



Working in partnership, with you, to protect Grampian's children

# **NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE**



**ANNUAL REPORT 2007 - 2008**

**&**

**BUSINESS PLAN 2008 - 2009**



# NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

## ANNUAL REPORT: 1<sup>ST</sup> April 2006 to 31<sup>ST</sup> March 2007

### CONTENTS

	Page No
Preface from Chief Officers .....	3
1.0 Introduction .....	4
1.1 Report on Business Plan 2007-08 .....	4
2.0 North East of Scotland Profile .....	5
2.1 Aberdeen City.....	5
2.2 Aberdeenshire .....	5
2.3 Moray.....	6
3.0 Functions/Core Business of the NESPC .....	7
3.1 Public Information.....	7
3.2 Continuous Improvement.....	8
3.21 Policies, Procedures & Protocols.....	9
3.22 Information Management .....	10
3.23 Child Protection Statistics: April '07 to March '08.....	10
3.24 Child Protection: Comparative Trends .....	16
3.25 Quality Assurance.....	16
3.26 Training & Staff Development .....	17
3.27 NESPC Training Statistics .....	18
3.28 Staff Development.....	22
3.3 Strategic Planning .....	23
3.31 Communications & Co-operation .....	23
3.32 Planning & Connections.....	23
4.0 Future Planning .....	25
4.1 Mission .....	25
4.2 Agreed Strategic Priorities .....	25
4.3 NESPC Portfolio Objectives for 2008-09 .....	26
 <b>Appendices</b>	
1 NESPC Membership .....	28
2 NESPC Structure Diagram .....	30
3 Membership of 3 Local Area Child Protection Group Lists.....	31
4 Resources and Spending.....	36

## Annual Report: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008

### Preface

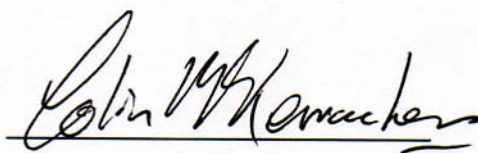
The North East Of Scotland Child Protection Committee has continued to ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place for a joint approach to the protection of vulnerable children and young people based on collaborative working from all the key agencies across the North East of Scotland.

As a result of the Child Protection Reform Programme (CPRP), Child Protection Committees have been strengthened and the profile of child protection work has been raised. The CPRP has helped agencies within the NESPCPC further their understanding that multi-agency child centred working is the normal way to proceed in protecting children. It also initiated the current round of inspections of child protection services with associated quality indicators.

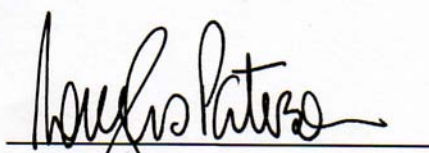
We believe that multi-agency inspections are important in engendering collective responsibility and accountability for child protection services in the North East. Inspections are key to continuous improvement and this, including self-evaluation, is a central theme within the NESPCPC business plan.

The challenges facing us are to understand how our activities are impacting on children; to know what delivers the best outcomes for children and families and to keep children and families involved in all key processes of service delivery. It is also important to consider how we bring together the work we do for children needing protection with those universal services that support all children to reach their full potential.

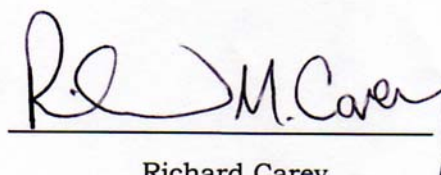
As Chief Officers of the NESPCPC, we believe that there is a clear and strong commitment from all agencies represented on the committee to achieve best outcomes for children and young people and we endorse this report as a review of our achievements over the past year.



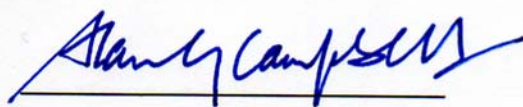
Colin McKerracher  
Chief Constable of Grampian Police & Chair of the NESPCPC



Douglas Paterson  
Chief Executive - Aberdeen City Council



Richard Carey  
Chief Executive - NHS Grampian



Alan Campbell  
Chief Executive - Aberdeenshire Council



Alastair Keddie  
Chief Executive - Moray Council

## 1.0 Introduction

The Committee's priorities for 2007/2008 were detailed within the 07/08 Business Plan and progress against these and other associated work is contained within this report.

Dedicated resources agreed by Chief Officers, Child Protection Committee and agencies have enabled increased office capacity to take forward the work of the Committee. A Lead Officer and Research Analyst were recruited in September 2007 and the Training Co-ordinator post that had been vacant for 5 months was also filled in September 2007. This has particularly impacted on the work within the Significant Case Review and Training Portfolios.

The portfolio business arrangement has been reviewed and some alterations made to try to ensure that the committee is a dynamic body where arrangements remain fit for purpose and keep pace with local and national priorities. New portfolio arrangements are illustrated within appendix 1.

Business priorities for 2008-09 have been decided via an agreed strategic assessment planning process. This process will be improved on during the business year and a key challenge for the NESPCPC will be to start the planning process earlier in the business year to enable wider consultation with all key stakeholders.

### 1.1 Report on Business Plan 2007-08: Feedback from the Scottish Government

The Scottish Government found that this was a clear and full report which gave a good account of the activities of the NESPCPC.

They commented on the following areas (NESPCPC responses are set out below each bullet point).

- It would have been useful to know what happened to the children referred who were not subject to Case Conference  
*The NESPCPC office is attempting to obtain this information from Local Authorities. This information should be available for subsequent annual reports.*
- Whether self evaluation in each of the three areas had informed the wider business plan  
*Self evaluation is an ongoing process and the NESPCPC development day reviewed business within portfolios and adapted them accordingly.*
- Whether the NESPCPC saw a role for Housing in either the CPC or the local strategy groups  
*This has been discussed and action is being taken to extend membership to include housing*
- How the NESPCPC plans to strengthen links with the community and how the views of children and young people might inform service delivery or development  
*A Communication Strategy has been produced to ensure the engagement of key stakeholders within the business planning process*
- Whether the review of the training programme would include evaluation of quality of training and impact on practice  
*An evaluation process has begun and this will be included within next year's annual report*
- Provision of information on community demographics  
*This has been included within this year's annual report*

The Scottish Government has also commented, from its initial overview of all CPC reports, that nationally, there is a need for CPC's to analyse the impact of all the reported activities on children and young people.

## 2.0 North East of Scotland Profile

The North East of Scotland covers a wide area and is made up of 3 local authority areas with a wide range of demographic features for consideration since demographic changes within communities' impact on child protection and the work of the NESPCPC.

The following information sets child protection activities across the NESPCPC area in context.

### 2.1 Aberdeen City

- Population of approximately 206,880, covering 186 sq. kms. Aberdeen is one of the most densely populated authorities in Scotland with a population density of 1,089 people per sq km
- The 5930 migrant workers who registered for a National Insurance number in Aberdeen during 2006/07 represented 4.3% of the working population, which is the highest proportion in Scotland. The majority in 2006/07 were from Poland - 2,150
- The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Scotland, and is based on small area geography known as data zones. This Index shows that 27 of Aberdeen's 267 data zones are among the most deprived in Scotland
- Aberdeen has a geographical concentration of social and economic deprivation, with an associated high proportion of offenders, significant substance misuse and significant health inequalities. (*SWIA Grampian Substance Misuse Inspection 2007*)
- Between 2004 – 2007 the population living in deprived areas in Aberdeen rose from 13,161 to 18,027, an increase of 37%
- Between 2003 – 2005 the number of children referred to the Reporter on substance misuse grounds almost doubled, while national figures dropped. (*SWIA Report 2007*)
- The total number of domestic abuse incidents reported by Grampian Police in Aberdeen Division was 1054, of which 286 incidents occurred in Neighbourhood North, 522 in Neighbourhood Central and 235 in Neighbourhood South. Children were present in 26.8% (28%) of incidents, 5.5% (9.7%) of which were found to have witnessed the incident. (*Grampian Police Domestic Abuse Report 07/07-12/07*)

### 2.2 Aberdeenshire

- Population of 236,260, covering 6,313 sq. kms. Aberdeenshire has a population density of 37 people per sq. km with 16.4% of its population living in remote areas, which is higher than almost all comparator local authorities and Scottish average of 6.4%
- The SIMD figures show that out of the 301 total data zones in Aberdeenshire, 8 are in the worst 20% for Scotland. The number of most deprived data zones in Aberdeenshire increased by 4 since 2004, which represents a relative increase in deprivation
- The most deprived data zones are mainly concentrated in Banff and Buchan, in areas of Fraserburgh and Peterhead
- 1.10% of the population is known to have problematic drug misuse (Scottish average 1.84%), but this is rising
- The recent SWIA inspection noted there had been a “sharp increase in the number of neonatal discharges where maternal substance misuse had been a concern, and an increase in the numbers of children on the Child Protection Register where substance misuse was a major contributory factor.”

- Figures on patterns of under-age drinking showed that young people in Aberdeenshire exceeded the Scottish average on a number of key measures
- The total number of domestic abuse incidents reported by Grampian Police in North Aberdeenshire Division between July 2007 and Dec 2007 was 185. Children were present in 44.3% of incidents. The total number of domestic abuse incidents reported in the same period in South Aberdeenshire Division amounted to 168. Children were present in 41.1% (40.4%) of incidents

### **2.3 Moray**

- Population of 88,120 covering 2,238 sq. kms. Moray has a population density of 30 people per sq. km
- Prevalence rate of problem drug use is 0.66% of population
- The numbers of young people referred to the Reporter on substance misuse grounds remained in single figures from 2003 – 2005.(SWIA Report 2007)
- Rate of alcohol related offending is close to the national average, with a slightly higher incidence of drink driving. Under-age drinking is comparable to the Scottish national average
- The total number of domestic abuse incidents reported by Grampian Police in Moray Division between July 2007 and Dec 2007 was 290. Children were present in 20% (33.8%) of incidents and 19.3% (19.3%) of children witnessed the domestic abuse incidents. (Grampian Police, Domestic Abuse Report 07/07-12/07)

### 3.0 Functions/Core Business of the NESCP

CPCs are the key local bodies for developing and implementing child protection strategy across and between agencies. The functions are set out within 'Functions of a Child Protection Committee (Protecting Children and Young People: Child Protection Committees' 2005). These are grouped as follows:

#### **Public Information**

- raising awareness of child protection issues within communities, including children and young people
- promoting the work of agencies in protecting children to the public at large
- providing information about where members of the public will go if they have concerns about a child and what could happen

#### **Continuous Improvement**

- policies, procedures and protocols
- management information
- quality assurance, promotion of good practice
- training and staff development)

#### **Strategic planning**

- communication and co-operation
- planning and connections
- public information(as in 1)

The following section summarises the outcome of the NESCP Business Planning process for 2007/8. Of the 36 business objectives, all have been partially or completely met. A number of other tasks have been generated within portfolios and some of these are ongoing.

Significant achievements under each of the key functions are outlined below.

Areas for improvement have been identified via the HMIe Aberdeenshire Report and via the NESCP Development Day activities. The main themes are contained within Section 4.0 of this report. Actions are being taken forward via the broad strategic objectives for 2008-09.

### 3.1 Public Information

**"CPCs are required to produce and disseminate public information about protecting children and young people."** (*Functions of a Child Protection Committee: 2005, (3.3)*)

As the NESCP covers a wide geographical area and has a range of diverse characteristics, effective communication is of prime importance in enabling awareness and understanding of child protection matters.

A series of public awareness raising exercises are ongoing and these include:

- Expansion and promotion of the NESCP website with a plan for re-design to make it more user friendly and easier to navigate. The newly established children's page has a range of hyperlinks specifically chosen to be child friendly and assist in ensuring support for children and young people on a range of relevant topics
- Production of the ongoing NESCP newsletter, the first of which came out in January along with the forthcoming year's training calendar. This newsletter is being produced on a quarterly basis and a training calendar twice yearly
- Exploring improved ways of listening and gaining the views and experiences of children and young people to enable the production of child friendly information on child protection processes. The NESCP led multi-agency group 'Children's Voices' has been active throughout the past year and has produced a new child specific

leaflet 'What to do if you don't feel safe'. Other child specific leaflets are under development and children and young people are involved in the design of these leaflets

- Active involvement in the 2008 national campaign supporting the National Child Protection Helpline, which has followed on from the initial pilot campaign, carried out in the North East of Scotland in 2005. Publicity materials have gone out for the first time to commercial businesses throughout the NESCP area as well as to partner agencies
- Development and production of a new 'Home Alone' leaflet. This arose out of concerns raised at the increasing number of referrals relating to children being left unattended at home. The leaflet is available in English as a hard copy and can be downloaded from the NESCP website in English and is also available in Russian, Polish, Lithuanian, Portuguese and Chinese. This leaflet has also been shared and adapted for use by other CPC areas in Scotland
- Development of a generic communication strategy for the NESCP. This strategy links with the HMle Child Protection communication strategy, developed in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council and then adopted by Aberdeen City and Moray, and the communication strategy for the NESCP Significant Case Review process. Further development of this strategy will continue through the work of the Communications portfolio
- NESCP stands at various community events throughout the last year to further aid in awareness raising and information sharing with wider audiences
- Exploration of improved ways of linking with the media. The NESCP has learned from our experiences at both local and national level with media involvement with the national child protection line and through local Significant Case Review Reports. This will improve planning for local publicity launches in the future

*The challenge for the NESCP is to engage more effectively with the key stakeholders identified within the Communications Strategy and evaluate the impact of awareness raising exercises on these groups so that children are better protected.*

### **3.2 Continuous Improvement**

***"CPCS have a key role to play in the continuous improvement of child protection work."*** (Functions of a Child Protection Committee: 2005, (3.4))

Continuous improvement by way of self evaluation and quality assurance are key to the delivery of better outcomes for children.

The effectiveness of the NESCP was evaluated, at the end of 2007, within Aberdeenshire Local Authority's HMle child protection services inspection. The Aberdeenshire's inspection has identified areas of strength within the NESCP and areas for improvement. The areas for improvement are incorporated within the overarching draft Aberdeenshire Action Plan and will be included within the NESCP Business Plan for 2008-2009. The Action plan is attached (Appendix 1).

Aberdeen City and Moray inspections will enable continuing external evaluation of the NESCP.

The CPC Development Day activities and the Research Analyst's report enabled the CPC to evaluate its performance in relation to taking forward areas of business from the 2007-2008 Business Plan. Analysis focused mainly on quantitative information such as attendance levels at meetings, number of tasks progressed via individual portfolios. This showed that the majority of the tasks relating to key objectives had been completed but that some of the portfolios were more efficient than others in taking business forward. The reasons for this were not clear since the analysis focused on quantitative as opposed to qualitative measures. Work is ongoing to improve the effectiveness of the portfolios.

External factors also influence business achievements. Challenges identified via the National Chairs group in taking forward CPC business are:

- Degree of uncertainty over remit of CPC's
- Confusion over relationship with Children's Services Planning
- Lack of clarity on how CPC's are positioned, and their relationship with Chief Officers Groups
- Current guidance being insufficient

The HMIE Child Protection Inspection reports from Aberdeenshire and other CPC areas have been placed on the NESPC website and messages from these reports are being shared through NESPC training.

Awareness about the inspection process has been promoted and learning from the inspection preparation in Aberdeenshire shared with Moray and Aberdeen City.

During 2007-2008 a significant amount of work has been done in relation to the Significant Case Reviews process. A Protocol, Terms of Reference, Communications Strategy and Referral form has been produced. Guidance for staff involved in the process is in draft form. A Person Specification for Chairs of reviews is in draft form and training for Chairs and review members is being arranged focusing on applying Root Cause Analysis theory and processes.

In the last year there have been 6 Significant Case reviews ongoing within the NESPC area. Of these, 2 have now been completed, 2 are in final draft stages awaiting ratification, 1 has been deferred because of ongoing criminal proceedings and 1 is ongoing. The challenge for the NESPC now is to put learning into practice and actions are being taken forward initially via the Operations and Practice portfolio.

*The challenge for this business year is to continue the process of self-evaluation so that evidence is gathered from a range of sources about the impact of NESPC activities on services and children and young people. This work will be further developed via the Continuous Improvement Portfolio.*

### **3.21 Policies, Procedures and Protocols**

***"Each CPC will ensure that constituent agencies have in place their own up to date policies and procedures; regularly develop, disseminate and review inter-agency policies and procedures; and ensure that protocols are developed around key issues where there is agreement that this is required."*** (Functions of a Child Protection Committee: 2005, (3.5)

The NESPC has produced:

- The newly revised NESPC Guidelines. They were launched in September 2007 and 15,000 hard copies were disseminated throughout all agencies. The guidelines are freely available for downloading from the NESPC website and advice has also been widely circulated to note that these Guidelines will be reviewed every 6 months and updated and any future amendments will be made electronically
- The 'Getting Our Priorities Right' pack which contains an updated and revised 'Framework for Reducing the Harm'; new Inter-Agency Guidelines; a Pregnancy Protocol; a copy of the National SCODA Assessment Tool and a copy of a Consent and Confidentiality leaflet. This has been produced in hard copies, but is also available for downloading from the NESPC Website. The pack is further supported by a linked awareness raising programme to be carried out by STRADA in the NESPC area
- A check list for agencies/services developing child protection policy/procedures as a support tool/guide, available on our website

- Guidance and protocols, in relation to Initial and Significant Case Reviews, is available on the NESCPCC Website
- Guidance in relation to 'Working with unco-operative families' is currently in draft form and on completion will be available on the NESCPCC Website

*The challenge for the NESCPCC is to more fully involve key stakeholders such as practitioners in developing and reviewing guidelines and protocols and evaluate their impact on practice.*

### **3.22 Information Management**

***"CPCs will have an overview of management information from all key agencies about their work to protect children and young people. Each CPC will have an overview of information relating to children and young people on the register; receive regular management information reports, which include analysis of trends; identify and address implications of these reports for services; and ensure that these reports inform child protection strategy."*** (Functions of a Child Protection Committee: 2005, (3.6))

A new prototype Child Protection Register is currently in situ within the NESCPCC office and this is fed by information from the three Local Authorities Social Work Information Systems. This should ensure that there are no delays in placing children's names on the Register and should provide further relevant data on children 'at risk'. A pilot period is due to commence in May 2008 and will be reviewed in August 2008. Regular monthly audits on the Child Protection Register continue to monitor accuracy of information input.

The NESCPCC is part of the ongoing working group to progress Child Protection Messaging.

The NESCPCC office maintains a log of requests received, such as those for the NESCPCC guidelines, training places, pocket booklets and other associated leaflets to assist in evaluating the distribution process, identifying need and ensuring that information is widely available.

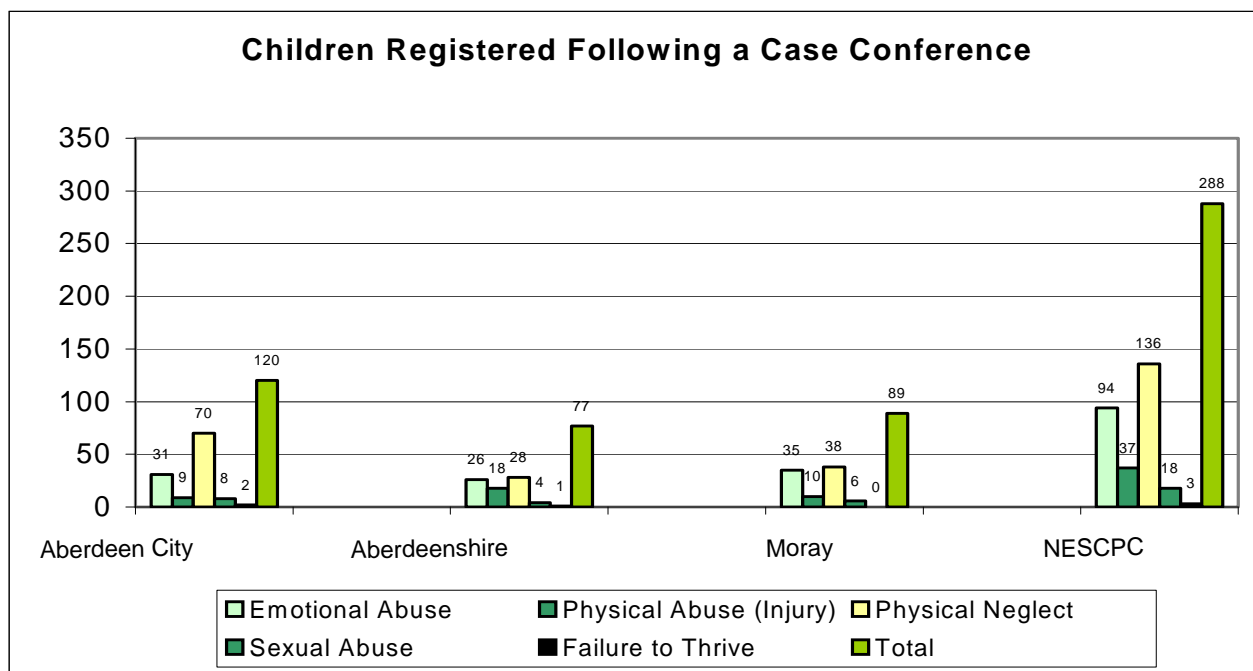
The following statistics help the NESCPCC consider local trends in relation to referrals, case conferences and registration and comparisons are made with the national picture.

### **3.23 Child Protection Statistics: April 2007 to March 2008**

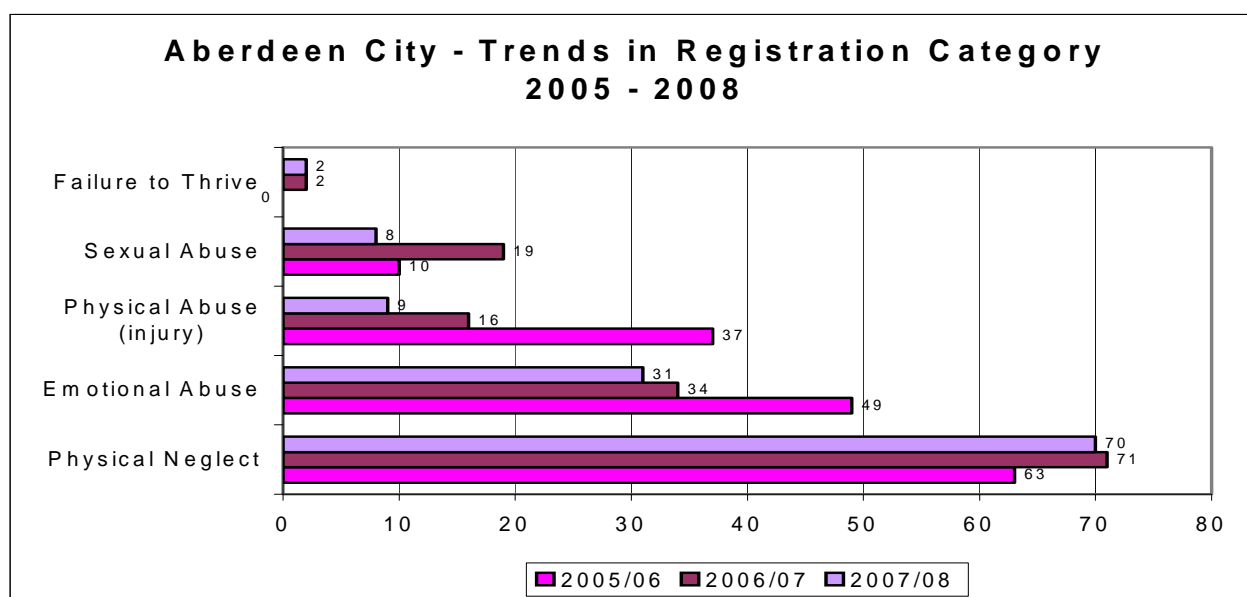
**Table 1.1 Children registered following a case conference: by category of abuse/risk identified by conference as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008**

	<b>Aberdeen City</b>	<b>Aberdeenshire</b>	<b>Moray</b>	<b>NESCPCC</b>
<b>Emotional Abuse</b>	31	26	35	94
<b>Physical Abuse (Injury)</b>	9	18	10	37
<b>Physical Neglect</b>	70	28	38	136
<b>Sexual Abuse</b>	8	4	6	18
<b>Failure to thrive</b>	2	1	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>288</b>

**Table 1.2 Children Registered Following A Case Conference**

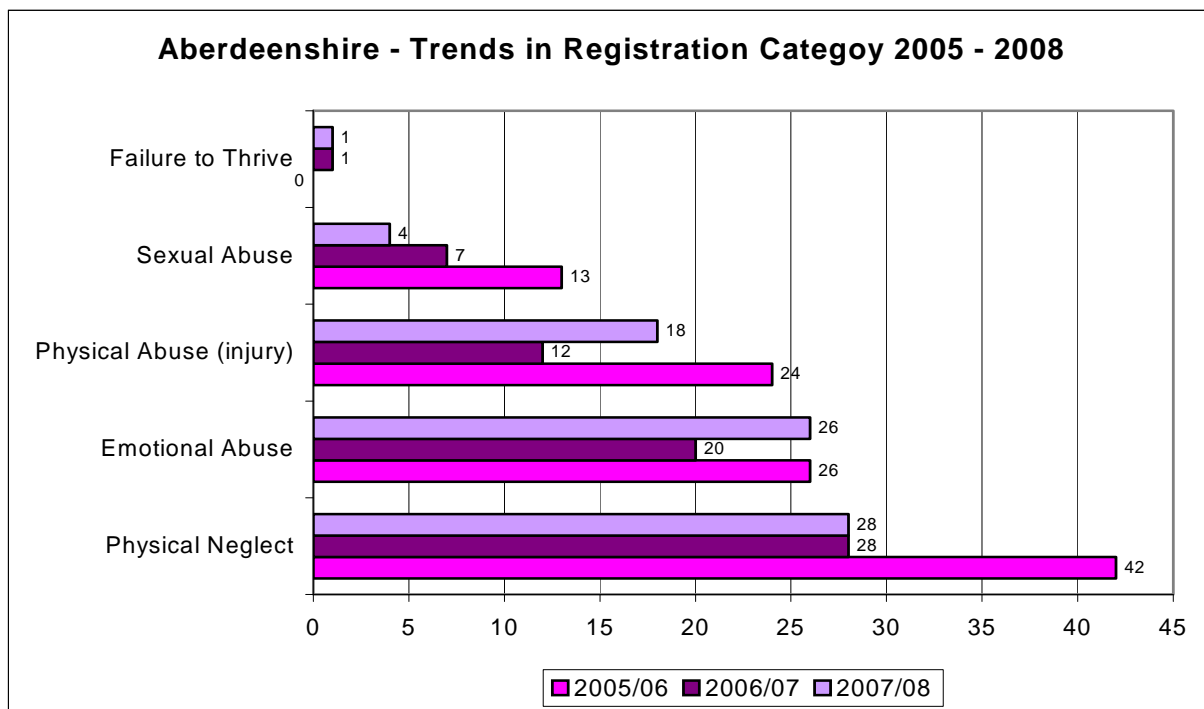


**Table 1.3 Aberdeen City Trends**



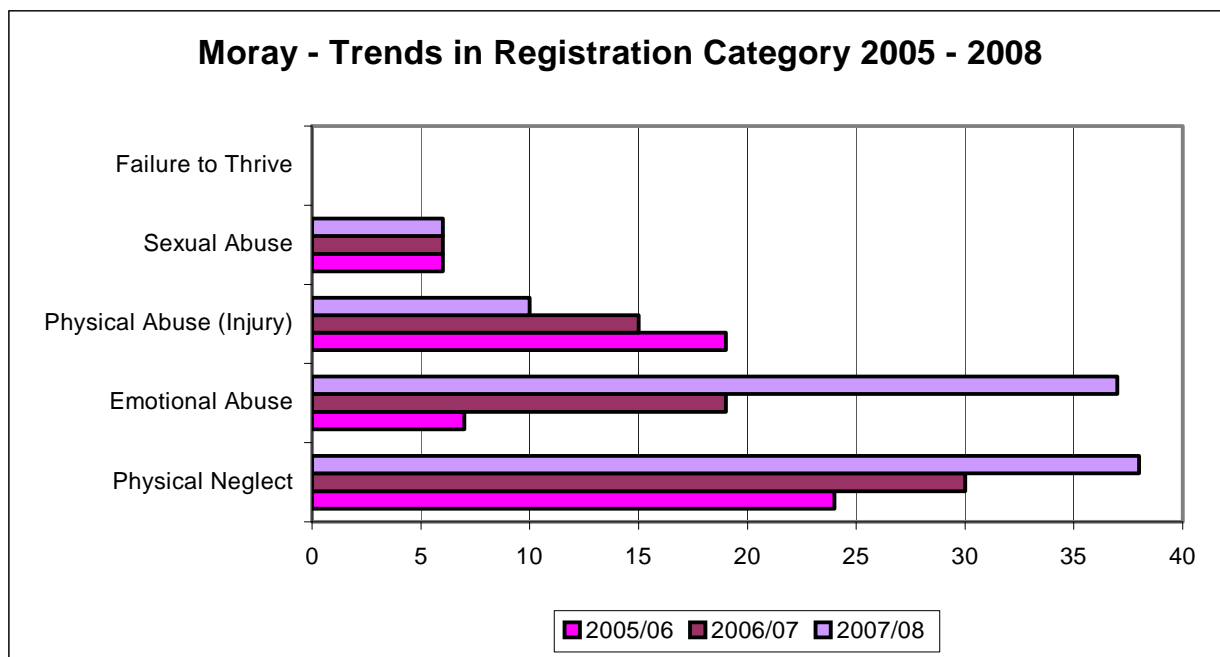
Physical Neglect remains the highest category of Registration in Aberdeen City whilst the number of children registered under Physical Abuse has dropped down from 37 cases in 2005/6 to 9 registrations as at the end of March 2008. The number of Sexual Abuse registrations has decreased by more than half compared to last year when 19 cases were recorded as opposed to 8 this year. Emotional Abuse has taken a slight drop with 31 cases compared to 34 in 2006/07.

**Table 1.4 Aberdeenshire Trends**



Physical Neglect remains static and is the highest category of registration within Aberdeenshire, recording 28 cases, the same amount as last year. Both Emotional and Physical Abuse categories have increased this year with a 30% rise in the number of Emotional Abuse cases and a 50% increase in Physical Abuse to 18 whilst there is a 42% decrease in the number of sexual abuse cases recorded.

**Table 1.5 - Moray Trends**



Physical Neglect registrations have seen a rise of 26%, from 30 to 38 in Moray over the last year. The number of Emotional Abuse registrations has almost doubled from 19 to 35 whilst Physical Abuse has dropped by a third. Sexual Abuse has remained static over the last three years with 6 recorded cases.

**Table 1.6 Number of children on child protection registers 2002-2008 by local authority**

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
<b>Aberdeen City</b>	120	142	159	149	150	163	176
<b>Aberdeenshire</b>	77	68	105	108	104	112	113
<b>Moray</b>	89	70	56	68	45	33	28
<b>NESCPC</b>	286	280	319	325	299	308	317
<b>Scotland</b>	N/a	2593	2288	2157	2245	2289	2018

**Table 1.7 Children de-registered during year by length of time on Register**

<b>Time on Register</b>	<b>Aberdeen City</b>	<b>Aberdeenshire</b>	<b>Moray</b>	<b>NESCPC</b>
<b>Under 6 months</b>	14	4	6	24
<b>6 months – 1 year</b>	47	23	32	102
<b>1 year – 2 years</b>	99	28	29	156
<b>2 years +</b>	19	13	8	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>322</b>

### **City**

Children de-registered from the Child Protection Register after being on for 1–2 years remains the highest group at 99 cases, which has also been the highest group over the last 3 years. In 2003/04 there were also 179 de-registrations in the City however, there is a marked difference between the number de-registered after 6 months, with 76 in 2003/04 compared and 14 this year. All time periods have seen a decrease in the number of registrations and de-registrations, the most noticeable being in the 6 months – 1 year category recording 66 last year compared to 47 this year.

### **Shire**

There were 66 de-registrations in the Shire this year compared to 93 in 2006/07, a decrease of 40.9%. As with the City, the highest group de-registered are those removed after being on the Register for a period of 1 – 2 years. However, the numbers of this group have halved with 28 instances compared to 56 last year. The group registered for 6 months – 1 year time period has seen an increase of 43.75% rising from 16 to 23.

### **Moray**

Moray has had 75 de-registrations compared to 55 in 2006/07. Unlike City and Shire, the highest de-registration for Moray Children is the 6 months – 1 year timescale, rising by 37% from 20 to 32. De-registrations after 6 months double this year from 3 to 6 instances, whilst there is a rise of a third from 6 to 8 for children being de-registered after 2 years.

**Table 1.8 Number of children on child protection registers: by gender and age group as 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008**

	Aberdeen City			Aberdeenshire			Moray			NESPCPC		
	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M
<b>0 – 4 years</b>	75	40	35	32	12	20	41	20	21	149	73	76
<b>5 – 10 years</b>	32	13	19	27	12	15	27	15	12	87	41	46
<b>11 – 13 years</b>	9	5	4	15	7	8	13	6	7	37	18	19
<b>14 – 16 years</b>	4	1	3	3	1	2	8	4	4	4	1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>148</b>

### City

The 0–4 age group remains the highest category although this is a decrease of 14.7% with 88 being recorded in 2006/07 and 75 this year. There has also been a decrease in the number recorded in the 5–10 age group, dropping from 39 last year to 32. Of these, 6 more males were recorded than female, which makes this the highest difference in gender value for this City this year. The lowest recorded age group, as with Shire and Moray, is the 14–16 year olds, which had 4 cases.

### Shire

Whilst the 5–10 and 14–16 age groups in the Shire have remained static at 27 and 3 respectively, there is an increase of 66.6% in the number of 11–13 year olds recorded, these have risen from 9 to 15. The biggest difference in gender value is in the 0-4 age group, of 32 cases 12 are female compared to 20 males. In line with the other 2 local authorities, Shire's lowest age group number is 14 – 16 year olds with 3 cases.

### Moray

As with Shire and City, Moray's largest age group on the Register is the 0–4 year olds with 41 cases, which are of similar gender value. This category has increased by 22.5%, rising from 34 to 41 recorded cases this year. All age categories have increased which reflects the difference of 19 more registrations in Moray compared to last year. There is a 62.5% increase in the 11–13 age group, rising from 8 to 13. However, the largest rise is in the 14–16 with 8 recorded cases as opposed to 3 in 2006/07.

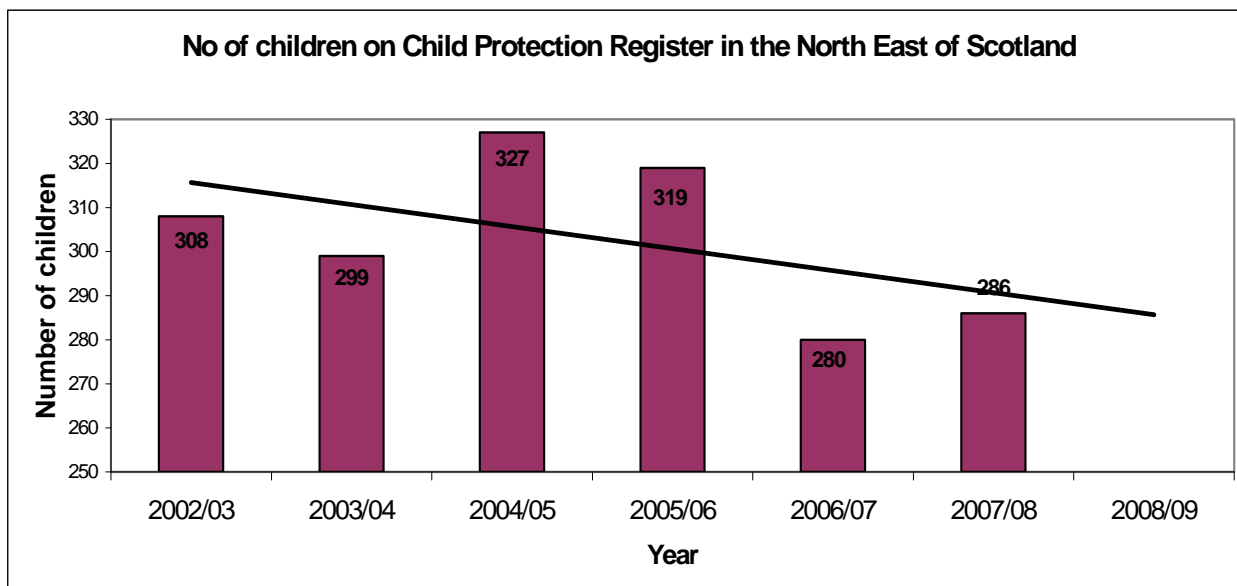
**Table 1.9 Numbers of children referred, subject to a case conference, registered, de-registered and on child protection registers by local authority between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008**

	No. of Referrals	No. Subject to ICPC	No. of New Registrations	No of De-Registrations	On Register at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2007	**% on CPR per 1000 Local Authority population of children
<b>Aberdeen City</b>	1430	173	155	179	120	0.57%
<b>Aberdeenshire</b>	1345	93	79	68	77	0.34%
<b>Moray</b>	534	92	94*	75	89	1.02%
<b>NESPCPC</b>	3309	358	328	322	286	1.93%
<b>Scotland</b>	11960	4608	3133	3084	2593	

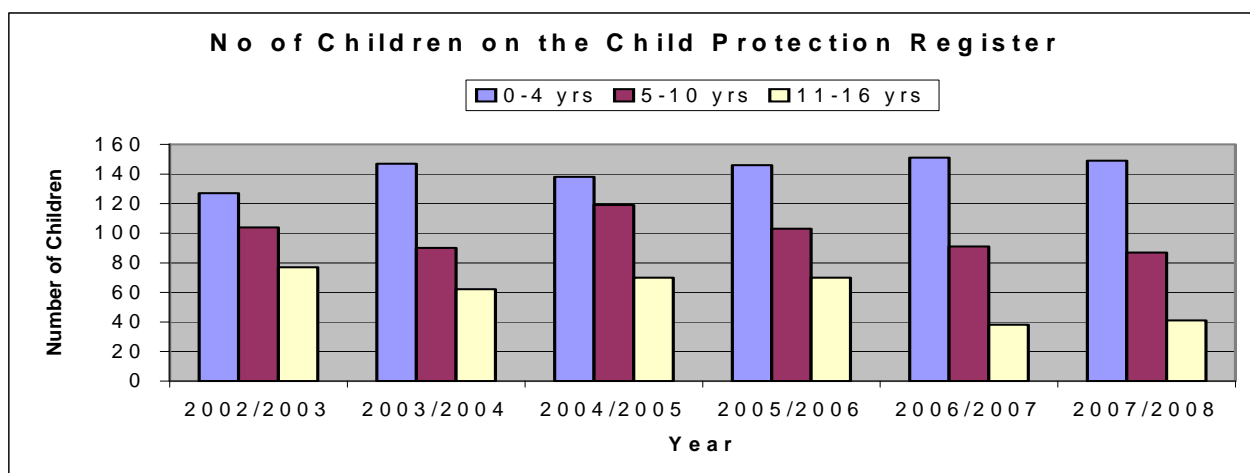
\*92 case conferences were held and 94 children were registered – 2 children were not subject to a case conference in this local authority as they were registered in a temporary capacity.

\*\*Population as at 2001 census

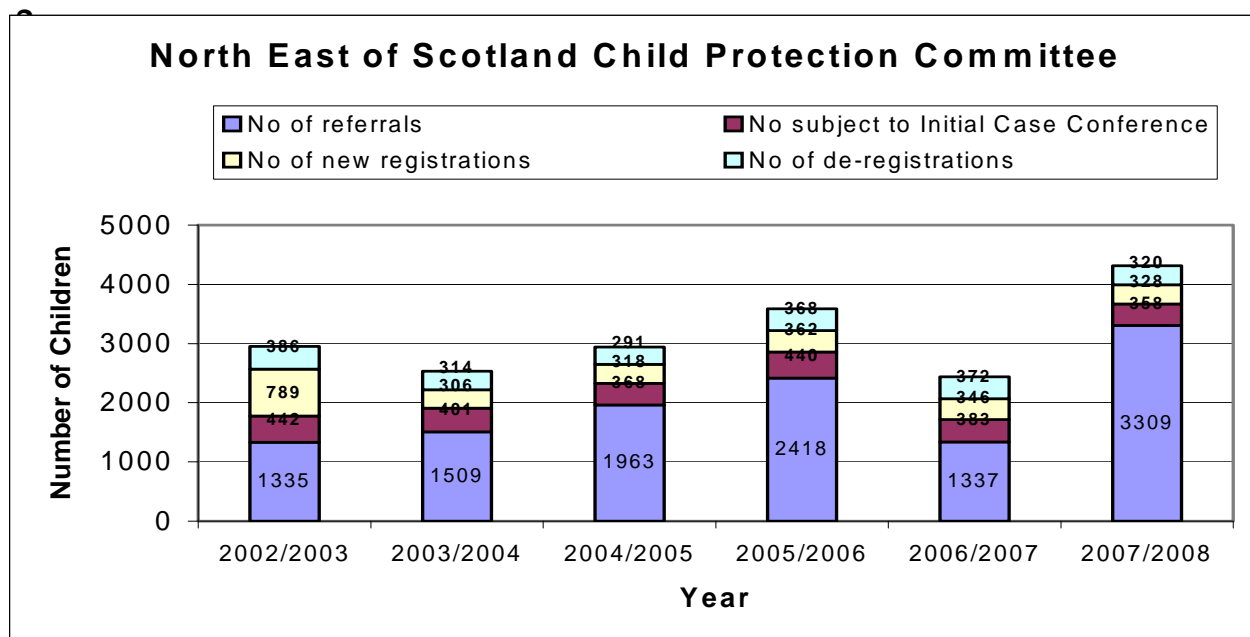
**Table 2.0 No of Children on CP Register**



**Table 2.1 No of Children on Child Protection Register 2002-2008**



**Table 2.2 Referrals/New Registrations/Initial Case Conferences/De-registrations 2002-2008**



### 3.24 Child Protection: Comparative Trends

Across Scotland in 2006/07, there were 11,960 child protection referrals (an increase of 13% compared with 2005/06), of which 4,608 (39% of all child protection referrals) resulted in an inter-agency case conference (compared with 38% in 2005/06).

Of the 4,608 case conferences, there were 3,148 registrations (68% of all case conferences) on to local child protection registers (compared with 70% in 2005/06).

There were 3,084 de-registrations from local child protection registers in 2006/07.

Across the North East of Scotland in 2006/07, there were 1337 child protection referrals (a reduction of 45% compared with 2005/06), of which 383 (29% of all child protection referrals) resulted in an inter-agency case conference (compared with 18% in 2005/06).

This is in contrast with the upward national trend for referrals and also reveals a lower conversion rate to case conferences than the national trend.

Of the 383 case conferences, there were 346 registrations (90% of all case conferences) on to the child protection register (compared with 82% in 2005/06).

There were 372 de-registrations from local child protection registers in 2006/07, a similar number to 2005/06.

The percentage levels of registrations from case conferences exceeds national trends and has increased during 2006/07 compared to the previous year, which contrasts with national downward trends in this area.

**Table 2.3 Children Recorded on the Child Protection Register Affected by Parental Substance Misuse or Domestic Abuse as at 31.03.08**

	<b>Aberdeen City</b>	<b>Moray</b>	<b>Aberdeenshire</b>
<b>Drugs</b>	50 (41.6%)	43	20
<b>Alcohol</b>	24 (20%)	40	19
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	11 (9.1%)	10	13
<b>Total affected by Substance Misuse and Domestic Abuse</b>	85 (70.8%)	93* (includes total of 16 who use both drugs and alcohol)	52 (67.5%)
<b>Total on Register</b>	120	89	77

*The challenge for the NESPC is to decide what management information it needs from all key agencies about their work to protect children and young people. Reports should include analysis of trends. This overview can then inform the interagency child protection strategy.*

### 3.25 Quality Assurance

***"Whilst individual agencies have responsibilities for quality assurance within their own agencies, CPCs have responsibilities for the development and implementation of interagency quality assurance mechanisms. Each CPC will agree, implement and review quality assurance mechanisms for inter-agency work including auditing against the Framework for Standards; ensure that quality assurance mechanisms directly contribute to the continuous improvement of services to protect children and young people; report on the outcome of these activities, and make recommendations, to the Chief Officer Group, who are accountable overall for the quality of services including child protection." (Functions of a Child Protection Committee: 2005, (3.7)***

Multi-agency working is examined via:

- The Significant Case Review process. This has enabled the NESCPCC to examine multi-agency working in relation to a small number of cases
- The HMIE inspection process. During 2008-2009 further NESCPCC actions will be taken forward via Aberdeen City and Moray Council's inspections
- Self-evaluation. This, in terms of multi-agency working, is at an early stage and is a priority area of work for the NESCPCC. Information on both the level and quality of multi-agency work is required

Promotion of Good Practice is via:

- Learning from internal and external Initial Reviews and Significant Case Reviews. Recommendations for interagency working are being taken forward via the Operations and Practice and Training portfolios. Any related practice changes will be incorporated into inter-agency guidelines when next reviewed
- Action plans from HMIE inspection reports
- The newly revised NESCPCC guidelines. This includes updated information on information sharing and consent, updated information on individual agency roles and responsibilities and new information on the roles and responsibilities of workers within adult services such as social work criminal justice services and adult mental health services. There is new information about High Risk Offenders and Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements. The updated guidance places a strong emphasis on shared decision making when there are concerns about a child or young person
- All NESCPCC training sessions
- The NESCPCC pocket booklet, "Keeping Children Safe in the North East of Scotland" was distributed to staff from all agencies, across the NESCPCC area, with the aim of increasing awareness and raising the profile of child protection
- The recent publication of the NESCPCC "Getting Our Priorities Right" Pack, will further promote good practice in terms of the identification, recording and assessment of children affected by substance misuse
- The NESCPCC Child Protection Policy checklist is accessible via the NESCPCC website and paper copies have been widely distributed
- Workshops within NESCPCC Conference in relation to communicating with children who have disabilities
- The ongoing development of local inter-agency protocols

*The challenge for the NESCPCC is to develop and implement inter-agency quality assurance mechanisms for inter-agency work and ensure that these contribute to the continuous improvement of services to protect children and young people.*

### **3.26 Training and Staff Development**

***"Training and staff development for those working with children and families must be undertaken at both a single agency and interagency level, particularly in respect of child protection. CPCs are responsible for promoting, commissioning and assuring the quality and delivery of inter-agency training."*** (*Functions of a Child Protection Committee: 2005, (3.9)*)

One of the key functions of the NESCPCC is to provide and support a range of multi-agency Child Protection training across the local area. The training is delivered in line with the national framework and this allows staff to attend the level of training that best suits their needs. A training programme is produced and disseminated on a six monthly basis.

The NESCPCC was not able to provide a full programme of training in 2007-2008 as there was no Training Co-ordinator in post from May until September 2007. A review of the programme has taken place and a new programme produced in January 2008.

Training follows an agreed 3 level strategy:

**Level 1** - Basic Awareness (Single Agency)

The delivery of Basic Awareness level Child protection training is the responsibility of each individual agency. In order to assist training provision the NESPC will continue with its 'Training for Trainers' courses.

**Level 2** - Foundation (multi-agency)

These courses provide a more detailed introduction to issues relating to multi-agency working in the field of child protection. The courses are relevant to staff who have regular contact with children

**Level 3** - Specialist and Advanced (multi-agency)

This level incorporates tiers 3&4 of the national training framework. These courses focus on more specialist and advanced areas of multi-agency working with child protection. They are appropriate for staff members who have a clear role relating to child protection

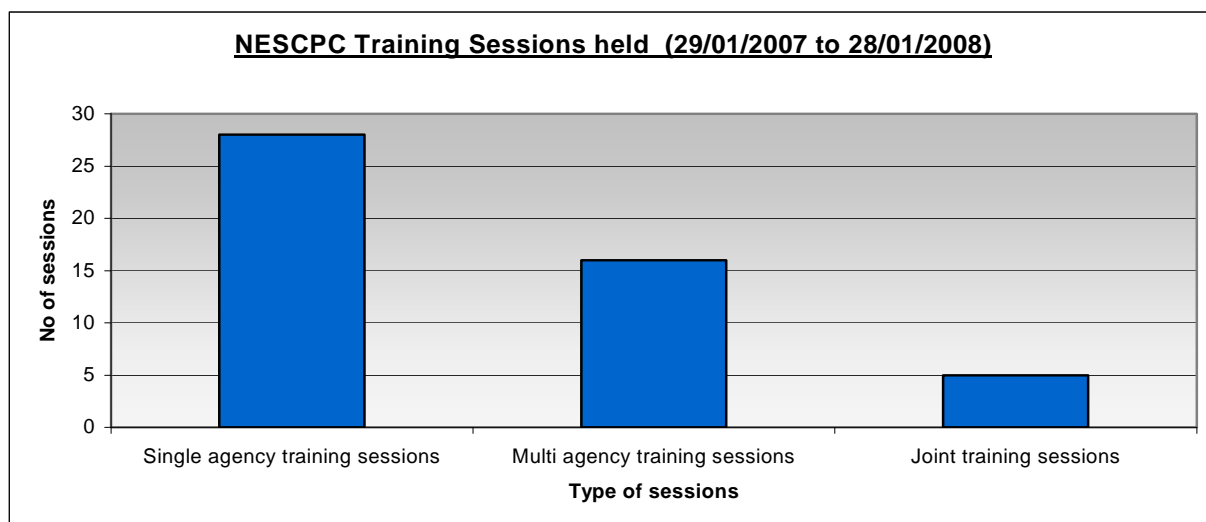
**3.27 NESPC Training Statistics**

During the period 03/03/2007 to 03/03/2008, the NESPC delivered 51 training sessions across the three local authority areas.

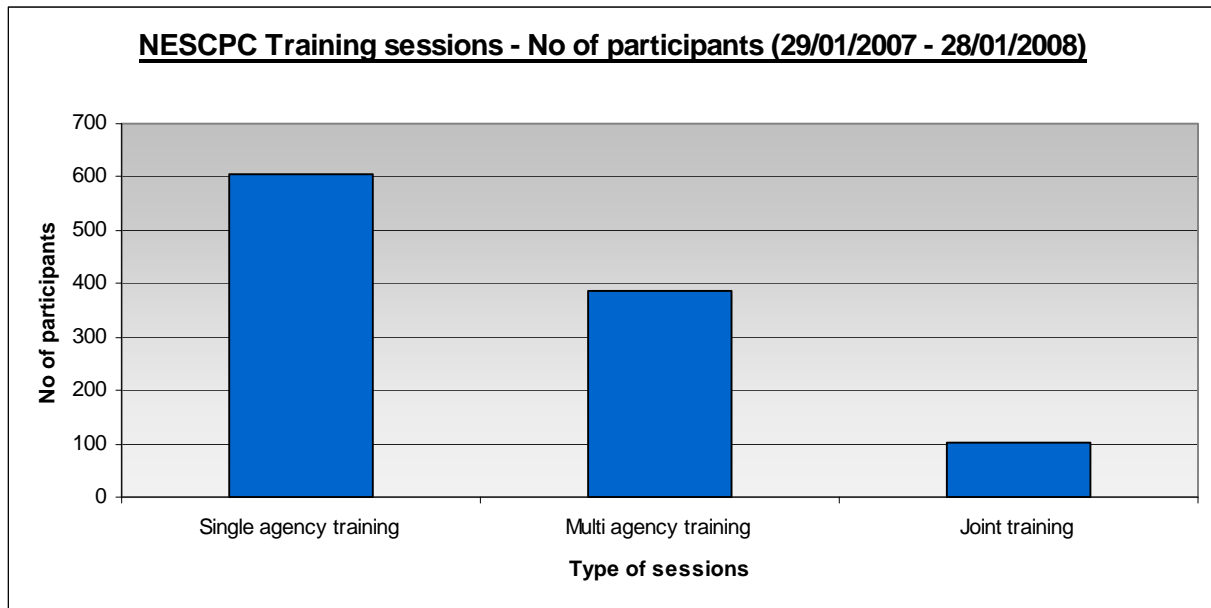
This comprised of 28 single agency training sessions, 17 multi-agency training sessions and 5 joint training sessions (Police & Social Work).

In total, 1104 people attended the various NESPC training courses. An average of 22 people attended each of the sessions.

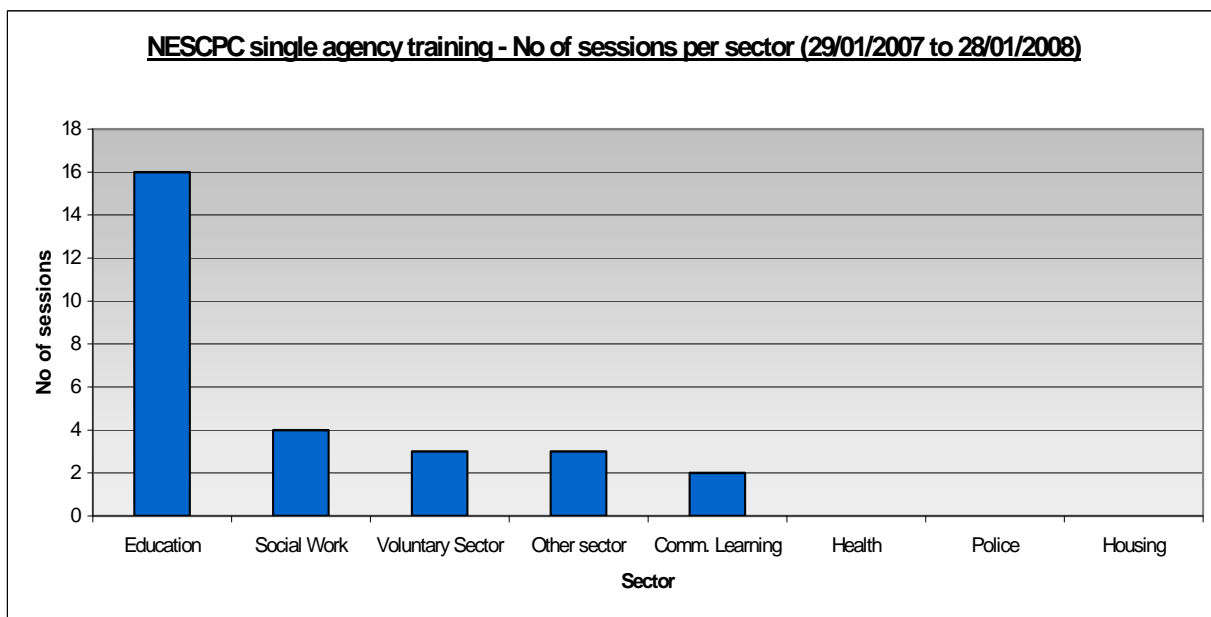
**Table 1.0 Breakdown of all NESPC training provision by session type and number of sessions**



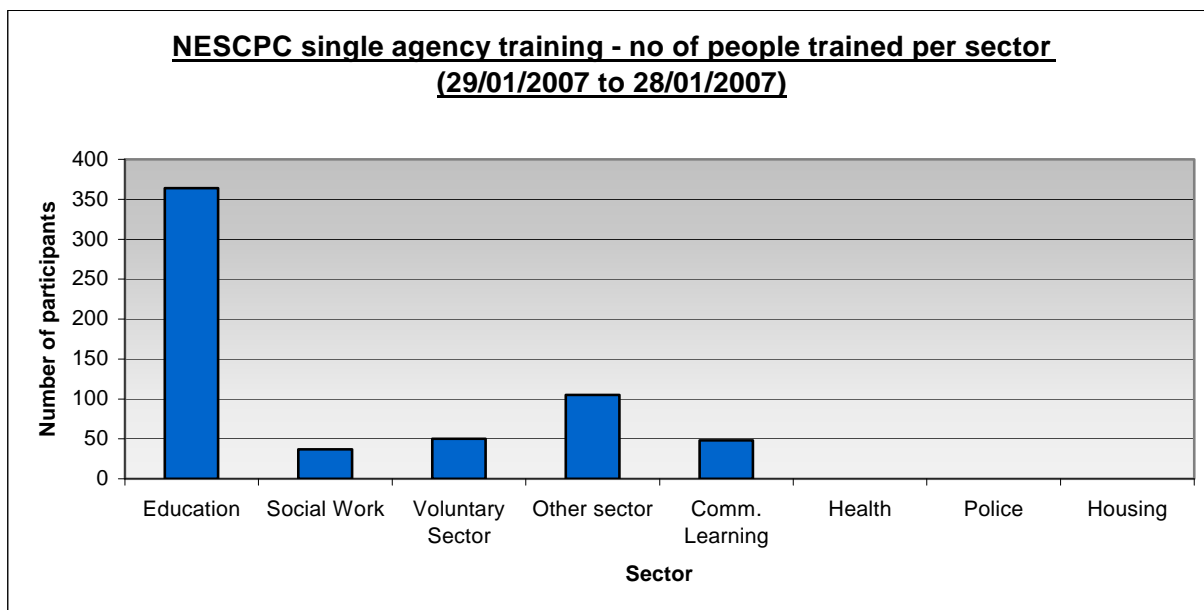
**Table 1.1 Breakdown of NESPC Training provision by session type and number of participants**



**Table 1.2 Breakdown of single agency NESPC training provision by sector and number of sessions**

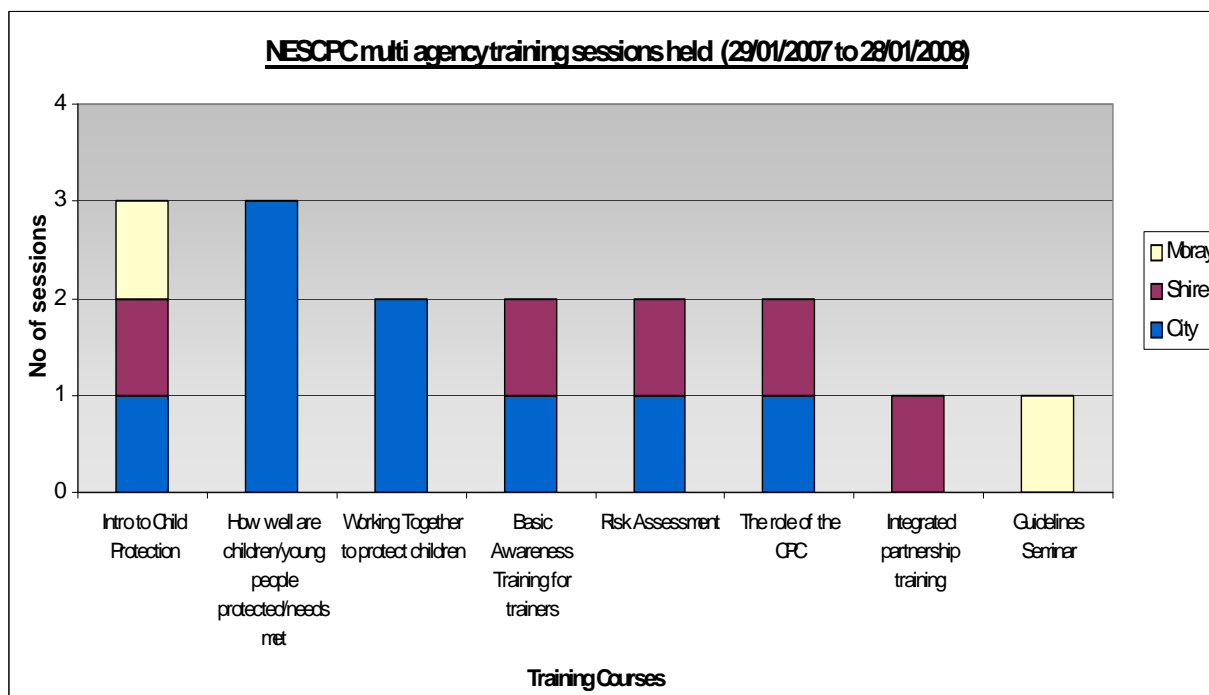


**Table 1.3 Breakdown of single agency NESPC training provision by sector and number of participants**

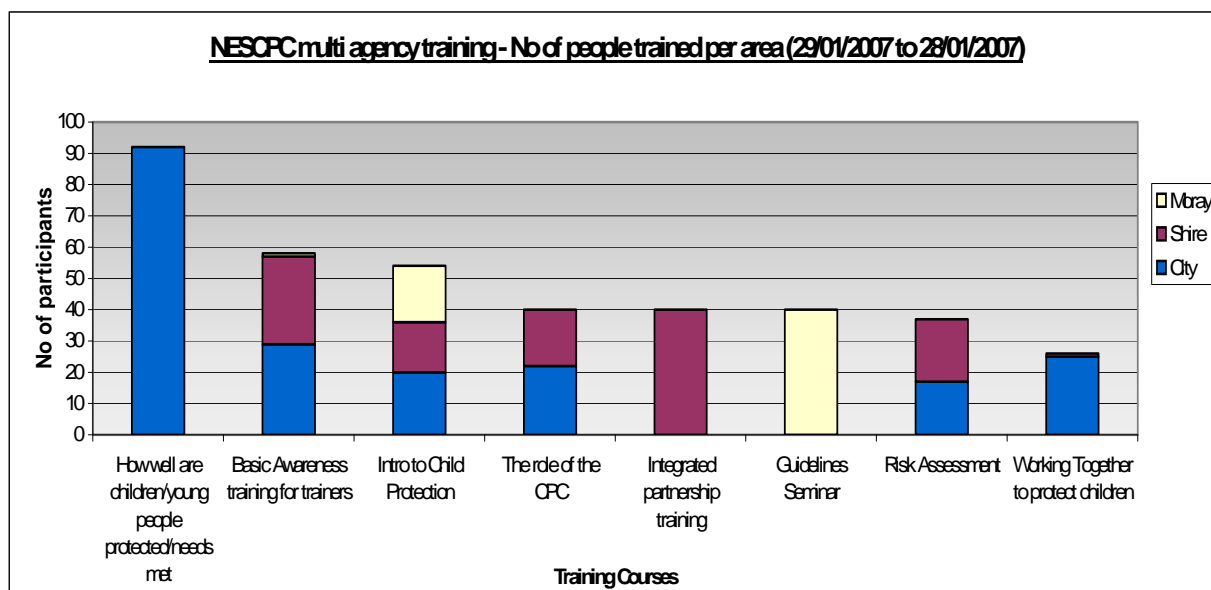


**Table 1.4 NESPC multi-agency training provision by course title and no of sessions**

The 16 multi-agency training sessions delivered by the NESPC comprised of 8 different session titles.



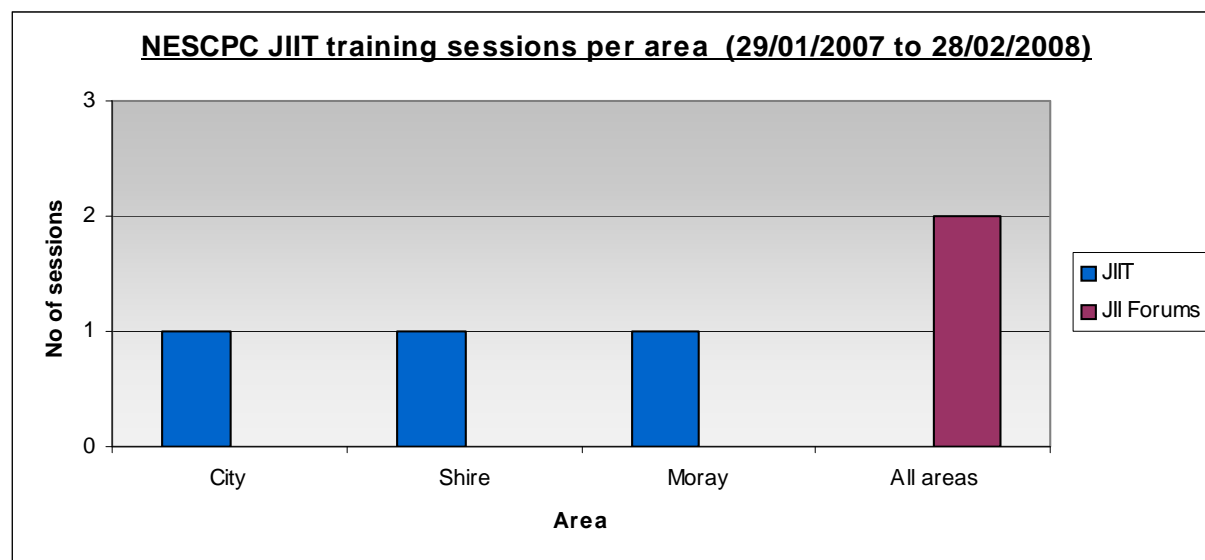
**Table 1.5 NESPC multi-agency training provision by course title and number of participants**



In total there were 387 attendees at the 16 various NESPC multi-agency training sessions.

There would appear to be available course evaluations for 10 of the completed multi-agency training sessions. This information has also been presented for HMIE. A further 3 of the sessions have been evaluated as part of the wider event which the session contributed towards.

**Table 1.6 Joint investigative interview courses by local authority area and number of sessions**



All of the five sessions that were delivered jointly to Police and Social Work focused on the subject of joint investigative interview training.

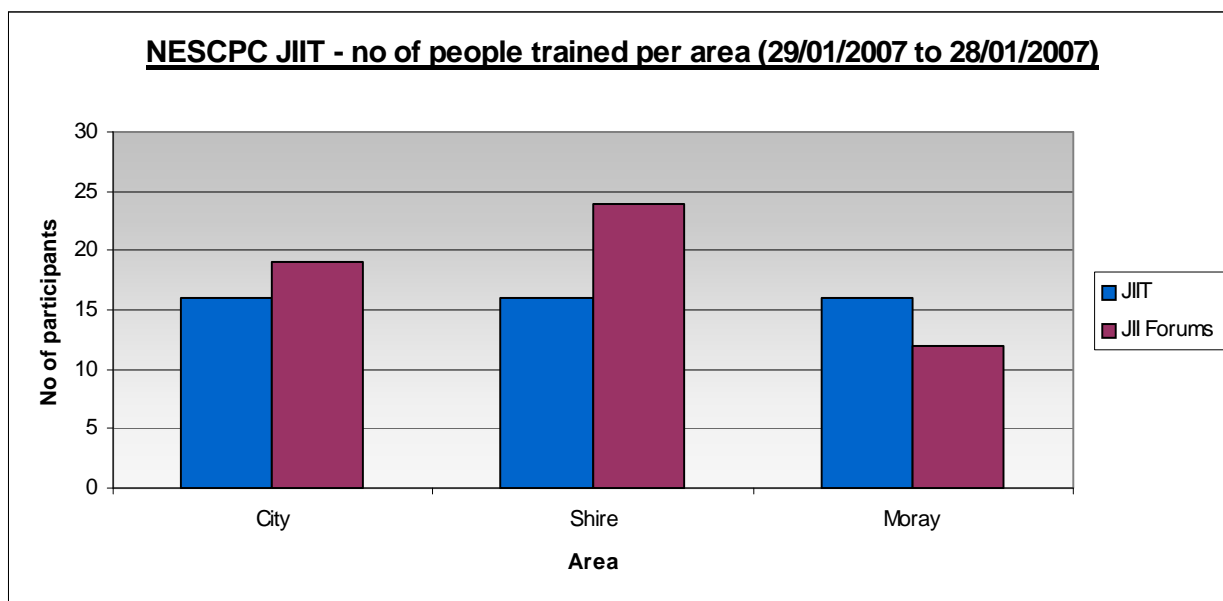
Each of the sessions were delivered on behalf of the NESPC by trained practitioners. The JIIT courses were delivered in accordance with national guidance.

Three of the five sessions comprised of the full week long JIIT course. One course was run in each of the three local authority areas. Each course provided sixteen places (eight Police & eight SW).

Two of the five sessions comprised of a one day JIIT forum. Both of these courses took place in Aberdeen but were open to practitioners from all three of the local authority areas (both Police and SW staff).

The two forums were attended by a total of 55 practitioners. This included 24 Police staff and 31 SW staff. Of these SW staff, 8 came from Moray, 8 came from Aberdeen and 15 came from Aberdeenshire.

**Table 1.7 Joint Investigative Interview courses by local authority area and number of participants (Police & SW)**



All training, as previously stated, is now evaluated using pre-course, at course and post course forms with the aim of evaluating the impact of the training on work practice. Training also endeavours to take account of both national and local issues and developments and the Training Co-ordinator and other NESCPC staff further contribute and gain in this process by their involvement in wider local and national groups.

### 3.28 Staff Development

A Development Day for CPC members was held in January this year and this was well attended and enabled a review of the business planning process and portfolio arrangements.

The Induction Pack for new CPC members and new office staff is regularly updated and is available to all on the website. Any new members are offered one to one induction with a member of the NESCPC Office.

Of particular note this year was the hugely successful National NESCPC Conference 'Securing a Protective Environment for Children and Young People with Disabilities' in March of this year. This gave delegates the opportunity to explore deeper insight into this field and the NESCPC was very fortunate to have the expertise of Kathleen Marshall, Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland and Colwyn Trewarthen, Professor (Emeritus) of Child Psychology and Psychobiology as main speakers. There was additional expertise from a wide variety of professionals within the associated six workshops. A small number of parents attended the conference and an awareness raising session is planned for a larger number of parents after this need was identified by a parent representative.

Delegate evaluation was extremely positive and included areas for development when organising future conferences.

*The training statistics give quantitative information but the challenge for the NESCPC is to evaluate the impact of all the training programmes on practice so that professionals work together better to improve outcomes for children.*

### 3.3 Strategic Planning

***"The NESPC is the key local body in terms of the planning of child protection work. This needs to be done in conjunction with other planning mechanisms and priorities, in particular integrated children's services planning and community planning." (Functions of a Child Protection Committee: 2005, (3.10)***

#### 3.31 Communications and Co-operation

- The NESPC committee members and office staff participate in a wide range of relevant single and multi-agency meetings relating to child protection
- Members of the NESPC regularly liaise and meet with other CPC colleagues throughout Scotland to enable networking and sharing of practice issues
- The NESPC has actively contributed to the development work preceding the launch of the Child Protection Helpline, having piloted the initial line and are now supporting the Scottish Government and other partner CPCs in the national rollout and ongoing implementation and monitoring of the associated processes
- The Chair of the NESPC and the Lead Officer are members of the National Chairs and Lead Officers Group that also includes members of the Scottish Government. The Lead Officer belongs to a national Lead Officer network and both these forums give opportunities to debate national issues and share knowledge and learning with other CPCs
- Many members of the NESPC are also members of their own associated professional groups, so extending the link with a wide ranging list of relevant professional working groups, again supporting and enabling wider communication on child protection matters
- The NESPC website is a key source of child protection information and minutes of CPC meetings are available on the website. There are hyperlinks to a wide variety of relevant associated sites
- Within the NESPC area an example of good communication and co-operation is the recent sharing of the communication processes that Aberdeenshire Local Authority developed and implemented for its HMIE child protection inspection. Much of this work was then shared and passed on for use by both Aberdeen City and Moray
- Links have been strengthened between the Voluntary Sector and the NESPC via the newly formed Voluntary Sector Forum. Three road shows have taken place within each of the 3 Local Authorities. One of the outcomes of this Forum has been to propose increasing Voluntary representation on the NESPC from 1 member to 3 members

#### 3.32 Planning and Connections

***"Each CPC will demonstrate effective communication and co-operation at CPC level; identify and, wherever possible, resolve any issues between agencies in relation to the protection of children and young people; demonstrate effective communication about the work of the CPC with staff in constituent agencies." (Functions of a Child Protection Committee: 2005, (3.12)***

The Chief Officers group meet quarterly to discuss NESPC business. The Chair of the NESPC is also a member of the Chief Officers group. This group ensures appropriate links with other planning fora, in particular the structures for children's services planning across the three local authority areas. The NESPC is accountable to the Chief Officers group.

The NESPC business planning arrangements mean that the main work is done via 6 portfolios. Portfolio holders meet quarterly to ensure that child protection business/issues are shared and debated across the three local authority areas. Portfolio leads in turn link with the local authority multi-agency child protection groups. Chairs of the Local Authority child protection groups attend main CPC meetings, thus communication is a two way process.

The NESCPD pocket booklet was produced as a result of a need identified by the Aberdeen City Practice group.

Each of the three local authority areas have set up multi-agency groups in relation to the HMIe child protection inspections and NESCPD office staff attend these meetings to represent the NESCPD as appropriate.

The NESCPD, in conjunction with the three local area Drug and Alcohol Action Teams in Moray, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire, have produced the Getting Our Priorities Right Pack containing guidance and assessment tools. This group has commissioned training/awareness raising from STRADA (Scottish Training on Drugs and Alcohol) and this is due to be delivered later this year.

As stated in the above section, a pan Grampian Voluntary Sector Forum has recently been established.

*The challenge for the NESCPD is to ensure that effective links are in place with relevant multi-agency partnerships and structures.*

## **4.0 Future Planning**

The NESPCPC agreed a strategic assessment planning process to assist in identifying its strategic objectives for 2008-09. Full consultation with key stakeholders was not possible due to the short timescales involved. However each portfolio lead and Local Authority sub group chair was asked to provide information about what was happening within and outside their organisations, relevant to NESPCPC business. They were also asked to consider issues relevant to their portfolios. Information was collated by the NESPCPC office and issues/themes identified for consideration by the group. The group discussed and agreed strategic priorities for 2008-09. These are listed in 4.2

### **4.1 Mission**

The group agreed that the core business of the NESPCPC continues to be about 'child protection' as opposed to the wider 'protecting children' agenda but that there should be links with other agendas such as Getting it Right for Every Child. 'Child Protection' is the recognition of, and response to, concerns that a child or young person is suffering or likely to suffer from significant harm.

The NESPCPC has agreed a mission statement to give clarity to the fundamental aim of the NESPCPC.

**This is:**

***Working in partnership, with you, to protect Grampian's children***

### **4.2 Agreed Strategic Priorities**

- To deliver a needs based training programme that is regularly evaluated to ensure that it is fit for purpose and that it positively impacts on practice
- To develop a "Risk Assessment Framework" for use by all members eg agencies that are part of the NESPCPC
- To develop a NESPCPC position in taking forward contentious issues such as under age sexual activity
- To develop and implement a strategic business planning process incorporating stakeholder engagement that identifies appropriate business priorities for the NESPCPC
- To identify, monitor and report a suite of management information that will inform the NESPCPC regarding Child Protection issues and its own performance
- To improve the Significant Case Review Process so that lessons learned are implemented the agreed NESPCPC Significant Case Review Protocol and ensure that reviews are conducted to an acceptable standard
- To provide training to review chairs in order to provide a pool of suitably qualified and experienced professionals to lead a review team
- To recommend a process to disseminate key learning from completed reviews to frontline staff that will support continuous improvement of professional practice
- To establish a self-evaluation framework whereby key NESPCPC outcomes can be assessed for their impact on children's lives
- To raise awareness of the work of the NESPCPC

# BUSINESS PLAN 2008 -2009

## 4.3 NESPC Portfolio Objectives for 2008-2009

**Priorities have been agreed by the NESPC, to be delivered via individual portfolio Action Plans and monitored by the NESPC.**

No	Portfolio	Agreed Strategic Priority	Actions
1	Reviews	Improve dissemination of key learning from completed reviews to frontline staff to support continuous improvement of professional practice	Define a process to enable dissemination of key learning from completed reviews
2	Reviews	To have a pool of qualified and experienced professionals to lead a review team	To provide training to ensure professionals are given the knowledge to enable skill development to successfully lead review teams
3	Reviews	To successfully implement the agreed NESPC Significant Case Review Protocol	Ensure that reviews are conducted to an acceptable standard.
4	Training	To provide an effective multi-agency child protection training programme	Ensure that training delivered is needs based; evaluated and regularly reviewed
5	Ops and Practice	To provide a 'Risk Assessment Framework' for all NESPC partner agencies	Research and agree a preferred model that identifies risk and develop appropriate multi-agency overarching framework to support staff in common identification of risk
6	Ops and Practice	To assist professionals in supporting children and young people at risk of issues relating to under-age sexual activity and/or sexual exploitation	Provide multi-agency guidance for professionals who have both direct and indirect contact with

No	Portfolio	Agreed Strategic Priority	Actions
			children and young people at risk of issues relating to underage sexual activity and/or sexual exploitation
7	Governance	To provide a strategic business planning process for the NESCP	Develop and implement a strategic business planning process incorporating stakeholder engagement that identifies appropriate business priorities for the NESCP
8	Governance	To inform the NESCP of its own performance in relation to child protection issues	Identify, monitor and report on an agreed suite of management information that will inform the NESCP regarding child protection issues and its own performance
9	Continuous Improvement	To establish a self evaluation framework whereby key NESCP outcomes can be assessed for their impact on children's lives	<p>The actions are to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a framework</li> <li>• Pilot the framework against the new NESCP child protection guidelines</li> </ul>
10	Communication	To raise awareness of the work of the NESCP	To raise awareness of the NESCP within communities (beginning with professionals) to enable greater understanding of the functions of the NESCP

## NESCPC MEMBERSHIP

### CHAIR

Colin McKerracher  
Chief Constable - Grampian Police  
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### VICE CHAIR

Elinor Smith  
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### PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

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John Carney  
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### OTHER MEMBERS

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Ian Wood Assistant Regional Director (The Moray Services), Aberlour  
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### **ATTENDEES AT CPC**

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Debbie Smith Development Officer, NESPC  
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David Humphrey Training Co-ordinator, NESPC  
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Mark Masson (Clerk) Committee Services Officer  
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### **NESPC Staff List**

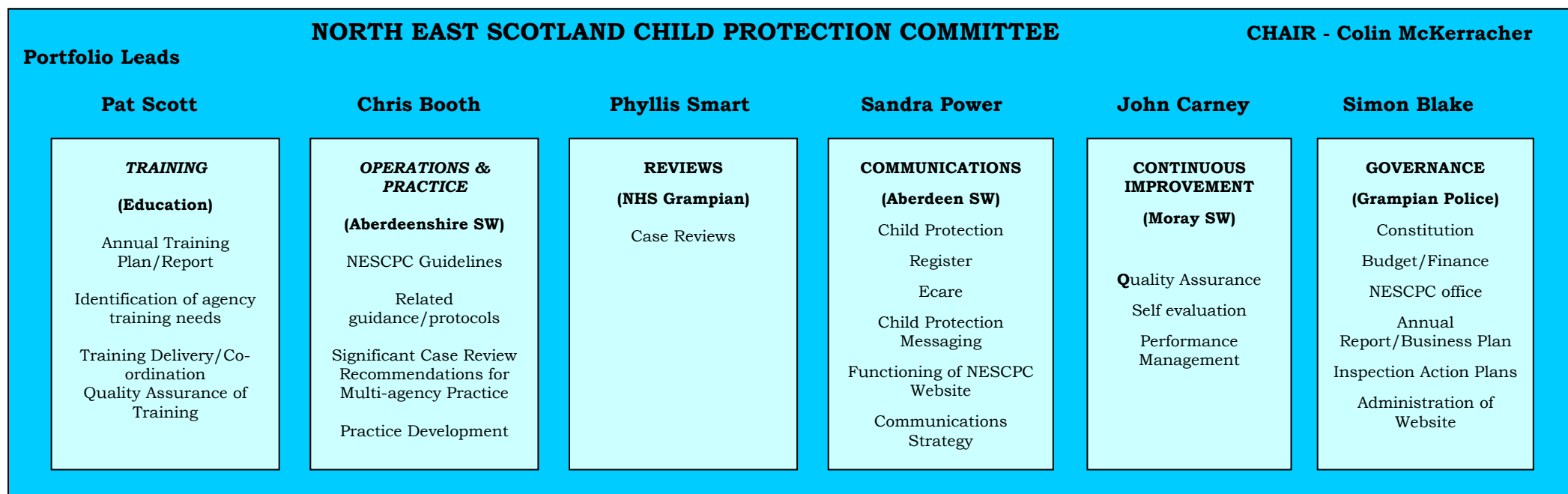
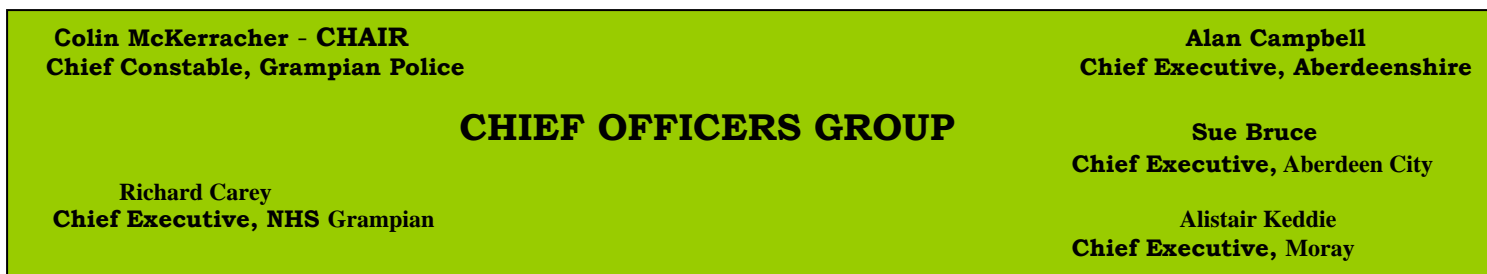
Corrine Begg - Lead Officer  
Debbie Smith - Development Officer (Child Protection)  
Dave Humphrey - Multi-Agency Training Co-ordinator (Child Protection)  
Carol Calderwood - Admin Assistant  
Vacant Post – Research Analyst  
Joan Cooke - Clerical Assistant  
Ann-Marie Park - Clerical Assistant

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Working in partnership, with you, to protect Grampian's children



**PORTFOLIO HEADS/BUSINESS MEETING**

<b>NESCPC OFFICE</b>
<p>Corinne Begg - Lead Officer</p> <p>Debbie Smith - Development Officer</p> <p>Dave Humphrey - Training Co-ordinator</p> <p>Carol Calderwood - Admin Asst /CP Register</p> <p>Vacant - Research Analyst</p> <p>Joan Cooke - Clerical Assistant</p> <p>Ann-Marie Park - Clerical Assistant</p>

<p><b>LA CPG</b> ABERDEEN Chair : Sandra Power</p>
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<p><b>LA CPG</b> ABERDEENSHIRE Chair : Bob Driscoll</p>
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<p><b>LA CPG</b> MORAY Chair : Mark Elvines</p>
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**ABERDEEN CITY - CHILD PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP****Current List of Members****Chair**

Sandra Power	Chief Social Worker, Aberdeen City Council <a href="mailto:spower@aberdeencity.gov.uk">spower@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a>
Corinne Begg	Lead Officer, NESCP,PC, <a href="mailto:cobegg@aberdeencity.gov.uk">cobegg@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a>
David Leng	Head of Service for Culture & Learning, Aberdeen City Council <a href="mailto:dleng@aberdeencity.gov.uk">dleng@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a>
Dave Tumelty	Head of Service Health & Care, Neighbourhood Services North, Aberdeen City Council <a href="mailto:dtumelty@aberdeencity.gov.uk">dtumelty@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a>
Liz Taylor	Head of Service Health & Care, Neighbourhood Services Central, Aberdeen City Council <a href="mailto:litaylor@aberdeencity.gov.uk">litaylor@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a>
Murray Leys	Head of Service Health & Social Care, Aberdeen City Council <a href="mailto:muleys@aberdeencity.gov.uk">muleys@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a>
Craig Stirrat	Head of Planning & Policy for Adult Services, Aberdeen City Council <a href="mailto:cstirrat@aberdeencity.gov.uk">cstirrat@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a>
Rhona Jarvis	Head of Planning & Policy for Services Children & Young People, Aberdeen City Council <a href="mailto:rhjarvis@aberdeencity.gov.uk">rhjarvis@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a>
Elizabeth Templeton	Reporter to the Children's Hearing <a href="mailto:elizabeth.templeton@scra.gsx.gov.uk">elizabeth.templeton@scra.gsx.gov.uk</a>
Stewart Innes	Chair of Children's Panel <a href="mailto:stewart_innes@btconnect.com">stewart_innes@btconnect.com</a>
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Vacant	SAAFA (Armed Forces Representative)

**Guidance Notes for**  
**North East of Scotland Child Protection Committee**  
**Annual Accounts 2007/08**

The table headed Summary Accounts 2007/08 shows the approved budget, actual levels of expenditure and the corresponding funding for each of the different elements shown.

The budgeted expenditure for the year amounted to £276,146. This compares to the actual expenditure of £247,894.

The Partners contributed a total of £159,459, with the remainder of the costs being funded by way of income £19,755 and from balances carried forward from previous years.

The shortfall in funding for Joint Training costs of £33,332 was met from the reserves. In addition, the Committee originally planned to spend £119,689 on the Development budget, however, actual costs amounted to £47,129 and this was funded entirely from the reserves. A small under spend of £11,801 against the CCSF Development budget, was transferred to the reserve and will be carried forward in 2008/09. The overall effect was a net cost of £68,660 being met from the reserves.

The second table, Summary of Balances 2007/08, reflects the opening balances, movement of funds and balances available to carry forward to 2008/09.

At the start of 2007/08 the GAE Funding available was £120,000. A repayment of £110,000 to Aberdeen City Council has reduced this balance to £10,000.

The Reserves element provides a breakdown of the figures referred to within the notes for the Summary Accounts 2007/08.

The Summary confirms the total amounts available to carry forward to 2008/09.

## NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

## SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2007/2008

<b>Committee Support</b>	<b>Budgeted Expenditure</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>	<b>Partnership Funding</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Reserves</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Legal Services</b>	6,671	7,135	7,135	0	0
<b>Joint Training</b>	66,589	119,696	66,589	19,775	33,332
<b>CP Register</b>	23,249	25,787	25,787	0	0
<b>CCSF Development</b>	59,948	48,147	59,948	0	(11,801)
<i>Sub Total</i>	156,457	200,765	159,459	19,775	21,531
<b>Development Budget</b>	119,689	47,129	0	0	47,129
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>276,146</b>	<b>247,894</b>	<b>159,459</b>	<b>19,775</b>	<b>68,660</b>
<b>Reserves</b>					
<i>Bought forward from 2007/08</i>					<b>154,290</b>
<b>Contribution to 2007/08 Shortfall</b>					(33,332)
<b>Contribution to Development Costs</b>					(47,129)
<b>CCSF Development - Surplus</b>					11,801
<i>Carry forward to 2008/09</i>					<b>85,630</b>