice with 16-17 year olds and care experienced young people up to the age of 26. This was aided by the part Edinburgh played in the [Transitions for care experienced young people thematic review](#), undertaken by the Care Inspectorate. It continues to be a significant area of the improvement planning for 2025-28.

The [Child Protection Dispute Resolution Protocol](#) was revised in 2024, following learning from a Dispute Resolution process that took place in May 2024. The updated Protocol was agreed by ECPC in November 2024, although PQI Sub-Committee are also developing multi-agency escalation guidance throughout the remainder of 2025.

In May 2024 we also trialled a 'What does our Data Tell us?' 1-page briefing, available on the [Edinburgh Child Protection Committee](#) website. Unfortunately, this was poorly accessed, and we will revise our approach to communicating this type of information in the next reporting period.

Policy and Procedure Development:

While we did establish mechanisms for the revision and development of new policy, procedure and guidance this year, it has been slow progress freeing staff from different agencies up to attend short-life working groups with this purpose.

On the following page are the documents that have been agreed this year and can be found on our Child Protection for Professionals web-page.

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Dispute Resolution Protocol | November 2024 |
| Edinburgh and the Lothians Multi-Agency Underage Sexual Activity Guidance | December 2024 |
| Forced Marriage Policy | May 2024 |
| Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Policy | August 2024 |

The Child Protection Lead Officer also developed a [CP Policies and Procedures Guidance pack](#) for the 3rd sector and is due to deliver a training session through the EVOC Children and Families Network Nov 2024.

There are some cross-cutting pieces of work that are underway but have been subject to delays for a number of local and national reasons, such as:

- Risks Outside the Home Guidance, which will replace the current Child Sexual Exploitation Guidance with something that encompasses all types of exploitation (led by City of Edinburgh Council)
- Female Genital Mutilation Procedures (alongside NHS Lothians single-agency procedures)
- Children Affected by Parental Substance Use Guidelines and Toolkit (alongside Alcohol and Drug Partnership)
- Human Trafficking Protocol (joint project involved the Lead Officers for Child Protection, Adult Protection and Equally Safe Edinburgh)

The ECPC is also giving consideration to developing some new Guidance, largely based on outcomes from the completed Learning Reviews discussed in the previous section.

Children's Rights and the UNCRC:

Children's Rights and participation are valued by the ECPC. The Child Protection Lead Officer has supported City of Edinburgh's work on developing a child-friendly complaints process. Further, she also sits on the UNCRC working group of the Edinburgh Children's Partnership and contributes on the action planning and evidence gathering for the section 18 reporting duties of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024.

The Child Protection Lead Officer also keeps in close contact with the Children's Commissioner within NHS Lothian, Corporate Parenting and Promise Lead and Whole-family Wellbeing Lead Officers, both in City of Edinburgh Council, who all facilitate elements of rights-based work. The ECPC intends to build in a programme of regular reporting on children's rights to its meetings.

Further, the ECPC would like to develop plans to work in partnership with children, young people and adults with lived experience in order to shape the work more meaningfully. It is recognised that there is still much work to do in this area and children's rights has been added as a priority to the Child Protection Improvement Plan 2025-28 with the intention that, by 2028 children's rights will be threaded right through all aspects of our improvement work.

What we've still to do?

Self-evaluation and assurance work runs right through the core of all ECPC committee business. Given the new CP Improvement Plan will run for three years, it covers a number of thematic issues in priorities (5) – (8) that will all involve elements of evaluation and improvement planning. While it would be difficult to go into all the details here, some of the main themes we will be working on are:

1. Continuing to develop and embed the three main quality assurance tools used by Performance Quality and Improvement Sub-Committee.
2. Maintain a programme of Policy, Procedure and Guidance revision or development.
3. We also intend to re-run the National Child Protection Guidance Self-Evaluation that was previously carried out in October 2023.
4. We will ensure that the multi-agency public protection budget is used effectively in line with learning from self-evaluation and assurance activities.

4. Strategic Connection

Why is it a priority?

We hope it is apparent throughout the annual report that local strategic connection is of crucial importance to the ECPC and we work hard to maintain and build on this. Much of this information is covered in part (a).

Involvement in national forums also remains vital to appreciating how Edinburgh's Child Protection strategic planning fits into the bigger picture.



What have we done?

Two areas of focus in our Child Protection Improvement Plan 2024-25 were:

- Engagement with the third sector and representation with ECPC and Sub-Committees
- Growing mutually effective relationship and connection with other multi-agency children's services forums, i.e. the Edinburgh Children's Partnership and Corporate Parenting Board.

Third Sector Involvement:

[Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committees and Chief Officers Responsibilities](#) (Scottish Government 2019) highlights that Child Protection Committees must engage the third sector and seek to maximise the sector's contributions to the protection of children, through the relationship with local third sector forums.

The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee has always enjoyed good relationships with the third sector through the Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC).

As described in other sections of the report, EVOC members support the Committee and all the Sub-Committees and the EVOC-ECPC Liaison group exists to offer opportunities for representatives to meet and discuss issues as a collective. The group is currently reviewing how it can best use its voice to represent the sector.

The Child Protection Lead Officer also attends the full EVOC Children, Young People and Families Network on a bi-annual basis and provides a report on key updates. In this reporting period, a meeting took place in November 2024, which focused on an input from the Child Protection Lead Officer encouraging third sector organisations review

and update their Child Protection policies and procedures in line with recent national changes.

As EVOC underwent a lot of change at the turn of the year, an invitation to attend the network again has not yet taken place. Albeit there is regular communication and sharing of information to the Network through the new Strategic Delivery Lead, EVOC.

The Child Protection Lead Officer also enjoys close links with other local bodies such as the Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC) and faith groups.

Other Local Multi-agency Forums:

The Child Protection Lead Officer continues to attend the other local public protection committees and the Edinburgh Children's Partnership, wherever possible. This has helped build relationship with different 3rd sector representatives and other parts of the workforce.

Attendance at these forums has included providing updates on the Child Protection Improvement Plan 2024-25, which will continue when the new plan commences. It has also involved valuable Child Protection Committee contribution to wider planning, such as the ECPC Chair and Lead Officer's involvement in consultation on the restructure of the Edinburgh Partnership and the Child Protection Lead Officer's attendance at the Edinburgh Children's Partnership Awayday.

Over and above this, it is not always obvious what the communications routes are between the ECPC and Chief Officer's Group governance versus the Edinburgh Children's Partnership and Edinburgh Partnership route. This means that there can be joint reporting, duplication or even information that appears to be missing from one forum. Despite ambitious intentions for the ECPC to develop and agree a framework with other forums/partnerships, this piece of work has not been fully realised within the 2024-25 reporting period.

Within this reporting period the Child Protection Lead Officer has also re-established bi-annual meetings with the Children and Young People's Review Team, to hear first-hand about practice issues within Child Protection Planning Meetings and the wider child protection process and to share wider strategic updates with this group. This has resulted in some fruitful discussions and wider pieces of work that will continue into the new Child Protection Improvement Plan ([Appendix 2](#)).

National Meetings and Networks:



The ECPC Chair and Child Protection Lead Officer continue to attend Child Protection Committees Scotland meetings and special events. We are also linked in with various networks that offer special events and learning from the likes of Care Inspectorate, CYCJ, IRISS, Celcis and Scottish Government.

Further the Child Protection Lead Officer is also a year into her 2-year tenure as the Chair to the National Lead Officer's Group for Child Protection. This involved hosting a meeting at Edinburgh City Chambers in November 2024 focused on learning from around the country on Contextual Safeguarding implementation, which was attended by over 20 Lead Officers.



The ECPC is attended by the Care Inspectorate link inspector on a regular basis and interim meetings with the Chair and CP Lead Officer also take place.

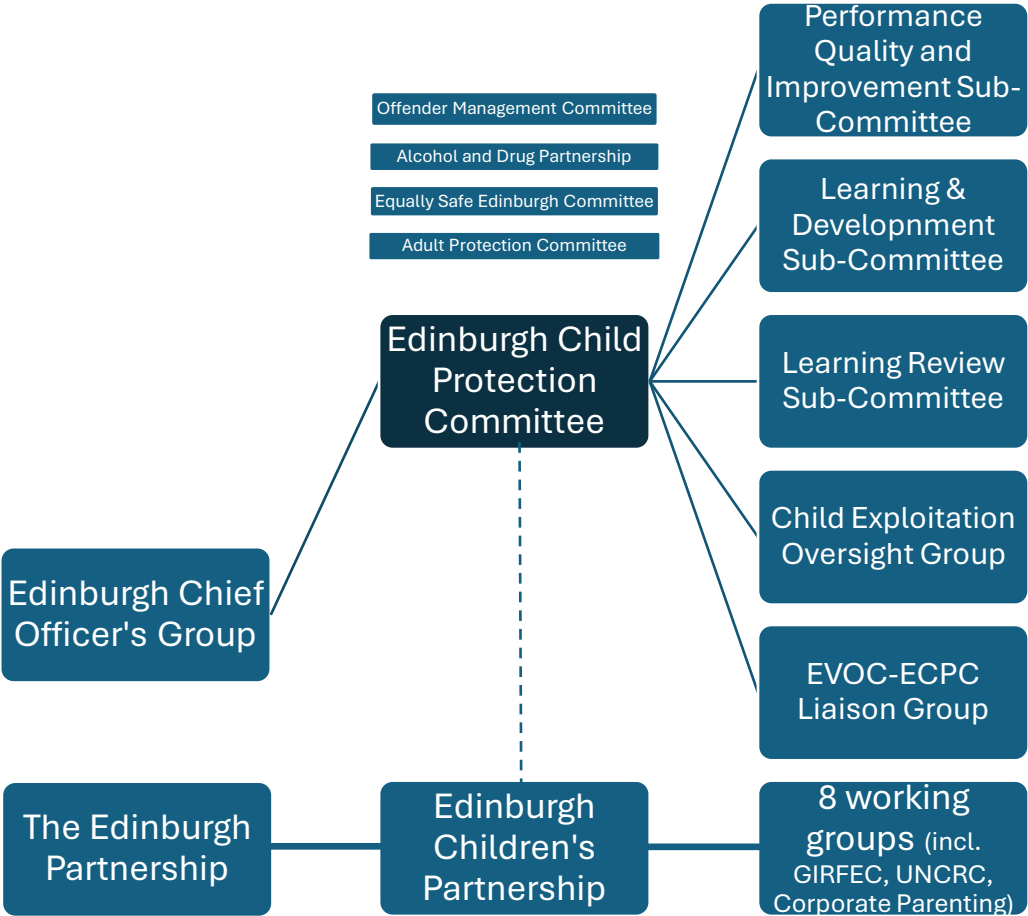
What we've still to do?

Over the next few years the ECPC aim to continue building on the work carried out over 2024-25 by:

1. Proposing the development of a Public Protection Strategy and consider a strengthened Public Protection Office
2. Maintaining relationship and connection to allow for a mutually supportive planning with key partners such as the Edinburgh Partnership, EADP, EHSCP and NHSL Public Health.

Appendix 1: Child Protection Committee Improvement Plan 2024-25

City of Edinburgh Child Protection Committee – Improvement Plan 2024-25



The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee is the inter-agency strategic partnership, responsible for the design, development, publication, distribution, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of child protection policy and practice across the public, private and wider third sectors in the City of Edinburgh area. Through our local structures and membership, we provide individual and collective leadership and direction for the management of child protection services.

The Committee is made up of Guidance issued by the Scottish Government requires every local authority area to have a Child Protection Committee.

Strong links exist between the Committee and the Edinburgh Children's Partnership (the Partnership) through the Edinburgh Children's Services Plan (2020 - 23). Work continues to ensure that this is a developing partnership.

In 2019, the Scottish Government published the document "Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committee and Chief Officer Responsibilities". This sets out the functions of the child protection committee, which are:

- Continuous improvement
- Public information, engagement, and participation
- Strategic planning and connections
- Annual reporting on the work of the CPC.

Based on these core functions, the 2024-25 Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Improvement plan focusses on four key themes which have been agreed as being priority areas in the coming year:

- a) Leadership and Structure
- b) Learning Culture and Relationships
- c) Self-evaluation and Assurance
- d) Strategic Connection

These themes have emerged through Committee development activities during the first 6 months in post of our first independent Chair and new Lead Officer. These reflect national and local drivers, with relevance across the multi-agency partnership.

The intention is for a one-year plan to enable us to build the right structures and supports to address more ambitious themes in a 3-year strategic plan that would run 2025-28.

Monitoring of this plan will be taken forward by the Child Protection Committee throughout the year.

Blue/Red/Amber/Green legend:

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Blue | Complete | | | | |
| Red | There are significant issues and / or risks that are impacting on the action / task right now = we are not delivering the action / task on time / scope / budget. | | | | |
| Amber | There are some issues and / or risks that are impacting on the action / task if not fixed = we are at risk of not delivering the action / task on time / scope / budget. | | | | |
| Green | There are no issues and / or risks impacting on the action / task which is progressing according to plan = we are delivering the action / task on time / scope / budget. | | | | |
| Date | Total actions | Total actions completed | Total actions added (new) | Total actions amended | Total actions ongoing |
| 23/10/24 | 19 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| 26/06/25 | 19 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 3 |

| 1. Leadership and Structure | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|-----------|---|--|-----|
| Objective | Actions | Strategic Lead | Timescale | Evidence | Progress | RAG |
| The role and function of the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee is clearly reflected in the membership, commitment and in the Sub-committee structures that support the ECPC | Review and revise the Constitution and Terms of Reference for the ECPC. | Independent chair / Vice chairs Child Protection committee Quality Regulation, & Improvement & Chief Social Work Office | June 2024 | 1. Sign off at Child Protection committee. 2. TOR's Agreement for each committee, sub committee 3. Develop a flexible induction for new ECPC members to include self-guide induction handbook and opportunities to meet with the Independent Chair and Lead Officer | Agreed ECPC January 2024 Agreed ECPC January – May 2024 Lead officer commenced use in September 2024 with the induction of two new committee members. | |
| | Ensure the membership of ECPC is relevant and up to date. | Independent Chair Child Protection committee | June 2024 | 1. Sign off at Child Protection committee. & Chief Officers group. 2. Produce and implement a strategic improvement plan. | Membership reviewed May 2024 but continues to be monitored in line with needs and focus of committee. Justice attended first ECPC August 2024. Housing have confirmed attendance Oct 2024. | |

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| | Take a blended approach to ECPC Meetings, with at least 2/8 taking place in person. | Lead officer Child Protection committee Business support | May2024 | 1. To be reviewed annually at the Child Protection committee. | In-person committees took place in May and November 2024. 2 in-person committees planned for 2025. | |
| | Review and revise the structure and membership of the ECPC Sub-committees to ensure they effectively support the overall aims. | Independent Chair Sub-Committee Chairs | August 24 | 1. An annual development day is held for Committee and sub-group members for sign off. | Structure of ECPC and Sub-Committees has been fully revised updated on page 1. A Public Protection development morning took place in January 2024. Plans for a ECPC development day were postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. There are 3 development mornings planning for 2025 including one in early March. Update March 2025: Development sessions did not go ahead. | |

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| | | | | | Development morning planned for June 2025. | |
| The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee has a visibility amongst partners and publicly. | Maintain the ECPC Knowledge Hub Pages as an Edinburgh Child Protection community Hub. | Quality Regulation, & Improvement & Chief Social Work Office Lead Officer | October 24 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure sharing of information with all members 2. Undertake evaluation of usage and report to CPC. | <p>Current pages were cleansed by Lead Officer and Administrator in April 2024.</p> <p>Knowledge Hub usage is reported periodically to ECPC and in the CP Committee Annual report.</p> | |
| | Multi-Agency Policy, Procedures, alongside information and Documentation on Edinburgh Child Protection landing pages is cleansed and updated. | Quality Regulation, & Improvement & Chief Social Work Office Lead Officer | October 24 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of all the appropriate partnership social media platforms to provide regular social media post promoting key CP messages 2. Tracked number of hits to social media posts 3. Tracked number of hits to webpages | <p>Distribution list updated and key partners from L&D Sub-Committee asked to share posts/resources on their platforms.</p> <p>It has not been possible to track engagement with CEC downloads pages but click-throughs to other webpages provided by CEC Web team March 2025.</p> | |

| 2. Learning Culture and Relationships | | | | | | |
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| Objective | Actions | Strategic Lead | Timescale | Evidence | Progress | RAG |
| There is a range of opportunities to grow working relationships and offer collective learning to improve practice. | Develop a CP Learning & Development Strategy, in line with progress on national guidance around CP L&D. | L&D Sub-Committee | Sept 24 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify both qualitative and quantitative measures. 2. Agree how the data will be reported and monitored. | <p>L&D Strategy has been in development since April 2024 within L&D Sub-Committee.</p> <p>New chair appointed May 2025 and some changes to group membership have led to delays but Strategy is now due to be signed off by Dec 2024. This will include annual reporting to ECPC.</p> <p>L&D Strategy signed off Dec 2024 and work plan being agreed.</p> | |
| | Offer a range of Multi-Agency Practice Learning Opportunities, including re-establishing IRD Workshops. | L&D Sub-Committee | November 24 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and measure uptake of training by all partnership members 2. Produce and ensure wide circulation of an annual report | <p>Some multi-agency training has been ongoing, but regular reports to ECPC about the lack of capacity and the analogue approach to training administration.</p> <p>CEC have now recruited a much larger Public Protection Learning & Development Team who</p> | |

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| | | | | | <p>may be better equipped to support M-A learning.</p> <p>CEC are developing an automated booking system, which it is hoped will go-live in early 2025.</p> <p><i>Update 6.11.24</i> There remains major disruption to provision of L&D opportunities with 40% of the planned learning in 2024 having been cancelled or postponed due to lack of capacity. It is acknowledged by ECPC that this is RED and may take 12-18 months to resolve. The process will be aided by a clear implementation plan to the L&D Strategy.</p> <p>Update March 2025: A calendar of learning events is available for 2025 and includes trialling a Child Protection for Specific Contact Workforce and</p> |
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| | | | | | <p>Intensive Workforce Risk Assessment Refresh learning. The Booking Management System is going live 1 April 2025.</p> <p>A Report on Multi-agency Learning Activity, calendar year 2024, is due to be presented to ECPC April 2025.</p> | |
| | Publish 7 Minute Briefings to be shared by partners. | Lead Officer Child Protection committee | As required | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Topics as agreed at CPC 2. Linked within Appendix of ECPC Annual Report | <p>Several 7MBs have been published this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Reviews – Dec 2023 • Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures - January 2024 • Female Genital Mutilation – May 2024 • Care Inspectorate support for young people with a disability – Sept 2024 • Drug Use Awareness Raising. | |

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| | | | | | <p>It is hoped that L&D can support further resources on Challenging Conversations and Disguised Compliance.</p> <p>Links to the briefings already produced are available on CP for professionals webpages and linked within the Annual Report.</p> | |
| Continue to develop practice in relation to the Joint Protocol for Learning Reviews and other informal learning processes. | Develop the Learning Review process and a menu of learning options following a Learning Review notification. | Independent chair of Learning Review Panel Learning Review Sub-Committee. Business Support to Learning Reviews | November 2024 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Set a schedule of meetings for LRP 2.Agree the specific areas in relation to LRP's that will be measured 3. Identify both qualitative and quantitative measures 4. ECPC receives regular updates from the Learning Review Sub-Committee and ensures that findings are acted upon and learning disseminated to partners and staff directly working with | <p>8-weekly Learning Review Panels have taken place.</p> <p>A Learning Review tracker has been developed.</p> <p>The Lead Officer provides a regular update to the ECPC and COG of Learning review notifications, recommendations from the Learning Review Panel and updates on Learning Reviews that are taking place.</p> <p>The Learning Review outcomes are logged with Care Inspectorate by the Lead Officer.</p> | |

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| | | | | children and their families. | A Learning Review annual report, by CP Lead Officer, provided detail of all activity over 2024 was presented to ECPC February 2025. | |
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| 3. Self-Evaluation and Assurance | | | | | | |
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| Objective | Actions | Strategic Lead | Timescale | Evidence | Progress | RAG |
| As we implement the Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures and receive analysis of the National CP Guidance Self-Evaluation (October 2023) we will assess and develop the strategic changes as required. | Oversee and quality assure our continued implementation of the National CP Guidance. | PQI Sub-Committee | Oct 24 | Evidence to be agreed alongside the development of the end-to-end framework process? | <p>Multi-Agency Quality Assurance Framework was agreed by ECPC Aug 2024 and is in the early stages of being implemented by PQI Sub-Committee, which regularly reports to ECPC on progress and findings.</p> <p>National Minimum Dataset reporting continues on a 6 monthly basis.</p> <p>Multi-Agency Child Protection audits resumed October 2024 after considerable gap. First quarterly report due to PQI Sub in December 2024 and update to ECPC Feb 2025.</p> | |
| | Establish a mechanism for Policy and Procedure Review and Development. | Quality Regulation, & Improvement & Chief Social Work Office | November 24 | Confirm level of availability of CEC Policy officers with Service Director of Children & Justice Services. | <p>Mechanism and tracker agreed at November 2024 ECPC, which will be overseen by Lead Officer ECPC and reported on bi-annually.</p> <p>Multi-Agency CP Guidance launched (Jan 2024) and the</p> | |

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| | | | | | <p>sister AP Guidance (Oct 2024) was also publicised.</p> <p>Work has gone into supporting CEC with their new Guidance Manual for Social Workers.</p> <p>The Lead Officer has led a pan-Lothian working group to revise the Underage Sexual Activity Guidance which is due for sign-off by December 2024.</p> <p>The Lead Officer has updated the Dispute Resolution Protocol, agreed November 2024.</p> <p>The Lead Officer for Equally Safe Edinburgh has updated: Forced Marriage Policy (May 2024) Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Policy (Aug 2024) And is in the process of working with a group of professionals to update Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Procedures.</p> |
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| | | | | | <p>The Lead Officer for ECPC has developed a CP Policies and Procedures Guidance pack for the 3rd sector and is due to deliver a training session through the EVOC Children and Families Network Nov 2024.</p> <p>City of Edinburgh Children's Services have been developing a draft Guidance around Risks Outside the Home and older young people that would sit alongside Child Protection Procedures. This is awaiting further development of the intended Child Exploitation Strategic Oversight Group early 2025 to agree whether a multi-agency guidance would be of benefit.</p> <p>6 Nov 2024 ECPC agreed the Lead Officer ECPC will progress developing short life working groups to revise the following procedures/guidance in 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Female Genital Mutilation Procdeures -Children Affected by |
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| | | | | | <p>-Parental Substance Use Guidelines and Toolkit (alongside Alcohol and Drug Partnership)</p> <p>-Human Trafficking Protocol (alongside other PP Lead Officers).</p> <p>6 Nov 2024 ECPC gave further consideration to developing new guidance/procedure/protocol on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -working with families affected by intellectual disability -cultural competence in child protection -recognising and responding to child sexual abuse. <p>March 2025 update: The progress on FGM, CAPSU and Human Trafficking Procedures/Guidance is reported to ECPC by the Lead Officer.</p> | |
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| | Ensure the best use of the Public Protection Budget. | Independent Chair Quality Regulation, & Improvement & Chief Social Work Office | April 24 | Establish ECPC Budget as a standing item on the ECPC Agenda, with regular reporting. | <p>The CSWO holds the budget on behalf of ECPC and other PP committees.</p> <p>There has been ongoing work between the CSWO and the Public Protection Independent Chairs on the budgetary requirements going forward. This will be reported to ECPC in the coming months.</p> <p>March 2025 update: The Budget position will be presented to ECPC in April 2025 by the CSWO, who acts as budget holder for CEC.</p> <p>There is now regular Budget planning meetings by the strategic leaders across Health, Police and CEC.</p> | |
| | Improve our understanding of children's rights and participation of both children | Independent Chair Lead Officer | | 1. Facilitate a scoping meeting with current parties involved in Children's | Lead Officer now sits on Children's Partnership where Children's Rights and participation are regularly discussed. | |

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| | and families across Child Protection processes. | | | <p>Participation and bring back a proposal to ECPC.</p> <p>2. Link with partners re current family engagement</p> | <p>Lead Officer for Corporate Parenting (also responsible for the Promise) has been invited to December 2024 meeting to provide update.</p> <p>March 2025 update: ECPC has had inputs from Corporate Parenting and Whole Family Wellbeing in December 2024 and February 2025 respectively.</p> <p>CP Lead Officer continues to contribute to UNCRC partnership working group and 3-yearly reporting.</p> <p>Planning for monitoring participation is ongoing and a proposal has not yet been shared with ECPC.</p> <p>Actions on participation and rights will move into 2025-28 Improvement Plan.</p> | |
| | | PQI Sub-Committee | | <p>Audit of casework will identify how well children and families are engaged in the process, as part of the development of the</p> | <p>Recently implemented with a MA Audit process signed off Aug 2024.</p> <p>Update March 2025:</p> | |

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| | | | | end-to-end framework process. | Children and families involvement and engagement is now regularly considered as part of the M-A Child Protection audits and in developing qualitative feedback loops within the Child Protection end-end process framework. | |
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| 4. Strategic Connections | | | | | | |
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| Objective | Actions | Strategic Lead | Timescale | Evidence | Progress | RAG |
| Ensure that the ECPC is suitably connected to key strategic forums in order to respond to emerging local and national issues. | Maintain regular links with EVOC Children and Young People's Network. | Service Director - Children's and Justice Services Lead Officer | October 24 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint working on agreed outcomes identified and implemented. 2. Explore potential of a ToR. | <p>Attended March and Nov 24. ToR for EVOC-EVOC Sub-Committee agreed at ECPC 6 Nov 2024.</p> <p>Update March 2025: CP Lead Officer supported the induction of</p> | |
| | Mutually supportive links between ECPC and Children's Partnership, where GIRFEC, UNCRC, Corporate Parenting and Promise plans are already embedded. | Vice Chairs ECPC | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree reporting and governance arrangements. 2. Agree reporting format and structure. 3. Identify frameworks that already exists. 4. Examine current understanding and application. 5. Access research in this area. 6. Scope frameworks that are already in existence | <p>LO attending Children's Partnership, links regularly with Promise, Corp Parenting, Trauma Sub-group. Sits on UNCRC sub-group and contributed to UNCRC report.</p> <p>Invitations to different partners to present to ECPC (GIRFEC and WFWB Nov 2024; Corporate Parenting and Promise Dec 2024)</p> <p>Made links with Director of Public Health strategic leads.</p> | |

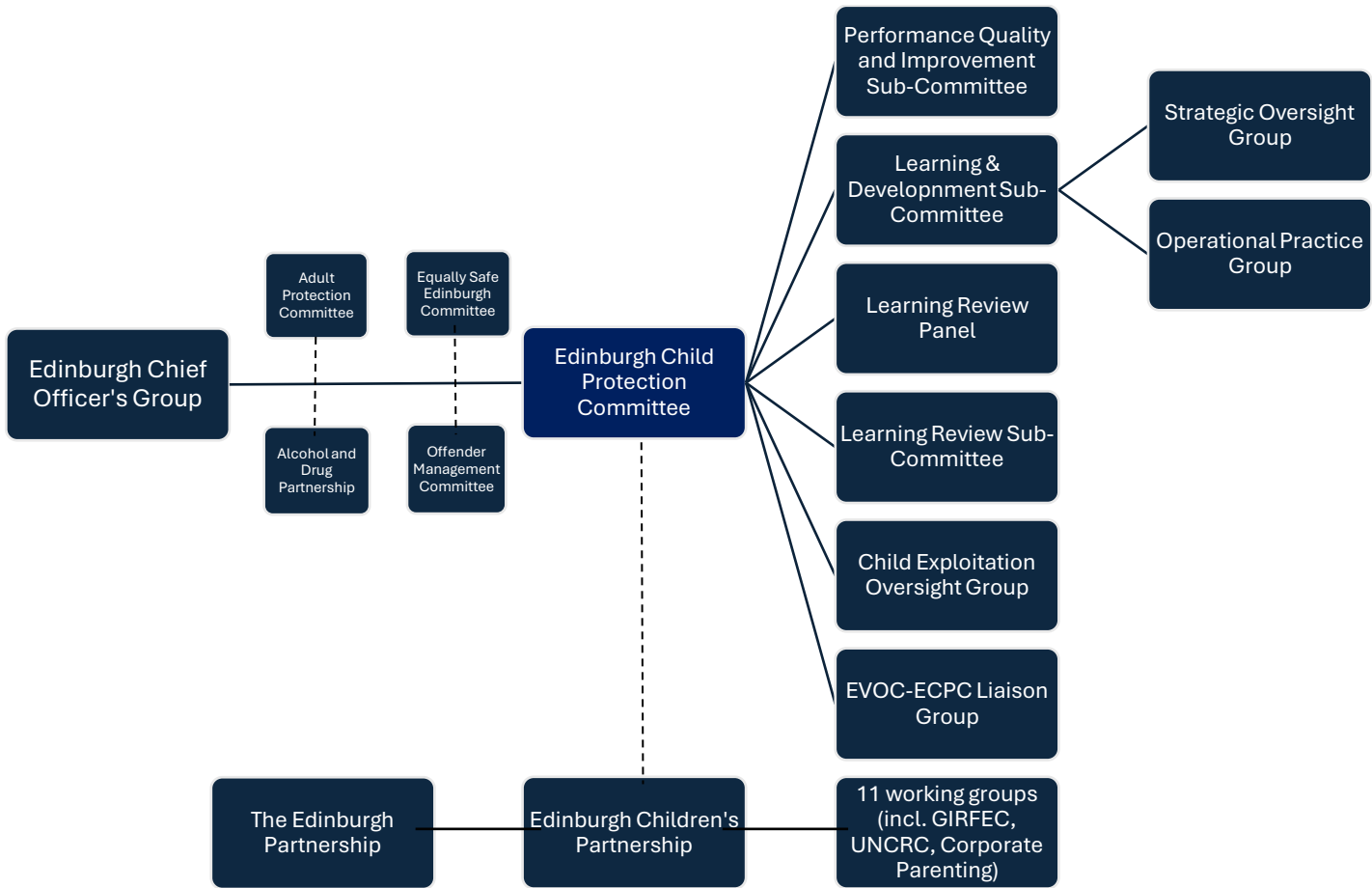
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| | | | | <p>across Scotland.</p> <p>7. Develop a framework for CEC based on best practice and research.</p> <p>8. Develop a Framework which takes account of the priority of statutory work.</p> <p>9. Take account of prioritisation framework under development.</p> <p>10. Identify resource implications and highlight how these can be addressed and overcome.</p> <p>11. Produce a report with accompanying caseload management framework.</p> <p>12. Posters and Leaflets are</p> | <p>ECPC 21 August 2024 agreed a Terms of Reference for a Strategic Oversight Group for Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding, which is being progressed by CSWO. An update report is expected to ECPC in January 2025 and ECPC will continue to monitor the progress of the group.</p> <p>Work is ongoing, due to the complex nature of forums and multi-agency meetings. This area of the work plan will progress into 2025-28 Improvement Plan.</p> | |
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| | | | | circulated to all multi-agency partners. | | |
| | Attend and contribute to national bodies. | Independent Chair Lead Officer Quality Regulation, & Improvement & Chief Social Work Office | | Updates from National Forums provided in Lead Officer Reports to CPC. | Lead Officer; Chair and CSWO attend relevant meetings and report to ECPC on a regular basis where required. Lead Officer has been appointed as Chair of National Lead Officers Group (a sub-group of CPC Scotland). | |
| | Lead Officers for Public Protection attend and support the PP Committees | Lead Officers | | Standing item on ECPC Agenda and updates in reports. | Lead Officers regularly attend each other's committees. Chair and Lead Officer are currently developing a schedule of reporting for the other Public Protection committees. | |

Appendix 2: Proposed Child Protection Improvement Plan 2025-28

City of Edinburgh Child Protection Committee – Improvement Plan 2024-25

MAY 2025



Welcome to the three-year workplan developed to ensure that the Edinburgh Child Protection committee meets the statutory requirements as detailed below.

The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee is the inter-agency strategic partnership, responsible for the design, development, publication, distribution, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of child protection policy and practice across the public, private and wider third sectors in the City of Edinburgh area. Through our local structures and membership, we provide individual and collective leadership and direction for the management of child protection services.

The Committee is made up of senior representatives from across all key areas and partners concerned with the care and protection of children. Guidance issued by the Scottish Government requires every local authority area to have a Child Protection Committee.

In 2019, the Scottish Government published the document “Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committee and Chief Officer Responsibilities”. This sets out the functions of the child protection committee, which are:

- Continuous improvement
- Public information, engagement, and participation
- Strategic planning and connections
- Annual reporting on the work of the CPC.

Based on these core functions, and following on from the 2024-25 Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Improvement plan we will focus on the following eight areas during the three-year lifespan of this plan.

The implementation of the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Improvement plan will be monitored by the ECPC on a six-monthly basis with an annual report submitted to the Edinburgh Chief Officer group.

1) Leadership and Structure

- 2) Children's Rights
- 3) Learning Culture and Relationships
- 4) Self-evaluation and Assurance
- 5) Whole Family Wellbeing and Impact of Child Neglect
- 6) Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
- 7) Child Protection Systems
- 8) Cross-cutting Public Protection Theme

These themes have emerged through the activities identified within the 2024 -2025 plan, alongside the development and the focused areas of priority for the ECPC since the changes in committee and subcommittee membership, governance and review of structure concluded in August 2024. They additionally reflect national and local drivers, with relevance across the multi-agency partnership.

Blue/Red/Amber/Green legend:

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| Blue | Complete | | | | |
| Red | There are significant issues and / or risks that are impacting on the action / task right now = we are not delivering the action / task on time / scope / budget. | | | | |
| Amber | There are some issues and / or risks that are impacting on the action / task if not fixed = we are at risk of not delivering the action / task on time / scope / budget. | | | | |
| Green | There are no issues and / or risks impacting on the action / task which is progressing according to plan = we are delivering the action / task on time / scope / budget. | | | | |
| Date | Total actions | Total actions completed | Total actions added (new) | Total actions amended | Total actions ongoing |
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| 1. Leadership and Structure | | | | | | | |
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| Care Inspectorate (2022) Quality Indicators for Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection: 4.1,6.2, 8.1, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4. | | | | | | | |
| Objective | Actions | Strategic Lead | Link to other strategic plans | Timescale | Evidence | Progress | RAG |
| The role and function of the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee is clearly reflected in the membership, commitment and in the Sub-committee structures that support the ECPC | Improve transparency of ECPC's strategic oversight by agreeing the publication of redacted ECPC Action Minutes. | Independent Chair and CP Lead Officer | | Mar. 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Independent Chair and CPLO to present an options paper on publication of minutes and reports to ECPC for consideration 5. Preferred approach to be presented to COG for sign-off 6. Redacted ECPC Minutes are published on ECPC webpage 7. Engagement with webpage is monitored and reported to ECPC by CP Lead Officer 8. ECPC Annual Reports and Committee Meeting Minutes are formally archived. | | |

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| | Review or develop Information sharing agreements for all key multi-agency Child Protection activity to ensure they are relevant, up-to-date and recognise current security risks. | Performance Quality and Improvement Sub-committee | | Mar. 2026 | 1. Sign off at Child Protection committee. | | |
| | Develop a Public Protection Committees Risk Register. | Independent Chair, alongside EAPC, ESEC, OMC, EADP. | | Aug. 2025 | 3. Sign off at COG 4. Discussed 6-monthly at ECPC and thereafter reported to COG. | | |
| | Ensure effective use of multi-agency Public Protection Budget in progressing local and national priorities and associated with the CP Improvement Plan. | CSWO and Public Protection Committee Chairs | | May 2025 | 1. Public Protection Budget Partnering Agreement Agreed and Reviewed on a biennial basis 2. 6-monthly budget setting and reviewing meetings 3. Annual budget report to ECPC. | | |
| | Hold at least 6 Committee meetings per year, which include inputs from key services | Lead officer Child Protection committee Business support | | Aug 2025 | 1. Develop a Committee Calendar with in-person and online meeting dates 2. Develop a pragmatic reporting schedule and framework for Sub- | | |

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| | and projects, that complements the strategic improvement plan or addresses emerging issue and take a blended approach with 2/6 meetings in person. | | | | Committees, Children's Partnership and other forums or stakeholders 3. Develop a rolling programme of thematic inputs from key services and organisations involved in specific elements of child protection work. 4. Review the Strategic Improvement Plan on a 6-monthly basis. | | |
| | Monitor and address any issues on the structure, membership and role of the ECPC and Sub-committees to ensure they support the overall aims. | Independent Chair Sub-Committee Chairs | | Mar. 2026 | 1. Maintain an attendance tracker for Committee and Sub-Committees. 2. Independent Chair to address attendance issues with individual agencies. 3. CP Lead Officer to ensure new members are offered induction meeting and online induction pack is reviewed regularly. 4. A Biennial development day is held for Committee and sub-group members. | | |
| The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee has a visibility | Develop an ECPC Communications Strategy and mechanisms for recognising and | CP Lead Officer to sit on Public Protection | | Dec 2025 | 2. CP Lead Officer to Implement Super Child & families Practice in Edinburgh (SCAPE) reporting platform. | | |

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| amongst partners and publicly. | celebrating good practice. | Communications Sub-Group | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Short-life working group of sub-committee members to develop an ECPC Communication Strategy 4. CP Lead Officer to share ECPC Comms Strategy and development plans with PP Communications Sub-group 5. PP Communications Sub-Group to develop and report on effective use of CEC website to alert end-users and stakeholders to Public Protection support and information. | | |
| | Re-develop the Public Protection Committees' webpages on CEC website and the ECPC Knowledge Hub in line with views from children, families and professionals on what would be useful to them. | Lead Officer | | Mar 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Track Click-throughs and engagement with ECPC and CP related web-pages. 4. Track membership and engagement with ECPC Knowledge Hub. 5. Lead Officer to provide Annual Report to ECPC | | |
| | Develop and launch an ECPC Newsletter | Lead Officer | | Aug 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a distribution model and means of reporting on engagement and workforce feedback | | |

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| | | | | | 2. Produce an options paper on the use of social media | | |
| | Multi-Agency Policy, Procedures, Protocols and guidance up-to-date and publicly available | Lead Officer | | Dec 2025 | 4. Annual cleanse by Lead Officer | | |

| 2. | Children's Rights | | | | | | |
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| | Care Inspectorate (2022) Quality Indicators for Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection: 2.1, 2.2, 5.4. | | | | | | |
| Objective | Actions | Strategic Lead | Link to other strategic plans | Timescale | Evidence | Progress | RAG |
| Children understand their involvement in Child Protection systems, know how to contact people when they are in need. | Work to ensure that children and families voice and public bodies' duty to uphold their rights is integral to all part of the plan | ECPC Chair and Lead Officer | UNCRC | By 2028 | 1. A children's rights approach is the bedrock of Child Protection strategic planning | | |
| | Develop and review local child friendly materials about Child Protection processes to sit alongside Child Protection Resource Scotland and CPCS Campaigns. | PQI Sub-Committee And Children and Young Person's Review Team <i>(consider cross-over with Children's Partnership, Corporate Parenting Plan and Pan-</i> | | Aug. 2026 | 2. ECPC webpages include child-friendly information about how to access support. 3. ECPC to develop a strategy on how the CP Resource Scotland website is used and shared locally, alongside a range of other local materials. 4. CPPM Chairs share a 1-page profile about themselves ahead of ICPPM or when they are new Chair. 5. CPPM Chairs visit children ahead of their meeting, where required | | |

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| | | <i>Lothian approaches)</i> | | | 6. Commissioned advocacy role being re-negotiated by CEC. 7. Perceptual data gathered as part of section 3. Self-evaluation. 8. Annual Reporting to ECPC on how child-friendly materials are used and shared – <i>measures and reporting period still to be agreed</i> 9. Produce a child friendly' easy read version of data reports (annually) & ECPC annual report and any other documents produced. | | |
| Children's views are central to the decisions that affect them and to wider service delivery and development. | Improve understanding of informal advocacy and trusted person's approaches used by Edinburgh's children. Improve understanding of the means by | PQI Sub-Committee | Children's Partnership UNCRC Group Corporate Parenting Board | Dec. 2026 | 1. Short life working group from PQI Sub-Committee and CYPRT to map all the ways in which children's views are represented in the Child Protection Process and produce guidance/briefing to the workforce. 2. CEC is in the process of re-commissioning an formal advocacy service for Edinburgh's children | | |

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| | which children share their views and developing a framework or toolkit to support this. | | | | 3. PQI Sub-Committee MAQA framework includes 6 monthly reporting on nos. of children involved with formal advocacy and develops qualitative measures about the impact of advocacy in the CP Process. | | |
| Children's life journeys are at the centre of assessment, analysis and effective risk assessment. | Work towards Multi-Agency Chronologies for every child on CPR by 6 mo. RCPPM | PQI Sub-Committee & L&D Sub-Committee | Corp. Parenting Board. Adult Protection Committee. | Dec. 2026 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multi-Agency audit process assesses rate and quality of Chronologies for CPPMs. 2. Multi-Agency L&D Sub-committee to develop a learning framework around Chronologies and assess the impact on practice. 3. ECPC will work closely with Children's Partnership and GIRFEC working group on universal understanding and approach to Chronologies in Edinburgh using the MOSAIC template. 4. Build and share evidence base on Trauma Informed and Responsive approaches for children and families involved in child protection through performance, quality and improvement processes. | | |

| 3. Learning Culture and Relationships | | | | | | | |
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| | Care Inspectorate (2022) Quality Indicators for Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection: 7.1, 7.2, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4 | | | | | | |
| Objective | Actions | Strategic Lead | Link to other strategic plans | Timescale | Evidence | Progress | RAG |
| There is a range of opportunities to grow working relationships and offer collective learning to improve practice. | Implement the MA CP Learning & Development Strategy, agreed and published December 2024. | L&D Sub-Committee | | Dec 2025 | 5. Evaluation of objectives and actions through quarterly L&D Sub-Committee 6. Single Agencies to offer assurance that their own CP L&D strategies are in place and effective in supporting the workforce 7. L&D Sub-Committee Annual Report to ECPC – <i>reporting period to be agreed.</i> | | |
| | Implement Booking Management System and e-learning platform for MA learning opportunities. | L&D Sub-Committee/Lead Officer? | | April 2025 April 2026 | 1. Booking Management data will be reported termly to L&D Sub-Committee and high level key messages shared with ECPC. 2. Explore, agree, develop and test an e-learning platform. | | |

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| | | | | | 3. L&D Sub-Committee Annual Report to ECPC. | | |
| | Offer a range of Multi-Agency Practice Learning Opportunities, including re-establishing IRD Workshops. | L&D Sub-Committee | | Jan 2027 | 3. Redevelop MA learning model and delivery in line with MA CP L&D Strategy Dec 2025 4. Offer 2 IRD Workshops and wider thematic materials per annum 5. L&D Sub-Committee Annual Report to ECPC. | 6.11.24 ECPC acknowledged that this is RED and may take 12-18 months to resolve. The process will be aided by a clear implementation plan to the L&D Strategy. | |
| | Continue to partner with Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee in offering appropriate Public Protection learning opportunities linked to eradicating gender-based abuse. | L&D Sub-Committee Equally Safe Children and Young People's Group | | Mar 2025 | 1. Develop a joint annual report to ECPC and ESEC | | |
| Multi-agency staff/volunteers support and supervision is consistent with | Map the support and supervision available to different disciplines and levels of the | L&D Sub-Committee via single agencies | | Dec 2025 | 1. The ECPC, single-agencies and the workforce themselves have a better understanding of the support and | | |

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| the tiers of the workforce in National Framework for Child Protection L&D and local MA CP L&D Strategy | workforce across the partnership, in order to develop a framework. | L&D Sub-Committee | | April 2026 | supervision delivered at different levels. 2. ECPC is offered assurance from single-agencies on what is in place. 3. Establish measures to demonstrate ECPC responds to emerging issues national locally from policy development, learning reviews, research or evaluation and quality assurance on local practice issues. | | |
| | ECPC will work closely with Edinburgh Children's Partnership on developing and maintaining a trauma informed and responsive (TIRA)workforce. | L&D Sub-Committee | Children's Servicer Partnership | April 2026 | 1. Annual report on numbers in the workforce who have undertaken Trauma informed and responsive learning 2. Single-agencies offer assurance that their staff are offered TIRA support and supervision 3. A Multi-Agency staff recognition system is developed and reported on 6-monthly to ECPC. | | |

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| Continue to develop practice in relation to the Joint Protocol for Learning Reviews and other informal learning processes. | Develop and regularly review the Learning Review process and a menu of learning options following a Learning Review notification. | Independent chair of Learning Review Panel Learning Review Sub-Committee. Business Support to Learning Reviews | Child Death Reviews | November 2024 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain a schedule of meetings for LRP 2. Lead Officer will provide an annual report of Learning Review activity on a calendar year 3. Additional qualitative measures of lead reviewers, review team members, practitioner's and family's experience of the process to be incorporated. 4. All Learning Review Notifications are tracked to inform progress on timescales, outcomes, themes. 5. ECPC receives bi-monthly updates on Learning Reviews in LO Report 6. COG receives quarterly updates on Learning Review activity and action planning. 7. Establish measures to demonstrate ECPC responds to emerging issues from national or local learning reviews or other practice reviews. | | |
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| 4. | Self-Evaluation and Assurance | | | | | | |
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| | Care Inspectorate (2022) Quality Indicators for Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection: 5.4, 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 6.5. | | | | | | |
| Objective | Actions | Strategic Lead | Link to other strategic plans | Timescale | Evidence | Progress | RAG |
| There are mechanisms to self-evaluate, quality assure and improve Multi-Agency Child Protection practice. | Continue to develop National Minimum Dataset Reporting on 6-monthly basis to ECPC, to ensure it informs service design and practice development. | PQI Sub-Committee | | Mar 2026 | 1.National Minimum Dataset report is analysed and reported 6-monthly to ECPC and shared with COG. 2.The development of new indicators in the NMDS Report is proposed to ECPC and evidence of decision making in Committee minutes. | | |
| | Embed the Multi-Agency End-End Child Protection Quality Assurance Framework (CP MAQA) | PQI Sub-Committee | | Aug 2026 | 1. CP MAQA is a standing item on PQI Sub-Committee Agenda. The tracker is updated and Minutes of the Sub-Committee reflect the analysis and considerations 2. CP MAQA Annual Report is provided in November to ECPC 3. CP MAQA methodology and data collection is reviewed on an annual basis as part of annual report. 4. CP MAQA evidences improvement in qualitative, | | |

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| | | | | | story-telling elements of the framework, in order to capture child and family's lived experiences and inform service design and improvement delivery. | | |
| | Embed the Multi-Agency Audit programme established in September 2024 | PQI Sub-Committee CEC Quality Assurance Team | | Sept 2026 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support and sustain 16 multi-agency leaders across Police Scotland, NHSL, CEC, Social Work and Education to act as audit teams 2. Consider how to include other partners, such as independent schools, emergency services and 3rd sector as 'critical friends' in audit process. 3. Engage and work together with other Public Protection Committees, both locally and Pan-Lothian in relation to intersecting issues. 4. 6-monthly reporting on audit activity and outcomes to PQI Sub and resulting actions evident in PQI Sub Combined Action plan. 5. Annual Audit Activity report to PQI Sub every November and signed off by ECPC every December. | | |

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| | Maintain a programme of partner-supported Policy and Procedure Review and Development. | Quality Regulation, & Improvement & Chief Social Work Office | | Mar 2028 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy, Procedure and Protocol tracker maintained by ECPC Lead Officer 2. Single agencies to offer assurance to ECPC that Single-agency policies and procedures are relevant and aligned to Multi-Agency Procedures 3. Evidence of ECPC directing sub-committees or other SLWGs to review or develop Policies/Procedures/Guidance. 4. Evidence in ECPC Minutes and CP for Professionals webpage of new or updated Policies/Procedures/Guidance being produced. 5. Consider ways to develop a lived experience reference group as part of IIAs. 6. Evidence of improved, shared IIA practice. 7. Evidence of Child-friendly, easy-read versions of Policies/procedures/guidance, in line with UNCRC Implementation. | | |
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| | Re-run the National Child Protection Guidance Implementation Self-Evaluation, including meaningful involvement from children and families. | ECPC | | By Oct 2026 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report to COG 2. Evidence of the voice of children and family in audit and evaluation. | | |
| | Ensure the best use of the Public Protection Budget. | Independent Chair Quality Regulation, & Improvement & Chief Social Work Office | | Mar 2028 | Establish ECPC Budget as a standing item on the ECPC Agenda, with regular reporting. | | |

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| 5. | Whole Family Wellbeing and Impact of Neglect | | | | | | |
| | Care Inspectorate (2022) Quality Indicators for Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection: 1.1,2.1, 2.2 5.1,5.2,5.3,5.4,8.2 | | | | | | |
| Objective | Actions | Strategic Lead | Link to other strategic plans | Timescale | Evidence | Progress | RAG |
| Families will know how and where in their own community to get timely help for challenging circumstances. | ECPC will sustain public comms and workforce messaging and sign-posting about how to seek help for your family, in line with the previous 'All of Us' Campaign 2020-22 and wider Poverty/Whole family support messaging. | Child Protection Lead Officer | Children's Services Partnership | March 2026 | 1. Measure click throughs and use of All of Us webpages and resources. | | |
| | ECPC will improve links with the Children's Partnership and Edinburgh Partnership in understanding the impact of early and | PQI Sub-Committee CP Lead Officer | Children's Services Partnership | Mar 2028 | 1. PQI Sub-Committee to develop whole family wellbeing and GIRFEC measures associated with MAQA Framework. 2. CP Lead Officer will attend Edinburgh Children's Partnership and develop links with | | |

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| | effective interventions to divert children and families from formal child protection measures. | Chair of ECPC | | | <p>partnership outcomes and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</p> <p>3. Children's Partnership Whole Family Wellbeing Project Manager will report to ECPC on 6-monthly basis.</p> <p>4. ECPC will be offered assurance by Edinburgh Partnership of impact related to coordinated plans to reduce child poverty.</p> | | |
| ECPC is confident that there is a collective local approach to addressing Child Neglect that makes a difference to the outcomes of the city's children | ECPC to review strategy, practice approaches and learning & development related to child neglect, in line with National Guidance for Child Protection 2021 and other local/national drivers | ECPC | | July 2026 | <p>1. ECPC will actively contribute to the national debate and potential revision of Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937 s.12 offences.</p> <p>2. ECPC implements changes on addressing Neglect proposed by Learning Review for Child E April 2025.</p> <p>3. PQI Sub-Committee will be tasked with undertaking a dip-sample audit of children subject to a Child</p> | | |

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| | | | | | <p>Protection Plan where the primary impact on/abuse of the child is identified as neglect.</p> <p>4. Build and share evidence base on trauma informed and responsive approaches to children experiencing neglect.</p> <p>5. L&D Sub-Committee to review the impact on practice of the Neglect Toolkit training Workshop and Understanding Neglect Multi-Agency learning event with a view to proposing a more effective learning pathway that aligns with L&D M-A Strategy 2024.</p> | | |
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| 6. | Child Exploitation | | | | | | |
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| | Care Inspectorate (2022) Quality Indicators for Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection: 1.1,2.15.1,5.2,5.4,8.2. | | | | | | |
| Objective | Actions | Strategic Lead | Link to other strategic plans | Timescale | Evidence | Progress | RAG |
| ECPC is confident in the approaches taken in Edinburgh to addressing the risks and harms of Child Sexual Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation and Criminal Exploitation | ECPC to support the Child Exploitation Oversight Group in establishing a relevant and achievable work plan that aligns with the Terms of Reference (agreed April 2025) and the national leadership group on this subject matter. | Child Exploitation Oversight Group | | Dec 2026 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree and Implement ROTH Guidance 2. Revise Human Trafficking Guidance to include proportionate and growing concerns around Child Exploitation. 3. Make a bid to pilot local NRM decision making for children from the Home Office. 4. Improved understanding and approaches to Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and the risks of trafficking. 5. Improved understanding and response to children who are radicalised. | | |

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| | ECPC can demonstrate joined up approaches to children who are missing from education, home and care settings in line with the Edinburgh Learns for Life Outcomes Framework. | Child Exploitation Oversight Group | | April 2026 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child Exploitation OS group to report on the links between Exploitation and children who are missing 2. CEC Education to report to Child Exploitation OS group on their attendance objectives. | | |
| | Develop and review a Sexual Abuse and Exploitation strategy in line with recommendations from Child E Learning Review (agreed <i>April 2025</i>) | Child Exploitation Oversight Group | | July 2026 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local CSA strategy developed that encompasses prevention and response and covers familial, extra-familial, Institutional, Child Sexual Exploitation and Harmful Sexual Behaviour. This should include online risk and resilience. 2. Develop local guidance and adjacent learning opportunities for the workforce. 3. PQI Sub-committee to track rates of concerns around areas of Child | | |

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| | | | | | Sexual Abuse at IRD, JI, Medical and CPPM/ROTH meeting to understand trends and develop approaches. | | |
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| 7. Child Protection Systems | | | | | | | |
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| Care Inspectorate (2022) Quality Indicators for Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection: 1.1, 2.1, 5.1,5.2, 5.3 | | | | | | | |
| Objective | Actions | Strategic Lead | Link to other strategic plans | Timescale | Evidence | Progress | RAG |
| The ECPC is confident that formal CP Processes are efficient, fit for purpose and meet the key principles of National Guidance 2021 | ECPC to support the re-develop e-IRD system as a secure, collective information sharing platform that demonstrates defensible decision making and can be integrated with records keeping systems. | PQI Sub-Committee | | April 2026 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ECPC attend an e-IRD Oversight group meets biennially across the Edinburgh & Lothians partnership and a ToR is devised and reviewed as required. 2. ECPC develop IRD Guidance for practitioners 3. IRD's are quality assured through the MAQA Framework overseen by PQI Sub-Committee | | |
| | ECPC is confident that intensive contact staff are equipped with chronology, risk assessment and child's planning tools and resources to manage and reduce risk. | L&D Sub-Committee | | Sept 2026 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suggested Strategies for improvement from Learning Reviews or quality assurance activities are used to shape a programme of revision around tools and resources. 2. Single-agencies to assure ECPC on the impact of service or information | | |

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| | | | | | management system redevelopment in promoting risk assessment and response. 3. Annual reporting on e-learning and face-to-face attendance at learning events. | | |
| | ECPC is confident that intensive contact staff have skill and experience in cross-cutting risk assessments related to matters such as Structural Inequalities, Adult Protection and violence against women and girls. | Equally Safe Children and Young People's - Sub-Group & L&D Sub-Committee | | April 2027 | 1. Annual reporting on Public Protection e-learning and uptake of learning on intersecting topics, such as domestic abuse, honour-based abuse, female genital mutilation. | | |
| | ECPC has evidence that children and young people and their families are involved in the systems to protect them. | Performance Quality and Improvement Sub-Committee And Children & Young People's Review Team. | | April 2027 | 1. Qualitative evidence of inclusion and involvement is developed and sustained within MAQA Framework and MA CP Audit Programme. 2. CYPRT work programme. | | |

8. Cross-cutting Public Protection Themes

Care Inspectorate (2022) Quality Indicators for Children and Young People in Need of Care and Protection: 2.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 8.2.

| Objective | Actions | Strategic Lead | Timescale | Evidence | Progress | RAG |
|--|---|--|------------|--|----------|-----|
| There is tangible and mutually supportive planning across the Edinburgh's Public Protection function. | Develop a Public Protection Strategy and consider a strengthened Public Protection Office | CSWO Public Protection Committee Chairs | April 2027 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Embed learning from National Public Protection team (SG) and annual CP/ASP Committees Awayday. 2. Consider a local Public Protection Awayday 3. Publish a Public Protection Service/office Strategy for Edinburgh 4. Strengthen the infrastructure and supports to a shared Public Protection function. | | |
| There is tangible and mutually supportive planning with key partners such as the Edinburgh Partnership, EADP, EHSCP and NHSL Public Health. | Maintain relationships, connection and shared solutioning or contributions to strategic planning. | CSWO Public Protection Committee Lead Officers. | March 2026 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ECPC will invite partner agencies to CP Committees to give inputs or contribute to planning as required. 2. ECPC LO or Chair will attend other partnerships or forums as required. 3. ECPC will challenge duplication or siloed thinking and invite/offer to partner and recognise other plans in self-assessment and CP strategic operations. 4. ECPC will work closely with other systems to create a data-bank and shared understanding of need | | |

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| | | | | in order to support effective service development. | | |
| ECPC, along with other partners, is confident there exists transitional planning between Child Protection and other services. | ECPC will revise or develop a suite of Transitions Policies/Guidance | ECPC Chair and CP Lead Officer | Mar 2028 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policies/Procedures/Guidance are agreed and published on ECPC platforms. 2. ECPC improves links with The Edinburgh Partnership and Public Health on key cross-cutting issues such as poverty, housing and emotional wellbeing. 3. ECPC has regular, improved links with Adult Health and Social Care and the Alcohol and Drug partnership, when addressing the needs of parents/carers where children experience the vulnerabilities associated with adult issues and also for young people transitioning to adulthood who have previously been on the CP register. | | |

Appendix 3: Sources of Data for the Edinburgh Context

[Edinburgh by Numbers 2024](#)

ECPC Multi-Agency Quality Assurance Framework and Minimum Dataset recording, as reported to Performance Quality and Improvement Sub-Committee of ECPC

[Edinburgh Children's Services Plan 2023/26](#)

Edinburgh E-IRD Management Information Summary Report 2024/25

[End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report Oct 2024](#)

[Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Survey 2022 : Executive Summary](#)

[Housing Emergency Action Plan Feb 2024](#) and verbal reports from Service Director of Housing and Homelessness

[Inclusion in City of Edinburgh Schools Annual Report 2023](#)

[NHS Lothian 2022 Scottish Census Data: Sexual Orientation and trans status or history report.](#)

