



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE
Child Protection Review



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Child Protection Review

Artwork by Iain Campbell

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Aims

On 20th March 2001, the Minister for Education, Europe and External Affairs, Jack McConnell announced a review to improve [child protection](#) arrangements in Scotland.

[A team of people](#) representing Social Work, Education, Police, Reporter to the Children's Panel, Nursing and Medicine has been established to carry out this review.

Our aim is to help reduce the abuse and neglect of children, and to improve services for children who experience abuse or neglect.

We will be looking in detail at what [child protection](#) practice is like at the moment and how it can be improved.

Our work is guided by a steering group and informed by a [consultative group](#).

Consultation

We are asking for the opinions of a wide range of people including:

- * children, young people and adults affected by the child protection system;
- * members of the general public, including children and young people;
- * professionals and volunteers working with children and families.

Have Your Say!

We are particularly keen to hear the views of parents, children and young people.

Please **have your say!** You will not have to give us your name.

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Minister's Foreword

PROTECTING CHILDREN TODAY AND TOMORROW - a multi disciplinary review of child protection measures across Scotland



This review is part of the government's response to the recommendations of the Hammond report following the tragic death of a 3-year-old child, Kennedy McFarlane. I am determined that we will do our best to prevent a repeat of this kind of incident.

No child should ever fall through the protection net just because professionals failed to work together.

Although a lot has been done to improve child protection in recent years we must do all we can to ensure our systems do not fail those vulnerable children who rely on them.

That is why the review has brought together health, education, police, children's reporters and social work in a team that will carry out an audit and review of child protection arrangements across Scotland; providing a report to ministers in the summer of 2002.

This website provides information on the review and also,

importantly, provides the opportunity for anyone who wishes to have their say.

JACK MCCONNELL

Minister for Education, Europe and External Affairs

[Click here to enter site](#)

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This website gives you the chance to tell the government your opinion about child protection in Scotland. We are looking in detail at how well children are protected and we want your views.

have your say
button

girl

what do we mean
button

advice button

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News Releases

20 March 2001 : McConnell Announces Review To Improve Child Protection Arrangements

Minister for Education, Europe and External Affairs, Jack McConnell today announced a review to improve child protection arrangements in Scotland.

Speaking at a conference on better integrated children's services, Mr McConnell said:

"Dumfries and Galloway's Child protection Committee commissioned a report following the recent tragic case in their area..

"One of their recommendations was that there should be a multi-disciplinary review of child protection and today I can announce that we have decided to do just that.

"Our Social Work Services Inspectorate and Health department will be central to this review with support from the school and police inspectorates.

"Although a lot has been done to improve child protection in recent years, we must do all we can to ensure our systems do not fail those vulnerable children that rely on them.

"I am determined that we will do our best to prevent a repeat of this kind of incident. It is vital that we do more than just talk about joined up working. We must ensure that everyone – local government, agencies and departments work better together locally to give the best service possible to our young people. No child should ever fall through the protection net just because professionals fail to work closely together.

"This review is a good example of working together and I am confident it will make a difference to the children who need our support most."

News Release: SE0727/2001

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Aims

To promote the reduction of abuse or neglect of children, and to improve the services for children who experience abuse or neglect.

Remit

1. To review, throughout Scotland, the practice of medical, nursing, social work, police, children's reporters', education and other public, voluntary and private sector staff to examine how well these:

- identify those children who may be being abused or neglected;
- reduce such abuse and neglect;
- meet these children's needs;
- make plans for the future well-being of these children.

2. To review how well agencies and professionals work together and public and professional confidence in these services.

3. To review how well professionals work together and public and professional confidence in the way they work.

4. To identify best practice.

5. To learn lessons from international developments in this field.

6. To report and make recommendations to improve professional working and the regulatory framework in which professionals operate.

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Review Team Members

Stella Perrott - Team Leader

I have responsibility for the Children and Young People's team in the Social Work Services Inspectorate. Previous work includes the reviews of sex offenders 'A Commitment to Protect' and women offenders 'A Safer Way.'

Jane Bowen - Inspector

I have been an Inspector with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education for 11.5 years. In that time my work has included inspecting in Learning Support Departments, Special Schools and the Care and Welfare of pupils in Residential schools. In the last 3 years I have also contributed to the development of the care standards to be used for young people in residential schools.

Brigid Daniel - Inspector

I worked for some years in children and families social work then moved to Dundee University where I taught on qualifying and post-qualifying child protection courses, before taking up my current post as Senior Lecturer in Social Work at Stirling University. My research interests and publications address a range of child care and protection issues.

Alistair Gaw - Inspector

I am an Inspector with the Children and Young People's Team at SWSI. Previously I have worked for 3 local authorities as a social worker and social work manager and I have extensive experience of child protection work and the development of services for children and families.

Philip Jackson

I am seconded to this Review from the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration. I am a Children's Reporter with extensive experience of the Children's Hearing System in a variety of geographical areas. Most recently I have been involved in preparing SCRA for the impact of the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Jacqueline Mok - Inspector

I am a consultant paediatrician, based at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh, which is part of the Lothian University Hospitals NHS Trust. As the Lead Clinician for Child Protection in the Trust, I am responsible for the service which provides the medical assessment of children in whom there are concerns regarding abuse and neglect, and for ensuring effective inter-agency working. I am also the current chair of the Scottish branch of BASPCAN (British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect).

Jan Ramchurn - Inspector

As the child protection adviser I am responsible for child protection issues in Lothian Primary Care (NHS) Trust. I advise health professionals, mostly nurses and health visitors, when they have child protection concerns. My main interest in child protection work is the early identification of vulnerable children and promoting the concept of interagency intervention to protect such children.

Ian Ross - Inspector

I am a Detective Chief Inspector of Lothian and Borders Police and have had responsibility for Child Protection issues within the force. I have been involved in the development of a national police training course and a protocol for the investigation of historical abuse.

David Sorensen - Statistician

I am a statistician working in the Scottish Executive Education Department and my current post covers 3 main areas: children's social work (child protection, children looked after etc), collection of

education data from local authorities, and teacher analysis. The work involves management of a number of different surveys, as well as data analysis, modelling, publication and policy briefing.

Sharon Vincent - Researcher

I am a researcher in the Social Work Services Inspectorate. I previously worked on the Annual Report of Social Work Services and carried out various pieces of work for the National Care Standards Working Groups.

David Purdie - Co-ordinator

I have worked in the Scottish Executive for over 11 years and more recently I've worked in Social Work Statistics Division before moving to SWSI as Resource Manager, working on the first Social Work Annual Report.

Jacqui Bow - Assistant Co-ordinator

I have worked in the Scottish Executive for 13 years, most recently as part of the National Care Standards Team of the Regulation of Care Project.

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CHILD PROTECTION REVIEW CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEMBERSHIP:

A consultative group has been formed consisting of a range of organisations concerned with child protection in Scotland. The group's expertise is essential to the success of the project and meetings are held regularly.

The agencies represented on the group are:

Association of Chief Police Officers
Association of Directors of Education
Association of Directors of Social Work
British Association of Social Workers
British Medical Association
Childline
Children 1st
Child Protection Committee Chairs
Children's Panel Chairman's Group
Commission for Racial Equality
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Crown Office (papers only)
Royal College of Nursing
Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
Scottish Council of Independent Schools
The Law Society
The Safeguarder's Association
Who Cares? Scotland
Women's Aid

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'Child protection' covers a lot of different things. It is important for all of us in Scotland that children feel safe and looked after wherever they are, at home, in school, in clubs and in the community. If children have a happy and safe childhood then they are more likely to grow up to be kind adults and good parents themselves. So, all of us, whether professionals working with children, members of the general public or children, have a part to play in keeping children safe. This can include all sorts of things such as:

- making sure that there are safe places for children to play
- driving safely and slowly in areas where children play
- helping friends and neighbours with babysitting
- speaking out if we suspect a child is suffering
- volunteering at clubs for children
- taking part in community projects
- helping out at a local school
- listening to children and hearing their views about things that affect them.

For most children life is pretty good most of the time. Most parents try very hard to look after their children properly. However, sometimes things can go wrong. Some parents who are unhappy themselves or are feeling very stressed may not be able to give children all their attention and sometimes children can be hurt by their parents. Sometimes other people who have contact with children may try to harm them in some way. It is these kinds of situations that are dealt with by the formal child protection systems in Scotland.

If a child is being abused or neglected in any way then they, their parents, or someone on their behalf, should contact the local social work department or the police. People may also choose to speak to a teacher, doctor, health visitor, Reporter to the Children's Panel or other trusted adult. All of these professionals will work closely together to make sure that they protect the child and offer support

to the parents.

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Use the [online form](#) to tell us your views about child protection in Scotland. We shall be collecting views until 31st January 2002.

You do not have to tell us who you are. All information will be confidential - BUT - if you give us information that identifies a child who is in danger and no one is doing anything about it, we will pass all information (including web address) to the social work department or police.

Please do not use the form to pass on concerns about someone. If you are worried then contact your local social work department, their number will be in the phone book. You can find a number for your local social work headquarters [here](#). In an emergency call the police.

You can find some advice and help websites by clicking [here](#).

[Click here to complete the online form.](#)



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How to get help for a child or young person

If you want to pass on information about yourself, or a child you are worried about, then you should contact your local social work department. You can find their number in your phone book. If you cannot find the number then you can find the enquiry number of the headquarters for your area [here](#).

In an emergency situation you should call the police.

If you need more general advice or help [click here](#) for some other useful websites.

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Useful Links

[Bullying Online and UK National Workplace Bullying Advice Line](#) - Two sites packed with information and contact details for adults and children about bullying.

[ChildLine](#) - Separate pages for parents and children. Information about how to contact ChildLine. Loads of great factsheets, lots of information and an online magazine.

[The 'Who Cares' Trust](#) - Describes the work of WhoCares a national charity working to improve public care for children and young people who are separated from their families and living in residential or foster care.

[Children in Scotland](#) - The national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland. The site includes information about projects, publications and research.

[Fair Play for Children](#) - A campaigning site to form a network of all those keen to make sure that all children have safe places to play.

[Learning Disability Review](#) - A Scottish executive website about the review of services for people with a learning disability. Includes a copy of the final report 'The Same as You?'

[National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children \(NSPCC\)](#) - Information about the work of the NSPCC, including the 'FULL STOP campaign' to end cruelty to children. Has a kids zone with lots of information for children.

[Samaritans](#) - Details about the Samaritans who offer confidential phone or email emotional advice to people who are suicidal or despairing.

[Social Work Services Inspectorate \(SWSI\)](#) - Scottish Executive site that describes the work of the Social Work Services Inspectorate.

[Young Scot.org](#) - This site is the online magazine for youngscot. It is not an advice site as such, but it has lots of useful information and contacts for young people.

[Children 1st](#) - This is the site for the children's charity Children 1st. It includes information about their confidential advice and helpline for parents - Parentline.

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