

Agenda Item No: 5b (1)

STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD



CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Date of last meeting: 29th September 2023

CURRENT ISSUES OF CONCERN/CHALLENGES REQUIRING SUPPORT FROM THE SDP CHAIRS EXECUTIVE:

- Support to analyse our 49 Promise data sets gathered from across South Ayrshire as part of our involvement in the national data collaborative and to link this with any strategic work that's happening around data.
- Support to connect The Promise more closely with child poverty activity.
- Support to map the resource implications of Care as a protected characteristic.
- Alignment with broader commissioning activity to ensure embedding The Promise is rolled out across all commissioned services.
- Engagement with services who do not work directly with children young people and their families on how they are embedding The Promise in their work
- Support from Chairs to embed the language changes we need to make. We feel if we do this across services universally then it will have the biggest impact.
- We have an estimated population of young carers in South Ayrshire of 3,000-5,000. Currently, we are aware of around 500 (increase from c100 in August 2022). We would like to encourage SDP Chairs to host an awareness raising session within their area. Please note, this includes adult services as children and young people may be supporting the adult.

Follow up action agreed by the SDP CHAIRS EXECUTIVE:

N/A

MAIN CURRENT FOCUS OF THE SDP

Young Carers

- Young Carers Lead Officer is working collaboratively on new Management Guidelines and **training package for Education**. This will include a short information film, accompanying booklet, Management Guidelines and suggested school policy for young carers. This should be available from March 2024. This package will then be tailored for other services, e.g. Social Work.
- **Secondary school roadshows** to raise awareness with all pupils in secondary schools across South Ayrshire begin in January 2024 with Ayr Academy. Assemblies will be held each morning and a marketplace event hosted on Friday lunchtime which will be attended by various organisations who can offer support to young people and families. During the assemblies, our short film, The Weekend, will be shown which includes a story on parental substance use. We have partnered with Barnardos new Whole Family Approach team on these roadshows as we have recognised that this might encourage young people supporting a loved one due to substance use to self-identify and they may need drug/alcohol specific services in addition to, or instead of young carer support. Awareness raising sessions with young people have not taken place since before Covid-19 restrictions, so we anticipate a significant increase in our numbers of known young carers.
- Work on **Primary aged short film** raising awareness in primary schools across South Ayrshire and as a valuable training resource for staff is ongoing. This film is based on our primary aged young carers'

own experiences and will give a real insight into their lives. One of three parts has been filmed. Filming will continue in January/February 2024 and another Night at the Oscars event will be held to launch before it is shared with all primary aged pupils.

- Formation of Primary aged '**Wee Carers Voice Group**' which will be made up of 10-12 children (any primary stage) who want to help shape the future for young carers in South Ayrshire by sharing their experiences and ideas.
- Ongoing work with Ayr United and Employability & Skills on a pilot for young carers who are **disengaging from school**. This will be a 6 week project, one afternoon per week. Each week will have a different theme (e.g. cooking and budgeting, physical health – training session with the First Team, etc.) and young carers will achieve a recognised qualification for participating.
- Tutoring – We partnered with University of the West of Scotland students to offer **free one to one tutoring** for young carers from P1 to S4 which was successfully piloted last year. We are working with UWS to upscale this and already have a long list of nominated young carers to be matched with an Education student.
- **Young Carers Action Day** takes place on Wednesday 13th March, and we will be planning events and activities to celebrate this. This year's theme is 'fairer futures for young carers'.
- **Family First** model will consider if pupil is a young carer as part of the discussion around support.
- Plans for **multi-agency GIRFEC training** will include support for practitioners to identify young carers

The Promise

- In the process of concluding phase 1 of implementing the promise in South Ayrshire (2021-24) by reviewing the ten improvement areas, associated actions and measurable improvements that have been aligned to Phase One. The learnings from this will inform our local plan 24 to 30. We will also review our 55 calls to action to ensure that areas that were identified as important locally are included as we move forward.

Some of the areas of work that we know will progress into 24-30 include:

- **Care as a protected characteristic** more work is required to map out implications this includes an exploration of our recruitment processes. This may pose a challenge if extra resource is required to map implications and create additional provision.
- **Education and a supportive school structure** more work is required to engage the whole school community in the realisation of this improvement area. We may find it challenging to balance a collaborative approach within the context of competing demands placed on education colleagues.
- **The language of care** more time and energy is required to help to broaden our use of language that is easily understood, is positive and that doesn't compound stigma. Working alongside our trauma lead we can look at combining cross cutting agendas to incorporate trauma informed language. Support is required for some sections of our workforce to feel comfortable and able to push the boundaries of language
- We now need to extend the work we have been doing around **commissioning** and the promise beyond services commissioned by South Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership, to ensure that South Ayrshire will incorporate 'quality of relationships' into **all** commissioning and monitoring frameworks as standard.
- **Data**, we will continue to explore our 49 data sets to understand their relationship and identify the gaps.
- We will explore how to align the Promise in a **place-based** way and will collaborate more closely with our Thriving Communities and Housing colleagues to look at the supports offered to those leaving care.
- All of our work will place those with lived experience at the heart and we will measure our success through the experiences of the people who use our services. This will require commitment and resource to do well, and we are aware that there is always a danger that participation may be tokenistic if not valued as central to all other activity.
- **GIRFEC refresh** updated materials for South Ayrshire practitioners will reflect commitment to care-based language.

PROGRESS UPDATE (INCLUDING AREAS OF SUCCESS)

LOIP PRIORITIES

Following engagement with members of the Children's Planning Partnership as highlighted previously, the LOIP priorities, along with supporting narrative, which have been put forward for the new LOIP are as follows:

The Promise

We will place love and relationships at the centre of the experiences and outcomes for every infant, child, and young person with care experience. We will do this through working together to fully implement the findings of the care review and The Promise by 2030.

- £50,000 secured for **participation posts** a further £425,019 was secured from Promise Partnership Corra Foundation, £ 229,937 under 'supportive school structure' and £195,082 to develop supportive framework for workforce wellbeing. This additional resource has created a strong platform for local collaboration. Research is on-going and will inform improvement work.
- In 2023 **South Ayrshires Integrated Equalities Impact assessment (IIA)** was developed to include The Promise Child Rights and Wellbeing, Trauma Informed Practice, Our Ageing Population, Health and Wellbeing and Rurality. Within the IIA we have recognised 'Care' as a protected characteristic specific to South Ayrshire Council.
- Through the Family First approach and applying the Signs of Safety model, there has been a change in the overall **balance of care**. This has resulted in a 53% reduction in the number of Children referred to the Scottish Children's Reporters Administration (SCRA) who were, in need of care and protection, from 2016 as well as a 67% reduction in the number of children subject to Compulsory Supervision Requirements (CSO's) from 2016/17 to 2022/23.
- Between January-March 2023, fifty-five young people with care experience who responded to a questionnaire and focus group told us their preference was to change the name of LAC reviews to **[name of young person's] meeting**. Now as a result of this work as on 1st November 2023 we have made these changes.
- The Promise Benefit tracker and associated processes has allowed us to look at the impact of our Promise actions by adopting a forensic approach to project planning which identifies measurable improvements. Tracking and monitoring meetings are chaired by the Head of Service and Promise Lead and supported by South Ayrshires Strategic Change Team.

Young Carers

Ensuring that all children and young people under the age of 18 who support, or help to support a relative or friend, because they have a physical or mental illness, disability, issues with drugs or alcohol, communication needs, or are elderly or frail, are recognised as being a South Ayrshire young carer. To work together across the CPP to ensure that young carers have access to the necessary support, advice, and resources to live a full active and achieving life.

- Young Carer Champion nominated in all secondary schools and all primary schools (except 2).
- Young Carer Ambassador, pupil at Carrick Academy was announced as MSYP.
- Period products pilot - Young carers and anyone who lives in their household can request a 3-month supply of disposable and/or reusable sanitary products which are packaged in discreet packaging and delivered to the young carer's home or mutually agreed community setting. During the period of this pilot (3 months), we supplied 123 people with almost 800 boxes of disposable products and over 220 reusable products. This has saved 26 families a combined total of £5,200 (or on average £200 per family). 80% of respondents had ordered/tried reusable products for the first time and 100% of these people would continue using them. We utilised the unused products normally assigned to schools and community buildings and the driver from our learning disability team delivered all packages to young carer homes or community buildings when out on daily business, therefore this initiative had zero cost.
- Honeypot memory day – we took 30 young carers (age 5 to 10) to Dalleagles (Honeypot Charity) for a special Christmas memory day. The children played party games, crafted, had a Christmas dinner and a visit from Santa with a gift. Lots of new friendships were formed on the day which was lovely to see.
- We won the Scotland/NorthEast England regional final of the Great British Care Awards in the Unpaid Carers category. We will now attend the grand UK finals in March where we will compete against the other 9 regions.
- We were delighted to win the Championing Diversity and Inclusion Award at the Scottish Public Services Awards for our short film, The Weekend.

KEY ISSUES

- Data collection is extensive around The Promise locally and requires in-depth analysis to understand any potential gaps and drive forward improvement in the right areas.
- One of the key challenges we have faced is that the Promise can be seen as a Health and Social Care Partnership project/initiative, one among many, rather than the whole system culture change that it is.
- Continuing support across services to assist us to identify who are young carers are and where.

UPDATE ON ACTION TO SUPPORT THE LOIP/PLACE PLANS

Report Completed by:

Officer: Gillian Carroll

Date: 15th Jan 2024