

Subject: **North Ayrshire Child Sexual Abuse Strategy**

Purpose: To raise awareness of North Ayrshire's Child Sexual Abuse Strategy launched in April 2021.

The Strategy is attached as Appendix 1.

Recommendation:

1. IJB approves and endorses the North Ayrshire Council Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and outcome plan; and
2. Agrees to receive annual updates on the progress of the plan.

Glossary of Terms

NHS AA	NHS Ayrshire and Arran
HSCP	Health and Social Care Partnership

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
1.1	This ground-breaking strategy, the first of its kind in Scotland, sets out how North Ayrshire will respond to all forms of child sexual abuse.
1.2	We will hold ourselves to account and learn from data and insight gathered across the system to demonstrably show we are drawing these hidden crimes out of the shadows by identifying more abuse and safeguarding more children. In addition, we are improving the quality and availability of support for victims and survivors, drawing on insight from delivery by third sector partners.
1.3	Our aim is that child sexual abuse is talked about more openly – in our homes, communities, workplaces and institutions. Children will never be able to talk about their experiences of child sexual abuse if the adults around them can't or don't. Only by increasing the awareness, understanding and acceptability of talking about and facing the reality of child sexual abuse will this become possible. That is the work this strategy aims to address.
2.	BACKGROUND
2.1	In recent years there have been multiple policies, procedures and guidance documents developed to address specific aspects of child sexual abuse; including for example, child sexual exploitation, child trafficking, online abuse and grooming and sexually harmful behaviour between young people. However, currently in Scotland no overarching Child Sexual Abuse Strategy exists – either nationally or at local authority level.
2.2	Child sexual abuse is a Public Health issue. The resulting trauma, as well as directly affecting the individual child or young person and those close to them, ultimately has a

significant cost to all of society. This cost can be counted in financial as well as social terms as is obvious when adult survivors of child sexual abuse find the strength to speak up and describe the impact of their previously hidden experiences. Child sexual abuse is preventable.

2.3 Unfortunately, the children and young people who are sexually abused in their own homes and/or by a trusted adult, can also become more vulnerable to other forms of sexual abuse.

2.4 An overarching strategy that addresses **all** forms of child sexual abuse is needed if we are to adequately challenge, and ultimately prevent, these behaviours in all their forms. Children and young people and their rights need to be at the centre of this Child Sexual Abuse Strategy. Their voices, experiences, views and needs must be heard and taken into account. We know from those children and young people who have found the courage to speak up about their experiences that it is extremely scary and difficult to do so. Many who are being sexually abused currently remain silenced.

2.5 Children and young people need to see and believe that we are genuinely open to listening to and supporting them, without judging them. They are their own harshest judges, more often than not feeling personally responsible for what is happening to them.

3. KEY DRIVERS FOR THE STRATEGY

3.1 The voice and experience of the child or young person is central to all we do – the relative absence of the voice of the child or young person in child sexual abuse is therefore the key driver. Other drivers include:

- No Child Sexual Abuse Strategy could be identified in Scotland – either national or at local authority or Child Protection Committee level – which puts children and young people’s experiences of familial or close relationship sexual abuse at least as central to policy and practice development as those of children and young people experiencing extra familial sexual abuse (e.g. Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Trafficking, Female Genital Mutilation, etc.)
- Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) is the Scottish Government’s approach to supporting children and young people. The framework provides a consistent, supportive approach for all. In relation to child sexual abuse, we are currently not ‘getting it right’ for all children and young people experiencing or at risk of experiencing child sexual abuse
- Statistical information on the number of children and young people currently identified as experiencing child sexual abuse as monitored by the Child Protection Committee in North Ayrshire
- Estimation of likely numbers of children and young people currently experiencing child sexual abuse in North Ayrshire provided by Stop to Listen Pathfinder research and analysis
- Adults who were sexually abused who were not heard as children, as expressed via the ongoing Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, Independent Review of Sexual Abuse in Scottish Football and other similar reviews
- Children and young people speaking to ChildLine about their experiences of sexual abuse
- Information and statistics from Police Scotland and the National Sexual Crimes Unit particularly relating to online sexual abuse and grooming and child victims of other sexual offences

- Development of the Barnahus Model in Scotland linked to Joint Investigative Interviewing, promoting good practice around supporting the victims of child sexual abuse to speak up

3.2 Furthermore, it is estimated that with a dramatic increase in the number of children and young people now working, studying and socialising online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is likely that the number of children and young people in North Ayrshire who have experienced or are currently experiencing child sexual abuse is sadly set to increase.

4. CURRENT SEXUAL ABUSE SERVICE IN NORTH AYRSHIRE

4.1 Since 2015, there has been a steady and increased demand by younger people to access therapeutic and holistic counselling. This can be demonstrated as follows:

Age Range	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
13-16	3	2	1	10
17-19	8	7	4	18

Age group	Service demand in last year (as at April 2019)	Increase in demand from 2015/16 – 2018/19		Waiting list (as at April 2019)
13 – 19 years	28	15/16=11 to 18/19=28	155% increase	8
13 years and over including adults	254	15/16=157 to 18/19=254	62% increase	60

**Source: Break the Silence*

4.2 The large increase in the demand for counselling services in North Ayrshire has so far been explained as a result of the increased public awareness through the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, TV programme coverage (soaps) and Church and Football scandals. It is envisaged that this will increase further with the implementation of the North Ayrshire Child Sexual Abuse Strategy.

Prevalence

4.3 The NSPCC population prevalence study in 2011 reported in the previous year:

- 9.4% of 11-17 year olds had experienced some form of sexual abuse
- 1.9% had experienced contact sexual abuse

Life-time prevalence

- 4.4
- 4.8% of 11-17 year olds had experienced contact sexual abuse
 - 24% of young adults aged 18 - 24 years had experienced some form of sexual abuse

North Ayrshire Prevalence

4.5 The Stop to Listen Pathfinder estimated the likely prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse in North Ayrshire in 11-17 year olds (in one year) as:

- Contact and non-contact sexual abuse: 985 children and young people

- Contact sexual abuse only: 199 children and young people (based on NSPCC population study above and using 2014-2015 North Ayrshire numbers of 11-17 year olds).

However, we currently have no way of knowing the likely prevalence in the additional number of children in the 0-11year age group in North Ayrshire.

4.6 North Ayrshire Child Protection Statistics

From December 2017 to December 2019 there have been 520 children on the child protection register. The table below summarises those with sexual abuse and/or sexual exploitation as a risk factor.

Dec 17 – Dec 19	Total Number of Children on CP register	Number where 'Sexual Abuse' was a risk factor	% where 'Sexual Abuse' was a risk factor	Number where 'Child Sexual Exploitation' was a risk factor	% where 'Child Sexual Exploitation' was a risk factor	Number where either/both of these were a risk factor	% where either/ both of these were a risk factor
Total	520	50	10%	15	3%	59	11%

In the same period the additional number of Child Protection referrals with either CSA or CSE as a risk factor was 101.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 IJB should approve and endorse the implementation of the Child Sexual Abuse Strategy as an approach to supporting vulnerable children, young people and families who have experienced significant trauma.
- 5.2 It is important that non-abusive family members are fully involved in the process of recovery for their children. Whole family recovery is recommended in order to ensure that all members of the family have the opportunity to explore the impact of the abuse on their family system and, primarily, on the child/children directly affected. As well as the need for non-abusive family members to have access to support for themselves, they are central to the long-term recovery of the child/children who have experienced sexual abuse.
- 5.3 To this end, North, South and East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnerships have commissioned and funded a specialist, therapeutic service for children under 13 years of age who are experiencing or have previously experienced child sexual abuse and/or exploitation. As this is a new service and there are difficulties in establishing an exact number of children affected, we have jointly agreed across Ayrshire that £40,000 will be ear-marked for therapeutic intervention in the first instance. This will be reviewed within 12 months.
- 5.4 In addition, a further £89,498 from both East and North Ayrshire has been identified for children and young people over 13 years of age who are experiencing or have previously experienced child sexual abuse and/or exploitation. This allows for up to 10 sessions per child or young person (as per North and East Ayrshire Service Specification of current, agreed procured service). This increased funding is required to meet future service needs given the anticipated impact of the new North Ayrshire Child Sexual Abuse Strategy.

6. Anticipated Outcomes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people know how to seek help and are confident to do so if they experience any form of child sexual abuse • The number of children and young people experiencing child sexual abuse in any of its forms in North Ayrshire is reduced • Children and young people in North Ayrshire experiencing, or at risk from, child sexual abuse receive the right help and support from the right person at the right time • Everyone in North Ayrshire looks out for children and young people in order to prevent them experiencing child sexual abuse • Everyone in North Ayrshire knows how to protect children and young people from sexual abuse and proactively takes their responsibility seriously <p>These outcomes will be delivered through the implementation of this strategy under three areas of priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention • Protection • Support and Recovery
--	---

7.	<u>Measuring Impact</u>
	<p>The overall performance in achieving the outcomes and impact set out in the strategy will be reviewed by the Child Protection Committee.</p> <p>The delivery of the Implementation Plan will be monitored through the Evaluation and Improvement subgroup of the Child Protection Committee. The strategy will be reviewed by the Child Protection Committee annually.</p>

8.	IMPLICATIONS
-----------	---------------------

Financial:	Recurrent spend is required to support ongoing counselling and therapeutic interventions.
Human Resources:	None.
Legal:	<p>It is considered there are no legal issues associated.</p> <p>It is considered there would be no procurement issues associated with selecting a provider from the framework.</p>
Equality:	It is expected the procured service will provide an efficient, cost-effective service, taking into consideration the health and wellbeing needs of individual children and young people, and their families, therefore ensuring equity of provision.
Children and Young People	Children and young people have an increased awareness to speak about sexual abuse and get support.
Environmental & Sustainability:	None.
Key Priorities:	This is a key priority of the Child Protection Committee and of the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership.
Risk Implications:	None anticipated.
Community Benefits:	Increased awareness of sexual abuse, how communities respond if they have concerns and how to seek support.

Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both <i>(where Directions are required please complete Directions Template)</i>	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	
	2. North Ayrshire Council	
	3. NHS Ayrshire & Arran	
	4. North Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire & Arran	

9.	CONSULTATION
9.1	<p>This Child Sexual Abuse Strategy was developed by a multiagency Short Life Working Group chaired by the Independent Chair of the Child Protection Committee. The Short Life Working group comprised representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnardo's • Children 1st • Police Scotland • NHS Ayrshire & Arran • North Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership • Education • Housing
9.2	<p>This following partners in key agencies have been consulted on this strategy at a final draft stage with opportunity to comment and/or suggest amendments/additions, as have a number of children, young people and families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Scotland • Education • North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership • 3rd sector representatives • Public Health NHS Ayrshire and Arran • Scottish Children's Reporter Agency • Housing • North Ayrshire Council Legal Services • NHS Ayrshire and Arran • Fire Service • Care Inspectorate
10.	CONCLUSION
10.1	<p>By launching this strategy we should expect to see an increase in the number of children and young people coming forward or being identified as being sexually abused – this would be a measure of success – not failure.</p>
10.2	<p>This would mean children and young people are more confident they will be believed and supported, not blamed. It would also mean others are more confident about what their role is in protecting and supporting those who are sexually abused – whether they are family members, neighbours, young friends, members of the public, volunteers or professionals. We must ensure we have the resources in place to protect and support children and young people when they do come forward, in the way that they find acceptable and helpful and that promote their recovery and healing.</p>

10.3	In time the number of children coming forward will gradually drop – not because child sexual abuse remains hidden, but because it is no longer able to be hidden.
------	---

For more information please contact Alison Sutherland on 01292-317727 or alisonsutherland@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

North Ayrshire Multi-Agency Child Sexual Abuse Strategy 2020



Final NA CSA
strategy 2020.docx



**NORTH AYRSHIRE MULTI AGENCY
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE STRATEGY 2020**

Index

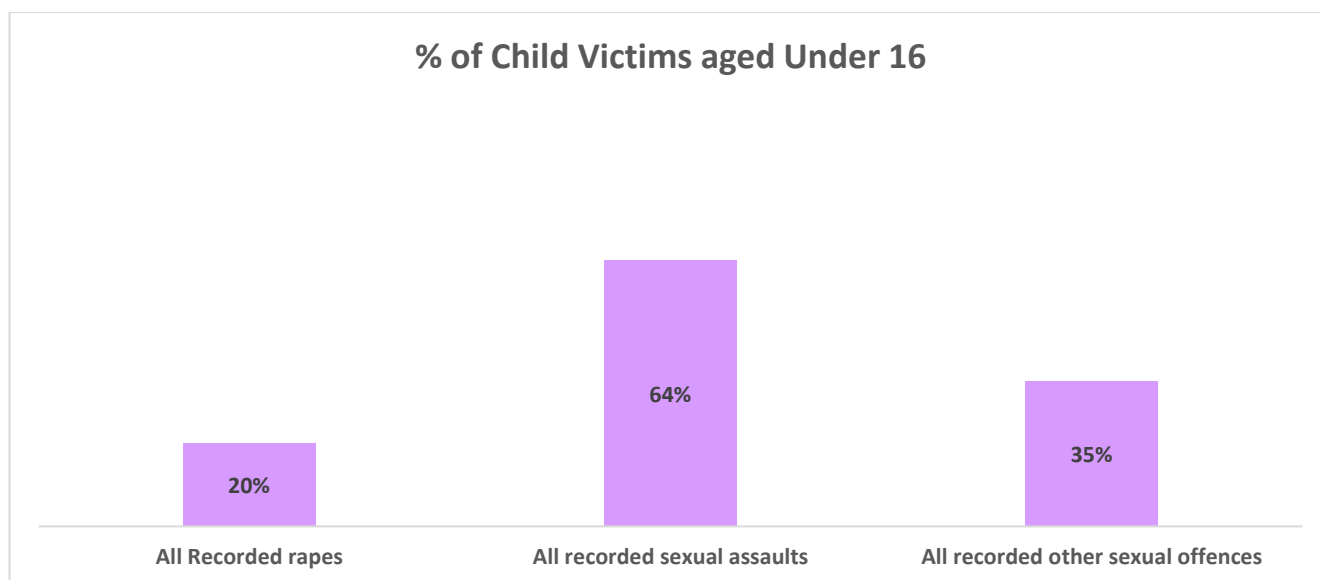
Page 3	Foreword
Page 6	Vision and Definitions
Page 7	Key Partners, Stakeholders and Key Drivers
Page 8	A Unifying Approach
Page 10	Outcomes for Children and Young People
Page 11	Vision and Outcomes
Page 12	Prevention
Page 13	Protection
Page 14	Support and Recovery
Page 15	Outcome Plan
Page 19	Governance and Consultation, Evaluation and Review, Implementation Plan

Foreword

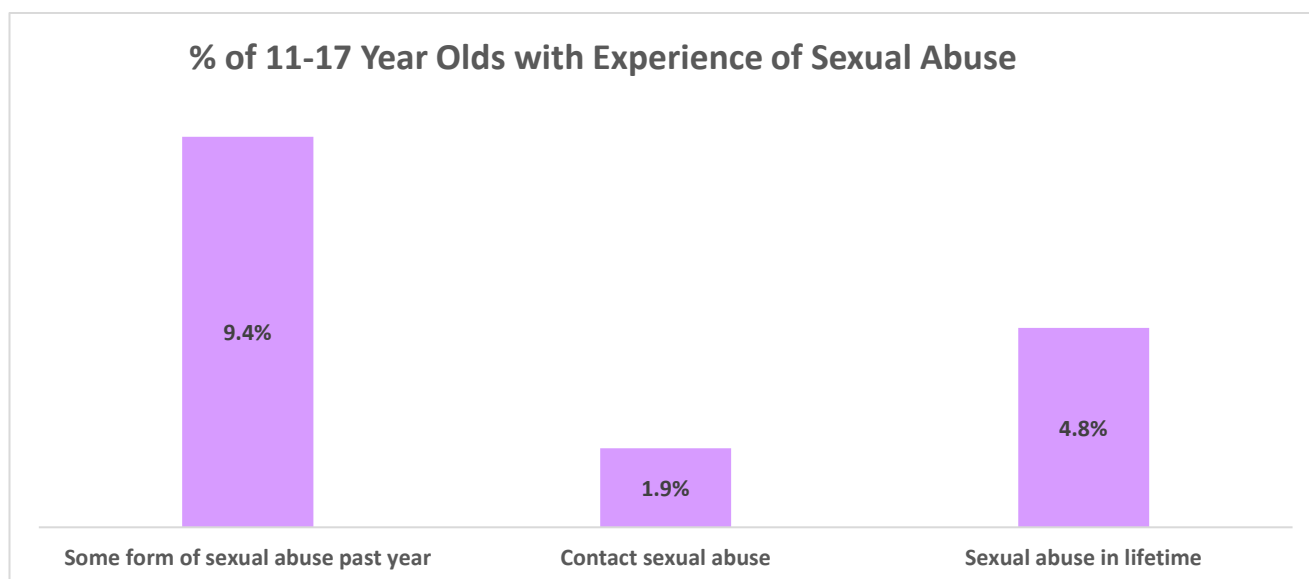
'It's Everyone's Job to Make Sure I'm Alright' – this powerful statement remains as relevant today as it was when the report of the same title was published in 2002.

There is robust evidence that children and young people continue to be sexually abused in families and in our communities.

43% of 10,026 sexual crimes recorded by Police Scotland in 2015/16 had a child victim i.e. in 4,311 sexual crimes



Prevalence estimates using NSPCC population prevalence study 2011:



Child Sexual Abuse Prevalence in 11-17 year olds extrapolating the above findings for North Ayrshire specifically:



Victims 'hidden' from official data – least likely to disclose:

- Young children (Horvath et al, 2015)
- Victims of abuse within the family (Horvath et al, 2015)
- Children with disabilities (Taylor et al, 2014)
- Children from Black and Minority Ethnic communities (Jay, 2014; Narang & Quereshi, 2015)
- Boys (Nelson, 2016)

In recent years there have been multiple policies, procedures and guidance documents developed to address specific aspects of child sexual abuse, including child sexual exploitation, child trafficking, online abuse and grooming, sexually harmful behaviour between young people and more. However, currently in Scotland no overarching Child Sexual Abuse Strategy exists – either nationally or at local authority level.

Child sexual abuse is a Public Health issue. The resulting trauma, as well as directly affecting the individual child or young person and those close to them, ultimately has a significant cost to all of society. This cost can be counted in financial as well as social terms as is obvious when adult survivors of child sexual abuse find the strength to speak up and describe the impact of their previously hidden experiences. Child sexual abuse is preventable.

Unfortunately, the children and young people who are sexually abused in their own homes and/or by a trusted adult, can also become more vulnerable to other forms of sexual abuse. The children and young people who are sexually exploited in other ways are often these same children and young people. The children and young people who sexually offend against other children and young people are often these same children and young people.

It is our belief that an overarching strategy that addresses **all** forms of child sexual abuse is needed if we are to adequately challenge, and ultimately prevent, these behaviours in all their forms.

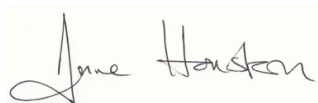
Children and young people and their rights need to be at the centre of this Child Sexual Abuse Strategy. Their voices, experiences, views and needs must be heard and taken into account. We know from those children and young people who have found the courage to speak up about their experiences that it is extremely scary and difficult to do so. Many who are being sexually abused currently remain silenced.

Children and young people need to see and believe that we are genuinely open to listening to and supporting them, without judging them. They are their own harshest judges, more often than not feeling responsible for what is happening to them.

In order to change this, child sexual abuse must become something that is talked about more openly – in our homes, our communities, our workplaces and our institutions. Children will never be able to talk about their experiences of child sexual abuse if the adults around them can't or don't. Only by increasing the awareness, understanding and acceptability of talking about and facing the reality of child sexual abuse will this become possible. That is the work this strategy aims to address.

If this strategy is successful, we should expect to see an increase in the number of children and young people coming forward or being identified as being sexually abused – this would be a measure of success – not failure. This would mean that children and young people are more confident that they will be believed and supported, not blamed. This would also mean that others are more confident about what their role is in protecting and supporting those who are sexually abused – whether they are family members, neighbours, young friends, members of the public, volunteers or professionals. We must ensure we have the resources in place to protect and support children and young people when they do come forward, in the way that they find acceptable and helpful and that promote their recovery and healing.

In time the number of children coming forward will gradually drop – not because child sexual abuse remains hidden but because it is no longer able to be hidden.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature reads "Anne Houston" in a cursive, flowing script.

Dr Anne Houston OBE

Independent Chair - North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee

5 March 2020

Vision

There is an increased awareness, understanding and acceptability of talking about and facing the reality of child sexual abuse – in our homes, our communities, our workplaces and our institutions. Children and young people in North Ayrshire are safe from sexual abuse and sexual harm and well supported if they have previously experienced sexual abuse. Everyone in North Ayrshire knows they have a role to play in keeping children and young people safe, understands and is prepared to take appropriate action to support and/or protect a child or young person.

Definitions

When a child or young person is sexually abused, they are forced or enticed into sexual activities. This could be contact or non-contact sexual activity. They might not understand that what is happening is abuse or that it is wrong for someone to do this to them and they may be afraid to tell someone. Sexual abuse can happen anywhere – it can happen in person or online.

It is never a child or young person's fault that they were sexually abused – it is important to make sure children and young people know this.

Contact abuse can include:

- Sexual touching of any part of a child or young person's body, whether they're clothed or not
- Using a body part or object to rape or penetrate a child or young person
- Manipulating or forcing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities
- Making a child or young person undress or touch someone else

Contact abuse can include touching, kissing and oral sex – sexual abuse is not just penetrative

Non-contact abuse can include:

- Exposing or flashing
- Showing pornography
- Exposing a child or young person to sexual acts
- Making them masturbate
- Manipulating or forcing a child or young person to make, view or share child abuse images or videos
- Making, viewing or distributing child abuse images or videos
- Manipulating or forcing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities or conversations online or via a smartphone

(NSPCC)

Key Partners and Stakeholders

Everyone has a part to play in preventing children and young people being sexually abused. This includes family, community, professionals, agencies and services, children and young people.

Key professional partners include

- Police
- Education
- Health and Social Care Partnership
- 3rd sector
- Public Health
- Scottish Children's Reporter Agency
- Housing
- North Ayrshire Council Legal Services
- Ayrshire and Arran National Health Service
- Fire Service
- Care Inspectorate

"It's Everyone's Job to Make Sure I'm Alright" - Report of the Child Protection Audit and Review November 2002

Key Drivers

The voice and experience of the child or young person is central to all we do – the relative absence of the voice of the child or young person in child sexual abuse is therefore **the** key driver

Others include:

- No Child Sexual Abuse Strategy could be identified in Scotland – either national or at local authority or Child Protection Committee level – which puts children and young people's experiences of familial or close relationship sexual abuse at least as central to policy and practice development as those of children and young people experiencing extra familial sexual abuse (e.g. Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Trafficking, Female Genital Mutilation, etc.)
- Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) – we are not getting it right for all children and young people experiencing or at risk of experiencing child sexual abuse
- Getting it Right for every child (GIRFEC) is the Scottish Government's approach to supporting children and young people. It is intended as a framework that will allow organisations who work on behalf of the country's children and their families to provide a consistent supportive approach for all
- Statistical information on the number of children and young people currently identified as experiencing child sexual abuse as monitored by the Child Protection Committee in North Ayrshire
- Estimation of likely numbers of children and young people currently experiencing child sexual abuse in North Ayrshire provided by Stop to Listen Pathfinder research and analysis
- Adults who were sexually abused who were not heard as children, as expressed via the ongoing Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, Independent Review of Sexual Abuse in Scottish Football and other similar reviews
- Children and young people speaking to ChildLine about their experiences of sexual abuse
- Information and statistics from Police Scotland and the National Sexual Crimes Unit particularly relating to online sexual abuse and grooming and child victims of other sexual offences
- Development of the Barnahus model in Scotland linked to Joint Investigative Interviewing, promoting good practice around supporting the victims of child sexual abuse to speak up

A Unifying Approach

In Scotland Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) provides the unifying approach along with the Scottish Government's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

There is a raft of policies, procedures, action plans and guidance which relate to some specific aspects of child sexual abuse. The links to these are provided below along with some helpful resource websites:

General Support and Information

- **The Upstream Project** was set up to enable adults and communities in Scotland to prevent child sexual abuse. We believe that preventing child sexual abuse is all our responsibility and this depends on changing the thinking and behaviour of adults. It aims to be the "one stop" resource for anyone who wants to know more about the prevention of child sexual abuse and how they can contribute and help: <https://www.theupstreamproject.org.uk/>
- **CEOP - Child Exploitation and Online Protection** protects children from harm online and offline with a focus on child sexual exploitation and online protection issues: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>
- **Think You know:** the education programme from CEOP (see above) which protects children both online and offline: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- **Childline** is a telephone and email counselling service for children and young people provided by the NSPCC. They deal with any issues which cause distress or concern; some of the most common issues include child abuse, bullying, mental illness, parental separation or divorce, teenage pregnancy, substance misuse, neglect, and psychological abuse - phone 0800 1111 or: <https://www.childline.org.uk/>
- **ParentLine Scotland:** the free, confidential support helpline for anyone caring for a child in Scotland provided by Children 1st – phone 08000 28 22 33 or: <https://www.children1st.org.uk/help-for-families/parentline-scotland/>

Professional Guidance and Information

- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** is the most widely-ratified international human rights treaty in history and has been ratified by the Scottish Government: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>
- **Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)** is the Scottish Government's approach to supporting children and young people. It is a framework to allow organisations who work on behalf of the country's children and their families to provide a consistent, supportive approach for all. The link is to North Ayrshire's guidelines: <http://girfecna.co.uk/>
- **National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014** is the Scottish Government's framework for agencies and practitioners at local level to understand and agree processes for working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-guidance-child-protection-scotland/>
- **Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS)** is a leading improvement centre in Scotland which provides links to current resources, research, policy and other relevant information

ensuring that helpful material is available to support the wider child protection community:

<https://www.celcis.org/knowledge-bank/protecting-children/>

- **Equally Safe National Strategy** is Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/equally-safe/>
- **Scotland's National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation** reports on progress of actions set out in Scotland's first National Action Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation, published in November 2014, and further actions that will be taken forward over the next 2-3 years to continue the commitment to prevent and tackle child sexual exploitation: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-action-plan-prevent-tackle-child-sexual-exploitation-update/>
- **Harmful Sexual Behaviour by Children and Young People** sets out proposals from the Expert Group on Preventing Sexual Offending Involving Children and Young People to improve prevention and early intervention in response to harmful sexual behaviour involving children and young people: [Harmful sexual behaviour by children and young people: expert group report](#)
- **Inter-Agency Guidance for Child Trafficking** provides information and guidance to all members of the children's workforce to enable identification of trafficked children and appropriate referral so that victims receive protection and support: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2013/11/inter-agency-guidance-child-trafficking/documents/00437636-pdf/00437636-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/00437636.pdf>
- **Scotland's National Action Plan to Prevent and Eradicate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** includes a series of objectives, actions and activities to prevent and eradicate FGM: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-action-plan-prevent-eradicate-female-genital-mutilation-fgm/>

All children and young people are potentially vulnerable to child sexual abuse, however evidence tells us that some children and young people are potentially more vulnerable than others.

These may include:

- Those who are care experienced
- Missing children and young people
- 'Unseen' children and young people
- Those with disabilities and additional support needs
- Young carers
- LGBTQI
- Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME)

Getting It Right For Every Child encompasses **all** children and young people.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child underpins all of our work – with the child or young person and their rights as our central focus.

Outcomes for Children and Young People

- The number of children and young people experiencing child sexual abuse in any of its forms in North Ayrshire is reduced
- Children and young people know how to seek help and are confident to do so if they experience any form of child sexual abuse
- Children and young people in North Ayrshire experiencing, or at risk from, child sexual abuse receive the right help and support from the right person at the right time
- Everyone in North Ayrshire looks out for children and young people in order to prevent them experiencing child sexual abuse
- Everyone in North Ayrshire knows how to protect children and young people from sexual abuse and proactively takes their responsibility seriously

These outcomes will be delivered through the implementation of this strategy under three areas of priority:

- Prevention
- Protection
- Support and Recovery

North Ayrshire Child Sexual Abuse Strategy

Vision

There is an increased awareness, understanding and acceptability of talking about and facing the reality of child sexual abuse – in our homes, our communities, our workplaces and our institutions. Children and young people in North Ayrshire are safe from sexual abuse and sexual harm and well supported if they have previously experienced sexual abuse. Everyone in North Ayrshire knows they have a role to play in keeping children and young people safe and understands and is prepared to take appropriate action to support and/or protect a child or young person.

Outcomes

- The number of children and young people experiencing sexual abuse in any of its forms in North Ayrshire is reduced
- Children and young people know how to seek help, and are confident to do so, if they experience any form of sexual abuse
- Children and young people in North Ayrshire experiencing, or at risk from, sexual abuse receive the right help and support from the right person at the right time
- Everyone in North Ayrshire looks out for children and young people in order to prevent them experiencing child sexual abuse
- Everyone in North Ayrshire knows how to protect children and young people from sexual abuse and proactively takes their responsibility seriously

Prevention

Definition: *Universal prevention aims to raise awareness of child sexual abuse across the entire population, to include professionals and communities to reduce and ultimately prevent the incidence of child sexual abuse. This includes creating environments where children are safe and where child sexual abuse is talked about openly in communities*

Prevention Core Activities

- Ensure all core activities respond to those groups of children and young people who could potentially be more vulnerable
- Ensure Relationships Sexual Health & Parenthood (RSHP) programme is used in all early years, primary and secondary establishments as part of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)
- Provide training for all professionals working with children that will increase knowledge, awareness and understanding of Child Sexual Abuse using the Brooke Traffic Light Toolkit
- Raise awareness of Child Exploitation & Online Protection using appropriate resources with children and young people to keep them safe online e.g. Thinkuknow and CEOP
- Through a rolling programme of media campaigns increase awareness of Child Sexual Abuse across communities including those non-English speaking communities and seldom heard groups, by utilising public resources such as libraries and community events as well as local papers and social media platforms
- Rolling programme of campaigns for children and young people based on raising awareness - for example the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) "Talk Pants" and "Join Pantosaurus" resources
- Childline and Parentline Scotland information and contact details are displayed in all public areas
- Raise awareness of Child Sexual Abuse by increasing the knowledge of all volunteers across North Ayrshire to help them to identify Child Sexual Abuse in any activity they undertake
- Raise awareness of the UPSTREAM Project resources through extensive promotion of the resource across all agencies and communities
- Review commissioning process within North Ayrshire to ensure all contractual staff have received Child Protection training to raise awareness of Child Sexual Abuse and to ensure community groups utilising North Ayrshire premises have received Child Sexual Abuse training
- Create safer environments - check regularly on areas that are infrequently used or left unattended where young people are known to spend time. Ensure areas are well lit, extra patrols, CCTV, etc
- Promote children's skills to keep themselves safe

Protection

Definition: *Protecting children and young people from sexual abuse and those at risk of sexual abuse, identifying and bringing an end to sexual abuse currently happening; developing strategies for all adults to keep children and young people safe*

Protection Core Activities

- Ensure all core activities respond to those groups of children and young people who could potentially be more vulnerable
- Ensure people who work with, volunteer or are parents/carers of children know how to respond to disclosures of abuse. 'Listen, Reassure, React, Record' and take the appropriate action to protect the child
- Provide training for all professionals and volunteers on how to protect young people after abuse, e.g. take appropriate steps to safeguard child and any other child the reported perpetrator has access to including peer – peer child sexual abuse
- Provide Interagency Referral Discussion (IRD) training to ensure joint information sharing, assessment and decision making about child sexual abuse, ensuring focus remains on child's needs and at a pace dictated by the child wherever possible and safe
- Interagency Referral Discussion (IRD) between partner agencies to safeguard/protect children and young people, and to progress the investigation and support package; ensuring robust protective factors are in place while allowing the child to feel as involved and in control as is possible.
- Encourage and support the child to identify a key adult as their safe person, someone who the child/young person can trust and talk to for support and who should remain involved throughout the process wherever possible. This should increase the sense of safety for the child to enable further disclosure, and to ensure the child/young person's wellbeing remains a priority throughout.
- Take steps to protect the wider community from the reported perpetrator

Support and Recovery

Definition: *To allow children and adults who have experienced child sexual abuse to have belief in themselves that they can recover and that others share this belief, they will have easy access to supports that will avert crisis and prevent further harm*

Support and Recovery Core Activities

- Ensure all core activities respond to those groups of children and young people who could potentially be more vulnerable
- Supports are made available to all child and adult survivors at the point they wish to access them. For example, counselling, play therapy, intensive family support etc
- Increase family understanding of the impact of child sexual abuse, that enables child and adult survivors to be supported effectively, flexible and relevant whole family supports are made available to all
- Work within communities to help them understand the impact of child sexual abuse and ensure they know what to do if a child or adult survivor tells them of their experience
- Supports are made accessible and respond to individual need, for example, within local community settings, the family home, and/or any other appropriate environment identified by the child or adult survivor
- People who work directly with children and young people have access to ongoing, specific and trauma responsive training that enables them to understand the impact of child sexual abuse and respond appropriately
- People who work directly with child or adult survivors of child sexual abuse have access to both practical and emotional support that allows them to work effectively and promote recovery

North Ayrshire Child Sexual Abuse Strategy – Outcome Plan

Outcomes	What are your indicators?	Measurement of indicators (How we measure the indicators)	Outputs (<u>The activities</u> that you will do to achieve each outcome)
A system wide commitment to take action against Child Sexual Abuse	All partners agree and sign up to implement the Strategy – via Child Protection Committee; Children’s Services Strategic Partnership; Community Planning Partnership; Child and Public Protection Chief Officer Group	Strategy acceptance and commitment minuted in appropriate meetings of partner agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalised Strategy will be tabled at partner meetings • Implementation of Child Sexual Abuse Strategy will be supported by partner agencies at all levels
System Leaders have a grip on the quality and impact of practice in preventing Child Sexual Abuse	Managers in partner agencies report on progress of implementation	Review of relevant minutes Improvement of practice – from supervision practice Increase in children and young people being identified and protected – from statistics and case file audits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be agreed by implementation group
Implementation of the North Ayrshire Child Sexual Abuse Strategy	Implementation group established Implementation workplan agreed	Implementation workplan actions monitored and reported on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be monitored and reported into the Child Protection Committee via the Evaluation and Improvement subgroup • The Child Protection Chair to report on progress to Children’s Services Strategic Partnership and Child and Public Protection Chief Officer Group

<p>The number of children and young people experiencing child sexual abuse in any of its forms in North Ayrshire is reduced and ultimately prevented</p>	<p>Initial increase in identification of child sexual abuse to be expected as indicator of success</p> <p>In the longer term a reduction will be the desired outcome</p>	<p>Number of children recorded as being affected by sexual abuse – accurate method to be identified via Implementation Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collation of Health and Social Care Partnership statistics on Child Protection Referrals marked as Child Sexual Abuse. • Review of other relevant statistics within the Child Protection Committee. • Implementation group to agree how to collect additional statistics to give accurate numbers of children experiencing child sexual abuse regardless of which route identification takes
<p>Children and young people know how and are confident to seek help if they experience any form of child sexual abuse</p>	<p>Children and young people know where to seek help if experiencing or at risk of child sexual abuse</p> <p>Initial increase in reporting of Child Sexual Abuse.</p> <p>Increase in the number of establishments using Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Resources.</p> <p>Increase in the number of establishments using CEOP resources.</p> <p>Increase in recording of children’s views in relation to the process.</p>	<p>Children and young people actively participate in RSHP as part of CfE and class work – Participation sessions</p> <p>Baseline survey of establishments.</p> <p>Children and young people know how to access CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) for support with online sexual abuse – Survey with children and young people to establish level of knowledge on CEOP</p> <p>Identifying whether it is possible to receive details of use of Childline – Numbers of local children calling Childline from North Ayrshire</p> <p>Survey children and parents re what resources they use for information/support around child sexual abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rollout of Relationships, Sexual Health & Parenthood (RSHP) across Early Years, primary and secondary schools as part of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) • Raise awareness of Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) resources with children and young people to keep them safe online • Consultation work with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Groups. • Childline and Parentline Scotland information and contact details are displayed in all public areas • Rolling programme of campaigns based on raising awareness of children eg the National Society for the Protection Cruelty of Children (NSPCC) “Talk Pants” and “Join Pantosaurus” The Upstream Project, Stop It Now’s new online resource for child sexual abuse

<p>Children and young people in North Ayrshire experiencing or at risk from, child sexual abuse receive the right help and support from the right person at the right time</p>	<p>Children and young people know they are believed if disclosing sexual abuse More children are coming forward for support and protection</p>	<p>Number of children identified Recording Children’s experience of the Child Protection process Statistics from partner services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports are available to all child and adult survivors at the point they wish to access it. For example, counselling, play therapy and or intensive family support. • People who work directly with child or adult survivors of child sexual abuse have access to both practical and emotional support that allows them to work effectively and promote recovery.
<p>Everyone in North Ayrshire looks out for children and young people in order to prevent them experiencing child sexual abuse</p>	<p>All communities, professionals and anyone engaging with children and young people have confidence in knowing how to report child sexual abuse</p>	<p>Communities are aware of their responsibilities to identify and report Baseline numbers outlining source of referrals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through a rolling programme of media campaigns increase awareness of Child Sexual Abuse across communities including those non English speaking communities and harder to reach groups by utilising public resources such as libraries and community events as well as local papers and social media platforms • Training for all professionals working with children which will increase knowledge, awareness and understanding of Child Sexual Abuse using the Brooke Traffic Light Toolkit • Raise awareness of the UPSTREAM Project resource through extensive promotion of resource across all agencies • Create safer environments- Check regularly on areas that are infrequently used or left unattended where young people are known to spend time. Ensure areas are well lit, extra patrols, CCTV • Work within communities to help them understand the impact of child sexual abuse and ensure they know what to do if a child or adult survivor tells them of their experience and to talk more openly about child sexual abuse •

<p>Everyone in North Ayrshire knows how to protect children and young people from sexual abuse and proactively takes their responsibility seriously</p>	<p>All communities, professionals and anyone engaging with children and young people have confidence in knowing how to report and respond to disclosures of child sexual abuse</p>	<p>Communities, professionals are aware of their responsibilities to identify and report child sexual abuse Survey staff confidence – include in annual CPC Survey Survey of volunteers' confidence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who work with, volunteer or are parents/carers of children – Raise awareness on how to respond to disclosures of child sexual abuse. ‘Listen, Reassure, React, Record’ and take the appropriate action to protect the child, keeping the child informed and at the centre of the process • Training for all professionals and volunteers on how to protect young people after child sexual abuse, e.g. take appropriate steps to safeguard child and any other child the reported perpetrator has access to including peer – peer child sexual abuse • Interagency Referral Discussion training to ensure joint information sharing, assessment and decision making about child sexual abuse, ensuring focus remains on child’s needs and at a pace dictated by the child wherever possible • Interagency Referral Discussion (IRD) between partner agencies on how to safeguard/protect children and young people, and how to progress the investigation and support package; ensuring robust protective factors are in place including the child feeling involved and in control and at a pace that suits the individual child • A key adult identified by the child as their safe person, whom the child/young person can talk to for support and who should remain supported to be involved. This will increase the sense of safety to enable further disclosure, and to ensure the child/young person’s wellbeing remains a priority throughout the process Take steps to protect the wider community from the reported perpetrator • Review commissioning process within North Ayrshire to ensure all contractual staff have received child protection training to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse
---	--	---	---

Governance and Consultation

The multi-agency Child Protection Committee will provide governance for this Child Sexual Abuse Strategy. In turn the Child Protection Committee Chair will report on implementation to the Child and Public Protection Chief Officer Group.

This Child Sexual Abuse Strategy was developed by a multiagency Short Life Working Group chaired by the Independent Chair of the Child Protection Committee. The Short Life Working group comprised representatives from:

- Barnardos
- Children 1st
- Police Scotland
- NHS Ayrshire & Arran
- North Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership
- Education
- Housing

The following partners in key agencies have been consulted on this strategy at a final draft stage with opportunity to comment and/or suggest amendments/additions, as have a number of children, young people and families:-

- Police Scotland
- Education
- North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
- 3rd sector representatives
- Public Health NHS Ayrshire and Arran
- Scottish Children's Reporter Agency
- Housing
- North Ayrshire Council Legal Services
- NHS Ayrshire and Arran
- Fire Service
- Care Inspectorate

Evaluation and Review

The overall performance in achieving the outcomes set out in the strategy will be reviewed by the Child Protection Committee. The delivery of the Implementation Plan will be monitored through the Evaluation and Improvement subgroup of the Child Protection Committee. The strategy will be reviewed by the Child Protection Committee annually.

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan will be developed and delivery overseen by the Implementation Group.