



25 March 2026

Welcome

Message from the Chair and Lead Officer

Spring has sprung! We are just not sure day-on-day whether we are talking about snowdrops and daffodils in the ground or the April showers, which seemed to 'spring' early this year!

There's change for the Child Protection Committee too. Our Child Protection Lead Officer, Laura, is on the move to a promoted post where she will be responsible for leading the Public Protection Team, which includes the Lead Officers to several of the multi-agency committees.

Laura says, *'it has been an honour and a privilege to support the Child Protection Committee, encourage local practice and influence regional and national policy. It is one of the most challenging, inspiring and exciting roles I have had in social work and there's plenty of scope to make it your own.'*

The Child Protection Lead Officer role will be advertised on [My Job Scotland](#) in coming weeks, so if you are interested in applying, please do look it up and contact Laura or Lillian for a chat about what it involves...



IRD Workshop

Early Risk Assessment and Planning in IRDs where Neglect is the feature

Thank you to the 50 intensive members of the workforce who took part in the IRD Practitioners' Workshop in early March 2026. A special thanks goes out to Alison McLuckie, DC Bel Brown, Alison Shiel, Alison Wishart and Stuart Midgely for facilitating the session.

If you attended the event, please share the resources and learning with relevant colleagues and teams. Further, we are still looking for delegates to fill out a **SHORT IRD Workshop Practitioner Feedback** Survey (Neglect, March 2026), which you can access by clicking on the link. Please note, we only received 2/40 feedback forms for last year's event, so it would be great to increase this number.

On 12 May 2026 there will be a further IRD Workshop for IRD Practitioners. This will cover a number of topics including a further input on Neglect and exploration of child protection investigations where there is close connection to Serious Organised Crime (SOC). Please use the [Booking Link](#) to register your interest.

Multi-Agency Learning Opportunities Delivered on behalf of the ECPC

Identifying and Supporting Children at Risk of Neglect

In addition to the above learning for IRD Practitioners, Multi-Agency Neglect learning opportunities for the wider workforce have recently been reviewed and updated by the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee based on delegate feedback and learning from recent local Learning Reviews.

On **Wednesday 1 April** or **Wednesday 14 May 2026**, the 1-day, redeveloped course **Identifying and supporting children at risk of neglect**:

- Supports 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.

It is fully booked for Council staff but all other partners can sign up using the [Booking Link](#) (further dates planned for later in 2026).

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

Violence Against Women and Girls

Our colleagues in the Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee (ESEC) are offering a range of learning opportunities that relate to children and young people...

Information and Resources

ESEC have updated their Domestic Abuse Safety Planning Booklet and have provided a range of Quick-read Briefings, with more resources on their way.

[Domestic abuse information and resources – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

Contextual Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse webinar Monday 30 March 2026 2-4pm:

Contextual safeguarding is an approach used to address the risks children and young people face outside the home. But what are these risks for children and young people who grow up in a family where there is domestic abuse between their parents/carers?

Join us for a webinar delivered by national contextual safeguarding expert Janine Ewen, who will discuss the experiences of children who grow up with parental domestic abuse, and what professionals, family members and the wider community need to know to effectively support and safeguard children.

[Booking Link](#)

You can find out more about **Edinburgh's Risks Outside the Home Guidance** and download the **Briefing note** on the [Child Protection for Professionals](#) page.

Three learning sessions were previously held during ESEC's 16 Days campaign in Nov-Dec 2025 were very well received, and are now available to view on YouTube:

[Online Misogyny, Incel Culture and Pornography](#)

[Bittersweet 16: Abuse and violence in children's and young people's relationships](#)

[Better Memories From now on: Supporting Babies and children living with domestic abuse](#)

Please note that these videos are **unlisted**. This means that they can only be watched by people who have the link to each video. They don't appear through a basic YouTube search. Please feel free to share with anyone who you think might be interested in watching.

Learning Review 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 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.

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

Thursday 23 April 16.00-17.30 Twilight Webinar Learning Review of Child E. *This is a repeat of the session previously offered on 3 March 2026.* [Booking Link](#).

Substance Use in Pregnancy

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.

This webinar is taking place again on **13 May 9.30-11.00am on MS Teams**

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

All other partners [Booking Link](#).

Children's Reporter and Children's Hearing Learning

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) have launched a Learning Hub. This provides an open access, online resource developed to support professionals working within the Children's Hearings System. The materials were developed by the Learning Leads – a group of professionals from across the Children's Hearings System.

Learning currently available:

- [An introduction to the Children's Hearings System](#)
- [Referral to the Children's Reporter](#)
- [Child Friendly Scheduling](#)

Locally, we also offer Giving Evidence in Court learning, 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 or 18 June 14.00-16.00**.

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

All other partners [Booking Link](#).

Fire Safety – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)

Some of you may have been affected by the recent large-scale fire in Glasgow city centre. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are offering a series of sessions for any professionals who undertake home visits in the course of their role. The session aims to:

- To understand the need for Partnership Working and the value in sharing information
- Recognise who is most at risk from fire
- Recognise known contributory factors
- Identify the most common causes of fire
- Understand the types of fire alarm provision for property type
- Understand SFRS's Home Fire Safety Visit procedure
- Know how to contact and refer people at risk to SFRS.

The same session is running on 4 different dates 22nd April, 30th April, 8th May and 18th May.

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

All other partners [Booking Link](#).

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 around [Reflective Questions for Professional Curiosity](#).

At the moment, we are working on more materials in relation to engaging with men, substance use of young people and parents/carers and children affected by disability.

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

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.

The Way We See It: What young people think about violence – 14 May 10.00-11.00

The webinar can be booked by emailing PolicingTogetherChildrenandYoungPeople@scotland.police.uk

Responding to Hate Crime

Research shows that hate crime is reported less than non-hate crimes. Hate incidents targeting an individual or group can have a devastating impact upon the victims, their families, and wider communities.

Proving an empathetic, professional, and consistent approach to communities is of vital importance and this session will explore the critical need for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (ED&I), building confidence in recognising and responding to hate.

Primary school aged children – 10.00-11.00

Secondary school aged children – 10.00-11.00

The webinar can be booked by emailing PolicingTogetherChildrenandYoungPeople@scotland.police.uk



Free E-Learning on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (including Criminal Exploitation)

Child Sexual Abuse Centre – Free e-learning on Identifying and Responding Intra-familial CSA

Victims and survivors of intra-familial child sexual abuse can and do recover from their abuse, especially when supported by professionals who are trained to best support them and their families.

The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA Centre) [E-Learning course](#). It takes just 90 minutes to complete, is entirely free, and consists of three engaging modules, with interactive tasks, video explainers and a knowledge check. It's designed for staff or volunteers at all stages of their career.

To use the e-learning, you need to sign up for an account with the CSA Centre and can then access the course. Please take a personal note of your use of the e-learning course, as it will not be automatically added to your record of Continuing Professional Development.

The CSA Centre also has a range of other [Practice Resources](#) that are free to download.



Child Sexual Abuse Centre – Free e-learning on Identifying and Responding Intra-familial CSA



I AM ME are a small Scottish charity who create e-learning and other resources primarily for working with children and young people in education and wider parents and carers.

They have developed several resources in relation to Child Exploitation and, although designed for secondary school-aged children, these provide an excellent basis for practitioner learning also.

To use the e-learning, you need to sign up for an account with the [I AM ME e-learning platform](#) and can then access the resources. Please note, you need to click on the **Secondary** button and then the **Child Exploitation** Tile. There is a range of resources within this section:

- Exploitation Practitioner Training 'You are not alone.'
- 'Should I tell someone?' Video based on 4 stories

Lucy Faithful Foundation – What about us?

Lucy Faithful Foundation have developed [What About Us?](#) - a new resource for teenagers going through the arrest of a family member for online sexual harm

They are offering a free half hour lunchtime webinar on 23rd March to introduce the materials.

The webinar will also give insight into the [Shore](#)- a website and anonymous live chat service for teenagers worried about sexual behaviours.

National News

National Review and Inquiry into Group-based CSAE

We are in phase 1 of the independent national review related to the nature and extent of group-based child sexual abuse and exploitation in Scotland. A group of ECPC Members from City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian and Police Scotland's Public Protection services are collecting the evidence and carrying out the first round of self-evaluation. You can find out more on the [Care Inspectorate Website](#).

The Scottish Government have also announced an independent inquiry, and we will support this as a partnership, when more information arises.

Other Public Protection News

International Women's Day and Public Protection Event – 11 March 2026

Thank you to the 60 individuals from across the partnership who came along to the Public Protection event earlier on in March. This was focused on protecting and partnering with local women and girls and tied in with International Women's Day.

We are grateful to the inputs from Lesley Johnston, Equally Safe Edinburgh Vice Chair; Karen Allan, Access to Housing; Julie King, Circle; the Adult and Child Protection independent Chairs and all three Public Protection Lead Officers.

There is an [evaluation for the event](#), if you have not already had a chance to do it.



IRD Workshop 1

We hope you get a chance to enjoy the lighter, brighter weather over the spring, no matter what you are getting up to.

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](#).
