



This leaflet provides information about the Northern Area Child Protection Committee activity, outlines the present membership and explains the Area Child Protection Committee's relationship with Child Protection Panels.

## **A.C.P.C. - WHAT IS IT?**

The Northern Area Child Protection Committee is the forum which provides a co-ordinated lead for all the relevant agencies involved in child protection, in order to underpin and enhance the delivery of a high quality co-ordinated service to protect children from harm who live in the Northern Board area.

## **WHO IS INVOLVED?**

The membership includes representatives from Social Work, Community Nursing, Paediatrics, Psychiatry, Professions Allied to Medicine, Education, Probation, Police, General Practitioners and are drawn from:

Northern Health and Social Services Board

Causeway Health and Social Services Trust

Homefirst Community Trust

United Hospitals Trust

Council for Catholic Maintained Schools

Royal Ulster Constabulary

Probation Board for Northern Ireland

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

North Eastern Education and Library Board

South Eastern Education and Library Board

## HOW ARE MEMBERS NOMINATED?

Members are nominated by their own agency (at the request of NHSSB) and they usually hold a senior position of responsibility in their organisation.

## WHO DO MEMBERS REPRESENT?

Members represent their organisation rather than their profession but obviously contribute expertise from their professional viewpoint.

## WHAT DOES THE COMMITTEE DO?

The committee is responsible for the development of a strategic approach to Child Protection on an area wide basis. It meets its responsibilities through a number of tasks which are carried out through various sub committees.

The following are some of the activities of the Northern Area Child Protection Committee:

- The provision of an inter-disciplinary and inter-agency training programme to meet the changing needs of all disciplines and professionals involved in Child Protection.
- Developing and monitoring Child Protection policies and procedures.
- Initiating strategies and participating in research about the prevention of child abuse.
- Raising professional and public awareness of child abuse and who to contact about children thought to be abused.

## **WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AREA CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE AND CHILD PROTECTION PANELS?**

Child Protection Panels implement the Northern Area Child Protection Committee's policy and procedures within each Trust and ensure a high standard of professional practice.

The Child Protection Panel is represented on the Area Child Protection Committee.

As with all members of the Area Child Protection Committee the Child Protection Panel is expected to abide by the Area Child Protection Committee's Child Protection policies and procedures.

The following are some of the activities of the Child Protection Panel:

- Facilitation of multi-disciplinary working to prevent, investigate and treat child abuse.
- Implementation of the Area Child Protection Committee Child Protection policies and procedures.
- To examine local trends and advise on resource needs to constituent agencies.
- To work in partnership with Area Child Protection Committee to develop and implement multi-disciplinary training programmes.

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Children (N.I.) Order 1995 Regulations and Guidance Volume 6 "Co-operating to Protect Children."

Northern Area Child Protection Committee's:-

Annual Report

Learning Together Training Programme

Child Protection Guidelines / Procedures

Chairperson

Training and Development Officer

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