



# Community Planning Aberdeen

<b>Progress Report</b>	Project End Report 9.3: Increase by 10% the number of young people (16-17 year olds) who are jointly reported to SCRA and COPFS who are offered robust alternatives to entering the statutory system by 2022.
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<b>Governance Group</b>	CPA Board – 14 September 2022

## Purpose of the Report

This report presents the results of the LOIP Improvement Project Aim to Increase by 10% the number of young people (16-17 year olds) who are jointly reported to SCRA and COPFS who are offered robust alternatives to entering the statutory system by 2022 and seeks approval to close the project.

## Summary of Key Information

### 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This project aims to retain more children and young people who are in conflict with the law in the children's hearings system, rather than the adult criminal justice system. This is important as a matter of rights for children and young people, so that they can experience child friendly justice and be dealt with in a system that is focussed on their needs. This improvement charter is aligned with the direction of travel in The Promise and proposed amendments to the law seeking to retain more 16- and 17-year-olds in particular in the children's hearings system.
- 1.2 The UNCRC is to be fully incorporated into Scottish law and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child is clear that "the child justice system should apply to all children above the minimum age of criminal responsibility but below the age of 18' (United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2019: para 29)." - [CYCJ](#). By retaining our 16/17 year olds in an adult justice system we will potentially be in breach of the UNCRC.
- 1.3 Children and young people in conflict with the law are more likely to have speech and language needs and most have experienced trauma and crime in their own lives. Exposure of children who are not developmentally ready into adult criminal justice systems is ineffective and can be damaging.

## 2 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AIM

2.1 Against this background, the CPA Board approved the [project charter](#) for the initiation of an improvement project which aimed to increase by 10% the number of young people (16-17 year olds) who are jointly reported to SCRA and COPFS who are offered robust alternatives to entering the statutory system by 2022.

2.2 We decided to focus on the 16- and 17-year-old age group given that at the time we started our project a greater level of improvement was required for this age group. It also aligns with the aims of the Promise and Care & Justice Bill to increase age of referral to reporter to 16- and 17-year-olds. In 2016/ 17 33% of 16- and 17-year-olds jointly reported were referred to the reporter as an outcome. The aim of our project was to increase this by 10%.

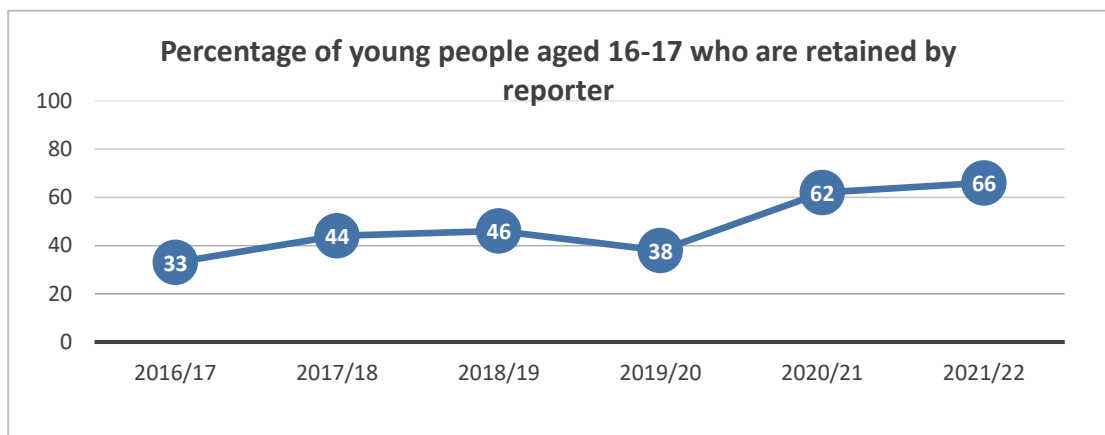
## 3 WHAT CHANGES DID WE MAKE?

3.1 During the project we tested a number of improvements including setting up a single point of contact and better communication between social work and the reporter when joint reports are received; we developed a briefing note and training materials for multiagency workforce and rolled out learning sessions.

## 4 HAVE OUR CHANGES RESULTED IN IMPROVEMENT?

4.1 We measured outcome data so that we could track how many children and young people jointly reported to PF and reporter were being dealt with by the reporter. This data shows improvement which has been sustained over time.

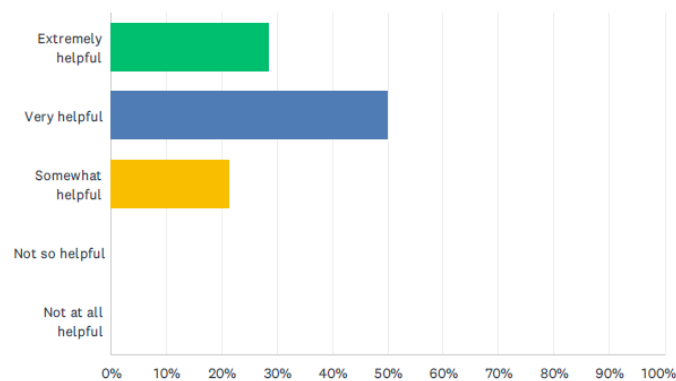
4.2



We gathered data to measure our improvement work. In our measurement plan we measured the effectiveness of the training materials and evaluated the learning sessions. Everyone who responded about the briefing note found it helpful to some extent with 78.5% finding it either very or extremely helpful.

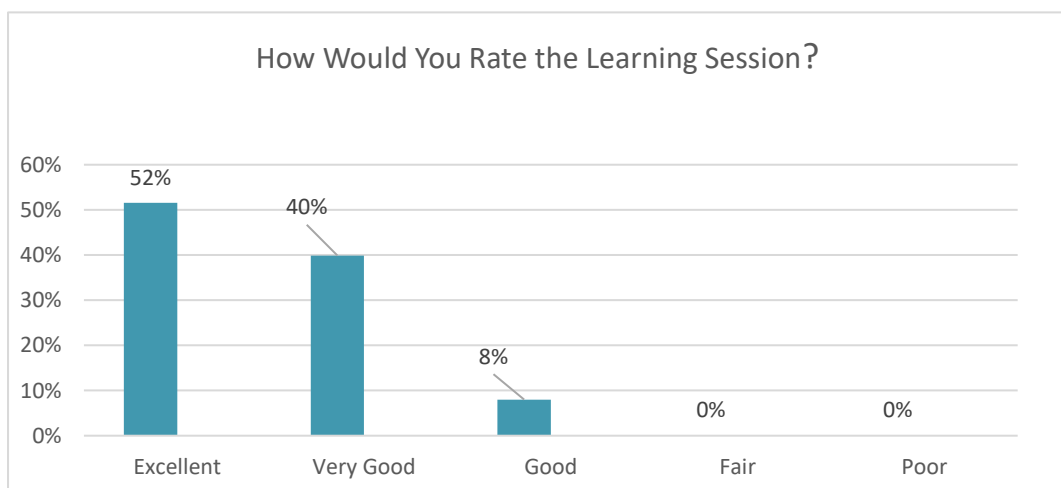
### Q4 How helpful do you think the Briefing Note on Joint Referrals is?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 0

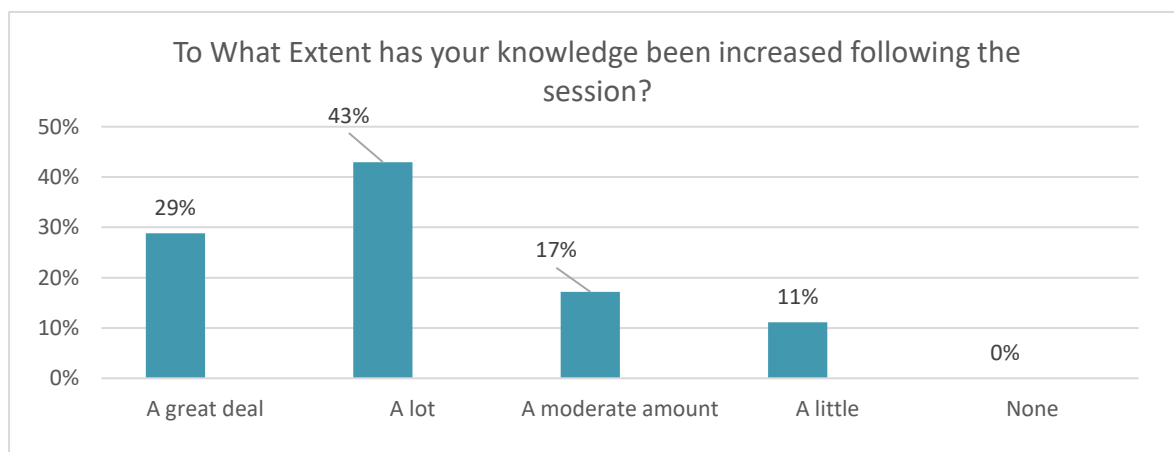


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely helpful	28.57%	16
Very helpful	50.00%	28
Somewhat helpful	21.43%	12
Not so helpful	0.00%	0
Not at all helpful	0.00%	0
TOTAL		56

4.3 The evaluation data shows the really positive impact of the learning sessions. 92% of participants rated the sessions either excellent or very good.



4.4 Everyone who responded thought their knowledge had been increased to some extent. 72% of participants found their knowledge increased a great deal or a lot. Some participants already had a high level of knowledge experience and expertise in this practice area which explains why some found their knowledge had increased a little. Some participants had no or very little previous knowledge and identified that taking part would support them in their practice in supporting children and young people who have been jointly reported.



## 5 HOW WILL WE SUSTAIN THESE IMPROVEMENTS?

- 5.1 The data shows that the improvement achieved in 2020/21 has been sustained into 2021/22 with 66%. To ensure this continues to be sustained learning sessions will become part of a rolling programme for the City and will continue to be offered to the multiagency workforce. A working group will meet regularly to monitor the work and ensure that improvements are sustained. This group is working to test further change ideas and to ensure that there is good communication among the key partners.

## 6 HOW WILL WE MONITOR THESE IMPROVEMENTS?

- 6.1 SCRA data reports on jointly reported children on an annual basis as well as monthly youth justice data being provided to Locality Reporter Managers. The LRM in Grampian will monitor this data and provide it to the working group to monitor the improvements. Youth Justice data is also considered in the Youth Justice Improvement Group which will provide a further layer of monitoring.
- 6.2 Should it be agreed that the project is ended, the data recorded will continue to be monitored and reported to the Children's Services Board as appropriate, as well as reported on the Improvement Programme Dashboard to ensure that performance continues

## 7 OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCALE UP AND SPREAD

- 7.1 The effectiveness of multiagency learning sessions could be scaled up. The work on better communication as being key to influencing outcomes could also be spread. There are plans for some of this work to be taken forward on a national basis through SCRA's Route Plan to Keep the Promise and review of the joint protocol on joint reports between SCRA and COPFS.

## Recommendations for Action

It is recommended that the CPA Board:

- i) Agree that testing is concluded and that this Improvement Project is brought to an end on the basis that it has achieved its aim and this has been sustained outcome and has also impacted positively on the workforce involved in dealing with joint reports, from making decisions to supporting young people who are jointly reported. In addition,

- there is an ongoing working group who will continue to test change ideas further, to monitor the data and the effectiveness of communication.
- ii) Note that the dataset for the overall aim will continue to be reported via the Improvement Programme dashboard to ensure progress is monitored

### **Opportunities and Risks**

Opportunities: -

- Better communication in partnership working
- Learning opportunities across multiagency
- Directly impacting outcomes for children / YP
- Retaining more children / YP in the children's hearings system

Risks: -

- Low numbers of children involved

### **Consultation**

Children's Services Board meeting – 25 July 2022  
CPA Management Group – 17 August 2022

### **Background Papers**

The following papers were used in the preparation of this report.

LOIP, Project Charter, Case Study, Project Updates, SCRA data.

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