

# Child Protection Committees Scotland



## CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES SCOTLAND - Media Pack

Child Protection Committees Scotland (CPCScotland) is a national grouping of professionals who work together to improve the protection of children in Scotland. Everyone in the group is involved in child protection work, supporting Scotland's 30 local child protection committees. People involved in our group and on local child protection committees come from diverse organisations including social work, health, education, the police, children's charities, housing and the emergency services.

Children themselves have told us that "it's everyone's job to make sure I'm all right", and an important part of CPCScotland's remit is to raise public awareness of what child protection actually is. When CPCScotland talks about child protection we mean helping to keep children safe from abuse, neglect, exploitation, harm and anything else that puts them at risk.

Our spokespeople are available for broadcast and press interview (see below). Collectively we are able to offer the media our specialist knowledge about child protection issues, plus a real breadth of experience and insight.

As a group, CPCScotland aims to provide jargon-free definitions of child abuse and neglect. We also hope to raise understanding that child protection is not just about babies, but can affect children and young people of all ages and backgrounds.

We can explain the complexities of child protection and legal systems, and some of the challenges being faced by child protection professionals. We also seek to emphasise the good work already being done by agencies, organisations and staff across the country to protect children at risk.

We believe that child protection requires collective effort and is not restricted to official organisations and the law - individuals and communities can also play a significant role protecting children from harm. As such, we hope to maximise opportunities in the media to explain why each and every one of us has a responsibility to keep Scotland's children safe.

Subjects we can contribute to include:

- neglect
- abuse
- child exploitation
- child protection systems
- significant case reviews
- child protection policy, legislation and strategy
- what to do if you are concerned about a child

To arrange an interview with a Child Protection Committees Scotland spokesperson, or to request a statement or quote, please contact **Mairi Damer** of **WORD UP Communications**.

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## Child Protection Committees Scotland - media spokespeople

### Alan Small

#### Chair, Child Protection Committees Scotland



Alan Small is a former senior police officer with a career spanning criminal investigation, and public protection, plus divisional and corporate management and command. On retiring from the police Alan worked for over 5 years as a Scottish Government advisor across the Early Years and Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) policy areas.

Alan has been the Independent Chair of Fife Child Protection Committee, Fife Adult Support and Protection Committee and Fife MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group since 2015.

Alan currently acts as Chair of Child Protection Committees Scotland.

### Tam Baillie

#### Vice Chair, Child Protection Committees Scotland

Tam has spent 40 years of his career working with and for children and young people. He's worked in both the voluntary and statutory sectors, in Scotland and England. Tam's professional experience includes community-based supports to vulnerable children, throughcare and after care services, homeless and street-based services, and influencing national policy and legislation.

Tam was Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People from May 2009 to May 2017 where his duty was to promote and safeguard the rights of children and young people in Scotland.

These days, Tam acts as Independent Chair of Shetland's Public Protection Committee and Independent Chair of the Western Isles Child Protection Committee. He is also the current Vice Chair of Child Protection Committees Scotland.



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## **Marian Martin**

Marian is a qualified solicitor who has worked within child protection and youth justice services for the last twenty five years.

In her former post as Assistant Chief Inspector within HMIE, and later at the Care Inspectorate, Marian managed the national inspection programme of child protection services throughout Scotland as well as inspection of residential, special and secure schools. Prior to this, Marian held a number of senior posts within the Scottish Children's Reporters Administration.

For the past six years Marian has been a Board Member of Children's Hearings Scotland, and currently acts as the independent Chair of North Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee and also as interim Chair of the Adult Protection Committee.

