



# ABERDEENSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE Quality Assurance Strategy

Self-Evaluation and Improvement Planning  
2020 - 2023

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Aberdeenshire Child Protection Committee (CPC) requires systematic performance management and quality assurance arrangements across all relevant services. These are essential in order to provide the CPC with information in order that the partnership can monitor how well the range of services are doing and to identify those areas where resources are inefficient or where improvement is required. The CPC functions are detailed below -

### Continuous Improvement

- Policies, procedures & Protocols
- Self Evaluation, Performance Management & Quality Assurance
- Promoting Good Practice
- Training & Staff Development

### Strategic Planning

- Communication, collaboration and co-operation
- Making & maintaining links with other planning fora

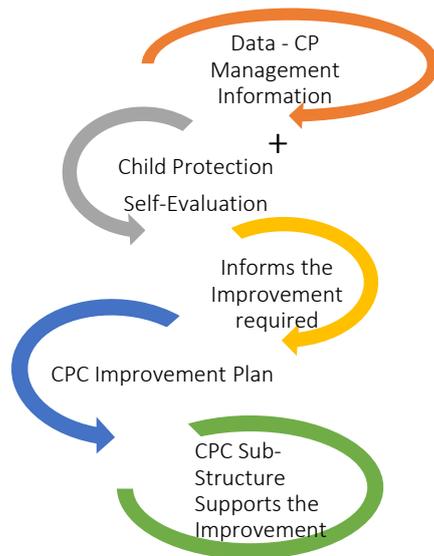
### Public Information & Communication

- Raising Public Awareness
- Involving Children and young people and their families

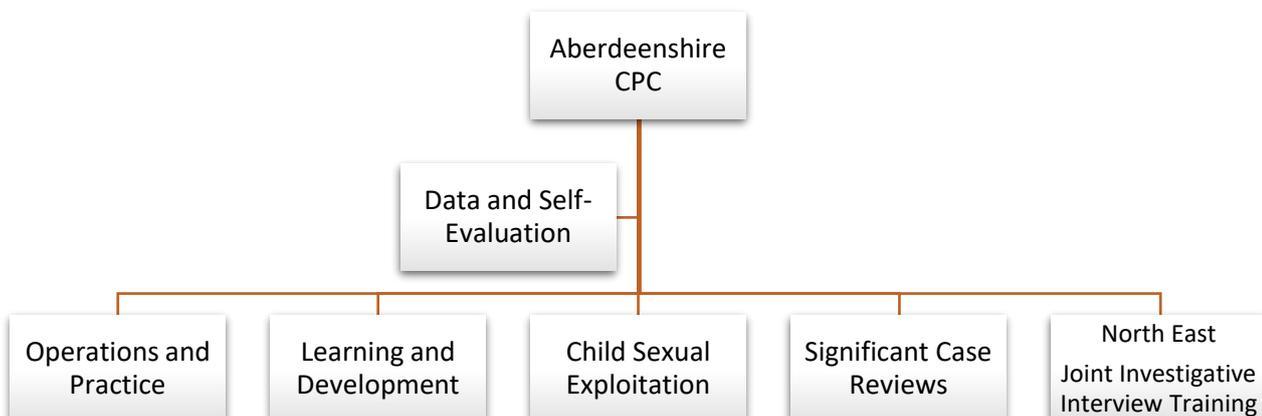
*(National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland: 2014)*

## 2. ABERDEENSHIRE CPC QUALITY ASSURANCE AND SELF-EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

### CPC Process for Self-Evaluation & Improvement



### CPC Sub-Group Structure



### Child Protection Management Information

The CPC gathers a range of foundation data on a number of child protection processes in Aberdeenshire. This dataset is updated quarterly and establishes a base picture of key child protection processes, specialist circumstances and where services are being delivered. The data is prepared in sections, which has an associated commentary box which gives a dialogue on the information and what we think it tells us. The information can be numbers, percentages, such as numbers of children on the CP Register, as well as performance information.

### Child Protection Self-Evaluation

There are a number of ways in which we can learn about our Child Protection practice. Information can be collated in a systematic regular manner, as well as undertaking themed activity in response to evaluating where we require knowledge and reassurances regarding our analysis of the data or practice area/s. Some examples are described below-

- Data scrutiny (this includes national as well as local data where relevant)
- Documentation review (where applicable)
- Case file audit
- Staff focus groups
- Meeting with Children and Families
- Learning from Initial and Significant Case Review's
- Learning from Inspections
- Staff surveys
- Feedback from service users
- Young people's questionnaire
- Single Agency Audit and Evaluation work shared with the CPC

## 3. OUR PRIORITIES

[Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership \(CPP\) Local Outcomes Improvement Plan \(LOIP\) 2017 – 2027](https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/local-outcomes-improvement-plan/)  
<https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/local-outcomes-improvement-plan/>

The CPP Board agreed three LOIP priorities for Aberdeenshire. Three Strategic Lead Partnership (SLP) groups will oversee the development of the priorities -

- Changing Aberdeenshire's Relationship with Alcohol *Lead group: Aberdeenshire Alcohol & Drugs Partnership*
- Reducing Child Poverty *Lead group: Tackling Poverty & Inequalities (TP&I) Strategic Group*
- Connected and Cohesive Communities (Locality Plans) *Lead group: Connected & Cohesive Communities. A newly formed strategic partnership group involving third sector and partner organisations.*

[Aberdeenshire Children's Services Plan 2017 -2020](https://www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org/who-we-are/our-childrens-services-plan/)

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The 5 priorities are -

- Early Years
- Children & Young People's Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Children with a Disability
- Substance Misuse
- Corporate Parenting

Each priority is addressed by a multi-agency action plan. These include specific aims which detail how we are working in partnership to tackle this issue, and what action we are taking to make an impact on the lives of those children, young people, and families affected.

1. Child Protection Case Conference Improvement Planning
2. Development of an Aberdeenshire Neglect Toolkit
3. Assessing Risk and Need – Evaluation
4. Engagement with children and their families
5. Review and refresh our Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Action Plan
6. Development of a Missing/Unseen Children Protocol
7. Development of a Communication Action Plan that connects with Aberdeenshire Partnerships
8. Evaluation and Review of our Workforce Development and Support

The CPC Data and Self-Evaluation Sub-Group will –

- **Maintain the Aberdeenshire CPC Self-Improvement Plan** by collating the learning and actions required from -
  - ✓ CPC Management Report (data)
  - ✓ Aberdeenshire CPC Self-Evaluation Calendar
  - ✓ Reflections on National SCR's - Aberdeenshire considerations
  - ✓ Learning from Aberdeenshire ICR's and SCR's
  - ✓ Learning from Inspections
  - ✓ Any other evaluation information as it arises
- **Maintain the Aberdeenshire Dataset** by collating the required data indicators, including those defined in the Minimum Dataset Indicators for Child Protection Committees. These are analysed on a quarterly basis and a report provided to the Child Protection Committee.

Self-evaluation is central to continuous improvement. It is a reflective process through which Child Protection Committees and strategic planning groups for services for children and young people get to know how well they are doing and identify the best way to improve their services.

*(National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014)*

The work of the Data and Self-Evaluation Sub-Group is not to undertake the evaluation for CPC members, but to ensure that on a multi-agency basis the data is collated and presented to CPC in a way in which assists in learning, examination, questioning and reassurance for CPC and EGPP. The Data Set and Self-Evaluation Action Plan and related activities will be updated quarterly and presented at each CPC and EPGG, and should be the basis for healthy debate and challenge, and assist us to be assured that we are improving outcomes for children by –

- Reflecting upon practice to identify strengths and areas for improvement
- Recognising work which is having a positive effect on the protection of children
- Identifying where quality needs to be maintained, where improvement is needed and where services should be working towards achieving excellence
- Allowing services to inform stakeholders about the quality of services to protect children