

Dundee's future lies with its children and young people. They deserve the best this city can give them. We will provide the protection they need, when they need it, to keep them safe from harm.

Multi Agency Self Evaluation programmes now underway

At its meeting on 26 May, the Chief Officer Group heard from Michael Wood about our work to develop and implement a robust framework and programme for self-evaluation of our service to protect children and young people. Michael is Head of Secondary Education in Dundee. He has led the task group on self-evaluation set up as part of the child protection improvement programme put in place after the HMIE inspection in 2009.

Issue 7 of this *Briefing Note* gave an update on how that work was progressing across the three 'fronts' identified:

- Scrutiny
- Practice Review
- Case File Audit

The online questionnaire that will help us scrutinise the effectiveness and impact of various multi-agency meetings (Case Conferences, Core Groups, LAC Reviews, etc.) will go live in July. At the end of every meeting, people attending will, together, answer a series of simple and succinct questions about how effective the meeting was. Although the questions are straightforward, the picture obtained from an analysis of many of these over

time, will provide hugely valuable information. This will tell us how effective these meetings are at contributing to a positive outcome for children and young people.

The first meeting of the Practice Review Group took place on 28 May, when a case referred to it was the subject of detailed analysis. A summary of the conclusions of that analysis is now being prepared and findings and any recommendations will be reported to the CYPCC.

The Practice Review Group hope that practitioners will identify examples of good practice so that these can be examined and the learning shared across Dundee. Many people still think that a group such as this exists to look at things that don't work well. Research shows us that we learn much more from studying things that do work well. So please shout about your examples of good practice and ask for them to be considered.

And finally, Case File Audit. Previous editions of this *Briefing Note* have spoken about the programme in development. That has now been agreed by the CYPCC and the Chief Officer Group and the first programme of case-based self-evaluation under this system, will commence on 23 August.

Working to make sure ALL citizens of Dundee are included

The CYPCC partnership with *roshni* was discussed by the COG, which noted that the CYPCC had approved the content of the partnership strategy document which sets out the programme of work to be undertaken with members of minority ethnic communities in Dundee.

The thrust of the work that the CYPCC, working with *roshni*, is to raise awareness of child protection. We want to inform children, young people and families, as well as the wider community, including those who work in educational and religious institutions. Access to services to support and protect must be available to every child and young

person in Dundee. Our work with *roshni* is intended to help that happen.

The three main strands of work that will be undertaken are:

- To give the children and young people the ability to access the support services available to them locally and to have the confidence to feel safe, knowing that those services will provide the protection they need and when they need it, in order to keep them safe from harm
- To encourage a community-led response to child abuse and neglect by hosting workshops and sessions for parents and adults in general, from ethnic minority communities, to recognise the

basic forms of abuse, to encourage others to report abuse and to appreciate the distinction between cultural upbringing and abuse.

- To run the *roshni* training module "Abuse, Culture and Child Protection" for front line staff in all agencies concerned with the protection of children and young people. Conventional wisdom might lead one to believe that child abuse and neglect would be easily identified regardless of cultural boundaries. This programme explores the considerable variation in child rearing practices/beliefs and behaviours cross-culturally.

What we're doing to help children and young people use technology

Whilst the internet, mobile phones, etc are wonderful developments and play important roles in the lives of children and young people, they do carry risks for the unaware.

For some time now a number of individuals and agencies in Dundee have been developing innovative and effective programmes to educate and support people.

Under the joint leadership of the CYPPC and the Community Safety Partnership, a Technology Safety Group has been put together. The main aim of this is to co-ordinate and to develop and implement our plans for further work. The aim is not to stifle innovation or enthusiasm amongst professionals who want to do something about this issue. The aim is to make sure that what's happening in Dundee is 'joined-up'.

The group is led by Kenny Christie. Kenny is the Education Support Officer for Culture in the education department. The Community Safety Team in the Council's Leisure and Communities Department are also big players in this work, along with Barnardo's and Tayside Police. The CYPPC team is also a part of the group.

At its meeting on 25 May, the CYPPC approved the group's action plan. If you want more information, check the CYPPC website (www.dundeeprotects.co.uk), or contact the CYPPC office on dundeeprotects@dundeecity.gov.uk. If you are doing work in this area, or would like to be involved, contact Kenny on kenny.christie@dundeecity.gov.uk.

Staff engagement events at Al Maktoum Institute Score another success

Based on the initial assessment of the evaluation forms returned on the days, the second round of Chief Officer-led multi agency engagement events held on 12 and 21 May were an overwhelming success. 90+% of people rated the events 'Good' or above.

Dates are in the calendar for two days, twice per year (every May and November) through to 2015.

The two days this May built on those held last November, when the focus was on looking at the child protection improvement plan. The aim then was to have practitioners tell the chief and senior officers, as well as planning staff, what the important changes needed were and how they should be achieved. Time was spent on both 12 and 21 May considering how much progress has been achieved and whether it's still heading in the right direction. Chief Officers made a very strong plea for people to tell them if something is not working in the way that they intended. They said it was only by hearing from those implementing changes that they will know whether to do more of the same or stop and do something else.

The afternoon of 12 May focused on development being

practitioner led and, particularly, the role that the developing multi-agency, locality-based practitioners' forums could play in informing, supporting and promoting the agenda for change. It was shown that some people didn't really know about the practitioners forums or felt that, because they were not directly involved in child care or protection work it maybe wasn't for them. The message was clear - a locality-based practitioner forum is for every practitioner in that area, irrespective of whether their primary role is to engage with children or young people. They are opportunities to learn. For more information and to find out where you local practitioner forum meets, contact Bert Sandeman, Integrated Children's Services Manager on bert.sandeman@dundeecity.gov.uk.

The focus on 21 May was on self-evaluation. Susan Bell, Child Protection Lead Officer from Renfrewshire gave a presentation in which she emphasised the huge benefit felt by practitioners who had involved themselves in case-based multi-agency self-evaluation. She said the case file audit approach not only boosted self confidence and self esteem amongst those who made up the team, but had massive, positive, spin-offs when those people then went back to their substantive duties and applied the evaluative way of thinking to their own practice.

As always, any views or comments you have about this briefing note or child protection services in general, should be fed back through the office of the Children & Young Persons Protection Committee at dundeeprotects@dundeecity.gov.uk.