

South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board



Report by Children's Services Co-ordinator to
Community Planning Partnership Board Meeting of 18th April 2024

Subject: Children's Services Planning Partnership Update

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update and overview of current progress and challenges within the six priorities of the Children's Services Planning Partnership. This report should provide information on development and collaborative delivery of local action plans, including cross-cutting links to The Promise and Young Carer LOIP priorities.

2 The Board is recommended to:

- 2.1 The Board is requested to review the update from the CSPP acknowledging ongoing progress and areas for improvement with the view of fostering collaboration between stakeholders.

3 Background

- 3.1 The CSPP has undergone a change of structure in recent months and focus has been on embedding this new structure. Part of this work has been clearly establishing the CSPP governance oversight group, the Joint Improvement Group and the six thematic priority groups.

Key to embedding the new structure has been ensuring there is wide and varied participation on each of the six priority groups and any related sub-groups, including key third sector partners. The six thematic priority groups (Healthy, Included, The Promise, People, Families and Voice) are strengthened by their enthusiastic leadership from partners across the CSPP. The six themed groups were identified using local data and research conducted with families and practitioners across South Ayrshire.

Thematic priority group leads, along with key partners have collaboratively formulated thematic group action plans. This has given groups a sense of ownership of their own plans. These have been carefully created in response to data-driven insights that highlighted areas where improvement is needed for children, young people and families locally. These action plans are in the final stages of completion, as leads work to ensure cross-cutting themes and areas for collaboration between thematic groups are identified. This is particularly key for themes around The Promise and Young Carers, which touch all priority areas and leads will ensure plans represent this.

4 Progress

- 4.1 As noted, current ongoing progress is around the design and implementation of a robust programme management framework within the CSPP, strategically wrapping around our work to enhance planning processes.

Work to refine this framework in relation to whole family wellbeing and children's services planning is ongoing, currently being supported through our continuing partnership with Horizons Research. This will assist the CSPP to efficiently report locally and nationally whilst elevating the quality of data analysis to inform future planning.

Further progress has been made to enhance relationships and collaboration with third sector colleagues, with key third sector representation on the Joint Improvement Group and within *all six* thematic priority groups. This has been noted by third sector colleagues to increase their connection to the aims of the plan.

Since the last CP Board meeting there has been a further CSPP governance meeting (13th March 2024). The CSPP meetings are now chaired by Lyndsay McRoberts (Depute Chief Exec and Director of Education), with membership from key senior leaders across the authority and partnership with an aim to drive performance and delivery of the children's services plan. This group will have oversight of quarterly reporting data and key updates from the six priorities through Gillian Carroll (Children's Services Co-ordinator) Chair of the Joint Improvement Group.

4.2 Healthy Priority:

Our dedication promoting health and keeping our children, young people and families in South Ayrshire safe. With key aims including smoking and vaping, sexual health, mental health (specific focus on infant mental health), and drugs and alcohol.

Families Priority:

Our commitment to families in South Ayrshire that support is easily accessible through integrated, multi-agency teams who are based in their local community and know it well. We are committed to helping whole families overcome difficulties to stay together, where children feel loved and are safe. With key aims including the implementation of the Family First model in all school localities and ensuring families have the information to access to the right help at the right time.

Included Priority

Our recognition that we can do more for our children, young people and families who have diagnosed or undiagnosed additional support needs to help them reach their full potential. With key aims including communication friendly environments and support for children where a neuro concern is present.

Voice Priority

Our understanding that we must listen to children, carers and parents and meaningfully involve them in decision-making around matters that affect them. South Ayrshire will embrace a culture where compassionate, responsive decision-making for children and young people is embedded into everything we do. With key aims including co-design of appropriate services and development of a youth charter.

People Priority

Our learning offer to staff in South Ayrshire, allowing them to come together to learn, collaborate and build relationships for the best outcome of the child. The adults with whom children and young people build trusting relationships must be supported in their role to show compassion and care. With key aims including a series of multi-agency development sessions and a re-focus on GIRFEC practice across the authority.

The Promise

Our commitment to Keeping the Promise in South Ayrshire. Key aims are related to our 55 calls to action within Plan 20-24. Understanding that the aims of this plan will develop as we await publication of the national Plan 24-30 which will share with us the focus for the next six years. This plan is due to be published in late-June 2024.

5 Next Steps

- 5.1 Recruitment for a Graduate Data and Development is underway with interviews scheduled for end of March. This role will be central to supporting the framework and collation of data going forward.

Finalising of self-evaluation framework.

Mapping work is in the process of being undertaken by the Change Team as we revise our Parenting Strategy and parenting offer in South Ayrshire.

Plans are underway to revisit the “How Good is Our Third Sector Participation in Children’s Services Planning” toolkit. This was piloted in South Ayrshire in 2021 and will be revisited by the CSP Co-ordinator, key colleagues at Aberlour, VASA and the third sectors CYP forum.

Work on the current Promise Plan is ongoing as we await Plan 24-30.

Continuing work focusing on LOIP priorities and their cross-cutting themes.

Report by:

Children’s Services Co-ordinator
Education, South Ayrshire Council
13th March 2024