Welcome to the February 2008 edition of the Child Protection Unit newsletter.

The newsletter is here to share with staff what is happening, both nationally and locally, in child welfare and child protection work. Please remember that within the health service child welfare and child protection is the responsibility of all staff within the NHSGGC.

Included in this Issue:

Headline Messages
Details of Forthcoming Conference
Latest Inspection News
Staff Changes in CPU
Headline Messages From Management Reports

The CPU produces management reports every quarter based on the information collated and stored within its data systems. This service is constantly evolving in response to new developments and service demands. These reports are disseminated to the organisations via the CP Operational groups. A selection of headline messages from the latest management reports, for the period October to December 2007, are produced below. Full reports are available on request from CPU.

Nurse Advisor Calls

- The number of calls to the Nurse Advisor advice line within this three month period has increased by 30% (n=66) compared to the period July to September 2007.
- There was almost twice the volume of calls in November, (47% n=134) compared with both October and December, (26% and 27% n=73 and 75 respectively).
- 51% of the children were under 5 years (n=145).
- Neglect was the most common reason for referral with 29% of calls (n=83), followed by concerns about non-accidental injury and child sexual abuse and exploitation. Both of these accounted for 18% of calls (n=51 and 52 respectively).

Medical Advice Line

- The largest number of calls were in relation to non-accidental injury (49%), followed by child sexual abuse (35%).
- The majority of referrals (26%) came from RHSC.
- 26% of calls resulted in forensic medical.

Early Sharing & Collation of Information

- There were 69 requests in this quarter for Early Sharing and Collation of Information Service at the CPU, Yorkhill.
- Social Workers made 43 (62%) requests.
- 52% (36) of requests came from all Glasgow CHCPs.

NHS 24

- During the months of October to December there were 25 (n=25) notifications from NHS24 in relation to child protection referrals made to Social work. There were no referrals made during the month of December but information gleaned is that there is a backlog of documentation which is to be sent to the CPU. Therefore it would be fair to say that the number of referrals would have been greater for the month of December.

Missing Family Alerts

- Within this three month period 22 Missing Family Alerts were raised in total.
- Only one alert was raised within NHSGG & Clyde.
- Of the remaining 21,11 were raised from other health board areas and 10 from social work departments.

Scottish Children’s Reporters Administration

- There has been a 33% increase in the number of requests for reports from the Reporter from the previous 2 quarters. More than 50% (n=35) are from the month of November. 27 of the 61 requests relate to Domestic Violence.
- The under 1’s feature the highest number of males. 41 compared with 20 females.

Referral to Social Work

- The referrals to Social Work departments, have continued to rise in the last three months with a total of 159 referrals compared to 127 in the previous quarter with a drop in referrals in December. An increase of 16%.
- Wide ranging reasons for referral, the most common reasons the same as the previous quarter; drug abuse 32, alcohol abuse 15 and parenting issues 29. Reason for referral pertaining particularly to the child was for emotional abuse.
- The gender of the child made no difference to the referral rate.
- The highest number of referrals was from children residing in Renfrewshire. The Clyde CHPs represented 36% of all referrals. The Glasgow CHCPs represented 38% of all referrals with the West CHCP significantly higher.
Inspection of Children’s Services (for more information access HMiE website: www.hmie.gov.uk)

Scottish Ministers requested that Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education lead the joint inspection of services for children beginning with child protection. The Services for Children inspection team at HMIE consists of a mix of permanent and seconded staff from other inspectorates including the Social Work Inspection Agency, the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care and Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary as well as HMIE inspectors. The programme of inspections of services for protecting children is now underway. East Renfrewshire inspection began in early October and the final report will be published in April 2008. North and South Lanarkshire inspections will take place during February and March of this year. The following council areas have had inspections and the reports are available on the Scottish Government website.

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<tr>
<th>East Lothian Council area</th>
<th>Highland Council area</th>
<th>Midlothian Council area</th>
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<tr>
<td>Angus Council area</td>
<td>Scottish Borders Council area</td>
<td>Argyll &amp; Bute Council area</td>
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<td>South Ayrshire Council area</td>
<td>West Dunbartonshire Council area</td>
<td>Western Isles Council area</td>
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<td>East Dunbartonshire Council area</td>
<td>Orkney Islands Council area</td>
<td>City of Edinburgh Council area</td>
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A recent analysis of the Quality Indicators in 10 of the reports shows some overall strengths and weaknesses are emerging.

**Areas of major strength:**
- Children’s needs are met (7 evaluations were rated Very Good).

**Areas that have important strengths but could still be improved:**
- Children are listened to, understood and respected (6 evaluations were rated Good).
- Children benefit from strategies to minimise harm (5 evaluations were rated Good).
- Involving children and their families in key processes (7 evaluations were rated Good).
- Information sharing and recording (6 evaluations were rated Good).
- Effectiveness of planning to meet needs (5 evaluations were rated Good).
- Policies and procedures (8 evaluations were rated Good).
- Recruitment and retention of staff (6 evaluations were rated Good).
- Development of staff (5 evaluations were rated Good).
- Vision, values and aims (5 evaluations were rated Good).
- Leadership of people and partnerships (7 evaluations were rated Good).

**Overall areas of service requiring attention:**
- Recognising and assessing risks and needs (5 evaluations were scored Adequate and 4 evaluations scored Weak).
- Operational planning (3 evaluations scored Adequate and 4 evaluations scored Weak).
- Participation of children, families and other relevant people in policy development (4 evaluations scored Adequate and 4 evaluations scored Weak).
- Leadership and direction (3 evaluations scored Adequate and 1 evaluation scored Weak, 1 Unsatisfactory).
- Leadership of change and improvement (6 evaluations scored Very Good and 2 evaluations scored Good).

Forthcoming Inspections

The following dates for Joint Inspection of Child Protection have been announced by Scottish Government:
- April/May 2008 – Renfrewshire/Aberdeen City
- June/August 2008 – The Moray/Inverclyde
- October/November 2008 – Glasgow City/Fife
- December 2008/January 2009 – Perth and Kinross/Falkirk
- February/March 2009 – Shetland Islands/Dundee City
Procedures and Protocols

A number of policies and procedures have been finalised and distributed from the CPU. These and other policies within NHSGGC relevant to practice within children’s services will soon be available within a compilation folder. Please contact the CPU for further information.

Child Protection Training

The CPU continues to deliver a programme of training across NHSGGC in line with the Scottish Executive tiered approach to child protection training.

**Total Number of Staff Trained:** October – December 2007 - 1,338

Coming Events

- CPU Mental Health Conference
  - 24th April 2008
  - Campanile Hotel, Tunnel St, Glasgow

If you would like to discuss individualised child protection training for your team of staff please contact the Trainers at the Child Protection Unit and we will be happy to discuss your requirements.

E-mail: Lee.Ramsay@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Advice and support to staff

The Child Protection Unit continues to provide support for NHSGGC staff through the advice line. Nurse Advisors are available 9am - 5pm, should a medical opinion be required they will contact the Consultant on call to discuss further requirements. The medical advice line out of hours procedure continues as previously through the switchboard at RHSC.

**Advice Lines**

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<th>Service</th>
<th>October – December 2007</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of calls to the Medical Advice Line</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of calls to the Nurse Advisor Line</td>
<td>282</td>
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**PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2007: SCOTTISH VETTING AND BARRING SCHEME: CONSULTATION ON POLICY PROPOSALS FOR SECONDARY LEGISLATION, SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT**

This consultation document on the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007: Scottish Vetting and Barring Scheme outlines a proposed framework for a new vetting and barring scheme for working with children and protective adults in Scotland. The scheme is intended to ensure that people who are unsuitable do not gain access to children or protective adults through work and that those who become unsuitable are detected early and prevented from continuing to work. The scheme aims to reduce bureaucracy and streamline the disclosure process. It aims to deliver a fair and consistent system that will be easy for people to understand and use.
**Child Protection Line**

Ministers have approved funding for national marketing and PR for the CPLine - the 24-hour gateway line to local child protection service providers. The campaign is timed for a period of 8 weeks over February and March 2008.

**SCCPN Audit of CP Research**

An audit of Scottish child care and protection research carried out over the last 10 years has been completed on behalf of The Scottish Child Care and Protection Network (SCCPN), and funded by the child protection policy team within the Scottish Government’s Children, Young People & Social Care Directorate. The audit has:

- created an accessible database of 342 publications,
- synthesised some of the key messages for practice identified in the research, and
- set out 32 findings related to gaps in evidence that could be addressed in future research.

The process of carrying out the audit showed how difficult it is to find out about relevant research and suggested the need for better co-ordination of research activity. Research over the last decade has been preoccupied with the workings of the system and the roles of practitioners. The evidence accumulated provides a platform for a new decade of research that addresses gaps in evidence about the experiences of children, parents and carers and the role of the community and universal services for the protection of children. The final report and the database are available from h.tarara@childreninscotland.org.uk or b.m.daniel@str.ac.uk.

The SCCPN will hold a seminar in Spring 2008 to provide a forum for discussion of the audit findings and strategic planning to address the key research priorities.

**“Corporate Parenting Policy”**, Margaret Doran, Executive Director, Education and Social Work, Glasgow City Council.

This report outlines recommendations to put in place a corporate parenting policy for children and young people looked after by Glasgow City Council. The report indicates that Glasgow City Council will:

- Provide care, a home and access to health and education and other public services to which all children are entitled, according to their needs.
- Provide a mixture of care and firmness to support the child’s development, and be tolerant, dependable and available partners in the adult / child’s relationship even in the face of disagreement.
- Protect and educate the child against the perils and risks of life by encouraging constructive and appropriate friendships and discouraging destructive and harmful relationships.
- Celebrate and share children’s achievements, supporting them when they are unhappy.
- Ensure that the child / young person receive routine and specialist medical and dental care and treatment they require.
- Protect and educate the child / young person with regard to its physical, psychological and social and health needs.
- Recognise and respect their growth to independence.
- Provide consistent support and be available to provide the advice and practical help when needed.
- Advocate their cause and find solutions to problems.
- Be ambitious for them and encourage and support their efforts to get on and reach their potential.
- Provide occasional financial support.

- Encourage and enable appropriate contact with family members.
- Help them to feel part of the local community.
- Be proactive not passive.
- Implement guidance which states that children who are looked after should have the educational opportunities as all other children.

Glasgow City Council will establish a champion’s board of elective members and senior officials with responsibility to ensure that the council adheres to its responsibilities as a corporate parent.

“Looked after Children and Young People: we can and must do better” (2007), Scottish Government

This report confirms that with the legislative imperatives, the national picture shows improving outcomes for looked after children and young people. However, the challenges remain significant and all services will have a critical role in responding to the challenges, with a particular emphasis on the need for continuing improvement in the attainment for looked after children. The report sets out 19 specific targets that the Scottish Government intends to deliver toward improving outcomes for looked after children. The report also refers to 8 notable messages in this regard which are:

- The importance of corporate parent roles for councils
- The need to raise awareness of the education needs of looked after children and young people and improve training for all foster carers, residential workers, lead professionals, support workers and associated professionals.
- The need for clarity regarding the role and responsibilities of the designated person within Schools and residential establishments.
- The importance of providing flexible and appropriate reports, during and post transition.
- The importance of physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing in facilitating positive educational outcomes.
- The need for good quality accommodation which supports the education, training, or employment of looked after children and young people.
- The importance to clear advice and a range of emotional practical and financial support for looked after young people as there make the transition to adulthood / independent living.
- Vital importance of stability and continuity within education and car setting.

The report recognises that, how educational outcomes are the central focus, there is a need to look at these areas beyond the traditional scheme of education that impact upon the lives of looked after children and young people and can, in turn, impact on their educational outcomes. In this respect 5 case themes are identified:

- Working together
- Becoming effective life long learners
- Developing into successful and responsible adults
- Being emotionally, mentally and physically healthy.
- Feeling safe and nurtured in a home setting.
Finally...

We also want to hear from you – tell us what’s working well in your area and give us some examples of good practice – maybe your team has set up network meetings with colleagues in social work, or maybe you have been working with education staff in schools or nurseries to help teach children how to keep themselves safe. Please let us know, so that we can share good practice with everyone else (and also let you get the credit for something really positive!) If you have anything you would like to share, or any issues you would like to raise, please contact Lee Ramsay at Lee.Ramsay@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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