

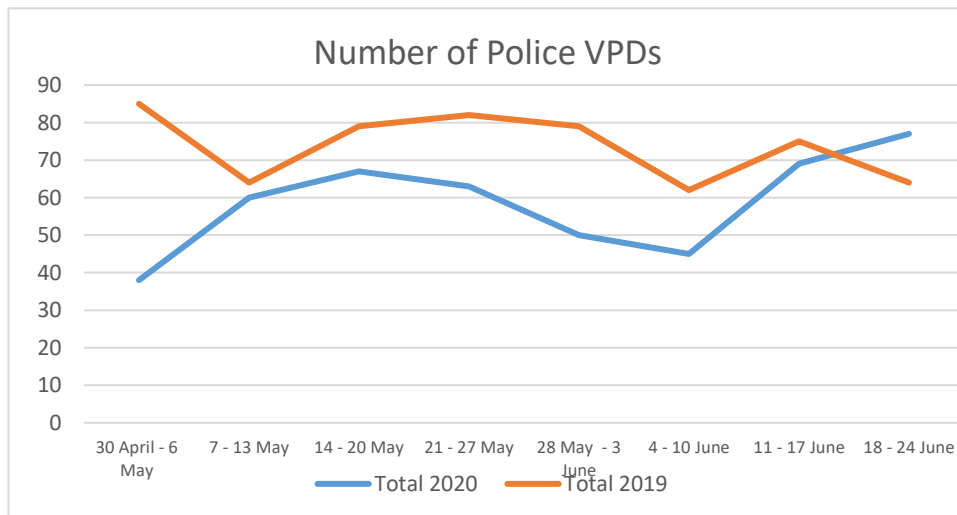
## Child Protection COVID19 Update Report

### 1. Work of the Child Protection Committee

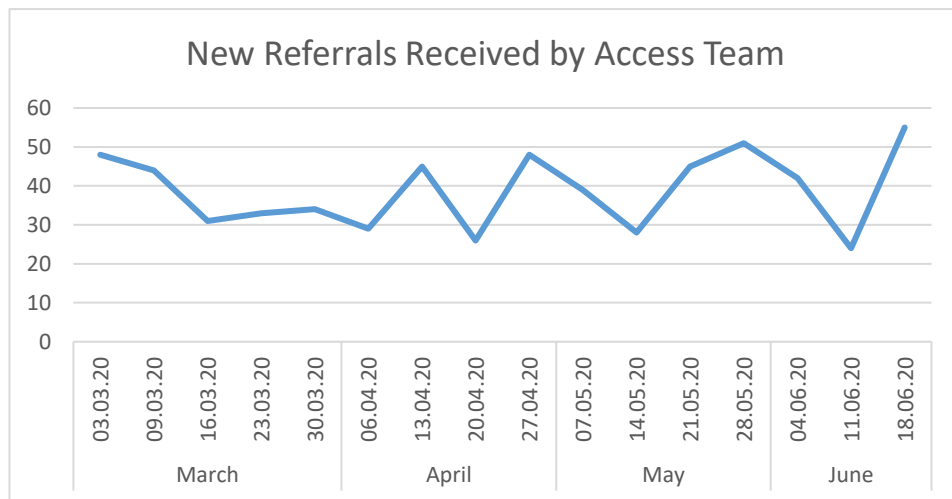
- 1.1. The CPC are now meeting on a monthly basis to co-ordinate the response to the pandemic. A working group was established to complete the Moray CPC Risk Register which fully incorporates risks related to the pandemic. This working group will continue to meet in order to detail the related action plan for the CPC over the next 12 months.
- 1.2. The CPC have reviewed the national child protection supplementary COVID19 guidance published by the Scottish Government to consider the response locally and ensure all partner arrangements are in line with this.
- 1.3. The CPC Chairs and Lead Officers across the North East have been meeting on a fortnightly basis to consider local responses and to share learning across a number of themes including strategic arrangements, publicity, staff guidance and training.

### 2. Child Protection Activity

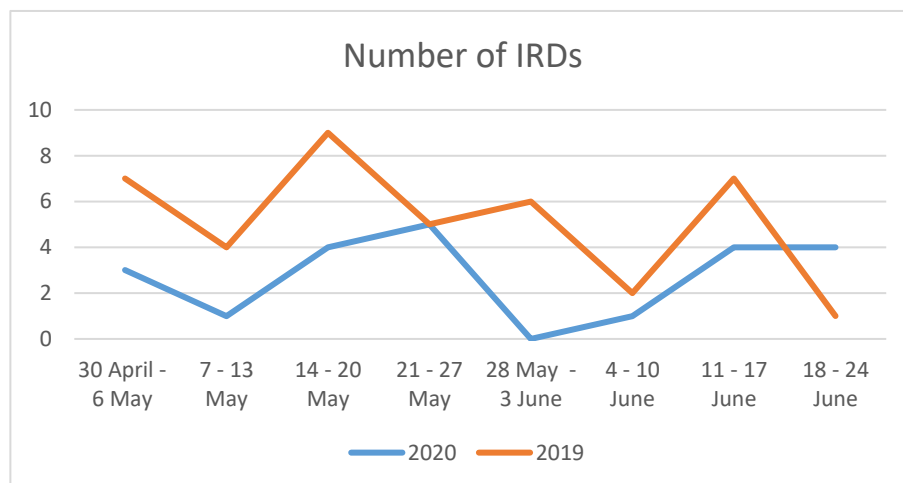
- 2.1. **Processes:** Child protection procedures continue as a critical function, with home visits conducted as part of any investigation. Multiagency meetings are held virtually and information sharing processes remain in place.
- 2.2. **Police Concern Reports:** This year between 30<sup>th</sup> April and 24<sup>th</sup> June the overall number of concerns generated by Police is lower than during the same period in 2019. Recent June figures show a steady increase in concerns and this will continue to be monitored to identify any emerging trend.



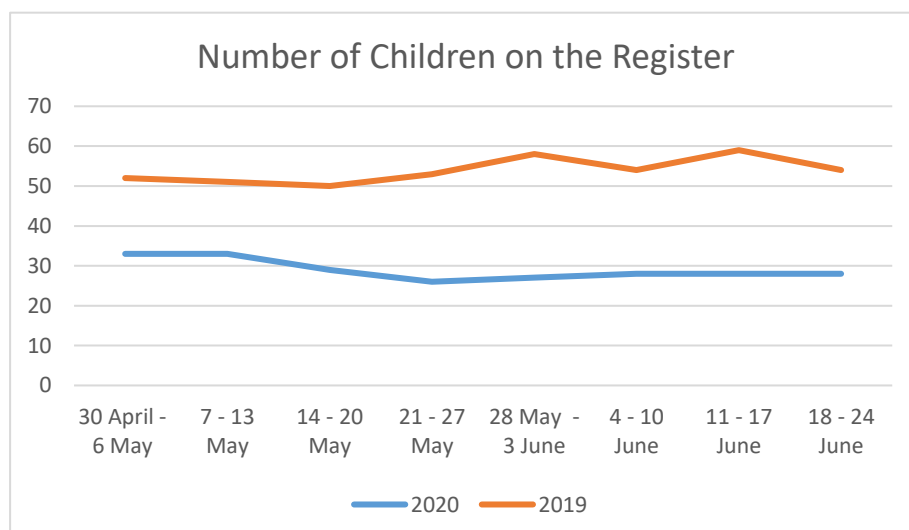
- 2.3. **Children and Families Access Team:** Wellbeing concerns, requests for support and child protection concerns and Police VPDs are all processed by the Access Team. The graph below outlines new work generated for children not already open to a social work service. This support primarily relates to wellbeing concerns, with child protection cases captured within the Initial Referral Discussion (IRD) figures.



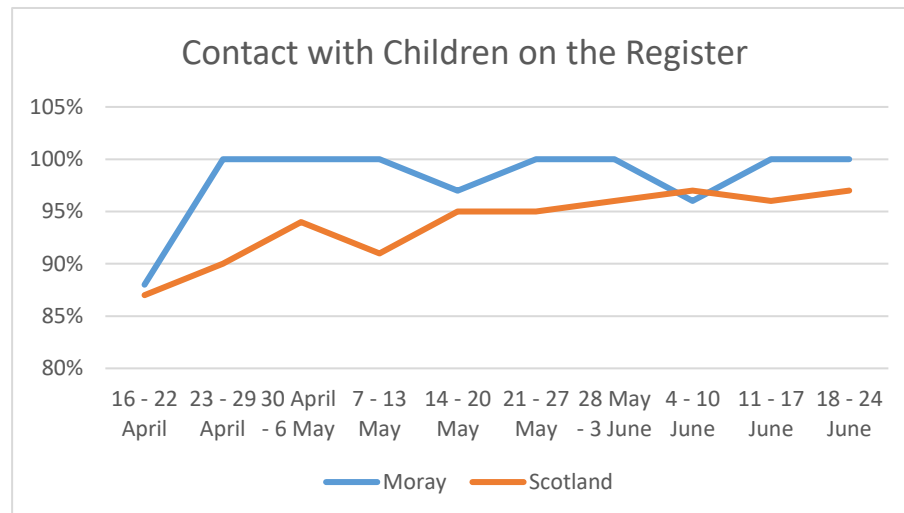
**2.4. Initial Referral Discussions:** The number of IRDs held during the pandemic is lower than in 2019, with the main reason for IRD due to concerns of physical harm.



**2.5. Children on the Register:** The number of children on the child protection register has remained stable during this time period. This can be attributed to the overall reduction in referral rate during the last 12 months and is not a reflection of any impact of the pandemic.



- 2.6. Supporting Children and Families:** In Moray we have maintained contact with our vulnerable children at a level that is consistently above the national average. For children on the register, senior managers are made aware of any challenges practitioners experience when engaging with families -this has mainly been due to families isolating and experiencing anxiety over home visits.



### 3. COVID19 –Areas of Risk

- 3.1. Hidden Harm:** The risks relating to lockdown and subsequent reduction of contact with vulnerable children have been considered and outlined within the risk register. The development of interagency connect teams and wellbeing hubs have mitigated some of these risks, ensuring contact is established with children and families that may become more vulnerable during the pandemic.
- 3.2. Economic Impact:** The long term economic impact on children and families and the strategic response of the partnership has been identified as an area to be prioritised as we move into the recovery phase of the pandemic.
- 3.3. Workforce Development:** The Moray Learning and Development Group has been re-established to deliver interagency child protection training. Work is underway to offer a calendar of facilitated workshops on key topics of neglect, sexual exploitation and child protection basic awareness. An options appraisal will be brought to the August CPC meeting to consider next route to offer online self-led learning/e-modules that are accessible to partners, third sector and community groups. A training needs analysis is in development to be disseminated in August in order to gather a more accurate picture of need and help prioritise new course development and delivery over the next 12 months.
- 3.4. Publicity, Promotion and Engagement:** In line with developments relating to broader public protection awareness raising, raising the profile of the CPC through use of social media and promotion will also be progressed. Working with Children 1<sup>st</sup>, the CPC will work with young people to identify ways to promote key messages relating to safety and protection directly to the younger population.

**3.5. SCR Improvement Plan:** As part of the risk assessment exercise conducted to complete the risk register, the improvement actions relating to the SCR have been prioritised and will be taken forwards by identified leads to submit a full improvement and dissemination plan to the Care Inspectorate.

4. Conclusion/Next Steps

4.1. The work of the Child Protection Committee has intensified with a Risk Register now in place to prioritise the improvement actions going forwards. Critical services remain in place, and the Child Protection Committee are meeting monthly to co-ordinate action required on a partnership level.

**Authors of Report:**                **Samara Shah Independent Chair CPC**  
   **Emma Johnston Quality Assurance Officer**