



NEWSLETTER

Issue 4 June 2021

OUR VISION AND COMMITMENT

All children and adults at risk in Scottish Borders are supported and protected from harm and are enabled to live their lives as safely and independently as possible.

Everyone in the Scottish Borders has the right to live free from abuse, harm and neglect.

New Independent Chair Appointed

We welcome Sue Ross as our new Independent Chair of the Public Protection Committee as Michael Batty steps down. Michael has been Independent Chair (formerly of the Child Protection Committee) since August 2017.

Michael's reflection on almost four years as Independent Chair...

The business of improving services in general, and joint working in particular, is never finished. Sometimes the pace of progress has seemed frustratingly slow – I have never worked out whether that is simply because everybody has so much on their plate, or whether there is some degree of risk aversion around embracing change, and now I have run out of time to make up my mind.

There is no shortage of commitment to the cause of trying to protect some of the most vulnerable people in Borders, and there is a strong grasp on the importance of learning from experience, both locally and from further afield.

One of the highlights has been the development of the 'Always Be Wary' internet safety resources by a group of school students with support from the CPC – this sort of participatory approach is easy to talk about, but sustained effort is needed to do it. On one occasion, a CPC member asked whether the group intended to roll out the work via Facebook, whereupon one of the students asked his colleagues what Facebook was, to receive the answer "That thing your mum uses".



I am delighted to be handing over to such an experienced and knowledgeable person as Sue Ross, particularly because of her expertise in adult services. I offer my thanks to everybody who has contributed to the work of the Committees, and I wish you all every success in the future.

Other staff changes:

- Jim Terras retires at the end of July having been a Child Protection Training and Information officer since 2012
- Samantha Wallace, Adult Protection Audit, Improvement and Training officer, joined the team at the beginning of May 2021 having previously been a Team Manager in Social Care and Health

Public Protection Delivery Groups that progress the work of the PPC

- Adult Protection
- Child Protection
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Justice Services, Prevent and Contest
- Training and Development Delivery Group
- Communications Delivery Group

} These two groups are now separate to provide better focus to the groups

Practitioner Surveys

Adult Protection

We asked...

Practitioners involved in Adult Protection to complete a survey providing honest feedback on their experience and knowledge of AP practice in the Scottish Borders to assist in the PPC's evaluation of processes to help keep adults safe.

You said...

124 people kindly completed the survey from a range of backgrounds including, housing, 3rd Sector, Care Providers and statutory services. Staff at the APU were supportive. Collaborative work was very positive for service users and professionals. Organisations wanted clearer ASP & LSI processes & procedures and further guidance on VYP. Clarification on use of technology for service users for ASP & LSI's. Consistent training, including refresher courses. Easy read literature for service users / carers.

We did...

We read all of your feedback and discussed it at: Adult Protection Delivery Group and Public Protection Committee and a review of the LSI and ASP procedures and guidance has started, with separate working groups for both. Stacy Patterson is leading on the LSI and Samantha Wallace on ASP. The newly formed Training Development Group is finalising a Training Framework and will then be working with all partners of the PPC to identify and run training and refresher courses. We will keep you updated.

Child Protection

We asked...

What is the best way to communicate and consult with you on local and national child protection developments?

You said...

(76 responses – THANK YOU).....

Best way to receive information is via circulating emails from Managers then Team meetings, CP training and the PPC newsletter. Best way to consult is via a team meeting then a one off meeting, using a Citizen Space survey and then via your CPDG member. There is some confusion about where to go to access the CP procedures. Links often do not work. Circulation limited if sent by email. Most not aware of the 7 minute briefings or the practitioner summaries. Information needs to be clearer, less jargon, easier to find, easier to use. Most who receive the PPC newsletter read it and most found it informative with suggestions about how to improve presentation. The new PPC website needs to be user friendly with easy access to all child protection communications and consultations.

We did...

We considered all of your feedback. We made sure that all feedback was fed into the Child Protection Delivery Group so that individual agencies are aware of, and can address dissemination of information within their agency. All suggestions were fed in to the PPC website development group to ensure this platform will be easy to access, has working links, that all relevant child protection materials including training and communications information will be available, differentiates between profession and public access, includes a glossary, explains of job roles as well as an option for children and parents to provide feedback.

If you raised any specific issues in one of the surveys, and would like to discuss further, please contact HQOperations@scotborders.gov.uk, stating which survey in the email subject line.

The Herbert Protocol

What is it?

The Herbert Protocol is an information gathering tool to assist the Police to find a person living with dementia who has gone missing, as quickly as possible.

The NHS and SBC have been working together with the Police to launch the use of the Herbert Protocol across the Scottish Borders.

When downloaded it is a word document with self-explanatory and specific questions about the individual, their contact details, GP, etc but also questions about where they may be going to if they were reported missing.

The form must be downloaded from Police Scotland [The Lothians and Scottish Borders - Police Scotland](#)

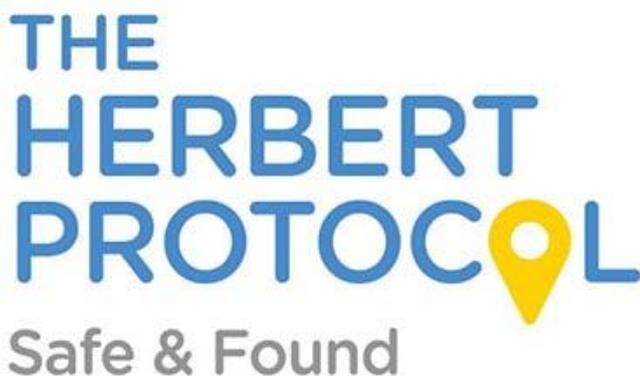
What have we done to promote it?

Over the last month, SBC, Police, NHS and the Post Diagnostic Team have been carrying out presentations across these organisations and the third sector, supported accommodation and Care at Home services to make them aware of the Herbert Protocol.

[Police Scotland News Herbert Protocol introduced in The Lothians and Scottish Borders - Police Scotland](#)

What can you do?

If you are working with a service user who has a form of dementia then please discuss Herbert Protocol with them / carers / family and ask them to complete it. Once it is completed it must be kept in a safe place within the service user's home. If there are any services providing support then please make sure they also know where the form is kept within the home.



Further information:

Either click on the links above or put Herbert Protocol into google to get more information. Or if you would like to discuss this with somebody then please call 01835 824 000 and ask to speak to Samantha Wallace, Adult Protection Audit & Training Officer.

If you are concerned about a person living with dementia and believe they are missing, this is an emergency and you must dial '999'.

A Child Protection Looked After Child (CPLAC) Co-ordinators meeting

was held on 28 April 2021, facilitated by Jim Marshall (Quality Improvement Manager)

CPLAC meetings are an Education meeting held periodically for all CPLAC co-ordinators in schools and nurseries. This meeting is an opportunity to make sure that all CPLAC co-ordinators are up to date on child protection developments, for them to then share relevant information within their setting, as well as a forum for discussion, feedback and questions.

The April meeting included reminders about:

- Return interviews for those children returning from a period of having been missing from home
- Always Be Wary materials for Secondary (developed by pupils at Galashiels Academy) as well as expectations of use agreed.
- Always Be Wary materials for Primaries that will be distributed to schools with directions on their use
- Child surveys on Citizen Space (nominated school staff speaks with a child 8+ years following a child protection case conference so check how they are doing and to complete the survey). The date of case conference and date survey completed is now included.
- The importance of timely referrals to Duty Social Work ie. from disclosure/concern raised to CPLAC co-ordinator to Duty SW. Following a call to the Duty Social Work team a most up to date referral form will then be emailed out.

If you have any queries about the CPLAC meetings please contact Jim Marshall JMarshall@scotborders.gov.uk

Recent Parent carer feedback

Our Child Protection Reviewing Officers regularly gather feedback from parents and carers throughout the Child Protection process.

Parent thanked all professionals for input and said she feels very supported with her son. Particularly complimentary about Social Worker

Both (parents) very positive about process and are feeling supported by services

Father said that he felt the time on the CPR had benefitted his daughter as he had received support, and was happy to continue to have support

Mother was very positive about social work support and the social worker.

Thank you to all who work to ensure that children, young people and families have a meaningful voice in child protection interventions.

Initial Case Review (ICR)

highlighting the importance of multiagency pre-birth planning

An ICR is carried out to bring together multi-agency information to inform a decision about the need for a full Significant Case Review (SCR) and, if not, to consider any other actions required. In September 2020 the Child Protection Delivery Group decided to conduct an ICR. Following due consideration the case was not progressed to a SCR but learning was identified that highlighted the importance of effective pre-birth multi-agency working. A plan was then developed with a range of actions.

Progress includes:

❑ Feedback on the learning has been given to Midwifery and Mental Health Team Leaders and Managers, Associate Nurse Directors and Director of Nursing.

❑ Pre-birth training, that includes the ICR findings, has taken place with midwives that addresses the need to recognise/analysis vulnerability and risk as well as awareness of the correct process for referring to Children and Families Social Work when there are concerns about an unborn child.

❑ The pre-birth planning summary and policy has been widely shared across agencies via the CPDG members.

❑ A pre-birth section to be included in the Keeping Children Safe and Well Tool

Please contact Rachel Pulman for any further information. Rachel.Pulman@borders.scot.nhs.uk



Introducing roles in relation to Children's Hearings

Children's Hearing Scotland (CHS) is responsible for recruiting, managing and supporting volunteer panel members who sit on children's hearings and make decisions for children and young people who go to hearings.

Aileen Hemming is a volunteer and also an Area convenor. Aileen leads the South East Scotland Area Support Team, which covers Midlothian, East Lothian and Scottish Borders, and is responsible for carrying out this role locally. I am Anne Gerry and I work for CHS as an Area support and improvement partner. My role is to support Aileen and work with her to lead on improvement work around children's hearings.



Going forward we will be working to implement the CHS Promise Programme. We already work closely in Scottish Borders with Social Work and Scottish Children's Reporters Administration (SCRA) and will want to work with other partners going forward. We will also be working closely with children and young people who have experience of the hearing system to help shape improvement.

We are very happy to speak to anyone who would like more information about the hearing system and our roles and work going forward.

More information about CHS can be found on our website [Children's Hearings Scotland \(chscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.chscotland.gov.uk) and we can be contacted by e-mail. Aileen.hemming@chscotland.scot anne.gerry@chs.gov.scot

Learning and Development

The introduction of COVID-19 measures has meant significant changes to our multi-agency training in Child Protection and Adult Support and Protection, as we adapted to online delivery through MS Teams. A new course Introduction to Public Protection was developed, aimed at anyone who works with children, young people or adults potentially at risk of harm. Over 340 practitioners from across children and adult services have now attended this course and we will continue to adopt this joint approach where appropriate, as we update our training and develop new courses for the latter half of the year.

Delivery on MS Teams has presented significant challenges for both trainers and delegates: getting to grips with new technology; IT issues; the reliance on PowerPoint presentations and limited opportunities for interaction with other delegates have all been highlighted in course evaluations. Conversely, advantages have also been highlighted, such as increased flexibility and lack of travel time required to attend training sessions.

Look out for course flyers that will include learning outcomes, our target audience, dates, times and booking information. These should be circulated widely over the coming weeks.



WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you know that a child has a Social Worker contact them in the first instance.

Otherwise contact:
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DUTY TEAM:
01896 662787

WORRIED ABOUT AN ADULT?

If you know that an Adult has a Social Worker / Care Manager contact them in the first instance.

Otherwise contact:
SBC CUSTOMER SERVICES TEAM:
0300 1001800

OUT OF HOURS:

For both children and adults, contact
01896 752111

Police – 101 and in an emergency 999