



ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004

AND

BUSINESS PLAN 2004-2005

"Child Protection is Everybody's Business"

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CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

This is the first Business Plan of the Western Area Child Protection Committee produced in accordance with paragraph 4.15 of *Co-operating to Safeguard Children*. It has been developed by members of the Committee and informed by the Joint ACPC/Child Protection Panels Development Day held on 15th March 2004.

The Report that follows therefore seeks to provide a comprehensive insight into the activities of the WACPC during the year ended 31st March 2004 including progress made in respect of eleven key result areas. It also contains a work programme sharing measurable objectives for 2004/05. The year was one in which there were many challenges not least those brought about by 'Co-operating to Safeguard Children', the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety's Multi-Professional Audit, the Independent Review of Health & Social Services in the case of David and Samuel Briggs and our own Case Management Review.

'Co-operating to Safeguard Children' consolidates many of the good practice developments of the past few years as well as providing a foundation from which Regional Child Protection Policy & Procedures are being devised. In addition it recognises the importance of a sound Business Plan being developed as part of the Annual Report. The recommendations arising from the Department of Health Social Services & Public Safety Audit, the Independent Review Report concerning David and Samuel Briggs and the Case Management Review have required the

creation of Action Plans in order to improve the effectiveness and management of children in need of protection.

Within Foyle and Sperrin Lakeland Trusts there has been a major review of the way in which services are delivered in the Family and Child Care Programme. The initiative, known as 'New Beginnings' adopts a 'Whole Systems' approach focusing on the strengths of families and targeting services at those in greatest need. Foyle Trust has implemented a number of measures since 8th September 2003 which include the provision of a centralised Duty and Assessment Team and a Family Group Conferencing Pilot. As noted in previous reports, the strategy is at a different stage of development in each Trust. Sperrin Lakeland has developed a project plan for implementation in 2004/05.

Whilst considerable progress has been made in the outgoing year, not all of the key result areas set out in the previous Report were achieved but those where further work is required will be taken forward in the current year.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment and diligence of all Committee members who have contributed to the Committee's work over the past year and also pay tribute to the dedication of professionals from all those agencies who strive to continually improve services to protect children and support families.

Mrs Carmel Rooney, Chair

Western Area Child Protection Committee

23rd June 2004

SECTION 1 – THE ROLE & STRUCTURE OF THE WESTERN AREA CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

1.1 ROLE

The Western Area Child Protection Committee (WACPC) established by the Western Health & Social Services Board, brings together representation of each of the main Agencies involved in Child Protection work in the Board's area. The WACPC is therefore an Inter-Agency Forum for agreeing how the different services and professional groups should co-operate to safeguard children in the west, and for making sure that arrangements work effectively to bring about good outcomes for children.

'Co-operating to Safeguard Children' states that the role of the ACPC is "to develop a strategic approach to child protection". The specific responsibilities of ACPC are:

- To develop, agree and review policies and procedures for inter-agency work to protect children, within the framework provided by 'Co-operating to Safeguard Children'.
- To improve outcomes for children by setting objectives, performance indicators and establishing appropriate thresholds for intervention taking account of the multi-professional/agency contribution to child protection;
- To ensure that equality of opportunity is central to the development of child protection policies and procedures

and to guarantee that an equality perspective is incorporated in child protection policy at all levels and all stages;

- To put in place and implement a strategy, in conjunction with CPPs, for developing effective working relationships between services, professional and community groups with the aim of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are at risk of significant harm;
- To communicate clearly to individual services and professional groups their shared responsibility for protecting children, and to explain how that responsibility can be fulfilled;
- To bring to the attention of board members within HSS Boards and Trusts their responsibilities for child protection issues and developments in the area and how the ACPC Business Plan will address these;
- To monitor and evaluate on a regular and continuing basis how well services work together to protect children and to ensure that a specific report on outcomes are conveyed to Boards, Trusts, constituent agencies of ACPC and professional groups;
- To develop an inter-agency/inter-disciplinary training and development strategy with the aim of improving the quality of child protection work and of inter-agency/inter-disciplinary working having identified the training needs of those involved in child protection work in the area. The strategy should take account of how training partnerships with CPPs can be developed;

- To ensure that there is a link between ACPCs and the Northern Ireland Sex Offender Strategic Management Committee;
- To develop a public communication strategy, and ensure its implementation in conjunction with CPPs, to raise awareness within the wider community of the need to safeguard children and to highlight the contribution that communities can make;
- To develop an information strategy aimed at children and families to enable them to understand child protection processes, particularly those involved in them;
- To undertake Case Management Reviews in accordance with Chapter 10 of 'Co-operating to Safeguard Children' and to make sure that the lessons learned are clearly communicated, understood, and actioned, that the review outcomes inform practice and that there is a process in place to measure practice improvements;
- To continually review local ways of working, taking account of knowledge gained through research and national and local experience to bring about child protection service improvements through the children's service planning process;
- To work collaboratively with other ACPCs, where appropriate.

1.2 STRUCTURE

The Committee comprises 22 members who are Senior representatives of the Agencies involved. Membership is as follows:

Mrs C Rooney, Assistant Director of Social Services, WHSSB (Chair)

Mr T Cassidy, Programme Manager, FHSST, Chair of CPP

Mrs K Clarke, Senior Social Work Practitioner, SSAFA

Ms L Crumlish, Child Protection Nurse Adviser, FHSST

Dr Deane, General Practitioner, Shantallow Health Centre, Derry

Mr Doherty, Area Manager, PBNI

Mr T Doherty, Children's Services Information Officer, WHSSB

Mr C Elliott, Area Children's Services Manager, NSPCC

Mrs M Harte, Education Officer, WELB

Dr S Hutton, Consultant Community Paediatrician, FHSST

Mrs E Johnston, Principal Social Worker, WHSSB

Mr M McChrystal, Assistant Principal Social Worker, SS Training Team

Mrs McCourt, Chief Clerk NI Court Service

Dr McDermott, Consultant Psychiatrist, CAMHS, SLH&SCT

Mr McElholm, Resident Magistrate, Family Proceedings Court

Mrs C McGartland, AHP Commissioner, WHSSB

Mrs D McGrenaghan, Community Services Manager, SLH&SCT, Chair CPP

Mrs S McIntyre, Service Planner, Maternal & Child Health, WHSSB

Mr E McTernan, Children's Services Planner, WHSSB

Det Insp Nicholl, Care Unit, PSNI

Mr P Quinn, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, SLH&SCT

Ms H Wells, Deputy Director of Legal Services, Central Services Agency

Five meetings were held during the past year, the dates of which were:

12th May 2003

20 June 2003

24th September 2003

26th November 2003

25 February 2004

There were also two Joint Development/Consultation Workshops for the ACPC and Foyle & Sperrin Lakeland Child Protection Panels. On 18th April 2003 the Social Services Training Team arranged for the Committee and the Child Protection Panels (CPPs) to be facilitated by a Management Consultant in identifying and agreeing specific measurable targets including timescales and activity plans for the year. A second Development Workshop took place on 15th March 2004 in order to review the extent to which previously identified Performance Indicators were achieved and to set new targets for the current year. Progress will be reported in the next Section.

Each CPP, as a body, is accountable to the Trust which constituted it, although members are accountable to the Agencies they represent. The Panel works within the agreed ACPC Business Plan and Child Protection Policy and Procedures. An Annual Report of each Child Protection Panel's work and achievements, as a contribution to the ACPC Business Plan, is provided. The Sub-

Committees, of which there are three, are accountable to the WACPC. Each Sub-Committee is responsible for:

- Contributing to the ACPC Work Programme
- Submitting papers, as appropriate, with recommendations for action to the ACPC
- Providing short progress reports to the ACPC as required
- Undertaking work requested by the ACPC
- Providing a minute/action note of each meeting.

The Chair of each Sub-Committee is a member of the ACPC. Relevant Agencies are invited to nominate Practitioners and Clinicians as well as Managers, to join Sub-Committees.

1.3 VISION

The WACPC vision is to ensure that children resident within the administrative area of the WHSSB are brought up in a safe environment which promotes their welfare and protects them from harm.

1.4 STAFFING

The work of the ACPC is supported by the Social Services Training Team's Children Order Trainer and a Principal Social Worker employed by the WHSSB. Both these appointments are on a part-time basis.

1.5 FUNDING

Since its inception the ACPC has been funded by the WHSSB. During the year a sum of £51,000 was allocated by the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety for use by ACPC "to fund costs associated with Case Management Reviews, audits of child protection arrangements and the raising of public awareness of child protection issues in general". Following discussion at ACPC it was agreed that a Professional Adviser to support the Committee, Panels and Sub-Committees should be appointed. It is expected that this appointment will be made early this year.

1.6 CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING

The WACPC works within the framework of the Western Area Children & Young People's Committee and its Children's Services Plan. Included within the Children's Services Plan is the ACPC Work Programme.

SECTION 2 – REVIEW OF PROGRESS AGAINST PREVIOUSLY AGREED OBJECTIVES

2.1 REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME 2003/2004

This Section reports on the progress made by the Committee in relation to the Work Plan for 2003/04 which was included in the Annual Report for 2002/03. Although a considerable amount of work has been achieved with the original timescales, it has been necessary to review some of the completion dates and carry forward work to 2004/2005.

2.2 FAMILY SUPPORT STRATEGY

Significant progress has been achieved over the past year towards the development of a Family Support Strategy. The Family Support Co-ordinating Group met on 4 occasions in the course of 2003/2004, providing a forum for inter-agency guidance, support and co-ordination in relation to the progress of the Preventative and Intensive Support Strands of the Strategy. The approach is built on the HARDIKER (1991) Framework based on four levels of need, which are responded to, by different types of service as explained briefly in last year's Report. The Preventative Strategy is focusing on services at Levels 1 & 2 whilst ensuring that such services interface appropriately with services at Levels 3 & 4. The Intensive Support Strategy, which has become known as 'New Beginnings', revolves around the implementation of an assessment tool entitled "Thresholds for Intervention" developed in Foyle

Trust in the past year. The 'Thresholds' document sets out the basic criteria according to which families and children achieve access to Trust Child Care Services (Level 3). Pivotal to "New Beginnings" has been the establishment on 8th September 2003, of the Trust's Centralised Duty and Assessment Team. The Team provides a high quality preliminary and, if necessary, initial assessment for all cases. It also provides equity and consistency of service across the Trust. Foyle Trust's Child Protection Panel Annual Report stated: "At 31st March 2004, the New Beginnings process had only been in operation for a period of seven months. Nevertheless, the Panel believes that the newly established Duty and Assessment Team, alongside the development of Family Support Services, has had an impact on the Child Protection Process". There has been a reduction in the number of referrals for child protection reasons, the number of children on the Child Protection Register and the waiting list of 300 unallocated child care cases has been reduced to 18 in Foyle Trust. The WHSSB, Foyle H&SST, its Child Protection Panel and this Committee acknowledge the need to evaluate the approach developed under the auspices of 'New Beginnings' with a view to ensuring that services to children and families continue to be delivered appropriately.

In the current year it is anticipated that the findings from the Child Protection Inspection, undertaken by the Social Services Inspectorate, will make recommendations that will further improve child protection work. The Board, the Trust and the ACPC will

respond to the findings of the Inspection Team with respect the Child Protection Services and Multi-Agency work in the area.

2.3 PRACTICE QUALITY STANDARDS

Having considered the relevant documents (Laming Report, Co-operating to Safeguard, Multi-Professional Audit) the Committee selected and agreed a number of quality standards to enhance the service provided. These include:

- Child Protection is high priority work
- The establishment of criteria for entitlement to services
- Need for parents to be interviewed and child to be seen within 24 hours on receipt of information
- Address the needs of other children in the household
- Initial Assessment within 7 days
- Second stage within 15 days
- Initial Child Protection Case Conference within 15 days
- A comprehensive Multi-Disciplinary Assessment within 3 months
- First Review Case Conference at 3 months
- Adequacy of notice for Initial and Review Case Conferences
- Partnerships with families and professionals
- Parental attendance at Case Conference
- Child attendance at Case Conference
- Minutes of Case Conference distributed within 14 days
- Multi-Disciplinary attendance at Core Group Meetings and Minutes distributed within 14 days
- Complaints - opportunities for corrective action
- Adherence to protocol for Health Care staff
- Implementation of Good Practice Guide for Altnagelvin Trust staff

Clearly a suitable Multi-Agency Monitoring Framework will have to be developed in order to ensure that these standards are met.

2.4 EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF WACPC

A revised Job Description for members, spelling out the role and duties attaching to the post, was introduced. A Code of Conduct was devised to facilitate the decorum, dignity and structure of meetings.

2.5 FUNDING ORGANISATIONS

Progress has been achieved in terms of encouraging funders to require grant-aid applicants to demonstrate that they take child protection seriously by sharing best practice. A seminar arranged in 2002/03 involved 12 funding organisations. The seminar agreed for 2003/04 was deferred and will now take place in the current year.

The Child Protection Support Service of the Western Education and Library Board (WELB) continues to develop quality assurance mechanisms in relation to partner organisations from the Voluntary and Community Sector that provide services and engage in projects with schools and Board services. The service has supported community arts projects, funded by WELB, to establish child protection policies and procedures that are consistent with best practice in relation to their interface with schools and services. In addition to policy development work, training has been provided to a business organisation which mentors young people in relation to vocational placements for particularly vulnerable young people and the service continues to support them on an ongoing basis. The service has also formally written to WELB Senior Education Officer who is also WELB representative on Western Children &

Young People's Committee, on the need to address strategically the Board's relationship with community/voluntary organisations who are funded by WELB. The service is also seeking to establish a way in which the Board can quality assure such organisations as a precondition of funding thereby safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people receiving a service from such groups.

2.6 AGREED TRAINING PROGRAMME

(i) Social Services Training Team

The Social Services Training Team arranged training events as outlined below:

**Table 1 - Courses Delivered by Social Services Training Team
(Mark this is 2002/03 when it should be 2003/04 – we need to discuss)**

Altnagelvin Hospital Trust has been reviewing its Child Protection Practice in partnership with the Social Services Training Team's Children Order Trainer. The Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee has also contributed in terms of quality assuring the draft protocol recently devised.

The Social Services Training Team's representative on WACPC was involved in organising the Regional ACPC Conference on 12th June 2003 in Armagh where Lord Laming delivered the key note address.

Much of the training delivered in Foyle Trust during the past year has been associated with 'New Beginnings' and this has impacted on opportunities for other child protection training.

(ii) Training Provided by WELB Child Protection Support Service

The Child Protection Support Service has provided training to the following priority groups:

**Table 2 - WELB Training Record for Child Protection
1st April 2003 - 31st March 2004**

Target Group	Date	Venue	Numbers Attending
Designated Teachers	23 & 24 Mar 03	Altnagelvin MDEC	35
Whole School	6 June 03	Christ the King PS	22
Whole Staff	21 August 03	Robin House Nurture Centre, Omagh	5
Whole School	28 August 03	St Patrick's & St Brigid's HS, Claudy	36
Whole School	5 December 03	Omagh High School	42
INSET Safe Care Practices	14 April 03	North West Teachers Centre	41
INSET Safe Care Practices	29 April 03	Omagh Teachers' Centre	24
School Principals – Primary	8 May 03	Omagh Teachers' Centre	15
Newly Appointed Principals - Primary	9 April 03	Omagh Teachers' Centre	10
Beginning Teachers; Post primary	1 July 03	Omagh Teachers' Centre	38

Beginning Teachers; Primary	2 July 03	Omagh Teachers' Centre	60
Target Group	Date	Venue	Number attending
Beginning Teachers; Post primary	7 January 04	Omagh Teachers' Centre	26
Beginning Teachers; Primary	8 January 04	Omagh Teachers' Centre	43
Public Library Service	9 July 03	North West Teachers' Centre	23
Classroom Assistants	11 February 04	Omagh Teachers' Centre	11
Classroom Assistants	5 February 04	North West Teachers' Centre	7
Governor Training	11 November 03 12 November 03 25 November 03 27 November 03 1 December 03 5 December 03	Enniskillen Omagh Londonderry	194

2.7 INFORMATION NEEDS

An interim database has been introduced whereby information is collected and recorded in respect of individual children who are the subject of Child Protection Case Conference. The profile includes health, education and social care data. This initiative is being piloted in both Foyle and Sperrin Lakeland Trusts. The Western Education and Library Board has written to schools to explain the rationale for this reporting requirement, indicate its support for the data profile and request individual schools to copy the information to the designated officer for child protection.

2.8 IDENTIFICATION OF FUNDING PRIORITIES SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FINANCE

Two priority projects were identified:

- (i) A Family Group Conferencing Model was introduced in Foyle Trust and funded in-house.
- (ii) A Contact Centre was given consideration but this proposal was not processed because of lack of funding

2.9 PARENTS' ADDRESS BOOK

Parents are involved in devising a book for parents of newborn children. Although the planned consultation draft was not available at 31st March 2004, work is progressing. The diary/book is on target for completion and launch in March 2005.

2.10 CHILD CONSULTATION MODEL

A suitable model was not achieved within the original timescale. However, a working group which includes a representative from VOYPIC (Voice of Young People in Care) is continuing to examine the best possible way of engaging children involved in the child protection process.

2.11 COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

A contribution has been made to the development of an ACPC Regional Strategy. Initiatives include the production of a Safe Parenting Handbook, a template in relation to a calendar of events and media training.

A number of events have taken place to heighten public awareness locally. During the period 2002-2004 the message: "Child Protection is Everybody's Business" was displayed on Western Education and Library Board Book Carriers. Key contact telephone numbers were also included on the carrier bags.

With the increasing advent of computer technology it was agreed that a website should be developed to project the Committee's work. The web address is: www.childprotection-west.org. The site holds relevant ACPC documents and should contribute to keeping Practitioners, Clinicians, Managers and the public aware of activities and developments.

2.12 FOYLE AND SPERRIN LAKELAND TRUSTS' CHILD PROTECTION PANEL OBJECTIVES

Each Panel identified Performance Indicators in accordance with the ACPC strategic direction.

SECTION 3 - OTHER DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

A brief summary of other developments and achievements is outlined below.

3.1 VICTORIA CLIMBIÉ INQUIRY

Following publication of the Victoria Climbié Inquiry Report, the Director of Social Care in the Western Health & Social Services Board requested the Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee of the WACPC in conjunction with Foyle and Sperrin Lakeland Trusts to examine how current procedures and practice compared with the 63 practice recommendations. This exercise was useful and areas were identified for improvement.

3.2 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY MULTI-PROFESSIONAL AUDIT QUESTIONNAIRE

In further pursuance of the Victoria Climbié Report, the Department issued a Multi-Professional Audit Questionnaire to Boards and Trusts for completion by October 2003. The Audit was searching in its requirements covering the following 8 key areas -

- Referrals
- Supervision
- Assessment
- Allocation, Service Provision and Closure
- Guidance
- Training
- Organisation and Management
- Governance

On completion of the Audit questionnaire, the Board and the 3 Trusts (Foyle, Sperrin Lakeland and Altnagelvin) identified areas which required strengthening. These relate to accountability arrangements, Paediatric input, improving information systems, staff recruitment and retention and supervision and training. Action Plans resulting from the Audit are in the process of being developed and will be shared with ACPC.

3.3 CO-OPERATING TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN

'Co-operating to Safeguard Children' issued in May 2003 by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety replaced Volume 6 of the Children Order Guidance and Regulation Series 'Co-operating to Protect Children' which had been in place from 4th November 1996. The publication of 'Co-operating to Safeguard Children' followed an extensive consultation process to which the WACPC made a full contribution.

In summary the new Guidance sets out:

- The roles and responsibilities of all agencies, disciplines and bodies involved in child protection work;
- The way in which joint working arrangements should be agreed, implemented and reviewed through the mechanism of Area Child Protection Committees;
- The processes which should be followed when there are concerns about a child and the action which should

be taken to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are suffering, or at risk of suffering, significant harm;

- Guidance on child protection in specific circumstances, including abuse by young people, bullying and commercial sexual exploitation of children;
- The Case Management Review process which should be followed if a tragedy occurs, including the dissemination of lessons learned as a result of review;
- The importance of multi-agency training for effective child protection;
- Guidance on the retention of and disclosure from child protection records.

3.4 REGIONAL ACPC CHILD PROTECTION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

A working group established by the 4 ACPC Chairs is continuing to develop Regional ACPC Child Protection Policy and Procedures in accordance with the requirements of 'Co-operating to Safeguard Children'. In terms of an approach to the task the working group decided to broadly follow the layout of 'Co-operating to Safeguard Children'. A Consultation Draft was issued in September 2003. Responses to that document has necessitated significant changes and a further draft will need to go out for a short consultation period following which it should be possible to have a final version agreed by November 2004. Consideration will be given to how the implementation of the new Policy and Procedures will be handled.

3.5 CASE MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Following the Case Management Review undertaken in 2002-2003 an Executive Summary and Action Plan have been developed. Progress in relation to the implementation of the Action Plan will be reviewed in the current year.

3.6 REVIEW OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE CASE OF DAVID AND SAMUEL BRIGGS, JUNE 2003

The Independent Review concerned the case of twin boys David and Samuel Briggs who were adopted in Romania by Mr & Mrs Briggs from Craigavon. The Review made 39 recommendations. Although these recommendations were specific to the particular case and to Inter-Country Adoption they had wider application to the monitoring of delegated statutory functions pertaining to all aspects of Family and Child Care Services. The WHSSB and the Trusts are devising Action Plans which will include the development of a Monitoring Framework.

3.7 WELB PRE-SCHOOL SERVICE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The WELB Child Protection Support Service recognises that pre-school children and children with disabilities are a high risk group with regard to their susceptibility to abuse and neglect and that consequently pre-school children with disabilities are an exceptionally vulnerable group. During the year, the Board's Pre-

School Special Needs Teaching Service has received service specific child protection training which is focused on the enhanced needs of this group of children. Pre-School teachers aim to raise the awareness and skills of parents/those with parental responsibility in promoting and safeguarding their children. The teachers work individually in children's homes but also in the context of parent support groups.

In May 2003 WELB was host to the annual Northern Ireland Regional Pre-School Education Conference. The theme of the Conference was **Supporting Parents: Pre-School Children with Special Educational Needs**. A number of presentations, addressing recent initiatives undertaken by the pre-school team in facilitating parenting support groups, were highlighted during the Conference. The Department of Education's Education and Training Inspectorate, Barnardos Northern Ireland and a wide range of professionals who work in the area of Pre-School Education, including teachers, Education and Library Board representatives and speech and language therapists, attended the Conference.

3.8 SCHOOLS' COUNSELLING SERVICE

The WELB/NSPCC Schools Counselling and Support Service has continued to develop. This Service was established on a partnership basis in 1999/2000 and has been providing support to schools in the WELB area. The pilot project currently in its second phase involves 21 schools across all the education sectors, Controlled, Maintained, Special and Integrated, at both

primary and post primary levels. Since 2001 the project has been jointly funded by WELB/NSPCC. A further development of the Service was the appointment, in September 2003 of a Counsellor to extend the service to five post-primary schools within Foyle H&SS Trust's administrative area.

This Service provides an independent, accessible service giving children and young people the opportunity to discuss worries and concerns at an early stage, thus the Service has the potential to prevent abuse. As the service grows, it is becoming more accessible to increasing numbers of young people and the number of disclosures and child protection issues being raised within sessions are increasing. These Child protection concerns are passed to the Designated Child Protection Teacher for Child Protection in the school who passes the concern on to social services. The individual counsellor will, at times, in agreement with the school pass on the concern directly if the details are very complex.

The Service often provides a lifeline for children who are unhappy, frightened, distressed and experiencing difficulties either inside or outside school but feel that they have no one to turn to.

The issues presented during the school year 2003 /2004 included:

- Sectarian Violence

- Young carers
- Bullying
- Self esteem / self harm
- Bereavement / separation & loss
- Health / family illness
- Loneliness / isolation
- Identity Gender and sexuality
- Disclosure of abuse
- Anxiety / Stress
- Peer relationships / Teacher relationships
- Behaviour management, i.e. anger management
- School work and performance/ exam pressure
- Family relationship difficulties Eating disorders
- Post-traumatic stress

The Counselling Service is adjusted to meet the individual needs of the school and complement the existing Pastoral Care system.

The presence of the School Counselling team also contributes to making the schools safer places for children over-all and highlights the importance of Child Protection for teachers and parents.

As the service has evolved staff have contributed to parent evenings and are informally seen as a support by teachers who are concerned about a pupil and are uncertain how best to deal with their concerns.

The Schools Counselling Service actively works to promote the aims of the ACPC in addressing the needs of children resident within the Western Area.

3.9 ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

The WELB Anti-Bullying Policy and associated Bus Poster Campaign was officially launched at Omagh Library Headquarters on Monday 3rd November 2003 by Nigel Williams, the Northern Ireland Children's Commissioner.

Over 240 WELB buses will now carry one of eight different posters to 15,000 children being transported to and from school on a daily basis across the WELB area. This is the first time any Education and Library Board has used its buses, in this way, to carry a message to school children.

The then Chief Executive of the WELB, Mr Joseph Martin said: "The Board is committed to a three-year strategic plan to support schools, youth centres, children and young people in promoting an anti-bullying culture. The policy and poster campaign is part of this strategic plan".

3.10 YOUNG WITNESS SERVICE

In March 1999 the NSPCC, in partnership with Victim Support NI, initiated a two-year pilot project to provide an independent support service to children and young people who are called as witnesses in criminal trials. The project had the support of the key agencies working with young witnesses (including the Police, the Northern Ireland Office, the DPP, Court Service and the Judiciary) and was funded by the NSPCC.

The aims of the service are to:

- reduce the stress experienced by children and young people who may have to give evidence in court;
- prevent further trauma which may be caused by the children's experience of the court and legal process; and
- ensure, where possible, that the needs of young witnesses in general are given full and appropriate attention by the criminal justice system and professionals working within that system.

As a result of recommendations within the Review of the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland the Young Witness Service was relaunched as a regional service in September 2003. The service is funded by the Northern Ireland Office and is available in all Crown Courts in Northern Ireland. Support is provided in Magistrates Courts and Youth Courts subject to available resources. Victim Support's Court Witness Service was expanded at the same time and both services continue to work together within the courts.

In the year April 2003 to March 2004, 19 children from the WHSSB area were referred to the Young Witness Service, 12 from the Foyle Trust area and 7 from Sperrin/Lakeland. The majority of referrals were for girls who were the victims of sexual assault.

The implementation of special measures provisions for children under the Criminal Evidence (NI) Order 1999 took place in

2003/04 and is probably the most significant development. This is presenting major challenges to all the agencies involved with young witnesses, which is emphasising the need for robust inter-agency protocols to enable effective joint working which will assess and meet the needs of young witnesses. A substantial amount of work is being done in this area by all agencies concerned.

The principal issues arising from practice are -

- delay in cases getting to trial
- delays caused by third party disclosure
- delays at trial caused by legal argument
- inappropriate and lengthy cross-examination
- the need for child communication skills training and accreditation for judiciary and lawyers
- the need for evidence in court in relation to child development and the impact of sexual abuse
- the need to find a better way of dealing with sex offence cases in the Youth Court

3.11 INSIGHT PROJECT

This Project in Sperrin Lakeland Trust offers a service to young people in the age range 10-18 years who display sexually harmful behaviour. Where the young person has a learning disability, the upper age is 21 years. In the past year the service received 9 new referrals in respect of eight boys and one girl. This was broadly in line with anticipated referral rates. Three young people, convicted of their offending behaviour, received probation orders with a condition that they attend the service.

3.12 MASRAM

The MASRAM process has now been operational for 3 years in all areas of Northern Ireland. It consists of 12 local risk management committees and a Northern Ireland-wide Strategic Management tier.

MASRAM was set up to ensure effective assessment and management of the risk presented by Sex Offenders. Offenders against children and adults are both assessed by MASRAM. The current focus remains on sex offenders who are registered, although there are exceptions to this where an unregistered, unadjudicated offender whose current circumstances present serious cause for concern, can be referred to MASRAM.

Sex offenders under the age of 18 are not considered under MASRAM. Their cases are assessed through a multi-disciplinary process led by Social Services Trusts under Co-operating to Safeguard Children.

The Western Board area is served by three Committees; Derry, Omagh and Coleraine (in relation to the Limavady area), each Committee meets at least once a month.

The three core agencies of MASRAM, e.g. PSNI, PBNI and Social Services, have underpinned the process over the past year through regular attendance, and overall high commitment to the meetings and the business which flows from the meetings.

Similar to other MASRAM areas, most sex offenders tend to fall into the medium risk category. A relatively small number of offenders are high risk of committing further sexual offences. In the past year, three such sex offenders have been remanded into custody charged with serious offences, having been previously released from custody shortly before.

While this serves to recognise the accuracy of the MASRAM risk assessments, it nevertheless, reinforces the challenge of developing effective risk management plans in the cases of high risk sex offenders. It also helps to remind us of the crucial role that MASRAM needs to play in the protection of the community.

3.13 CHILD PROTECTION NURSE ADVISER IN SPERRIN LAKELAND TRUST

A Child Protection Nurse Adviser (CPNA) has been in post since 1st March 2004 and has become a member of the Child Protection Panel. The post is Trust-wide, offering open access for child protection advice and support to all nursing staff.

SECTION 4 – CHILD PROTECTION ACTIVITY

4.1 CHILD PROTECTION

Data is provided in relation to child protection activity in Foyle and Sperrin Lakeland Trusts for year ended 31st March 2004. The information has been collated through Soscare which, until replaced with the Regional Patient/Client Centred Information System, will not meet the full child protection requirements as outlined in Co-operating to Safeguard Children. Comparisons are made with figures from previous years.

4.2 REFERRALS

Children referred and referrals designated as child protection/potential at risk for year ended 31st March 2004 is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1 Referrals to Social Services:
1st April 2003 – 31st March 2004**

Category	Foyle	Sperrin Lakeland	Total
All Children referred	1654	2181	3835*
Defined as Child Protect/Potential at risk	268	128	396
Other Child Care	1386	2053	3439
% Defined as Child Protection	16.2%	5.86%	10.32%

* The number of children referred to Social Services include 161 expressions of concern from WELB.

The Western Education and Library Board's Child Protection Support Services Annual Report for year ended 31st March 2004 indicates that its service engaged in 200 individual consultations with schools and other educational sector personnel in respect of child protection cases. During the same period the service also received notification of 161 referrals to Social Services. A breakdown of these referrals by Trust and by nature of presenting concern is detailed in the table below.

**Table 7 - Referrals from WELB by Trust and by Nature of Presenting Concern
1st April 2003 - 31st March 2004**

CONCERN	FOYLE	SPERRIN LAKELAND	WESTERN AREA TOTAL
Emotional	42	17	59
Neglect	19	6	25
Physical	20	12	32
Sexual	28	14	42
Unknown	3		3
TOTAL	112	49	161

The pattern of referrals to the Family and Child Care Programme during the 3 year period ended 31st March 2003 is detailed in the bar chart.

Referral to Social Services 1st April 2001 - 31st March 2004

The bar chart illustrates the trends in referral rate over the past 3 years. Figures for 2003/04 reflect an overall decrease in referral activity both in the category of child care other and potential at risk.

Table 3 - Number of Child Protection Referrals by Category of Disability.

Disability	Foyle	Sperrin Lakeland	Total
Physical Disability	1	6	7
Learning Disability	1	2	3
Total	2	8	10

Of the 396 child protection referrals, 2.52% were children with a disability.

Table 4 - Children previously known/not known by Social Services

Category	Foyle Trust	Sperrin Lakeland	Total
Known Previously	126	106	232
Not Known	123	22	145
Total	249	128	377

The figures in the above table illustrate that within Foyle Trust, just over half of the children referred for child protection reasons had a history of previous contact. In Sperrin Lakeland Trust 83% of the children referred had a history of previous contact while 17% had no previous contact, just as in the previous year.

Religious Affiliation and Ethnicity

A summary of the Religious Affiliation of children referred for child protection reasons within the Western Area is provided in the following table.

**Table 5 - Child Protection Referrals by Religion
1st April 2003 - 31st March 2004**

Religion	Foyle Trust	Sperrin Lakeland Trust	Western Area Total
Church of Ireland	13	12	25
Not Known	88	57	145
Presbyterian	15	1	16
Methodist	0	0	0
Roman Catholic	123	33	156
Muslim	0	0	0
None	0	2	2
Not Completed	8	22	30
Other	0	0	0
Other Church	2	1	3
Total	249	128	377

While the Trusts recognise the necessity to record religious affiliation and ethnicity as a statutory requirement and the importance of such for the planning of service provision, it is regrettable that there were 175 children in respect of whom such information was not available. In Foyle Trust 38.55% of children referred for child protection reasons have no record of religious affiliation and 61.7% in Sperrin Lakeland Trust. Sperrin Lakeland Trust's Child Protection Panel Annual Report for year end 31st March 2004 indicated staff turnover as a contributory factor and identified the need for on-going training for staff in relation to

Soscare. The report went on to highlight the need for a dedicated Information Officer to the Family and Child Care Programme as one potential solution to the on-going need for Information System Training and Support for staff.

Table 6 - Child Protection Referrals by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Foyle Trust	Sperrin Lakeland Trust	Western Area Total
White	185	68	253
Unknown	46	34	80
Not Completed	11	23	34
Traveller	7	0	7
Other	0	3	3
Total	249	128	377

Ethnicity is either recorded as unknown or not completed in respect of 57 children referred to Foyle Trust ie, 22.89%. There were also 57 children in Sperrin Lakeland Trust where the information was unknown or not completed ie, 44.53% of the children referred.

**Table 7 - Source of Child Protection Referrals
1st April 2003 - 31st March 2004**

Source	Foyle Trust	Sperrin Lakeland Trust	Western Area Total
Anonymous	13	3	16
Teacher	27	11	38
Education Welfare Officer	10	0	10
Friend/Neighbour	15	1	16
General Practitioner	16	1	17
Health Visitor	13	1	14
Police	47	22	69
Relative	27	4	31
Social Worker	68	75	143
Hospital Nurse	4	1	5
Hospital Doctor	1	3	4
Self	2	0	2
NSPCC	0	0	0
Other Trust	0	1	1
Voluntary Organisation	5	1	6
Other	20	4	24
Total	268	128	396

Table 7 provides details of the source of referrals deemed to be child protection following initial assessment. The most common source of referral, as in previous years, was Social Work staff. Social Workers were responsible for 25.37% of referrals in Foyle and 58.59% in Sperrin Lakeland. It is important to note that in most cases, at the point of referral to Social Services, the Duty Social Worker categorises the referral as a 'Child in Need' requiring an Initial Assessment in accordance with the current referral procedure. Following allocation and initial assessment, some

referrals may be re-categorised as Potential at Risk/Child Protection. As stated in previous Annual Reports this approach may, in part, explain the difference in the WELB figures provided in table 2 and the Trusts' figures in the previous table.

4.3 INVESTIGATIONS

Table 8 illustrates the figures in relation to the type of investigation by Trust.

**Table 8 - Type of Investigation by Trust
1st April 2003 - 31st March 2004**

Type of Investigation	Foyle Trust	Sperrin Lakeland Trust	Total
By Social Services	152	87	239
By Police	1	0	1
Joint Police/SW	32	35	67
Protocol no appropriate		0	
Outstanding/inappropriate		0	
Total	185?	122	307

In Sperrin Lakeland 5 of the original potential at risk referrals were in respect of children already registered and therefore they did not proceed through the investigation process. (check). One other referral was in respect of a person aged 18 years. (check).

Check Foyle figures.

The information contained in Table 8 reveals that in Sperrin Lakeland Trust, 29% of Child Protection Investigations were conducted jointly between Police and Social Work Personnel and 71% were investigated through a single-agency approach of Social

Services only. In Foyle 82.7% of the investigations were single-agency and 72.3% were jointly investigated.

Figures in relation to video-recorded interviews were not available in either Trust. The PSNI Care Unit, Maydown, Derry indicated that there were video evidence interviews of children undertaken within the administrative area of Foyle Trust. Within Sperrin Lakeland, the Enniskillen Care Unit indicated that there were video evidence interviews in the last year. (Consult Tara).

4.4 CHILD PROTECTION CASES CONFERENCES

There was a total of 417 Case Conferences convened within the Board's area - 105 Initial Case Conferences and 312 Review Case Conferences. Table 9, which provides a breakdown of the Conferences by Trust, also details the number of families and children interviewed and the type of Conference.

**Table 9 - Case Conferences by Trust, Family, Children and Type
1st April 2003 - 31st March 2004**

Trust	Number of Families & Children Considered at Case Conferences		Number of Case Conferences		
	Families	Children	Initial	Review	Total
Foyle	230	433	55	175	230
Sperrin Lakeland	187	244	50	137	187
Total	417	677	105	312	417

As the table indicates there were 55 Initial Case Conferences and 175 Review Case Conferences which considered 433 children from 230 families in Foyle Trust. The 187 Case Conferences in Sperrin Lakeland Trust included 50 Initial Conferences and 137 Reviews which related to 244 children from 187 families.

**Table 10 - Comparison of Case Conference Activity
1st April 2000 - 31st March 2004**

Trust	Conference Type	1999/ 2000	2000/ 2001	2001/ 2002	2002/ 2003	2003/ 2004
Foyle	Initial	77	88	81	49	55
	Review	190	157	189	194	175
	Total	267	245	270	243	230
Sperrin Lakeland	Initial	36	25	21	52	50
	Review	72	93	73	84	137
	Total	108	118	94	136	187
Western Area	Initial	113	113	102	101	105
	Review	262	250	262	278	312
	Total	375	363	364	379	417

The above table provides a comparative analysis of Case Conference activity for the five year period from 1st April 1999 - 31st March 2004. Despite a decrease over the last year in the number of children in both Trusts who were deemed to need a child protection response, the number of Initial Child Protection Case Conferences held actually increased over the same period in Foyle going up from 49 to 55, thereby representing an increase of 12%. There was a 4% decrease in Sperrin Lakeland Trust. Increases in Foyle's Initial Case Conference activity has not resulted in a similar increase in Child Protection Review Conferences, in fact Review

Conferences have fallen from 194 to 175 representing a decrease of 10%. In Sperrin Lakeland there was an increase of 63% in the number of Review Case Conferences convened ie from 84 to 137. The increase is explained in terms of the high level of monitoring and review of children subject of Child Protection Registration, the complexity of the needs of children and the absence of support resources such as???? (Check with Deirdre). The recruitment and retention of staff has been offered as another explanation for this trend.

4.5 PARENTAL AND CHILD PARTICIPATION IN CASE CONFERENCES

The level of participation by parents and young people at Case Conferences is indicated in the table below.

Table 11 - Parental and Child Participation in Case Conferences

Level of Participation	Foyle Trust				Sperrin Lakeland Trust			
	Mother	Father	Both Parents	Child/ Young Person	Mother	Father	Both Parents	Child/ Young Person
Full Participation	153	54	50	16	115	64	57	15
Part Participation	11	33	6	4	10	3	3	2
Non Participation	61	162	61	210	62	120	55	170
Representative	0	0	0	0	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Total	225	249	117	230	187	187	115	187

In accordance with the principles of The Children (NI) Order 1995, parental and young people's participation has been promoted within both Trusts. The figures in Table 11 reflect, as in previous years, the high number of parents especially fathers and young people

who choose not to participate in Case Conferences. There was, however, an upward trend in the participation of parents together and individually in Sperrin Lakeland Trust. There was also an increase from 6 young people in the previous year to 15 young people who engaged in full participation.

The ACPC and the Trust Child Protection Panels continue to seek innovative ways of engaging parents and young people in the child protection process. While it is standard practice that each parent and young person, where appropriate, is notified in writing by the Chairperson of the decisions taken at Case Conference, the development of a Child Consultation Model, as reported in Section 2, is to be welcomed.

4.5 THE CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER

Table 12 - Child Protection Register for year ended 31st March 2004

	Foyle	Sperrin Lakeland	Western Area Total
No. on CPR at 31/3/2003	181*	149*	330
Number added	70	87	157
Number removed	106	105	211
No. on Register at 31/3/2004	145	131	276

*Foyle Trust has advised that the number of children on the Register at 31st March 2003 as indicated in last year's Annual Report was incorrect. The figure of 190 should have been recorded as 181 and in Sperrin Lakeland there were 149 rather

than 150 children's names on the Register. Ten children's names were in fact removed from the Child Protection Register but the information had not been entered on Soscare at the time it was downloaded for the Annual Report.

Comparisons to previous year: at 31/3/2004 there was a total of 145 children's names from families on Foyle Trust's Child Protection Register. A total of 70 children's names from 38 families were added to the Register during the year whilst the names of 106 children from 60 families were removed from the Register.

Fewer children's names were added to the Register in Foyle Trust than in the previous year, the figure having gone from 82 down to 70, a decrease of 14.6%. De-registrations had decreased on the previous year's figure of 140. However, the end result of the level of activity was a figure of 145 children's names on the Register representing a fall of 19.88%. The Trust and the Child Protection Panel believe that the overall decrease in child protection activity can be attributed to high standard screening and thorough assessment by the newly established centralised Duty and Assessment Team alongside the development of Family Support Services and Family Group Conferences.

In Sperrin Lakeland Trust there was a total of 131 children from 53 families on the Child Protection Register. The names of 87 children from 42 families were added to the Register whilst 105 children from 44 families were de-registered. These figures

reflect on 12% decrease in the number of children on the Register from the previous year. Also, of particular significance is the 192% increase in the number of children de-registered ie, from 36 to 105 and a 17% decrease in the number of additions to the Register.

New Registrations During the Year

**Table 13 provides a breakdown of the categories under which children's names were placed on the Register
1st April 2003 - 31st March 2004**

Description		Foyle	Sperrin Lakeland	Total
A	Potential Physical Abuse	19	18	37
B	Suspected Physical Abuse	0	3	3
C	Confirmed Physical Abuse	5	6	11
D	Potential Sexual Abuse	10	24	34
E	Suspected Sexual Abuse	0	0	0
F	Confirmed Sexual Abuse	0	0	0
G	Physical Neglect	25	9	34
H	Emotional Abuse	22	0	22
I	Potential Emotional Abuse	27	8	35
J	Potential Neglect	15	4	19
K	Suspected Emotional Abuse	4	3	7
	Suspected Neglect	0	3	3
	Potential Physical & Physical Neglect	0	2	2

Description		Foyle	Sperrin Lakeland	Total
K	Potential Physical & Potential Neglect	0	2	2
	Confirmed Physical & Physical Neglect	0	1	1
	Confirmed Physical & Potential Neglect	0	1	1
	Suspected Physical & Physical Neglect	0	2	2
	Confirmed Sexual & Suspected Neglect	0	1	1
	Total	127	87	214

In Foyle, 70 children's names were added to the Register, 44 of whom were registered in more than one category. (check SLT)

Child Protection Registration by category and Trust at 31st March 2004 is demonstrated in the table below.

Table 14 - Categories of Registration at 31st March 2004

Registration Category	Foyle		Sperrin Lakeland	
	No.	%	No.	%
Physical Abuse	56	20		
Sexual Abuse	15	5.35		
Neglect	85	30.35		
Emotional Abuse	124	44.30		
Total	280	100		

There were 280 registrations in respect of Foyle Trust's 145 children, 98 of whom were on the Register in more than one

category. In Sperrin Lakeland ? registrations related to 131 children. Any further comment?
(EJ to comment on categories).

The analysis of children on the Child Protection Register by Age, Trust and Gender is portrayed in Table 15.

**Table 15 - Child Protection Register by Age, Trust and Gender
At 31st March 2004**

Age Range	Foyle Trust			Sperrin Lakeland Trust		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
< 1	5	4	9	2	3	5
1-4	14	16	30	8	12	20
5-11	27	25	52	33	36	69
12-15	22	16	38	19	13	32
16+	6	10	16	3	2	5
Total	74	71	145	65	66	131

In Foyle and Sperrin Lakeland Trusts there was an almost even distribution of male and female children on the Register. The greatest number of registrations in both Trusts was in the 5-11 age range.

Religious Persuasion and Ethnicity of Children on the Register

Tables 16 & 17 provide an overview of the religious persuasion and ethnicity of children whose names were on the Child Protection Register at 31st March 2004.

Table 16 - Religious Persuasion of Children on the Child Protection Register at 31st March 2004

Religion	Foyle Trust	Sperrin Lakeland Trust	Western Area
Protestant	10	29	39
Roman Catholic	92	47	139
Other	9	0	9
Not Known	33	38	71
Not Confirmed	-	15	15
None	1	2	3
Total	145	131	276

Table 17 - Ethnicity of Children on the Child Protection Register at 31st March 2004

Ethnicity	Foyle Trust	Sperrin Lakeland Trust	Western Area
White	100	90	190
Unknown	45	24	69
Not Confirmed	-	15	15
Other	0	2	2
Total	145	131	276

There is an-ongoing weakness in the recording practice of Social Services and consequently the Religion and Ethnicity of a significant number of children whose names are on the Register is unknown. Improved practices in recording are required in order to facilitate a meaningful interpretation of these Tables.

Table 18 - Length of Time on the Child Protection Register

Period Registered at 31/3/04	Foyle	Sperrin Lakeland	Western Area
< 6 months	37	43	80
6-12 months	20	26	46
1-2 years	66	43	109
3+ years	22	19	41
Total	145	131	276

The figures in the above table indicate that 29 % of children remain on the Register for less than 6 months and a further 17% for less than one year ie, at 31st March 2004. 39% had been on the Register for a period of 1-2 years. 15% had been registered for more than 3 years. That 41 children, in the Western Board area, have been on the Register for a period in excess of 3 years is a matter of concern for the Board, the Trusts and the ACPC. This will necessitate an in depth investigation in the current year so as to identify the underlying reasons.

Table 19 - Age Range of Children at Time of Registration

Age Range at time of Registration	Foyle			Sperrin Lakeland		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
< 1 year	10	6	16	6	7	13
1-4	6	10	16	10	19	29
5-11	15	11	26	32	29	61
12-15	4	6	10	16	10	26
16+ years	0	2	2	1	1	2
Total	35	35	70	65	66	131*

*Check Sperrin Lakeland age range of children at time of registration that is during year ended 31st March 2004.

Children within the age range of 5-11 years accounted for 47% of registrations for the period in Sperrin Lakeland Trust; 22% fell within the 1-4 year age range while a further 20% were within the 12-15 years category. These figures provide meaningful management information for the purpose of planning age appropriate service provision and support.

Legal status of children on the Child Protection Register

The legal status of children on the Child Protection Register is defined below.

Table 20 - Legal Status of Children on the Child Protection Register at 31st March 2004

Legal Status	Foyle Trust	Sperrin Lakeland Trust	Western Area	%
Emergency Protection Order	0	1	1	0.36
Accommodation Under Article 21	11	11	22	8
Interim Care Order	15	4	19	7
Care Order	12	0	12	4.35
Deemed Care Order	2	0	2	0.72
Supervision Order	4	0	4	1.45
Other	2	0	2	0.72
None	99	115	214	77.5
Total	145	131	276	100%

This information reflects that there was no legal intervention in 77.5% of cases where children were subject to Child Protection Registration. Where the Trusts did pursue legal action, 7% of cases were subject to EPOs or Interim Care Proceedings and 8% of children were accommodated.

These trends reflect the continued development of an ethos of working in a partnership with families and deploying support services to provide family unity and ensuring that, wherever possible, children remain within their own families.

Table 21 - De-Registrations During 1st April 2003 - 31st March 2004 and Length of Time on Register Prior to Discharge by Age

Foyle Trust

Duration	Under 1	1-4	5-11	12-15	16+	Total
< 6 months	2	6	5	2	0	15
6-12 months	0	4	7	4	0	15
1-2 years	0	14	23	11	9	57
3-4 years	0	3	7	4	4	18
5 years	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	2	27	42	21	14	106

Of the 106 de-registrations in Foyle, 87 were made within 2 years. De-registrations within the age group 5-11 accounted for 40% of the total number.

Table 22 - De-Registrations During 1st April 2003 - 31st March 2004 and Length of Time on Register Prior to Discharge by Age

Sperrin Lakeland Trust

Duration	Under 1	1-4	5-11	12-15	16+	Total
< 6 months	2	4	14	11	4	35
6-12 months	1	8	10	6	1	26
1-2 years	0	8	13	9	3	33
2-3 years	0	4	3	0	0	7
3-4 years	0	1	0	2	0	3
5 years + over	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	3	25	40	29	8	105

In Sperrin Lakeland 38% of de-registrations were within the age group 5-11 years and 28% were within the 12-15 years category. With regard to duration of registration 90% of de-registrations occurred within 2 years of registration across all of the age bandings. The reason for one young female being registered for over 5 years was attributed to the risks associated with confirmed sexual abuse.

Table 23 - Volume at Each Stage of the Child Protection System: 2003/2004

Trust	Child Protection References	Article 66 Investigations	Initial CP Case Conferences	Children Leaving Initial CP Case Conferences	New Registrations
Foyle	269	249	55	?	70
Sperrin Lakeland	128	122	50	101	87
Total	397	371	105		157

The above table illustrates how far children progressed through the Child Protection System once a referral had been made. The 'filtering out' of cases at each stage of the process is based on assessment.

The final table summarises activity within the Child Protection System over the past 3 years.

Table 24 - Child Protection Activity Summary

Year	2002-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
	Foyle	Sperrin Lakeland	Foyle	Sperrin Lakeland	Foyle	Sperrin Lakeland
Child Protection Referrals	544	79	352	152	268	128
Article 66 Investigations	442	79	215	74	185?	122
Initial Child Protection Case Conferences	81	21	49	52	55	50
Children having Initial Child Protection Case Conferences	179	54	105	126	?	101
Additions to the Register	140	49	82	108	70	87
De-Registration	76	49	140	36	106	105
No. of Children's Names on the Register at year end	248	78 (not 77)	190*	150*	145	131

*These figures should have read 181 & 149

Record of Enquiries to the Child Protection Register

There were 2 enquiries recorded about children on the Register in Foyle Trust out of office hours. In Sperrin Lakeland there were ? xxxxxx enquiries.

Both Trusts will set in place a mechanism for capturing such information during office hours.

SECTION 5 - KEY RESULT AREAS IDENTIFIED FOR 2004/2005

Key Result Areas	Associated Objectives	How Measured	Current Position	Activity Plan 2004-2005	Resourcing
Family Support Strategy	To have an agreed Family Support Strategy which meets the needs of children in Need of Protection by 31 March 2005	Clear strategy devised	Working along 2 parallel tracks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preventative strategy at Levels 1 and 2 - Intensive support strategy at Levels 3 and 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work identified in 2003/04 is ongoing ▪ Exercise being completed in relation to mapping the services available at Levels 1 and 2 ▪ Intensive support strategy being implemented in Trusts ▪ Strategy to be completed in writing 	See Chapter 3.
Practice Quality Standards	To have agreed quality standards which reflect good practice based on WACPC Policy and Procedures and meet the needs of each agency by 31 March 2004 (This will include	Quality Standards clearly identified		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audits to be undertaken in relation to Multi -Agency adherence to Standards. ▪ Monitoring framework to be devised. 	

Key Result Areas	Associated Objectives	How Measured	Current Position	Activity Plan 2004-2005	Resourcing
	selected recommendations from the Laming Report)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Observance of protocol for Health Care staff. ▪ Implementation of Good Practice Guide for Altnagelvin staff ▪ Participation in SSI Inspection of Child Protection Services in summer 2004. ▪ Appointment of Professional Adviser to ACPC and Child Protection Panels. 	ACPC budget
Effective functioning of WACPC	To have in place an agreed process to determine the mandate of WACPC in accordance with roles and responsibilities as identified in paragraph 4.2 of Co-operating to Safeguard Children	Clear Mandate	Job Description amended and Code of Conduct for Meetings agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chair to write to individual members regarding future commitment and level of representation. ▪ Composition to include greater participation by Community/Voluntary Sector and Further Education Colleges. 	ACPC members individually and collectively

Key Result Areas	Associated Objectives	How Measured	Current Position	Activity Plan 2004-2005	Resourcing
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review present Sub Committee structure ▪ Terms of Reference to be devised. ▪ Monitor Core Business. 	
Community Education Sub Committee to be restructured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To appoint a new chairperson ▪ To revise Sub Committee's Terms of Reference ▪ To have in place a Communication Strategy for WACPC based on the Regional Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishment of new Community Education Sub Committee ▪ Three year Strategy devised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parent's Diary is proceeding on time and should be published on schedule in March 2005 ▪ Rescheduled Seminar for Funding Organisations to take place early in 04/05 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work on Diary ongoing ▪ Distribution of Information Note 1 - Disqualification from working with children to Funding Organisations and Projects ▪ Actioning work requested by the Regional Communication Group, eg production of Newsletter and production and distribution of booklet entitled 'Safe Parenting' 	Within existing resources

Key Result Areas	Associated Objectives	How Measured	Current Position	Activity Plan 2004-2005	Resourcing
Agreed Inter-Agency Training Programme	To show that the agreed training programme has been delivered over 2004/05 Ref paragraph 4.2 of "Co-operating to Safeguard Children"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training programme designed and approved ▪ Training programme delivered ▪ Attendances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SSTT has organised and arranged for the delivery of a number of training events in relation to child protection including MASRAM ▪ WELB has a comprehensive Child Protection Training Strategy in place, which is linked into this Committee 	Training to take place in accordance with planned programme	Within existing resources

Key Result Areas	Associated Objectives	How Measured	Current Position	Activity Plan 2004-2005	Resourcing
Inter-Agency Information Needs	To analyse the information made available through the data profile developed by the Children's Service Planning Information Officer in 2003/04	Children who have been the subject of Child Protection Case Conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Profile was piloted in FHSST for 3 months with effect 1 Jan 04 and in SLT with effect mid Feb 2004 ▪ The profile includes health and educational data provided by schools ▪ WELB has written to schools to explain and indicate support for data profile as well as requesting individual schools to copy returns to WELB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Part-time Clerical Officer to be recruited in each Trust in order to input data and report on the information ▪ Evaluation of Pilots to inform the way ahead 	Resource in order to do this has been made possible through WHSSB.

Key Result Areas	Associated Objectives	How Measured	Current Position	Activity Plan 2004-2005	Resourcing
Funding Acquisition	To have identified two projects for funding applications by 30 September 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Projects identified with clear objectives ▪ Occupancy rates to be assessed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contact Centre to be considered ▪ Development of Family Group Conferencing Model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Protection Panels to consider priority needs in their respective areas ▪ Regular reports to ACPC by CPPs ▪ Projects identified should resources become available 	
Child Consultation Model	To have agreed by 30 September 2004 a suitable model for consulting children on the Child Protection Register with a view to establishing satisfactory objective with effect October 2004	Production of a suitable model	VOYPIC is drafting a Child Consultation Model	Model to be developed, approved and implemented	Within existing resources

Key Result Areas	Associated Objectives	How Measured	Current Position	Activity Plan 2004-2005	Resourcing
Foyle and Sperrin Lakeland Child Protection Panels' Objectives	To agree with Panels' Performance Indicators in the areas of Health, Education, Social Care - for achievement in 2004/05	Work ongoing	Each Panel reviewing Performance Indicators within the ACPC strategic direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each Panel to plan Development Day ▪ Provide quarterly reports to ACPC 	