

## Early Years Framework

**Focused on children most at risk, our fundamental purpose is to:**

- make effective decisions about a need to refer a child to a Children's Hearing
- enable children and families to participate in Hearings
- provide suitable accommodation for Children's Hearings
- disseminate information and data to inform and influence improved outcomes for children and young people

Children under the age of two are some of the most vulnerable in our society. In 2008/09, almost 1 in 20 children under the age of two in Scotland were referred to the Reporter (5,651 children). These children were referred on grounds of lack of parental care and/or because they were victims of Schedule 1 offences.

### Compulsory and emergency measures

The number of children under the age of two who need compulsory or emergency measures to protect them is increasing – over the past four years there has been:

16% increase in children under the age of two subject to Supervision Requirements.

- 25% increase in children under the age of two with Child Protection Orders (CPOs).
- 17% increase in children under the age of two with Place of Safety Warrants.



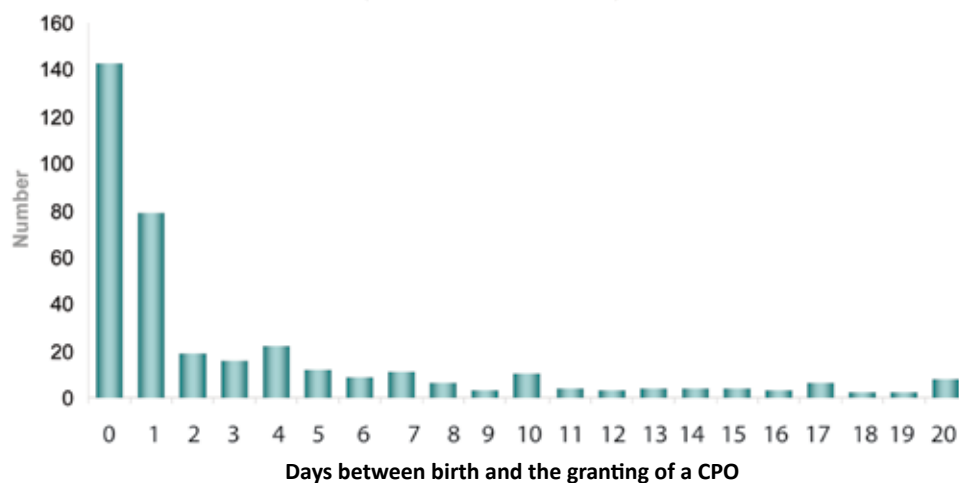
### Children under two

2008/09

subject to Place of Safety Warrants	441
subject to Child Protection Orders	269
subject to Supervision Requirements	941

## Child Protection Orders for babies under 20 days old

(From 2005-06 to 2008-09)



## Family backgrounds

Children under the age of two who are referred to the Reporter have difficult family backgrounds, characterised by:

- Unemployment and housing problems,
- Parents with drug and/or alcohol addictions,
- Parents with histories of offending and prison,
- Parents with mental health problems,
- Violence and domestic abuse.

There are also positive factors:

- Family support networks (particularly grandparents) and strong attachments between mothers and their children,
- Early identification of children being at risk – often before birth, and the range of services made available to children and their families.

Despite children being identified at a very young age and services being put in place to support their families, increasing numbers of very young children need compulsory and emergency measures to protect them from the dangers posed by the adults in their lives.