

See it... Hear it...

Share your concern



SEE IT... HEAR IT... SHARE YOUR CONCERNS

Gill Smee – Chair (Orkney Child Protection Committee)



You may be unsure what it means – and whether it's important. But your concern could be a vital piece of the jigsaw!

Sadly, some children in Orkney still experience abuse and harm – within their own families or from other adults or older peers. Public agencies are alert to this risk and have a responsibility to act to protect children.

But public agencies are often dependent on members of the community who have concerns about the safety of children and who pass these on. This might only be a small piece of information. In itself, it may only be a minor concern – but when we put it together with the other things we know, it may be the important piece that confirms the full picture.

Agencies do not jump to conclusions. We carefully assess the facts, plan what to do together, and try and talk issues through with children, their parents, and other people who are important in the children's lives. Very occasionally, that means having to take immediate action to protect children, or even to arrange for them to be looked after away from home. But usually, it means providing support services and working with a family to help them reduce any risks and to keep their child safe.

So, if you **see something**, or if you **hear something** that raises a concern for you – we ask you to **'share your concern'**. There will be many times when we can check out your concern and can then reassure you that a child is not at risk. But sometimes there will be very good reason for your concern – and a child will be safer because you have shared it.

If you have concern about the safety of a child:

- Speak to a childcare professional, a social worker, police officer, teacher or health worker.
- Call the local Children and Families team – 01856 873535 – or the out of hours duty social worker – 01856 888000.
- Or call the national contact number – 0800 022 3222

If you want to know more about our child protection services, the Orkney Child Protection Committee Annual Report and Workplan is available online at www.orkney.gov.uk and www.orkneycommunities.co.uk and in hard copy at the library and the Council Customer Services reception in Kirkwall.

GETTING IT RIGHT FOR ORKNEY'S CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Orkney's public agencies are committed to giving every child and young person in Orkney the best possible start in life, and to improving the life chances of children and young people who are at risk or who experience disadvantage. This vision unites Orkney Islands Council, NHS Orkney, Northern Constabulary, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and the voluntary sector organisations. We are working together to help all our children realise their full potential, giving them a sense of self-fulfilment and equipping them well for their future.

Orkney's new integrated children's services plan, "Getting it Right for Orkney's Children and Young People", which sets out our achievements and challenges, and our action plan for 2008-2009, is now available online at www.orkney.gov.uk and www.orkneycommunities.co.uk and in hard copy at the library and the council customer services reception.

All children in Orkney should be:

- Confident Individuals
- Successful Learners
- Effective Contributors and
- Responsible Citizens

To achieve this children and young people need to be

Safe: They should be protected from abuse, neglect and harm by others at home, at school and in the community.

Nurtured: They should live within a supportive family setting, with additional assistance if required, or, where this is not possible, within another caring setting, ensuring a positive and rewarding childhood experience.

Healthy: They should enjoy the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, with access to suitable healthcare and support for safe and healthy lifestyle choices.

Achieving: They should have access to positive learning environments and opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and self esteem to the fullest potential.

Active: They should be active with opportunities and encouragement to participate in play and recreation, including sport.

Respected and Responsible: They and their carers should be involved in decisions that affect them, should have their voices heard and should be encouraged to play an active and responsible role in their communities.

Included: They and their carers should have access to high quality services, when required, and should be assisted to overcome the social, educational, physical, environmental and economic barriers that create inequality.

For individual children and young people who need child protection services, or any of the range of specialist education, health, social work or support services, the national "Getting it Right" programme aims to improve outcomes by promoting a shared approach that builds

solutions with and around children and families. It enables children to get the help they need when they need it, supports a positive shift in culture, systems and practice, and involves working together to make things better.

Key Messages of the Getting it Right approach:

- Children, young people and their carers get the help they need when they need it and are central to the process of finding solutions
- Everyone working with children and young people uses one consistent and equitable approach, actively shares information to agreed protocols and works more effectively together to improve outcomes
- Everyone is clear about their personal responsibility to do the right thing for each child
- Parents and children benefit from a collaborative approach which results in fewer meetings, requires them to give their information only once, and enables the development of one plan to meet their needs
- Agencies and professionals have time to respond to children and take appropriate, proportionate and timely action with the minimum of paperwork, bureaucracy and duplication





DO YOU RUN PAID OR VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

If you do then The Protection of Children (Scotland) Act and other forthcoming legislation applies to you. To find out what this means for your activities contact Voluntary Action Orkney for advice.

Contact us on 01856 872897,
<http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/VAO>,
 email: enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk.

HEALTH FOR ALL CHILDREN – THE ROLE OF THE HEALTH VISITOR



Health visitors support families, in particular those with children under five. They visit families in their own homes and provide a unique service by working with families across all social classes, irrespective of illness or crisis.

Health visitors aim to promote optimal health and development of each individual child. They offer advice on the prevention of illness, accidents and child abuse. They can also recognise problems affecting development, behaviour and education. With their training and knowledge they detect these problems early and offer effective care and resources to support children with additional needs.

Health visitors work closely with the Primary Care Team and all agencies including the voluntary sector to promote the health and well being of children, families and communities. They promote and support positive parenting programmes and encourage parents to gain confidence in managing themselves and their children.

Health visitors build a trusting relationship with families to enable them to understand all relevant health messages and access the best resources to meet their needs.

To find out more about the Health Visitor Service please contact your local surgery or the NHS Orkney Switchboard on 01856 888 000.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT – THE CHILDREN'S PANEL AND THE HEARING SYSTEM?

What is the Children's Panel?

The Children's Panel is a group of people carefully selected from the local community with a wide range of backgrounds. Occupations of panel members in Orkney are varied and include farmers, teachers and clerical workers. They are highly trained and appointed by Scottish Ministers to sit on legal tribunals or hearings.

A hearing? Is that only for children who have committed a crime?

No. Many people seem to think that hearings deal only with crimes committed by children. In fact, around two thirds of all cases are relating to the welfare of children and ensuring their protection. In Orkney there are around 100 Children's Hearings held every year, for children aged from birth up until 18 years.

What happens at a hearing and who is involved?

The hearing is a meeting which involves the child and other important people in their life including parents/carers, teachers and social workers. It is confidential and private with a focus on deciding what is best for the child. A hearing will only make an order (such as a supervision requirement) if they feel that it is in the best interests of the child. The welfare and protection of the child is always the main focus.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC ABUSE



For a child or young person who has domestic abuse in their family it can be a very upsetting and confusing time. There are no set patterns or signs as to how a child can be affected living with domestic abuse, the only certainty being that whether the child has witnessed it, heard it or been abused themselves, they will have been affected in some way.

At Women's Aid Orkney we have support workers who can help them through this difficult time. This support can be accessed through our outreach services or 'in house' while living in Phoenix House.

We provide every child or young person with their own support plan so that they can have ownership of by deciding the areas in their lives that we are going to work on together to improve. We do joint working with other agencies that may be involved in the child's life to ensure that the child gets a high standard of care from all.

Protecting children is a job that everyone should take seriously; it is their right to feel safe and secure.

If children and young people are or have been affected by domestic abuse the most important thing for them to remember is IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT.

If you know anyone who has been or is affected by domestic abuse please call us on 01856 877 900 or email us at leahwao@btconnect.com or elainewao2@btconnect.com.



CHILDREN AFFECTED BY PARENTAL SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Current estimates suggest that there are nearly 60,000 children affected by parental drug use and over 100,000 by parental alcohol use in Scotland and it is likely that these are under estimates (Have We Got Our Priorities Right? Children Living with Parental Substance Use, 2006)

One of the main difficulties in assessing the harm to children of living with parental substance abuse is that in the majority of cases, substance use is associated with a range of other factors such as, poverty and deprivation, poor physical and mental health, poor housing, debt, offending and unemployment. Any or all of these factors are likely to have an impact on the parent and on the child. The relationship between these factors and substance abuse should not be addressed in isolation. A number of agencies may need to provide services and support for the family.

In Orkney, the Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking Action Team (DASAT) promotes a number of services which support children and families affected by parental substance misuse. This includes the 'Reach Out' Young People's Befriending Service, VAO's Supported Volunteering Programme and SMART Recovery Sessions at the Blide Trust and Orkney Alcohol Counselling and Advisory Service (OACAS)

If you would like further information on any substance misuse issues please contact the DASAT support team on 870690 or email Katie.grant@nhs.net.



VOLUNTEER CENTRE ORKNEY

Volunteering in Orkney is a great way to have fun, learn something new as well as meet new people and gain a positive experience. As a young person in Orkney there are lots of opportunities and chances to get involved in the community. Volunteering can range from the more traditional role of helping out at a care home to organising an activity for young people in Orkney.

At the Volunteer Centre there are a range of projects happening:

- The Youth Development Worker's main role is to promote volunteering and the MV award to young people aged 16 – 25.
- Support for young volunteers is offered through the Youth Development worker – this can range from sourcing volunteering opportunities to attending initial meetings and filling out forms.
- 'Reach Out' is the young person's befriending project for 7-16 year olds.

All of these projects aim to support young people to grow in confidence and self esteem, offer new and exciting opportunities as well as give young people the chance to meet new people with similar interests.

A young volunteer told us:

"Volunteering has given me more confidence when meeting new people; it has taught me new skills and showed me that I am capable of taking on specific tasks. I have really enjoyed volunteering in Orkney and think it will help inform me about choices for my future. I am so glad I contacted the Volunteer Centre and think that everyone should at least give it a go...."

If you would like to find out more about volunteering in Orkney get in touch with Volunteer Centre Orkney. Contact number 01856 872 897, email vc@vaorkney.org.uk, alternatively drop into the centre to make an appointment.



CROSSROADS (ORKNEY) AND PRINCESS ROYAL TRUST ORKNEY CARERS CENTRE



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Young Carers

Young carers are those under 18 who care or help to care for an adult or child who has a physical or mental illness, disability or substance misuse problem. Young carers will often need to help with bathing and dressing, looking after siblings, overseeing medication and helping with mobility, housework and other tasks like paying bills, dealing with forms and other paperwork.

A dedicated Young Carers Support Worker provides support to children and young people in Orkney who take on a caring role within their family. They may be the sole carer for a single parent or may help other family members care for a parent or sibling.

The Young Carers Service offers one to one support and group activities which as well as providing some fun also allow peer and adult support for the children.

Referrals can be made to the Orkney Carers Centre either by phone or writing

Crossroads Children's Services

We provide a service for children with special needs (mainly Autistic Spectrum Disorders) which enables them to access activities which they cannot attend on their own. This may be because of reduced ability or challenging behaviour.

The activities vary from individual projects like swimming, horse riding, beach walks – to attending groups like Sea Cadets, Boys Brigade, Guides. All children have 1:1 support from a Care Attendant.

Referrals to Crossroads Orkney either by phone or writing

Easter and Summer Playschemes

The Orkney Carers Centre and Active Schools run a playscheme three times a week during the Easter and Summer holidays.

This playscheme is for primary school children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders who can manage with a staffing ratio of 1:3. Those living outside Kirkwall are provided with transport.

Activities vary from craftwork, clay modelling, indoor/outdoor games to visits to the cinema, pool, bouncy castle and 'Smugglers Cove'.

Referrals can be made to the Orkney Carers Centre either by phone or writing

Contact details: Anchor Buildings, 6 Bridge Street, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1HR, Tel: 01856 870500

REACHING OUT TO YOUNG PEOPLE



Young people today face many challenges as part of growing up. 'Reach Out' Young Peoples Befriending Project is a new service that aims to help children and young people aged 7 – 18 cope with the challenges of life as a young person in the 21st Century.

The project hopes to help those struggling with these challenges, by introducing them to a trained and committed befriender. With the help of their befriender, we hope to provide them with opportunities to grow in confidence and self esteem and to gain a greater capacity to form and maintain positive relationships.

If you are interested in becoming a befriender or would like to know more about the project, please contact:

Hannah Rendall, Project Coordinator on 01856 872 897 or email Hannah.rendall@vaorkney.org.uk



YOUNG SCOT

10 Laing Street, Kirkwall, 01856 873535 x4051/4052

We provide a drop-in service for young people of secondary age. We offer a space to meet friends, watch TV and DVDs, PS2 and Wii, internet, pool and games. We work in partnership with other agencies to provide a focal point for young people.



OTHER LOCAL SERVICES:

Relationships Scotland (Orkney)

Relationships Scotland (Orkney) provides a range of counselling and mediation services for couples, families and children and young people, particularly in relation to separation and divorce.

Contact: Relationships Scotland (Orkney)
The Strynd, Kirkwall, KW15 1HG
Tel No. 01856 877750

OACAS (Orkney Alcohol Counselling and Advisory Service)

OACAS has a Youth Counselling Service, and also provides a counselling for individuals, couples or families, and in particular help for people who are suffering from the effects of alcohol or drugs misuse - by themselves or someone close to them. Counsellors work to encourage responsible drinking.

Contact: Orkney Alcohol Counselling & Advisory Service
4 Gunn's Close, Kirkwall • Tel No. 01856 874738
www.oacas.org.uk • enquiries@oacas.org.uk

Advocacy Orkney

Advocacy Orkney provides a Children and Young Persons Advocacy service for all looked after children and young people and those in receipt of mental health services.

Contact: Advocacy Orkney, Orkney Counselling and Support Centre
The Strynd, Kirkwall, KW15 1HG
Tel No. 0800 0753431 • Txt. 07894097775

CONTACT DETAILS

Crossroads Orkney

01856 870 500 • orkneycarers@tiscali.co.uk

DASAT (Drugs, Alcohol, Smoking, Action Team)

01856 870 690 • www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/DASAT
Katie.grant@nhs.net

Fostering Service

01856 873535 • Jane.beckwith@orkney.gov.uk
Shona.thain@orkney.gov.uk

'Reach Out' Young People's Befriending Project

01856 872897 • Hannah.rendall@vaorkney.org.uk

Voluntary Action Orkney

01856 872 897 • www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/VAO
enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk

Volunteer Centre Orkney

01856 872 897 • www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/volunteercentre
vc@vaorkney.org.uk

Women's Aid Orkney

01856 877900 • www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/WOMENSAID
leahwao@btconnect.com • elainewao2@btconnect.com

Young Scot

01856 873535 • www.youngscot.org/local/orkney_islands
carol.granere@orkney.gov.uk



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

CHILDREN IN ORKNEY NEED FOSTER CARERS



Orkney's fostering service provides family based care for children and young people of all ages and in all kinds of different circumstances - to help out in a family emergency, to provide regular or occasional respite, for longer term support with more complex difficulties, or as a permanent home. Children may need to stay for just a day or two, or for months, or sometimes for years.

Foster carers are ordinary members of our communities, who ensure children and young people can have a home in Orkney when they need it. Foster carers come from all walks of life: some are married, others single, some have children, others don't. They live in the towns, the parishes and the isles, in flats and houses and on farms. What they do have in common is a commitment to improving the lives of children and their families and a willingness to work in partnership with social work, health, education and other agencies to promote a young person's well-being.

Foster carers have advice, guidance and support from an experienced team of social workers, and allowances to meet the day to day costs of looking after a child. If you are interested in finding out more about fostering, please contact:

Jane Beckwith and Shona Thain, Social Workers, or Denise Wick, Support Worker, Fostering Team

Community Social Services, Council Offices, Kirkwall KW15 1NY, Tel: 01856873535, email: Jane.Beckwith@orkney.gov.uk or Shona.Thain@orkney.gov.uk

PS Please get in touch today - children in Orkney need foster carers now!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A LOGO!

The Child Protection Committee is looking for a new logo and want your ideas! The competition is open to all ages. Entries to Gaynor Jones, Voluntary Action Orkney, Anchor Buildings, 6 Bridge Street, Kirkwall by November 28. Grooves Vouchers for the winning design.

This insert produced with grateful thanks to the members of the Orkney Child Protection Committee Communications Group and the Highland Child Protection Committee.



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