



# Annual Report

January – December 2014

*WithScotland*  
connecting · exchanging · protecting

“WithScotland is a key partner in helping to ensure that social work staff remain competent and confident in providing modern and effective services for children and families. The national and international perspectives and the practical support that WithScotland provides for social work practitioners and managers continues to offer a unique contribution and is a service about which Scotland should be proud.”

**Bob Driscoll**

Chief Social Work Officer and Chair of Social Work Scotland Child Protection Sub Group

## Director's Foreword

**I am delighted to provide you with an update on our work throughout 2014**

WithScotland is the national resource supporting professionals working with children and adults at risk of harm and abuse. Based in the University of Stirling, we connect research and practice, exchange knowledge and ideas, and coordinate activities across child and adult protection communities. At the heart of WithScotland is the principle of working together to improve outcomes for children and adults at risk of harm.

We do this by galvanising the existing expertise held by practitioners and managers, organisations, academics and policy makers working with children and young people across Scotland. Uniquely, WithScotland also hosts the only National Adult Protection Coordinator post, established to help with the implementation of policy to practice and co-ordinate work across the adult protection community in Scotland. The Coordinator works closely with the twenty-nine Adult Protection Committees to identify priorities and develop a range of responses to drive forward the adult protection agenda.

WithScotland's foundations are rooted in an 'inclusive promise' and we offer a range of inter-related research, policy and practice support which more and more of you are calling upon every year.

### **The year ahead**

In recognition of the growing synergy between strategic partnerships, we will continue to strengthen the links between child protection, adult protection and the protection of people across the lifespan. We have strong alliances with a range of stakeholders across Scotland, the UK and internationally and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you in the coming year.



**Beth Smith**  
Director, WithScotland



## Funding WithScotland

Our current core funding is a partnership between Scottish Government, NHS, Police Scotland and local authorities brokered via COSLA. Although funding for 'child protection' and 'adult protection' posts has developed separately since 2011 our aim is to offer

a mechanism for the diffusion of best practice across Scotland and for members of the child and adult protection communities to be able to access the pooled knowledge of the nation's expertise. Funding for both streams of work for 2014-2015 was £572,880

## Highlights of 2014

### WithScotland leads the re-refresh of the National Child Protection Guidance

WithScotland brought together and chaired a national working group which consulted on a re-refresh to the national child protection guidance originally published in 2010. The working group met for six months and produced draft guidance which was submitted to Scottish Government in December 2013. The [refreshed guidance](#) was published in May 2014.

### Publication of the Child Protection and Disability Toolkit

WithScotland was a member of the Scottish Government's Ministerial Working Group on Child Protection and Disability and worked in partnership to develop and publish the [Child Protection and Disability Toolkit](#). It is aimed at practitioners and managers working in child and family, and disability services and is the only one of its kind available to practitioners in Scotland. It was launched in May 2014 by Aileen Campbell, MSP and Minister for Children and Young People.

### Mapping of child sexual exploitation resources and services in Scotland

WithScotland supports the Scottish Child Protection Committee Chairs Forum subgroup for Child Sexual Exploitation and as part of its role undertook a mapping exercise of the resources and services available in Scotland which was published in September 2014.

### What Can Research Do For You?

This report was produced by WithScotland with the aim of increasing access to and the use of research evidence into workplace practice. The consultation report reinforced the findings of similar research conducted in 2009 / 2010 by the Scottish Child Care and Protection Network (Mitchell 2010). The aim of the consultation was to ascertain whether research needs have changed since 2009 and to continue to inform the development of a research agenda for Scotland in relation to child care and protection issues, policy and practice. It also aims to explore if the key priorities identified in the 2010 consultation have been met.

# Getting It Right For Child and Adult Protection

November 2014

Our ambitious 2014 [annual conference](#) brought together colleagues working in social work, police, education, health care and the voluntary sector and was the first two-day conference organised by WithScotland. It was attended by 250 delegates

across both days and a mix of professionals from Police Scotland, Child Protection Committees, Adult Protection Committees, Social Work, NHS, Local Authorities and several third sector organisations were present.

“It was very interesting to be able to hear views from people working in different areas and agencies. Understanding their view points and agendas helps compound the need for a holistic approach”

Conference delegate

“This conference was an excellent event that held attention and stimulated non-stop discussions. It was great for networking and generated lots of food for thought and ideas to follow up.”

Conference delegate

# Developing a Framework For undertaking significant case reviews for adult support and protection

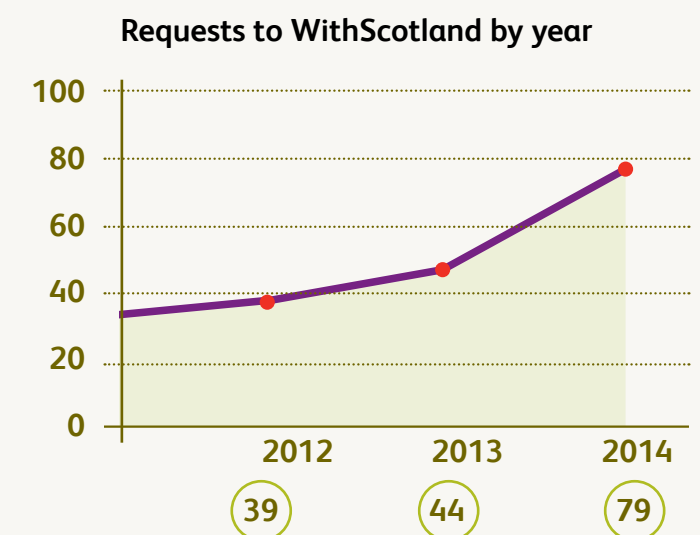
The Significant Case Review (SCR) process within Adult Support and Protection (ASP) is a relatively new one. Consequently Adult Protection Committees are devising their own formats for conducting SCRs or developing

shared formats across regional boundaries. WithScotland was asked to facilitate a short-life working group to develop a national framework. This draft framework was submitted to Scottish Government in August 2014.

# Requests for advice and support from practitioners

We support child protection workers dealing with complex issues by drawing upon the skills and knowledge of our “community of expertise” and wider stakeholders. These can be individual cases or in areas of service development, which usually involves a longer term interaction from a few days to several months.

In the last 18 months there has been a significant increase in the frequency of organisations requesting help; as of September 2014 we had received almost double the requests we have previously averaged per year.



Our records show that half of the requests came from local councils or Child Protection Committees.

**The wide variation in topics and contexts of requests demonstrates the unique function of this part of WithScotland’s work.**

Only a small number of requests are straightforward; inevitably, it is those issues not easily addressed through existing local resources that are subsequently re-routed to us.

Although there are few identifiable patterns in the types of requests made, it is possible to discern three broad categories: sourcing information; sourcing expertise; and service development.



## What else do we do?

**A substantial part of our business is to support the Scottish Child Protection Committee Chairs' Forum and Scottish Adult Support and Protection Convenors' Group and their various subgroups. These groups represent key government priorities and members of staff are often attending, facilitating or chairing the following groups**

- The National Ministerial Working Group on Child Protection and Disabilities:** this working group evolved from the disability subgroup of the CPC Forum and was set up to take forward Scottish Government priorities in this area. This group that was responsible for the delivery of the Disability Toolkit published in May 2014.
  - The Neglect Subgroup of the Scottish Child Protection Committee Chairs' Forum:** the Neglect Subgroup was asked to evaluate activity underway across Scotland to ensure the sharing of learning. A paper on its activities was produced in March 2013.
  - The National Working Group for Child Sexual Exploitation:** this evolved from the child sexual exploitation subgroup of the CPC Forum and supports Scottish Government on its delivery of the National Action Plan for child sexual exploitation.
  - The Public Awareness Advisory Group:** this group is responsible for the initial development and content of the public awareness pages
- on WithScotland's website and is now actively considering how best to promote issues of child sexual abuse (CSA) and take more of a campaigning role with public messages.
- The Alcohol and Drug Partnership and Child Protection Committee Network:** this group is involved in organising seminars to promote Getting our Priorities Right. This led to organising a 'Protecting People' event with Forth Valley, which included all public protection partnerships.
  - Adult Support and Protection National Priority Working Group on Service User and Carer Engagement:** this was established to take forward Scottish Government's national priority around developing a clearer understanding of service users' and carers' viewpoints in relation to adult support and protection processes.
  - The National Financial Harm Coordination Group:** this group has been set up following the work of the national priority group on financial harm.

## Our website

Significant additional work has been undertaken to widen the scope of the website to include more news and events, and content for the adult protection community. Further developments were also undertaken in 2014 in response to feedback from WithScotland's Research Network which asked for access to training resources and local practitioner research. This has enabled us to further enhance the sharing of knowledge, local training and practical tools.

The public awareness pages of the WithScotland website continue to provide information about child neglect and abuse for the public, with direct links to NSPCC, ChildLine and ParentLine. Uniquely, members of the public can search for local contacts if they are worried about a child via our postcode search. They can also click on a local authority area which takes the user directly to local social work offices. This was the first such development in Scotland. 2015 will also see the addition of a specific page on child sexual exploitation and a collation of the resources available to practitioners.

“I didn't know where to find the information I was looking for - other websites or organisations were not helpful for my profession & the support I received here was incredibly helpful & signposted us on to training we needed. Without this support, we may not have the correct policies in place today.”

Survey respondent 2014

## Events, research seminars and online seminars

As well as the WithScotland two-day annual conference, we have organised various other seminars and events, some in partnership and others as stand-alone events. In early 2014, WithScotland began delivering virtual research seminars. This was in response to feedback from colleagues who were unable to attend half or full-day seminars or overcome

some geographical barriers. The virtual seminars have ensured a wider audience can be reached. Feedback from practitioners has been positive.

The following is a list of the events organised and facilitated by WithScotland, some of which were in partnership with other organisations.

### January 2014

*Child Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation*

### February 2014

*A Balancing Act: Grounded theory of child protection and social work - assessing parental capacity to change*

### March 2014

*FAST: Social work and social determinants of health - building protective factors against poverty and toxic stress for children*

*WithScotland Research Network*

*Child Sexual Exploitation Seminar*

### April 2014

*Communities of practice for community university partnerships: Lessons from the resilience field*

### May 2014

*Child Protection and Disability Toolkit, Ministerial Launch*

*Oral disease in vulnerable children and the dentist's role in child protection*

### June 2014

*Beyond boundaries: giving every child a better start*

*Joint Local Authority and NHS Adult Support and Protection Lead Officers Event*

### September 2014

*Experiences of direct social work contact when children and young people are on home supervision*

*Dare To Care, Protecting People In Forth Valley*

*Child Neglect and Improving Outcomes for Children*

*WithScotland Research Network*

### October 2014

*Disabled Children and Child Protection in Scotland: An investigation into the relationship between professional practice, child protection and disability*

*Adults At Risk of Financial Harm: National information sharing conference*

*Child Trafficking: A scottish perspective*

*WithScotland Research Network*

### November 2014

*Child Sexual Exploitation Conference: Implications from Rotherham for Scotland*

*4th Annual GIRFEC Conference*

*WithScotland Annual Conference*

### December 2014

*Analysis in Practice: A study of sense-making in a children and families social work team*

## Our Publications

**WithScotland produced several new briefing documents and publications in 2014. They provide a concise summary of the available research knowledge to inform practice. They are aimed at practitioners, managers, policy-makers and researchers**

- **The Child Protection and Disability Toolkit** has been produced in partnership by WithScotland and the Scottish Government's Ministerial Working Group on Child Protection and Disability. It is aimed at practitioners and managers in children and families and disability services and it is the only toolkit of its kind available to practitioners in Scotland. The toolkit provides information on research, a set of training and resource materials designed to help professionals understand the issues and good practice guidance to supplement the Scottish Government National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014. It also contains sections such as 'myth busters', case studies as well as a DVD in which disabled parents speak of their experiences.

- **Child Trafficking** was written by our Research Coordinator, Annette Webb
- **Child Sexual Exploitation** was written by Annette Webb and our CPC Coordinator, Catriona Laird
- **Resistance, A Complex Challenge For Practice** was written by Lindsey Robb, who is based at Edinburgh Napier University.

In addition, two case studies were produced with the aim of demonstrating how we can help people who work with children and young people. 'Zaynab's Story' (FGM) and Keith's Story (Neglect) can be found on the [WithScotland website](#).



I have just received your briefings, including ‘Children Living with Parental Substance Misuse’. Firstly, can I say thanks for responding to Head Teachers about the need for concise information and for these useful documents. They have come exactly at the right time for me dealing with a child whose mum has issues with substance misuse. I will be passing these on to other Head Teachers in my network.”

#### Head Teacher

Aberdeenshire

## WithScotland Steering Group

The work of WithScotland is overseen by a Steering Group. The purpose of the group is to provide a strategic overview, advice, support and credibility and demonstrate that protecting children and adults at risk of harm is a priority for all agencies in Scotland.

The Steering Group also promote the sharing of information and understanding on the role and activities of WithScotland and provides a range of networks for WithScotland to access as necessary.

## Membership

Membership of the Steering Group is mainly drawn from key stakeholders in child care and protection in Scotland, specifically Scottish Government, social work, health, police, education, child protection committees, SCRA, third sector, academia and other stakeholder organisations. In keeping with our vision of moving

towards a ‘people protection’ model of delivery, membership has been extended to include the Scottish Government policy team, representing adult support and protection interests (for full membership see Appendix).



# Getting In Touch With Us

For general enquiries, please contact us on **01786 466304** or [WithScotland@stir.ac.uk](mailto:WithScotland@stir.ac.uk)

## Staying Informed

You can follow us on Twitter @WithScotland, sign up to receive our monthly newsletter, or join our on-line forum, [TalkWith](#) to receive regular updates from WithScotland. Visit our website [www.withscotland.org](http://www.withscotland.org) for details.



# Appendix

Organisation/network	Steering Group member
<b>Chair of Steering Group and COSLA representative</b>	Councillor Stephanie Primrose, Elected Member, East Ayrshire Council
<b>Scottish Child Protection Committee Chairs Forum (SCPCCF)</b>	Chair, Anne Houston, OBE or Vice Chair Susan McLaren
<b>Police Scotland</b>	Assistant Chief Constable Malcolm Graham
<b>Social Work Scotland</b>	Bob Driscoll, Head of Child Care, CSWO, Aberdeenshire Council
<b>Community Care Providers Scotland (CCPS) Children's Service Sector Representative</b>	Helen Hunter, Head of Change and Innovation, Quarriers
<b>Child Protection Nursing Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals Scotland</b>	Phyllis Smart, Consultant Nurse Child Protection, NHS Grampian
<b>Royal College of Paediatricians (representing Health)</b>	Dr Jean Herbison, Clinical Director, Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board
<b>WithScotland Research Network</b>	Professor Julie Taylor, Centre for Research in Child Protection, University of Edinburgh
<b>Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)</b>	Alistair Hogg, Senior Operational Manager, North West area
<b>Scottish Government Child Protection Policy Team</b>	Catherine Duggan, Head of Child Protection Policy Team
<b>Scottish Government Adult Support Protection</b>	Nicola Paterson, Head of Adult Support and Protection Unit
<b>University of Stirling</b>	Professor Brigid Daniel, Head of Social Work, School of Applied Social Science
<b>University of Stirling, Research and Enterprise Office</b>	Dr John Rogers, Director of Research and Enterprise




# Thank you!

We would like to thank all those who have helped us to develop WithScotland. Your support and feedback continue to shape our direction of travel and we look forward to working with you in 2015 and beyond.



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