

<i>item:</i>	10
<i>report:</i>	CYP07/08

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

By Bill Alexander

Summary

This report asks members to endorse the annual report of the Highland Child Protection Committee.

1. Background

- 1.1 The management of child protection services in Highland continues to be a priority across all public agencies. This responsibility is led and owned by all agencies, as evidenced by the involvement of Chief Officers on the Committee, representing the Highland Council, Northern Constabulary, NHS Highland, Procurator Fiscal and Scottish Children's Reporters Administration.
- 1.2 While the Highland Child Protection Committee (CPC) has a broader membership than the Joint Committee on Children & Young People, the Chairperson of the CPC has always been a member of the Joint Committee. The Chairperson is presently Alistair Dodds, Chief Executive of the Highland Council, who took up the position when the Chief Constable stepped down in July 2006. The Vice-chair is the Director of Social Work Services.
- 1.3 While there are no direct governance responsibilities, it has become customary to present the annual report of the Child Protection Committee to the Joint Committee. Accordingly, the 2006/07 Annual Report is circulated with these papers.
- 1.4 2006/07 was another productive year for the Committee, continuing the implementation of the action plan that was produced in response to the HMle pilot inspection of Child Protection Services, published in June 2005 and further recommendations from the critical incident review conducted by Dr Jean Herbison. A Quality Assurance Framework was adopted during 2005 and evidence of progress against the action plan was presented to HMle inspectors during their interim follow-through inspection, which was conducted in June 2006. The report of their findings was published in January 2007 and this has been used to inform the Committee's action plan for 2007/8.
- 1.5 Chief Officers have acknowledged the hard work of staff across all partner agencies working in this complex area commend the annual report as testimony to sustained progress and the further strengthening of many areas of practice.

Recommendations

The Joint Committee is asked to consider and agree to endorse the annual report of the Highland Child Protection Committee.

Bill Alexander

Head of Integrated Children's Services