



# Item No: 9

Meeting Date: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018

## Glasgow City Integration Joint Board Performance Scrutiny Committee

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### GLASGOW CITY HSCP CHILDREN'S SERVICES – CHILD PROTECTION REGISTRATION

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To highlight the reduction in child protection registrations across GCHSCP since January 2017 with a specific focus on the North East locality. The report is complimented with an audit summarising the context and exploring the findings in response to the change in trends.
<b>Background/Engagement:</b>	Engagement with local Child Protection Forum and Governance structures confirmed need for further scrutiny. Audit compliant with Governance accountability and continuous improvement agenda.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	The IJB Performance Scrutiny Committee is asked to:  a) Acknowledge the content of this report; b) Acknowledge the trends in child protection registration and the emerging themes which support change; and c) Recognise the limitations of this audit.

#### Relevance to Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan:

The IJB Strategic plan outlines 5 key priorities that apply to all HSCP services. This report is relevant to :

- Early Intervention and Harm reduction
- Providing greater self determination and choice
- Shifting balance of care

- Public protection – including keeping young people safe from harm

### Implications for Health and Social Care Partnership:

<b>Reference to National Health &amp; Wellbeing Outcome:</b>	All 9 outcomes can be applied
<b>Personnel:</b>	Reduction in child protection registrations incur savings associated with staff resource.
<b>Carers:</b>	Emphasis on whole family engagement and reducing risk can incur increased reliance on kinship care arrangements.
<b>Provider Organisations:</b>	Enhanced expectations of third sector supporting families, mitigating risk and reducing need for long term statutory involvement.
<b>Equalities:</b>	Poverty and deprivation continue to influence the need for child protection measures. SIMD informs that 85% of all child protection registrations occur within zones 1 and 2 of the most economically challenged areas in Glasgow. This figure is slightly higher in North East accounting for 89%.
<b>Financial:</b>	Costs associated with child protection registration can vary considerably with recent analysis indicating a cost £20,000 for one child remaining on register for a year.
<b>Legal:</b>	Children and Young People's Scotland Act (2014) Children's Hearing Scotland Act (2011)
<b>Economic Impact:</b>	Adopting approaches which seek to intervene earlier and reduce risk is more cost effective than addressing consequences.
<b>Sustainability:</b>	None
<b>Sustainable Procurement and Article 19:</b>	None

<b>Risk Implications:</b>	Strict adherence to child protection governance and audit process ensures robust accountability and mitigates risk associated with practice change and transformation.
<b>Implications for Glasgow City Council:</b>	This paper draws upon a local audit. Whilst recognising the value of partnerships the greater implications are addressed in Children's Transformational Strategy.
<b>Implications for NHS Greater Glasgow &amp; Clyde:</b>	As above

## 1. Child Protection Registrations in Glasgow

1.1 Child protection registrations significantly increased during 2011/12 from the lowest figure of 350 to the highest during this period reaching 500. Since 2012 there has been no significant change in trends and the figure of approximately 500 remained until January 2017. During 2017 there was a significant drop in Child Protection registrations of 37% to a city wide total of 314 (Feb 2018).

1.2 During the same period each of the three localities experienced a reduction as follows;

- NE reduction from 229 to 116 49%
- NW reduction from 148 to 106 28%
- South reduction from 117 to 86 26%

## 2. Purpose of audit

2.1 In light of the sharp decline in child protection registration within the North East the audit;

- examined a sample of child protection de-registrations during the period above.
- explored themes, duration of registration status and population of children subject to CP registration.
- explored system and capacity barriers which may account for drift in de-registration process.

2.2 The audit also examined early signs of culture shift in practice which seeks to empower the family as the greatest utility in the child's life and more specifically determine the impact of newly adopted approaches pertaining to the Children's Transformational Strategy, Family Group Decision Making (FGDM), and the influence of the Supreme Court ruling in the EV case.

2.3 The audit also demonstrates the need to compliment any significant change in data trends with robust governance process.

### **3. Implications**

3.1 the wider context of Child Protection registration trends remains under scrutiny and will require more in depth analysis in identifying the impact of GCHSCP Children's Transformation Programme.

3.2 The audit is limited to North East only and provides a brief overview of practice compliance with detail analysis sampling cases specific to north east.

3.3 The audit is limited to the period of review and whilst the summary provides useful context to the transformational change agenda it remains clear that further analysis will be required to conclude the impact of new initiatives and key drivers for change.

### **4. Outcomes and Findings**

4.1 Since its completion the audit findings have been presented to the North East Child Protection Forum, Glasgow HSCP Child Protection Committee, Glasgow HSCP Governance Meeting and remains a key area of work which will remain under review in line with whole system approach to change.

4.2 In summary the audit highlighted:

- strong adherence to child protection governance
- barriers in de-registration process relating to a lack of case conference chair availability due to long terms sickness and vacancy pressures. This subsequently impacted on the efficiency of processes and prevented de registrations taking place within timescales.
- transformational change has been positively received by social work staff and influenced changes in approach while working with families especially through the deployment of FGDM.
- strengthened partnership with locality third sector has resulted in more efficient use of family support services.

### **5. Recommendations**

5.1 The IJB Performance Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- a) Acknowledge the content of this report;
- b) Acknowledge the trends in child protection registration and the emerging themes which support change; and
- c) Recognise the limitations of this audit.