

Commissioning Plan for Education and Social Work Children and Families Services

1. Introduction

The Fife Social Work Children and Families Commissioning Plan sets out proposals to commission services for children and young people based on the promises or priorities in the Children's Services Plan and Getting it Right for Every Child.

This Commissioning Plan has been developed following recognition that:

- current arrangements are financially unsustainable
- resources are not targeted in the most effective way to meet priority need and secure best outcomes.

The independent review of the third sector further informs this profile, providing options to be considered.

The main objectives of this commissioning plan are to:

- Identify the total resources available to services and relate this to the needs of the most vulnerable children and young people in Fife.
- Address the priorities and promises/priorities in the Plan and other strategic plans, linking these to investment
- Ensure that sound governance of resources is in place.
- Provide a coherent approach to selecting and prioritising investment and disinvestment decisions, linked to quality outcomes, budgetary processes and planning cycles.
- Establish a clear recording and measurement framework to assess if the aims are being achieved.

Resources:

The Plan identifies the total resource available for key services in Fife Council and linked with the Health and Social Care Partnership and other Partnership areas.

Recognises that there are other funding streams for various sources supported voluntary sector organisations.

2. Commissioning and Procurement

Strategic Commissioning is the term used for all activities involved in assessing and forecasting needs, linking investment to agreed desired outcomes, and working in partnership to put these in place.

Commissioning is defined as the process by which public bodies decide how to spend their money to get the best possible services for local people.

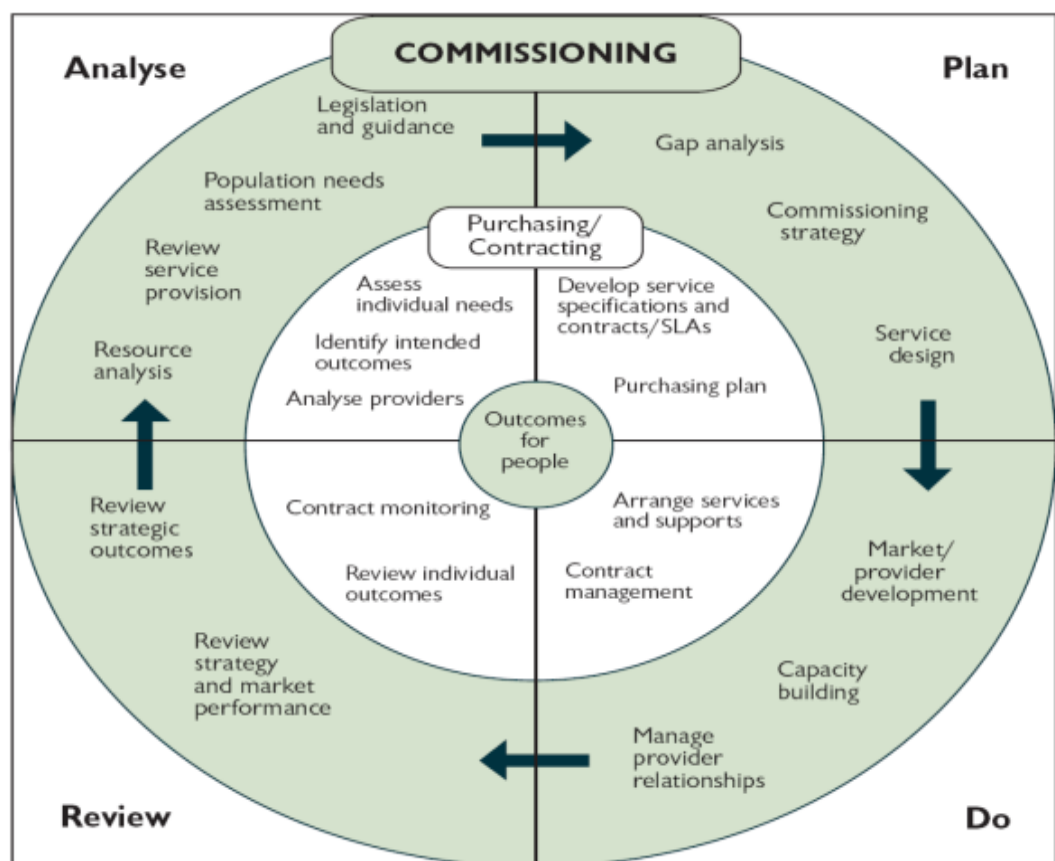
Procurement is the process by which a public body buys goods (e.g. computers) work (e.g. Roads) and services (e.g. Care services) from external suppliers/providers and is one element of a wider strategic commissioning process.

Commissioning Cycle

While there are many models of commissioning and purchasing available, they all fundamentally break down into four key areas (illustrated below):

- **analyse** – understand the values and purpose of the agencies involved, the needs they must address and the environment in which they operate
- **plan** – identify the gaps between what is needed and what is available, and decide how these gaps will be addressed
- **do** – secure services and ensure they are delivered as planned
- **review** – monitor the impact of services and ensure any future commissioning activities take the findings of this review into account.

Importantly, commissioning and procurement are closely linked, and the commissioning activities highlighted in the outer circle below must inform the ongoing development of procurement activities (as illustrated in the inner circle)



3. Investment in Children's Services

There was a significant investment of more than £4m in 2019 to the voluntary sector in Fife. The use of this funding is kept under review to ensure that it meets the needs of children and young people as effectively as possible. It is crucial that this spending helps to secure better outcomes for the most vulnerable children and young people, to afford them the best start in life

In Fife, an independent consultant review has taken place in conjunction with the Third sector with an aim to identify particular areas of the service.

The options in this report highlight the need to be clear about the funding programme available and the impact, timescale and reporting of such to various committees within the Council.

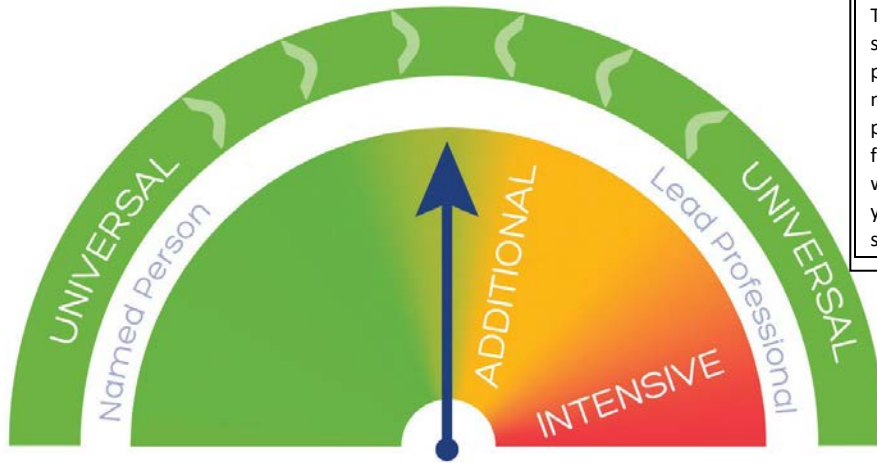
4. Challenges

The Council and particularly Children and Families Social Work have a significant overspend in their budget, a recovery plan is in place, which will also impact on the activity of the voluntary sector. The Council also set a target saving of £410,000 which has already been taken from the budget for 2019/20.

A medium-term strategy will ensure that the service works towards bringing the overall budget back inline over a 2-3-year term, with voluntary sector provision being defined and re-established within the budget envelope available by end 2020.

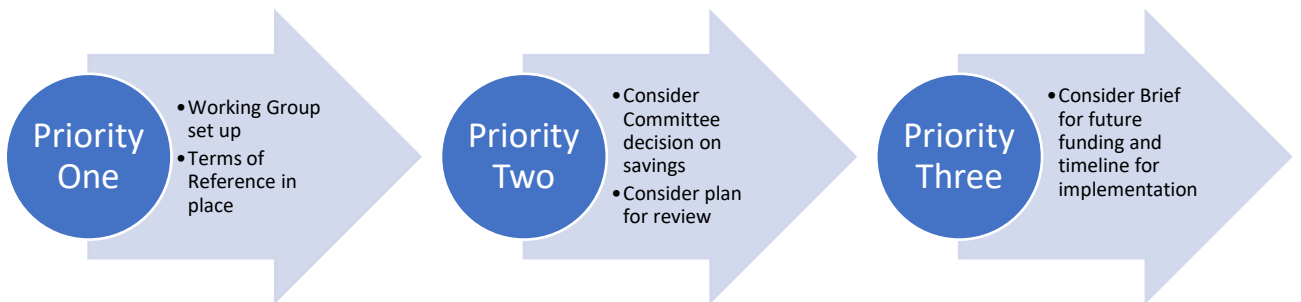
5. Voluntary Sector Programme of Review and Timeline

The voluntary sector plays a key role in supporting children and families across Fife. There are a range of services identified which meet the barometer of additional or intensive supports. Moving forward, consideration is required to the level of services, how they meet the Children's Service Plan and how they secure best outcomes.



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.

Timeline and Programme



6. Timeline

Subject	Timescale
Contact all providers and advise of funding arrangements from April 2020	Dec 19
Mapping of current Services	Dec 19
Map Services to Service Plan and consider writing of briefs for services from April 2020. Considering funding streams which cross over into C & F e.g. ADP funding.	Jan/Feb 20
Consider competitive grants process and update to joint working group.	Jan/Feb 20
Conclude process and identify changes to be made to service delivery	Mar/April 2020

7. Way Forward

- Meeting arranged for 14th January 2020 with Working Group and Third Sector to begin discussion.
- Work to commence on service briefs linked to future plans.