



Report

Report to:	Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority
Date of Meeting:	3 June 2011
Report by:	DI David Pettigrew

Subject:	Keeping Children Safe - Community Disclosure Team
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ highlight to members the process that has been developed by Strathclyde Police to deliver the objectives of the disclosure scheme to the communities of Strathclyde

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) the report is submitted for the information of members.

3. Background

3.1. Introduction

Keeping Children Safe is a non urgent community disclosure scheme, which allows anyone to request information about an individual who has access to children and who they believe may pose a risk to those children.

Keeping Children Safe is not designed to be a substitute measure for dealing with a child protection concern. The scheme does not deal with urgent or emergency child protection concerns which will continue to be progressed as a matter of operational priority. Consequently, if as a result of an application received through Keeping Children Safe, a child is identified as being at **immediate** risk of significant harm, emergency child protection procedures will be instigated as is currently the case.

Whilst there may not be any disclosure of information through the scheme, this does not preclude the possibility of further police action being required in order to protect a child, through police investigation or information sharing with partner agencies. Strathclyde Police will continue to work in partnership with other agencies, sharing information to protect children, manage offenders provide support and intervention when required.

Applications can originate from a variety of sources, such as the dedicated telephone number for the scheme (**0141 427 8118**), in person at a police office, to a police officer or member of police staff, or from a partner agency (third party referral similar to those received under domestic abuse).

Any applications received, regardless of route, must initially **be assessed in relation to the requirement of an immediate operational police response, if the child or children concerned are assessed as being at significant risk of harm.** This assessment will be based upon the information that has been provided by the applicant.

If immediate police action is required on child protection grounds, then Keeping Children safe no longer applies and the matter should be dealt with as a child protection issue. In these circumstances, the matter should be brought to the attention of a supervisor as a priority in order that emergency child protection procedures can be considered.

Overall ownership and coordination of applications through the scheme will rest with the Keeping Children Safe Coordinator based in FPPU.

The enquiry and referral will be coordinated from the FPPU by the Keeping Children Safe Coordinator. If it is decided that a disclosure will be made, this will be carried out by the MAPPAs Detective Inspector responsible for the relevant Criminal Justice Area (CJA) with corroboration provided by the relevant divisional Family Protection Unit, thereby ensuring that divisions are aware of any potential child protection matters as a result of Keeping Children Safe.

If the decision is taken to disclose information through the scheme, it will only be disclosed to the parent, guardian or carer of the child. If the applicant does not fit this criterion, they will not have any information disclosed to them.

DI David Pettigrew
Strathclyde Police

List of Background Papers

Process map

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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