

Latest news and learning



17 November 2025

Welcome

A Message from the ECPC Chair and Lead Officer

Six weeks after our first [Edinburgh Child Protection Committee](#) Newsletter, we're back with more news, learning and research that is pertinent to your day-to-day practice.

We had a successful Child Protection Committee on 6th October, where we received feedback from the independent Reviewer on the [Learning Review for Child F and Child G](#) and gained an update on the Housing crisis and the impact on infants, children & young people. The Committee also signed off on a range of papers and guidance related to our Risk Register; Learning Reviews; Quality Improvement work; Risks Outside the Home Guidance; and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Guidance for Education. We have one more meeting in 2025.

We would welcome your feedback on the Newsletters and how to get the right information into your hands. Please do contact the Child Protection Lead Officer, laura.g.brown@edinburgh.gov.uk if you have any requests or information you would like to include in future.



IRD Workshop

Thank you to the 40 experienced members of the workforce who took part in the IRD Practitioners' Workshop at end of October 2025. A special thanks goes out to Laura, Rose and Mel for facilitating the session.

At the event, we launched 2 new tools that are to be implemented from November 2025 onwards:

- [Interim Safety Planning Guidance and Checklist](#)
- [IRD Closure Summary](#).

If you attended the event, please share the resources and learning with relevant colleagues and teams. Further, we are still looking for [IRD Workshop Practitioner Feedback](#) (October 2025), which you can access by clicking on the link.

The dates and topics are coming together for three IRD Practitioner Workshops in 2026, due to take place in February, May and October. The IRD Operational Oversight Group have some ideas of topics but there is a chance on the feedback form to have your say.

Equally Safe Edinburgh's 16 Days Campaign

The Child Protection Lead Officer is also part of the Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee (ESEC). Every year ESEC organise events and activities during the international 16 Days Campaign, between 25 November and 10 December. This year, the local theme is **Gender Based Abuse, Violence and Exploitation in the Lives of Children and Young People** and is therefore of particular relevance to children's services' practitioners. We are therefore highlighting some of the planned events:

Introduction to the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS)

On 26th November 9.30-11.00 professionals can learn more about the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS), which gives people the right to ask about the background of their partner or allows concerned relatives and friends, the right to ask about someone's partner.

We will also hear how DSDAS also gives Police Scotland the power to tell people that they may be at risk.

City of Edinburgh Council staff [Booking Link](#)

All other partners [Booking Link](#).

Bitter-Sweet 16: Abuse, violence and exploitation in Young People's Intimate Relationships

On 1st December 1.30-3.30pm Dr. Annie Herbert and Dr. Maria Barnes from the University of Bristol will share some of their research on this topic, largely through the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents & Children, also known as 'Children of the 90's', which has followed families from the South West of England over the course of three decades. Questions will focus on

- What makes young people vulnerable to abuse within their relationships?
- What can parents and professionals in all levels of education, policy, child protection and health do to prevent children and young people from becoming victims of violence?

City of Edinburgh Council staff [Booking Link](#)

All other partners [Booking Link](#).

Online misogyny, incel culture, pornography: how can professionals respond to the impact?

On 8th December 9.30-12.30 this webinar will bring together 3 experts to introduce and explore the term 'incel' culture, consider how it is spread in the online world and through social media; discuss the links between online misogyny, 'incel' culture and links to online extreme pornography and highlight the impact in our Education settings.

Professionals will leave with recommendations around what they can do to counteract this and prevent the very real damage it can cause in the offline world and be equipped in how to hold constructive discussions with children and young people around these topics.

City of Edinburgh Council staff [Booking Link](#)

All other partners [Booking Link](#).

'Better memories from now on' – supporting infants and children living with domestic abuse

On 10th December 9.30-12.30, this webinar will help professionals learn about the impacts of parental domestic abuse on infants and young children. We will focus on understanding how babies and children experience domestic abuse, how this shapes their later life, and how professionals can provide timely and effectively interventions to support children. The event is supported by three subject matter experts: Lauren Seager-Smith; Dr. Jade Levell and Janine Ewen.

City of Edinburgh Council staff [Booking Link](#)

All other partners [Booking Link](#).

There are also a series of other events, nationally and within the areas where you might live or work in, so please do look out for these other opportunities.

Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Learning Events

Exploitation of Children and Young People

The ECPC partners with Barnardo's Scotland to offer an introductory, awareness raising event on recognising and responding to children and young people who are at risk or are experiencing exploitation and considers local multi-agency approaches to disrupting the actions of those who seek to abuse and exploit. This session will take place on Tuesday 9th December 10.00am-1.00pm in-person at Royston Wardieburn Community Centre.

City of Edinburgh Council staff [Booking Link](#)

All other partners [Booking Link](#)

Introduction to Contextual Safeguarding in Practice

This practical online training offers a grounding in Contextual Safeguarding approaches, equipping professionals with the knowledge and tools to address extra-familial harm, including examining the cultural and relational conditions necessary for effective implementation. The learning event uses real-world settings and examples, exploring how adolescent development and extra-familial harm intersect with the limitations of traditional child protection systems and how contextual approaches can help bridge the gap.

Participants will be introduced to key tools such as context weighting and safety mapping and will learn how to make everyday spaces safer. The sessions are delivered by Power the Fight and are interactive and engaging, using multimedia resources, group discussion, and hands-on activities to support learning.

8th and 9th December 2-4pm [Booking Link](#)

19th and 20th January 2-4pm [Booking Link](#)

Giving Evidence in Court

Feeling anxious about being called to court as a witness due to a referral for a Children's Hearing? These fears and anxieties can be allayed through the 2-hour friendly and informal introduction to giving evidence at court, offered by local Children's Reporters from the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), on behalf of the Child Protection Committee. Think ahead to 2026 and book on to the in-person learning, 22 January 2-4pm.

City of Edinburgh Council staff [Booking Link](#)

All other partners [Booking Link](#)

Inter-Agency Risk Assessment

A recent Edinburgh Child Learning Review concluded,

'The lack of multi-agency risk assessments, chronologies and analysis led to information being missed or not recognised as important to the overall assessment of the family. This also meant that explanations were not tested or challenged, and emerging patterns of behaviour were not identified.'

You can read more about the [Learning Review for Child F and Child G](#) by following the link.

Our 2-day Inter-Agency Risk Assessment learning has recently been reviewed in line with outcomes from learning reviews and other audits or findings. The course planned for November 2025 is already full but there are further dates available in February and May 2026.

Also, we have recently added a new 1-day Refresh version of the course. Aimed at experienced staff, this learning event provides an update on current policy, explores themes such as engaging with clients where services find hard to reach, professional curiosity, improving analysis in assessments, and developing child planning skills. This is next running on 12th March 2026.

Please search up Inter-Agency Risk Assessment on the relevant booking platform and find the course that would best suit your needs.

Important Information about our Courses, Workshops and Events

All our events are free of charge at the point of delivery, but they are not free to run. The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee funds learning through a multi-agency budget to make it accessible to everyone who needs it. Some core principles to all our learning are included below:

- Before booking on a learning event, please **consider and discuss with your line manager** your professional learning needs and whether the event is right for you.
- If you can **no longer attend a booked event**, please go back on to the appropriate booking platform and **cancel your space** as soon as possible.

Sadly, just this week we had to cancel a planned Inter-Agency Risk Assessment 1-Day Refresh as there was a low number of bookings and further last minute cancellations.

If you're looking for learning you can do in your own time, we have a series of local briefings and guidance on our [Child Protection for Professionals](#) page.

There are also a range of Executive Learning Summaries from local Learning Reviews on the [ECPC Page](#).

Further we are also working on further e-learning available across the workforce.

National Updates

Association of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Free E-learning

A free, online CPD tool: [ACAMH Learn](#) has been designed and launched to make it easier for anyone working with young people, to access content from world-leading experts on various topics around child and adult mental health, neurodiversity and substance use.

You need to sign-up for a free account to log your learning, but this was quick and easy. The Child Protection Lead Officer immediately found content that chimed with local themes.

Get in touch

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You can read previous issues of [Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Latest news and learning](#).