

## **Referral to the Children's Reporter**

Consideration needs to be given throughout a Child concern or Child protection investigation and assessment as to whether compulsory measures of care are required. Compulsory measures are more often required when the parents/carers or the child are unable or unwilling to engage with professionals sufficiently to address the risks and needs of the child, or where concerns about a child's welfare or behaviour are so serious that they cannot safely be addressed on a voluntary basis.

A referral to the Children's Reporter should be made when:

- A child who is subject to Child Protection procedures is already subject to a Compulsory Supervision Order.
- Where a child remains on the Child Protection Register following a three month review and no or little progress/change has been made.

The Child's Plan and minutes of the Child Protection Case Conference will be sent to the Reporter within 15 calendar days.

## **Child Protection and Children's Hearing processes**

Children and young people who have Child Protection plans are assessed as being at risk of significant harm. In order for children's wellbeing needs to be met and risks reduced, it is crucial that there are clear timescales to reduce and manage risk in Child Protection Plans.

Orkney CPC has a commitment to ensuring that children are not subject to extended periods on the Child Protection plans and registration. Therefore, our policy is to hold an early review at 3 months. Should the multi-agency risk assessment continue to judge a significant risk of harm, or that other grounds for referral are met, and the child is not already subject to compulsory measures of supervision or a variation of a measure needs to happen, then a referral should be made to the Reporter.