

# 7 Minute Briefing – Implementation of National CP Guidance 2021 - Where We Were, Where We Are, Where We Are Going

## Introduction

Fife's Child Protection Committee (CPC) established a working group to take forward the policy and practice changes that are set out in the [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 amended 2023](#). The group took on responsibility for a phased implementation of the guidance across the partnership. The CPC Improvement Plan 2023 – 2026 incorporates the improvements the group are aiming towards and can be accessed [here](#).

## Changes The Group Have Considered

The group have reviewed a number of practices and procedures and, amongst other tasks, have prioritised work in relation to Pre-Birth Initial Referral Discussions (IRDs), Care and Risk Management (CARM) IRDs, Child Protection Planning Meetings (CPPMs) (previously Child Protection Case Conferences), Vulnerable Young Persons including 16- and 17-year-olds, and Contextual Safeguarding.

## Prior Communications

A number of briefings have been sent out previously to support the ongoing work and implemented changes and can be accessed here.

[National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 – Communications](#)

## Training

Training in relation to the National Guidance for Child Protection 2021 is currently being assessed with relevant information being incorporated into current training programmes and events. Multi-agency training is also being considered and the Guidance Implementation Group are addressing how we can reach a wider audience to share changes to policies and practices, alongside the communications that have been distributed.

## What Are We Working On – Vulnerable Young Persons

A group has been formed to look at our multi-agency response to children aged 12 to 17 years old where the circumstances do not currently reach the threshold of Child Protection processes and includes children and young people who pose a serious risk of harm to themselves. The group is considering our current frameworks, assessing any gaps alongside the National Guidance for Child Protection 2021, and how we best meet the needs of these children and young people. A further consideration is around the crossover between child protection and adult support and protection, and how we navigate the boundaries between those processes. Further information will be shared on this when a multi-agency approach is agreed.

## What Are We Working On – Contextual Safeguarding

A short life working group has been established to consider our multi-agency approach to Contextual Safeguarding. This focuses on extra-familial harm to a child or young person which is harm away from the home. The concept of Contextual Safeguarding is to address the wider concerns impacting on the child or young person such as community issues, peer groups, Child Criminal or Sexual Exploitation and substance misuse. Further communications will be shared on this in due course.

## Implemented Changes

The following changes have been implemented and are now embedded into practice:  
**Pre-Birth IRD process** – Where a significant risk of harm is presented to an unborn baby, the circumstances are now discussed at IRD prior to a decision being made to progress to CPPM.

**CARM IRD process** – where children and young people present a serious risk of harm to others, an IRD is held to consider the need for formal CARM processes. CP concerns where a **CPPM** may be required are now referred through **IRD** for consideration prior to proceeding to CPPM.

