

# Children's Services Plan 2017-2020 – Review Report

## Fife Children Services Plan

### 1. What is the local vision for children's services

"Fife's Children's Services partnership remains committed to promoting, supporting and safeguarding the wellbeing of all children and young people in Fife. Together, we will strive to achieve **our vision: to make Fife a place where every child and young person matters.**"

"...we will work to ensure that all children and young people have equal access to opportunities and positive experiences, regardless of their social context or personal needs. We will engage with and support families with complex needs and vulnerabilities, and help all children and young people to overcome the barriers that they face. We will achieve this by continuing to strengthen our preventative approaches and by further developing early, proportionate interventions that identify and meet the needs of children and young people across Fife."

It further sets out their mission:

- To promote, enable and safeguard the wellbeing of all children and young people;
- To ensure every child and young person is Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible and Included ;
- To ensure equity for all children and young people to achieve positive life chances.

### 2. Was a strategic needs assessment (i.e. population wellbeing, community assets, available resources, etc.) undertaken for the CSP, and is the data robust?

Yes. There is reference to a Children and Young People online survey consultation on wellbeing, but no separate document regarding this is available.

### 3. What are the key Outcomes / Priorities identified for this planning cycle?

- Ensure that our services are built around children, young people, families and their local communities;
- Improve the effectiveness and impact of our partnership working to achieve outcomes;
- Ensure a decisive shift to prevention, and by so doing reduce inequality and promote equality;
- Improve the performance and value of children's services across Fife.

More detailed information on each of the outcomes linked to the wellbeing indicators is provided at Annex 1.

#### **4. Is it clear from the CSP what the partnership will do to achieve these outcomes?**

Yes. For each priority there is an evidence section and a key outcome measure which illustrates progress towards achieving the target aim.

A dedicated section 'Implementing the plan' provides information on partnership working in the context of Girfec with particular emphasis on their family nurture approach and child wellbeing pathway in the local area.

There is further information about strategic partnership working in the local area to progress the plan:

"The Children & Young People's Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC) supports staff across children's services, from conception to early adulthood, to improve the quality and effectiveness of services. It integrates: Maternity & Children's Quality Improvement Collaborative (MCQIC), Early Years Collaborative (EYC), Raising Attainment for All (RAFA), PACE (Permanence And Care Excellence) and the One to One Project (Post 16 +) into one single programme, enabling a common and shared experience. This approach has been recognised by the Scottish Government as a positive way to improve outcomes.

The Children and Young People's Improvement Collaborative is informed by the Scottish Government's 3-step Improvement Framework for Public Services, which includes the Model for Improvement - an overarching framework to test improvement at a local level.

The Model for Improvement enables practitioners to test, measure, implement, and spread new and better ways of working to make services more effective and responsive to the needs of children, young people and families. When used consistently this methodology has been proven to achieve long term positive change that significantly impacts outcomes."

#### **5. Does the CSP set out clear indicators of progress (on outcomes / priorities) that draw on robust data sources?**

Yes. The CSP offers detailed data highlighting their progress in the last reporting period to 2017 which provides a helpful baseline.

"Outcomes have improved across almost all of the priorities identified in the 2014-17 plan. For the remaining outcomes, current progress remains broadly in line with the performance that was being achieved at the beginning of the 2014-17 plan. There have been significant improvements in several key areas, including: literacy and numeracy levels in primary school, rates of stillbirth and infant mortality, teenage pregnancy rates and looking after children and young people at home or in a kinship setting.

Outcomes for a number of priorities have fallen short of the targets set at the beginning of the 2014-17 plan. Most of these outcomes relate to areas of wellbeing that will continue to be covered by priorities within the 2017-20 children's services plan, including: domestic abuse, healthy growth and development, and school leaver destinations."

**6. Does the CSP take account of other strategic priorities in other plans? If so, how?**

Yes. It is noted that work will continue to align all aspects of strategic planning for children and young people, including corporate parenting.

An annual report will be published after March each year outlining progress made against the plan in each of these areas, and providing an overview of evidence relating to improvements in the wellbeing of children and young people in Fife.

The Fife Children's Services Plan aligns with the key strategic plans at national and local level.

**7. What are the governance arrangements around the CSP, to ensure that progress is being made?**

The CSP has an organigram which depicts the management structure within Fife planning partnership. It further states:

"Children in Fife, the leadership group of the Children's Services Partnership, has worked with the Child Protection Committee and other key strategic partners to produce the Fife Children's Services Plan 2017-20. Implementation of the plan will be supported by a number of strategic groups at Fife and locality level, helping to ensure that outcomes are improved for children and young people across Fife with a clear focus on local priorities. The Children's Services Plan will provide a key strand of work within the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan for Fife.

Progress against the plan will be the subject of ongoing self-evaluation by the Children's Services Partnership, based on the quality indicators set out in "How well are we improving the lives of children and young people?" - the guide to self-evaluation of children's services produced by the Care Inspectorate."

**8. To what extent is 'Getting it right for every child' reflected in the plan?**

Girfec is referenced in many places within the document, in the introduction and in the context of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and is a central feature of delivering the CSP.

"Getting It Right In Fife (GIRIF) is the basis for implementing GIRFEC in Fife. It provides an overarching framework which enables Fife's Children's Services to provide more effective and outcome-based services to children and young people.

GIRFEC is made up of component parts which form an integrated framework for promoting children's wellbeing.

The framework explains how universal, additional and intensive services can work effectively either as single agencies, jointly or within an integrated approach to help develop and promote children and young people's wellbeing.

Whilst the Framework describes universal, additional and intensive services it may be more helpful to conceptualise the framework as a continuum where services respond in a flexible and proportionate way depending on needs and risks. A fundamental principle that underpins the framework is minimum intervention, where as far as possible children, young people and families are supported within universal services."

**9. To what extent are Adverse Childhood Experiences referred to in the plan?**

There is no specific reference to Adverse Childhood Experiences in the CSP although a number of the priority areas are relevant, for example addressing child poverty and domestic abuse.

**10. To what extent is Child Poverty referenced in the CSP?**

Information on child poverty is a key priority which Fife children's planning partnership seek to address.

**11. Is the Children's Hearings system mentioned in the CSP?**

Yes. There is reference to the Children's Hearing Administration as a partner organisation in the introduction section.

**12. What content on looked after children is included in the CSP?**

Looked after children are mentioned several times in the plan.

In outcome measures under 'narrowing the health inequality gap' p11, the CSP aims to "Increase the percentage of Looked After Children and Young People at home or in kinship care" and to "Increase the % of Looked After Children who have a plan for permanence within 12 months of being accommodated" Neither of these measures have targets attached due to changes in recording systems between 2014 (baseline) and 2017. However the plan goes on to state that "There have been improvements in several key areas, including: Looking after children and young people at home or in a kinship setting".

The reported findings from the Joint Inspection of Children's Services in 2016 on p13 also highlight a need to work to "reduce the proportion of looked after children

and young people who are placed outside of Fife, at some distance from home, and improving the support for children and young people who are able to return, to ensure that they do so successfully.” This is addressed further in Priority 9 of the CSP “LAC Return to Fife’. This priority has a focus on reviewing placements outside of Fife, CAMHS, and community based intensive care.

Priority 10 relates to ‘Permanence Planning’ and highlights the PACE programme being undertaken, and the permanence mentoring service which has been established. The outcome measure will be ‘Reduced average time for reaching a decision for permanence’.

### **13. What content on youth justice is included in the CSP?**

There is reference to ‘youth justice’ where an outcome measure under ‘making Fife’s communities safer’ on p12 is to ‘Reduce number of children and young people with 5 or more separate referrals for offences in a six month period reported through the YOMG [Youth Offender Management Group] (under 18)”

### **14. To what extent are Children’s Rights featured in the plan?**

Children’s Rights along with Girfec are identified as the ‘two pillars’ on which the plan is built.

There is a section in the CSP dedicated to Children’s Rights ‘How children’s rights will be given effect through the Children’s Services Plan’. This aligns all of the wellbeing indicators to the relevant article in the UNCRC.

### **15. Are there references to disability in the CSP?**

No. There are no references to disability in the CSP.

### **16. Does the plan refer to the local health and social care integration arrangements?**

Yes. There is one reference in the introduction which identifies the community planning partnership and includes the HSPC:

“Fife’s Community Planning Partnership provides a framework within which a range of partners work together to support local communities and improve the lives of people across Fife. The partners include Fife Council, NHS Fife, Fife Health and Social Care Partnership, Police Scotland, Fife Voluntary Action, Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Scottish Enterprise, Skills

Development Scotland, Fife College, St Andrew's University and South East Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran)."

### **17. What are the processes for engaging with children, young people, parents and carers?**

The CSP states that it is important to consult with children and young people, parents/carers and staff and demonstrates how the planning partnership will embed consultation with children and young people:

"Children and Young People across Fife have engaged in effective participation that has identified emerging themes across all aspects of wellbeing. These themes have helped inform the key priorities for the 2017-20 Children's Services Plan and a range of proposed actions to help achieve these. Consultation via an online survey has involved more than 2,500 children and young people, with more than 200 taking part in participation sessions." (Fife Children's Services Plan 2017-2020)

Regarding future consultation and participation the CSP states:

"All services are committed to embedding participation in their day to day work with children, young people, families and communities. This will help to ensure our work is truly child centred and continually improving. The Big Shout is the multi-agency group that coordinates and supports this work across the children's services partnership.

A range of approaches are used to support consultation and participation, including: Regular surveys, completed every two years, to help understand the views of key stakeholders. Over 23,000 children and young people, 3,100 parents and carers and 1,900 staff members completed the latest surveys in 2016.

Consultation and participation groups for children, young people, parents and carers have been used to inform the development of keys strategies. These have been supported by bespoke questionnaires and surveys. These have helped inform the development of key strategies covering areas like: Health and Wellbeing, Early Learning and Childcare, Parental Involvement, Attainment, Positive Destinations and Out of School Childcare." (Fife Children's Services Plan, 2017-20 p.37)

### **18. What are the links with Third Sector partners?**

There is little specific reference to Third Sector although this would fall within the remit of information provided on 'partnership working'.

Some information in the priority areas makes explicit links to Third Sector partners for example Women's Aid and Barnardos in working towards progressing the plan.

Broad references are made to organisations working together as described below:

"The Family Nurture Approach in Fife is changing the way organisations work, so that all children have the best start in life. It promotes a collaborative, partnership approach involving all stakeholders, including families and communities.

By aiming to give every child in Fife the best start in life, through service transformation and closer integration, we have increased the participation of families from Fife's most deprived areas, undertaken extensive workforce development, developed services for family support across the partnership and improved understanding about primary attachment. By doing this we have improved early years services to make them accessible and non-stigmatising, particularly for vulnerable families."

## ANNEX A: Outcome Targets

<b>Safe</b>	
1.	Children have a right to be protected from all forms of violence / Children have the right to be protected from all forms of exploitation
2.	Children are safe and feel safe
3.	Staff recognise and respond effectively to domestic abuse
4.	Children have a right to be protected from all forms of violence
<b>Healthy</b>	
1.	The successful implementation of the Universal Health Visiting Pathway, in partnership with key stakeholders
2.	Children in the early years are supported to develop to their full potential
3.	Promotion of health is a core part of wellbeing / Children have a right to good quality healthcare, including guidance for parents
4.	Breastfeeding is perceived as a cultural norm across Fife
5.	There is no social disadvantage related to differences in breastfeeding for children in SIMD deciles 1 and 2
6.	Promotion of health is core to wellbeing / children have a right to good quality healthcare, including guidance for parents
7.	Children and young people are supported to make healthy choices to reach their full growth potential
8.	Regular physical activity is a part of every child and young person's life
9.	Children have a right to be healthy / Children have a right to good quality healthcare, including guidance for parents



<b>Achieving</b>	
1.	Staff understand the attainment gap and are confident in using interventions that close the gap
2.	The attainment gap for the Broad General Education reduces, through effective use of the GIRFEC approach
3.	Children have a right to grow to their potential, with family support / children have a right to education that will fully develop their abilities and potential
4.	Young people will enter a positive and sustained destination on leaving school
5.	Children and young people have a greater awareness of career pathways and post school opportunities
6.	Children have a right to develop to their full potential / Children have a right to education that will fully develop their abilities and potential
<b>Nurtured</b>	
1.	Children and young people's emotional wellbeing needs are met through the Our Minds Matter Framework
2.	Children & Young People in Fife are resilient and are equipped to manage their own emotional wellbeing
3.	Children & Young People have access to appropriate service and supports when they need them
4.	Public services should be provided that respect and fulfil the rights of children
5.	To increase the proportion of children supported at home or in a kinship placement
6.	To reduce the proportion of looked after children placed out with Fife

7.	Parents & carers play a fundamental part in nurturing children / children who cannot be with family should be looked after properly / public care should be based on the best interests of the child
8.	To improve the system for permanence planning in Fife
9.	To ensure that more children achieve permanence more quickly
10.	Parents and carers play a fundamental role in nurturing children / children who cannot live with family should be looked after properly / public care should be in the child's best interests
<b>Active</b>	
1.	Families are supported to participate and engage in their children's play
2.	There is equity of access, with all children having access to appropriate play opportunities
3.	Being active contributes to wellbeing / children with particular needs should receive the right support / every child has a right to rest, leisure, play & recreation
<b>Respected</b>	
1.	To develop a culture of - and to build the capacity for - effective Relationship and Behaviour Approaches
2.	To reduce the need to exclude children and young people from school
3.	No child should be treated unfairly on any basis / respect is put into practice through appropriate actions by public agencies
4.	Children and young people who are most at risk from substance misuse of others are identified and protected
5.	Children and young people understand & are aware of healthy lifestyle choices & opportunities

6.	The best interests of children should be the primary concern / promotion of health is a core part of wellbeing
<b>Responsible</b>	
1.	Children and young people actively participate in decisions that affect their lives
2.	Children should be recognised as responsible and their views taken into account
<b>Included</b>	
1.	To support children and young people to overcome barriers to attending school
2.	To improve family engagement with learning
3.	Children have a right to education that will fully develop their abilities and potential

