



16 February 2026

Welcome

Message from the Chair

The beginning of February marked another busy Child Protection Committee meeting, where we received inputs on Corporate Parenting; the Promise; GIRFEC Guidance; City of Edinburgh's Children's Services' Review; and considered the Housing emergency and impact on our children and young people.

We had some frank discussion about ensuring the safety of Edinburgh's most vulnerable children and the place of Learning Reviews within this. It was especially hard to learn of some recent circumstances of significant harm, which were in the forefront of member's minds.

As a committee, we are preparing for a series of workforce learning events, as detailed below, and further meetings on topics such as children who go missing; the role of the 3rd Sector and the national response to Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation.



Multi-Agency Learning Opportunities Delivered on behalf of the ECPC

Levels of Learning Explained

When we refer to multi-agency learning opportunities, delivered locally, we often use the following terms. These are taken from the [National Framework for Child Protection Learning and Development 2024](#) and we also unpack what's expected locally at each level through our [Edinburgh Child Protection Learning and Development Strategy](#) (2024).



If you're not sure what level of learning you are expected to undertake, have a read of the documents above and discuss with your line manager what your specific learning needs might be based on your job role and personal professional development.

Child Protection Practice

We have two different Child Protection learning events.

Child Protection (**Specific Contact Workforce**)

Advanced skills in assessing and managing risk in Child Protection (**Intensive Workforce**)

These are very popular courses, where demand often exceeds supply. We are working to monitor this and respond to the partnership's learning needs.

Please remember, if you are no longer able to attend a booked learning event, please cancel your space on MyLearningHub (employees of the Council) or MyLearningHub.events (all other partners), so that someone else can have your space.

Identifying and Supporting Children at Risk of Neglect

Multi-Agency Neglect learning opportunities have recently been reviewed and updated by the Learning and Development Sub-Committee of the ECPC. This is, in part, to directly address learning from the local [Learning Review for Child E](#) and other national learning on the topic of neglect.

The new, 1 day course, for **specific** or **intensive** workforce, **Identifying and supporting children at risk of neglect** will be piloted on **Wednesday 1 April 9.30-16.00 at Spartans Community Foundation, Pilton Drive**. There is also a further session **planned on 14 May 2026**.

The learning event will support practitioners to reflect on current practice and consider new ideas.

- Considers how to assess and evidence neglect for children of different ages and stages,
- Explores the drivers and types of neglect
- Focuses practitioners on the impact neglect has on children's longer-term wellbeing.

There will be allotted time to introduce and practice applying the Risk of Neglect toolkit, which we encourage all practitioners to make use of in their work supporting families at risk of neglect.

[Edinburgh Risk of Neglect Practice Guidance](#) and [Edinburgh Risk of Neglect Toolkit: Working with Families](#) (ECPC 2022).

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

All other partners [Booking Link](#).

Giving Evidence at Court

Our colleagues at the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) offer a 2-hour hands-on, interactive session at Edinburgh Sheriff Court that aims to de-mystify what it means to be a witness in court, to know what to expect and to explain the differences between children's proof hearings and criminal trials. This is designed for **specific** workforce who may be invited to give evidence at court.

This is running on 23 April and 18 June 14.00-16.00.

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

All other partners [Booking Link](#).

SCRA also offer some e-learning available from their own website, if you cannot attend the dedicated sessions. [SCRA's Learning Hub - SCRA](#)

Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRD) in Child Protection

The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee offers dedicated **intensive** workforce training for IRD practitioners at various junctures throughout the year. This is based on themes, outcomes and improvements from the IRD Review and Oversight Groups of the Child Protection Committee.

The next IRD Workshop will focus on **Risk Assessment and Planning in IRDs where Neglect is the feature** and takes place on **Thursday 5 March 13.00-16.30pm**. If you are eligible to attend, you should have received a communication by email.

All IRD Practitioners and associated partners can request a place using the [Booking Link](#).

Learning Reviews Webinars

The highs, the lows and the rest... Interested in the significant learning reviews that have taken place in Edinburgh? Why not come along to one of our safe lunchtime webinars?

At these events we will sensitively summarise the learning from the review and resultant improvement planning, give you a chance to ask questions and reflect on what it means for your own practice.

Tuesday 3 March 13.00-14.30 Lunchtime Webinar Learning Review of Child E [Booking Link](#)

Wednesday 1 April 13.00-14.30 Lunchtime Webinar Learning Review of Child F and Child G [Booking Link](#)

ICON

NHS Lothian is taking part in the Scottish Governments plan to implement the ICON programme to all parents in Scotland. ICON is a preventative programme that aims to support parents and carers with the task of caring for infants and building coping skills when managing crying.

It stands for:



I- Infant crying is normal

C- Comforting methods can sometimes soothe the baby

O-It's OK to walk away

N- Never, ever shake a baby



The programme aims to strengthen practitioners' confidence in approaching the topic in a supportive way, with assurance that delivering key information can reduce the incidence of abusive head trauma (AHT) in infants.

There is an Infant Crying and ICON 7 Minute Briefing available on the [Child Protection for Professionals](#) webpage and [ECPC Knowledge Hub](#). This gives an oversight of the key principles for all practitioners.

For those who come into contact with infants and families or who are interested in a bit more detail, there is a short eLearning module, which can be accessed in your own time, through the link: <https://training.iconcope.org/>.

County Lines Awareness and the NCCLC

At the end of January, a handful of Edinburgh staff were able to attend a regular webinar offered by the National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC) on County Lines Awareness. It wasn't recorded but we have been informed these webinars will be repeated on a regular basis and will try and keep you updated about future sessions.

Below are some of the free resources that could be used for your personal or team development:

[#lookcloser Child Exploitation](#)

[Stages of Child Criminal Exploitation](#)

[What Is County Lines?](#)

[County Lines | How to Spot Exploitation Early](#)

[What Is Cuckooing? | How Criminals Exploit Vulnerable People](#)

[County Lines - Spot The Signs | Eyes Open](#)

[Steven's Story - A personal experience of Cuckooing](#)

[Fearless | Crimestoppers](#)

Equally Safe Resources and Events

The Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee, in conjunction with a range of stakeholders, have created a suite of new quick-read resources. The first six are available at [Domestic Abuse Information and Resources](#) and it would be worth bookmarking this page, as there are further developments to come.

Also, the Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee are delighted to welcome Janine Ewen to speak on contextual safeguarding approaches and how they can be employed when working with children who group with parental domestic abuse. This webinar takes place on **Monday 30 March 14.00-16.00**.



[Booking Link](#) for all partners.

Cross-cutting Public Protection Event

To mark **International Women's Day** at the beginning of March, the ECPC has joined forces with Edinburgh's other Public Protection Committees for a **half-day, in-person, multi-agency event** with inputs from Equally Safe (Violence Against Women and Girls), Child Protection, Adult Support & Protection, ADP (Alcohol & Drug Partnership) and Housing colleagues.

Wednesday 11 March 13.00-16.00 at Norton Park Conference Centre.

Further information on how to book a place will be sent out soon.



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 is tracking booking and attendance of learning events, which is reported on 6-monthly basis, to help us understand the needs and demands.

It is imperative that, if you book on a learning event and cannot attend, please hop on to [mylearninghub.events](#) or [My Learning Hub](#) (for City of Edinburgh Council employees) 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 updated information on Female Genital Mutilation for Education colleagues.

Young People's Substance Use and Harm Reduction

Edinburgh's Young People's Substance User Services (YSUS) work across the city. They work regularly with our schools and youthwork teams, for example recently the Emerging Trends & Training Coordinator at delivered a session to the Council's Deputy Heads' programme.

YSUS are a great resource for advice and consultation, have a range of resources available for young people and workers. They can also work directly with young people who are seeking further support.

Please remember you can find the [Drugs & Risk 7-minute briefing](#) from the ECPC on the Child Protection for Professionals webpages. Crew also have a range of [Harm Reduction Resources](#) which are downloadable from the website.

Useful links

Crew	0131 220 3404 www.crew.scot
The Junction	0131 553 0570 www.the-junction.org
Circle	0131 552 0305 www.circle.scot
ASUS	0131 529 6700 www.edinburghadp.co.uk/services/asus-substance-use-service

There are also adult substance use and harm reduction resources, based on a range of webinars that took place in 2025, that are hosted on the [ECPC Knowledge Hub](#).

The Knowledge Hub is a repository with a wealth of additional information. It is a closed groups, so to become a members, you:

1. Register as a user of the Knowledge Hub;
2. Make a request to join Edinburgh's Child Protection Hub;
3. Once accepted you can explore the home page and library.

Centre for Youth Justice (CYCJ) E-Learning

CYCJ have a range of personal e-learning that can be accessed through this link> [E-Learning - Children and Young People's Centre for Justice](#). Please note that the following courses are funded by the Scottish Government and can be accessed free, as long as you sign up for an account. There is other learning available on the site, in relation to Criminal Exploitation, that does incur a fee.

[Digital Safeguarding In Practice](#)

[The Children \(Care and Justice\) \(Scotland\) Act 2024](#)

Both courses are particularly relevant for professionals who have contact with children who may be involved with the children's hearing, care or justice settings for their care and protection or because they are in conflict with the law.



There are also a series of free Webinars, particularly in preparation for the Children (care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024, which you can explore through the [Booking Link](#).

Policing Together – Children and Young People's Partnership

I Am Me for Primary Schools– 3 March 11.00-12.00

As part of the above Police Scotland initiative, I Am Me, a small charity from Renfrewshire will be doing a walk-through of their extensive, free e-learning platform and the resources that are available for education, youth work and staff development sessions.

This Webinar can be booked by emailing PolicingTogetherChildrenandYoungPeople@scotland.police.uk

The following 2 sessions of Policing Together are still available:

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

Healthy Respect and SWIRL.scot



[Healthy Respect](#) is a small team within NHS Lothian who work in partnership to deliver accessible sexual health services to all young people, ensure there are up to date sexual health and wellbeing resources, and train staff and volunteers across Edinburgh.

Recently, they have been heavily involved in a national project to develop the [SWIRL – Sexual Wellbeing Image Resource Library Scotland](#).

This is a fantastic new pictorial resource bank to support the development of accessible sexual health and wellbeing information, which is free to use by practitioner. There are a range of preventative and responsive uses in child protection and the resource complements the [Easier to Understand](#) features that are already on the Healthy Respect website.

National News

National Review of Group-Based Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Following on from the Ministerial statement made in the Scottish Parliament, 17 December 2025, several members of the Chief Officers Group and Public Protection Committees attended a national launch of the Review on 9 February 2026.

This confirmed that the Review will take place in 3 phases, with Phase 1 involving requests for submissions from all 32 local authority areas, which will be progressed throughout Feb-Aug 2026, with an initial report published in September 2026. We will keep you updated on this review in our ECPC Newsletter.

Safer Internet Day and ‘You Won’t Know until You Ask’ Campaign

On Tuesday 10 February many of our services recognised [Safer Internet Day](#). There are resources on the ECPC Knowledge Hub to download and use with families and a range of other announcements with links to inform your own practice.

Details on how to join the [ECPC Knowledge Hub](#) are included in the Young People’s Substance Use section of the Newsletter above.

Other News

Adult Support and Protection Day – 20 February 2026

IRISS run the ASPIre network and will be offering **online – Basic awareness raising ASP learning opportunity**, on the morning of **Thursday 26 February 2026 9.30-11.00**, 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 session will be recorded and added to the [ASPIre Hub](#) for future use in your own time.

Get in touch

Email laura.g.brown@edinburgh.gov.uk

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