

15 December 2026

## Introduction

Welcome to the last Newsletter of the year. The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee met again on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025, which included 17 multi-agency members of the Committee and focused on the following themes:

- Child Protection Improvement Planning
- Updates on Learning Reviews
- Child Protection in regulated Foster Care
- Housing and Homelessness in Edinburgh and the impact on children
- The 16 Days of Activism on violence against women and girls' campaign, focused on the impact on children and young people
- An update from the Alcohol and Drug Partnership on drug related deaths, impact of extended ketamine use on health and wellbeing, and young people's substance use services for those with care experience
- Other National Updates.

## ECPC Partner Updates - 2026

### Visiting Us at Waverley Court

All partners and colleagues who don't normally work in Waverley Court, as well as members of the public, should access the building through the new visitor entrance opposite Costa between 8.30am and 4.30pm



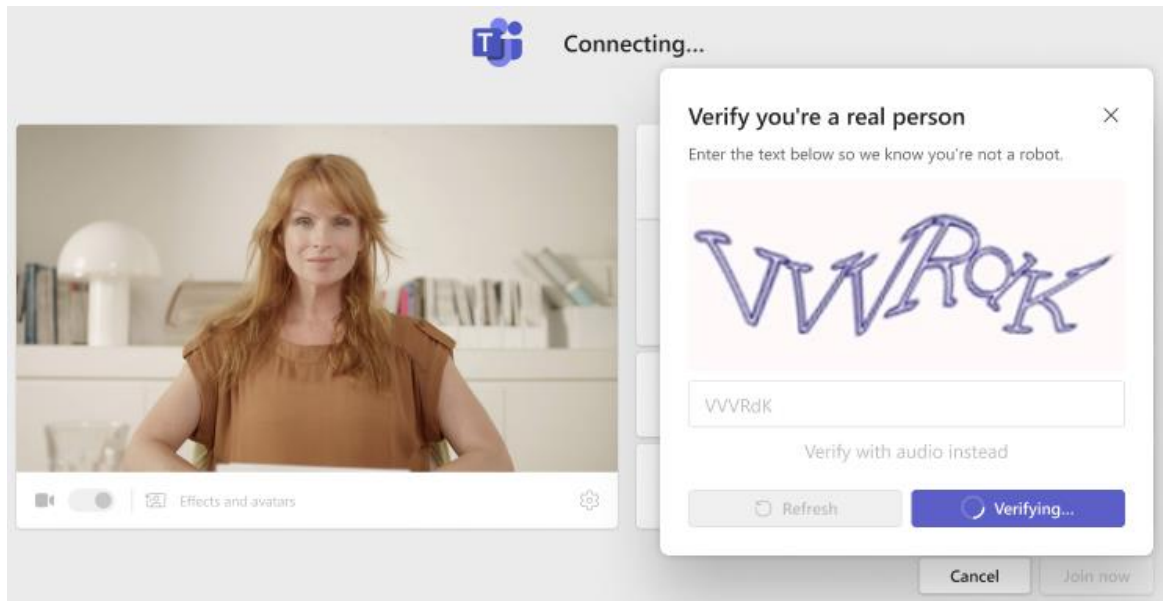
You will be asked to sign in and our security team will issue your visitor with a temporary pass. We will then meet you at the visitor entrance in the Calton Hub



## Joining an ECPC Teams Meeting or Webinar in the new year

City of Edinburgh Council are making some changes to strengthen security around Microsoft Teams, which will affect all ECPC Teams meetings, Committee, Sub-Committee and Webinars or Training. This means that any external partners will need to carry out a quick check before they join a meeting or webinar. Individuals will verify their identity using the CAPTCHA challenge or email. This is a quick test to make sure the participant is human and not an automated bot. A page will appear, like the one pictured below, and the person will be asked to enter the text on the prompt. This is being tested at the moment and will be rolled out in the new year.

If you are having any issues after the change, please contact [laura.g.brown@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:laura.g.brown@edinburgh.gov.uk) or contact Laura's mobile on **07720103563**.



## Contextual Safeguarding – Risks Outside the Home Guidance and Briefings

### Contextual Safeguarding Learning Events

Thank you to all of you who have managed to get along to the Contextual Safeguarding learning offered by City of Edinburgh Council since October 2025. The ECPC Chair and the CP Lead Officer have recently attended the learning, which cemented strategic discussions that have been held both locally and nationally.

There is a further set of dates in January 2026, which is still available - 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2-4pm [Booking Link](#).

### Risks Outside the Home Guidance

Further, the ECPC signed off on our [Contextual Safeguarding- Risks Outside the Home \(ROTH\) Guidance](#) at the Committee in October 2025. The Guidance and a [Briefing Document](#) can be downloaded from the [Child Protection for Professionals](#) webpages or the [ECPC Knowledge Hub](#), an easily accessible membership group.

Please note, this Guidance has superseded the Edinburgh Inter-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (2015) that was previously developed by the Edinburgh, the Lothians and Barnardo's. This has been taken down, as it is no longer up to date.

There are also a range of other Briefings, developed by [The Children's Society #LookCloser Campaign](#), on the ECPC Knowledge Hub. These relate primarily to different types of Exploitation for young people.

## Missing Children and Young People

We are delighted to welcome [Missing People](#) for a good practice workshop in working with children and young people. This will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 10.00 at Spartans Community Trust. This will be available to book soon on [My Learning Hub](#) (City of Edinburgh staff) or [MyLearningHub.events](#) (ECPC Partners).

## Web Development

We have updated a couple of our procedures and guidance in 2025 and developed a range of other briefings and resources.

Further, we have also listened to your feedback around our Webpages, as they are not always easy to find and negotiate. As a result, some of the pages will be re-developed in the new year.

We will try to update the hyperlinks in our documents but if you can't find something, please just reach out using the email below and the Child Protection Lead Officer will help you out.



## Festive Wishes

As we approach the festive holidays, a massive thanks from the ECPC Chair and Lead Officer for all your support in preventing and responding to a range of harms faced by our children.



Christmas is not always easy for children and young people, when services are closed, there's a lot of expenses and family relationships might not always go to plan. [Childline](#) have got some great resources and advice that it might be useful to share with children and young people. There's a great wee video – [Not So Merry Christmas](#) with some helpful strategies. Childline are open throughout and can be contacted on **08000 1111** or through their [Message Boards](#) online.

## Get in touch

Email [laura.g.brown@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:laura.g.brown@edinburgh.gov.uk)

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

