

Latest news and learning



14 January 2026

Welcome

Happy New Year from the Chair!

As the independent chair of the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee, I send you my best wishes for 2026 and acknowledge the committee's impressive progress throughout 2025.

We truly value everyone's dedication and thank the staff, child protection teams, and subcommittee members for their continued commitment to helping vulnerable children in our area.

Looking ahead, we know there is still much work to be done in 2026 as we face ongoing challenges. Together, we are determined to advance our work plan and are confident that we will reach the goals we have set.

I'm pleased to introduce our January newsletter and hope you find it useful as we begin what promises to be another busy year for ECPC.



Multi-Agency Learning Opportunities Delivered on behalf of the ECPC

Child Protection for Unborn Babies and Infants

In the last few Newsletters, there has been a heavy focus on some of the needs and risks experienced by older children and young people in different contexts. However, children can experience harm or risk of harm at any age or stage, including pre-birth.

Here's some learning we have coming up that is specific to pregnancy, babies and younger children:

Substance Use in Pregnancy - 28 January 9.30-11.00am on MS Teams

- 13 May 9.30-11.00am on MS Teams

Facilitated by members of the dedicated Prepare service for families pre-birth – 2 years where there is substance use, this webinar will look at the care needs of vulnerable children, premature babies and those affected by neo-natal abstinence syndrome, consider how these children needs can be met, and highlight the impact and effects of parental substance use on child development and attachment for vulnerable children.

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

All other partners [Booking Link](#).

Vulnerability of Babies – 5 February 9.00-12.30am on MS Teams

Edinburgh Child Protection Committee has recently concluded a Learning Review in relation to inflicted injuries experienced to two siblings. You can find out more about the [Executive Learning](#) by clicking on the link. Between January – April 2026 another Learning Review on this topic will also be taking place due to different challenges that presented.

In the below learning event, facilitated by local Paediatricians and health staff, we aim to raise awareness of the child protection risks posed to young babies and children, as well as discussing the procedures for vulnerable babies at risk of significant harm.

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

All other partners [Booking Link](#).

If you don't have a chance to attend, please familiarise yourself with the [NHS Lothian Protocol](#).

Children and Young People who go Missing – Good Practice Workshop

[Missing People](#) have been instrumental in supporting the National Missing Person's Framework implementation and providing a helpful Missing Person's Toolkit. They are offering this workshop in working with children and young people to prevent and respond effectively when they go missing. This will take place on **21st January 2026 10.00 at Spartans Community Trust**.

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

All other partners [Booking Link](#).

If you don't have a chance to attend the workshop, please consider familiarising yourself with the [National Missing Persons Framework Toolkit for Professionals in Scotland](#).

Exploitation of Children and Young People Learning Opportunity

This course is running again on **3 February**, after being postponed in December due to low numbers.

The learning opportunity aims to:

- Raise awareness of how young people can be subjected to exploitation and the impact of their experiences.
- Consider how practitioners can help to prevent different types of exploitation.
- Equip practitioners to recognise and respond to exploitation and best support those affected.

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

All other partners [Booking Link](#).

Important Information about our Courses, Workshops and Events

All our events are free of charge at the point of delivery. They are not free to run, however.

The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee funds learning through a multi-agency budget to make it accessible to everyone who needs it. Also, facilitators and training leaders give their time and energy to deliver the learning. Many commit to this over and above their operational or practice roles.

Last quarter, the ECPC offered eleven Child Protection Learning and Development sessions on different topics. Two of these were cancelled or postponed due to limited bookings. Of the nine learning events that did take place, we had 65% attendance on booked places. 25% of places were cancelled before the event and 15% of bookings did not attend on the day.

It is imperative that, if you book on a learning event and cannot attend, please hop on to [mylearninghub.events](#) or the City of Edinburgh Council My Learning Hub and cancel your space.

Don't have time for a Course, Workshop or Webinar?

Learning events aren't for everyone or sometimes it's hard to fit them in on top of everything else on your to-do list.... If you're looking for bite-sized learning, we have a series of local briefings and guidance on our [Child Protection for Professionals](#) page. Recently we've added new information on different types of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, including the Risks Outside the Home Guidance and Screening Tool.

We are also working hard to find a way to make self-led e-learning opportunities available across the workforce.

If there's bits of advice and support you would like made available, please contact us and let us know.

Scottish Government Child Trafficking and Exploitation Workshop

This workshop will bring together partners from across sectors and Scottish Government policy teams to inform the [Scotland's Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy 2025](#) Delivery Plan. The workshop will have a specific focus on the strengths and challenges for child trafficking and exploitation issues.

Online workshop: MS Teams Tuesday 3 February 2026 10.00 -11.45

Book via [Eventbrite](#)

Policing Together – Children and Young People Partnership Learning Opportunities

The Policing Together Children and Young People Team are providing Partnership Learning Opportunities in 2026, whereby police and other public protection partners can learn together. Partners such as education, social work, support staff, NHS, third sector and charities all come together to learn and discuss important topics relating to the safeguarding and wellbeing.

Online Safety for Primary Schools– 21 January 11.00-12.00

Delivered by DC Ross or DC Gordon from Cyber and Fraud Prevention Unit, this Webinar can be booked by emailing PolicingTogetherChildrenandYoungPeople@scotland.police.uk

Prevent: Counter Terrorism Safeguarding Programme– 28 January 11.00-12.00

Delivered by DC Collier and DS Keenan from Prevent, this Webinar can be booked by emailing PolicingTogetherChildrenandYoungPeople@scotland.police.uk

No Knives Better Lives training, Toolkits and Resources– 9 February 09.30-10.30

Delivered Gavin Crosby from No lives Better Lives, this Webinar can be booked by emailing PolicingTogetherChildrenandYoungPeople@scotland.police.uk

The No Knives Better Lives Toolkits are also available on the dedicated [website](#) or on My Learning Hub for City of Edinburgh Council staff members.

Intimate Image Sharing (inc Sextortion) Secondary School– 23 February 11.00-12.00

Delivered by DC Smith from Cyber and Fraud Prevention Unit, this Webinar can be booked by emailing PolicingTogetherChildrenandYoungPeople@scotland.police.uk

Cyber Choices Secondary School– 24 February 10.00-11.00

Delivered by DCi Penny from Cyber and Fraud Prevention Unit, this Webinar can be booked by emailing PolicingTogetherChildrenandYoungPeople@scotland.police.uk

National News

Ministerial Statement on Protecting Children from Harm

On 17 December 2025 Education Secretary, Jenny Gilruth made a statement to the Scottish Parliament in relation to the commencement of an independent national review related to the nature and extent of group-based child sexual abuse and exploitation in Scotland. You can read more on the Scottish Government news release using these links: <https://www.gov.scot/news/protecting-children-from-harm/> and here is the [Ministerial Statement](#).

The Scottish Social Work Partnership

The Partnership (SSWP) is a new national partnership bringing together:

- National Social Work Agency (Scottish Government)
- COSLA (local government)
- Social Work Scotland (local social work leaders)

Together, as the SSWP, partners will work to:

- provide national oversight and understanding of the workforce, grounded in local expertise
- collaborate with other organisations to improve the quality, experience, impact and sustainability of the workforce
- deliver national activities and projects – a new strategic plan (2026–29) including social work education and learning, workforce planning, and professional governance and leadership.

If you are Social Work trained, [sign up here](#) to get the latest policy updates and insights, as well as opportunities to get involved in advancing social work.

Housing Update

Housing (Scotland) Act 2025

Duties to consider the impact of domestic abuse on tenants (sections 55-58)

The Act came into Royal Assent on 6 November 2025 and aims to strengthen protection to tenants, improve housing standards and prevent homelessness.

Additional duties are imposed on local authorities, the police, and the health service to help prevent homelessness, in a provision referred to by ministers as **Ask and Act**. Public bodies will be required to inquire about the housing circumstances of individuals they interact with and either provide support or refer them to their

local authority. Councils will need to intervene earlier to prevent homelessness, offering assistance to households at risk up to six months before homelessness becomes imminent.

There are also specific duties when considering the impact of domestic abuse on tenants. The Act has updated definitions of 'abuse' in the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 and added the following provisions:

- Local authorities must consider whether an individual is experiencing domestic abuse as part of their consideration when allocating housing.
- Social landlords must take into account whether domestic abuse has contributed to rent arrears and make reasonable efforts to support the needs of the tenant, before taking action to recover possession. Further, they must ensure tenants are provided with information about available support.

In addition, all social landlords and local authorities are required to publish and adhere to a domestic abuse policy, with a view to preventing homelessness.

Other News

Safer Internet Day – 10 February 2026

Safer Internet Day 2026, organised by the UK Safer Internet Centre, will take place on 10 February 2026 with the theme “**Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.**” This year’s campaign highlights an issue that has rapidly become a global discussion, how can we use artificial intelligence safely and responsibly? The best way to get involved with Safer Internet Day 2026 is to [register your support](#).

To support safe behaviour online, the UK Safer Internet Centre has developed **top tips and practical advice** for a range of audiences:

- [Top Tips for Young People](#) – practical, age-appropriate guidance on understanding and using AI and digital tools responsibly.
- [Top Tips for Parents & Carers](#) – support families with confidence to talk about online experiences and navigate AI tools safely.

[Quizzes for Learners](#) – fun, interactive quizzes for ages 7–11 and 11–14 to test online safety knowledge and spark conversations.

Adult Support and Protection Day – 20 February 2026

Theme for 2026 will be:

- General awareness of Adult Support and Protection (ASP) for members of the general public, staff and volunteers only peripherally involved with adults) and secondly
- A focus on ASP within Supported Settings (for staff and volunteers with more specific contact with adults at risk of harm).

IRISS run the ASPIre network and will be offering **online – Basic awareness raising ASP learning opportunity**, on the morning of **Thursday 26 February 2026**, which would be suitable for any member of staff or volunteer with less knowledge of ASP, including those in children’s services and projects.

The link to book this is not yet available but keep an eye out to the [ASPIre Hub](#) pages.

This webinar will be recorded, update and progress the current [ASPIre 2024: Introduction to Adult Support and Protection \(webinar\) | Iriiss](#).

Get in touch

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