Dear Reader,

I hope this bulletin finds you well. This is a Special Edition bulletin following the Publication of the Family C Learning Review.

As you may be aware on 20 May 2026, Glasgow Child Protection Committee published the Learning Review for Family C. As Independent Chair of the Glasgow City Child Protection Committee, I welcome the publication of this Learning Review report.

The Chief Officers Group (COG) and Child Protection Committee (CPC) determined that the review should be conducted independently, supported by an expert adviser. We were therefore pleased that Judith Tait agreed to lead the process as independent reviewer, with Professor Alexis Jay as expert adviser to the review. Judith is a former Strategic Inspector with the Care Inspectorate and former Chief Social Work Officer, while Professor Jay is widely recognised as one of the UK's leading experts in child protection.

Judith was supported in her work by a review team comprised of experienced managers with considerable expertise in their professions. On behalf of the Chief Officer Group and Child Protection Committee, we thank them all sincerely for what was a difficult and harrowing task extremely well done.

I would like to begin by reassuring the public, and our colleagues in public protection, that Glasgow's multi-agency child protection services are safe and, in 2025, were rated "Good" by the Care Inspectorate. Since this case came to light, we have undertaken a rigorous and ongoing audit of child protection cases using the Care Inspectorate framework.

There is no doubt however that instances are highlighted where a range of professional agencies missed opportunities to intervene and protect the children who are at the centre of this report.

To quote the report:

'It is important to acknowledge the context of this case. The extent of the parents' capacity to manipulate and deceive was extreme and unusual. Staff were not aware of the sexual abuse the children experienced until the disclosures emerged'.

Both the Chief Officer Group and Child Protection Committee have considered the report and fully accept all the findings and improvement strategies. The learning includes, but is not limited to, incorporating a whole family view within assessments; recognising and responding to neglect; recognising and responding to verbal and nonverbal cues from children; the impact of the legal process versus the voice of the child; and single- and multi-agency responses and interventions to identified need.

In addition to the above, the report acknowledged changes which had been made since 2019. Such changes include the development of family support strategy, updated Child Protection procedures, on-going work in relation to chronologies and including education within the Inter Agency Referral Discussion process to name but a few.

We can give a categoric assurance that we will implement improvement actions in relation to the findings with the necessary rigour, oversight and transparency that is essential to demonstrate continuous improvement.

The review has fully explored muti-agency professional practice and the factors that influenced that practice, both enablers and barriers. It has shone a light on the areas for organisational improvement that, when implemented, will strengthen practice and help to protect children now and in the future, and better support and look after those working within child protection systems. Please be assured that at present, we are working closely with our key partners to identify key themes and learning for implementation.

This is a professional and thorough report and I wish to thank the review lead, the review team and everyone who contributed to the learning process. I especially wish to thank the contributions from child A and child B and convey to them, our sincere thanks and gratitude on behalf of both CPC and COG.

Below is a link to the report, which is publicly available on the Child Protection Committee website. Please, take the opportunity to read the report in whole and consider the learning for you and your organisation. There may be aspects of the report which are difficult to read and I would urge you to seek supports within your organisation if required.

While questions are unable to be answered with respect to individual points within the report, we are keen to share any learning or policy developments through the Public Protection Bulletin. If there are any materials or articles that you wish to share then please do not hesitate to contact the Child/Adult Support and Protection Committee Team by emailing publicprotectioncommittees@glasgow.gov.uk.

Additionally, an agency wishes to submit any formal queries in relation to the progress of implementing the learning or next steps, please be aware that the Committee Team shall be the first point of contact. Any councillor enquires regarding Family C can be signposted to this email, and the Committee Team will then direct to the department. They can be contacted on the above email address.

Finally on behalf of COG and CPC, our thoughts remain firmly with the children impacted and we will ensure all available supports remain in place for the foreseeable future wherever necessary.

Please find the link to the report below:

Family C Learning Review Report

Colin Anderson
Independent Chair