

**STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

**COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**



**CHILDRENS SERVICES SDP**

**Date of last meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

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

n/a

**Follow up action agreed by the SDP CHAIRS EXECUTIVE following 8<sup>th</sup> December meeting:**

n/a

**MAIN CURRENT FOCUS OF THE SDP**

Main areas of focus are the impact of COVID on children and young people and related services, implementation of The Promise and the implementation of legislation enshrining the UNCRC into Scots law and delivery of the Children’s Services Plan.

**PROGRESS UPDATE (INCLUDING AREAS OF SUCCESS)**

Since the last meeting of the Community Planning Board, there has been 2 meetings of the SDP – 05 November and 17 December. The SDP has in place an approved strategic action plan. Key areas of progress arising from these meetings include:

**COVID**

Consideration has focused on case levels and the impact on services, on the vaccination programme for 12-15 year olds and the use of social media to promote the vaccination programme locally and the challenges posed by seasonal flu and COVID co-existing.

**SG Feedback Report on Children’s Services Plans (2020-2023)**

The Scottish Government calls in all CSP’s and assesses them against delivery of the national agenda e.g., National Performance Framework/GIRFEC. South Ayrshire received a largely positive report (attached as appendix 1) with recommendations that there are more explicit links to data and evidence and some changes to the report structure and layout. It was also noted that the Plan doesn’t reference COVID but this reflects the fact that the plan was prepared prior to COVID biting Scotland in spring 2020 and in fact COVID has been a primary focus of the SDP since then.

**Streamlining Initiatives**

The SDP has discussed the number of initiatives currently underway e.g. The Promise, Corporate Parenting, UNCRC and GIRFEC refresh which are on different timescales and that effort will be required to make connections between the agenda and ensure coherence and that this isn’t overwhelming for frontline staff.

**UNCRC and Related Legislation**

Progressing children’s rights and implementing UNCRC legislation is a strategic priority for the Children’s Services Strategic Delivery Partnership. The Supreme Court has now issued and aspects of the legislation have been found to be beyond the powers of the Scottish Parliament and some revisions to the legislation are anticipated as a consequence. Local work has progressed and remains relevant and the focus has been on

producing a UNCRC Vision Statement and a draft Rights Framework. Young people have been consulted on drafts of the vision statement and revisions made in line with their feedback. The results of consultation with frontline staff are currently being reviewed. It is planned to develop self-evaluation questions to help services assess what more they can do to support children's rights and compliance with the UNCRC articles. Work is also focussed on Children's Rights Impact Assessments (CRIA) and how to handle challenges and breaches to the rights agenda.

**National Consultations**

The SDP has also discussed the consultation on the child poverty national delivery plan and the refresh of the GIRFEC resources and the assessment of wellbeing guidance and the most efficient way to respond to these as a partnership.

**Child Poverty**

The Scottish Government is currently consulting on the next national Child Poverty Delivery Plan – this will be considered when refreshing our local plan and work is now underway to prepare the 2021-22 annual report.

**Whole Family Approach and Family Inclusive Practice in Drug and Alcohol Services**

The SDP has also been discussing and had a presentation on the whole family approach and how they can contribute to the agenda

**KEY ISSUES**

- Continuing a coordinated partnership response to the challenges posed by COVID;
- Continued development of implementation plans for UNCRC;
- Continued development of implementation work on The Promise;
- Preparation work for national consultation on new GIRFEC guidance; and
- Keeping the children's service plan under review in light of COVID and new legislation and guidance.

**UPDATE ON ACTION TO SUPPORT THE LOIP/PLACE PLANS**

The SDP supports the strategic theme of 'Closing the Poverty Related Outcomes Gap' and 'Supporting Young Carers.'

**Report Completed by:**

**Officer: Claire Monaghan**

**Date: January 2022**

## **Review of Children's Services Plans (2020/21-2023) Feedback Report**

<b>Children's Services Planning Partnership</b>	<b>South Ayrshire</b>
<b>Period Covered by Children's Services Plan</b>	2020-2023
<b>CSP Strategic Lead</b>	Douglas Hutchison
<b>Date Plan Received</b>	23.03.2020

## Introduction

### Legislative Requirements

Part 3 Section 8(1) of the [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) requires every local authority and its relevant health board to jointly prepare a Children's Services Plan (CSP) for the area of the local authority, in respect of each three-year period. The plan is prepared working collaboratively with specified service providers and local stakeholders, with a view to securing achievement of statutory aims:

***(a) that children's services in the area concerned are provided in the way which;***

- (i) best safeguards, supports and promotes the wellbeing of children in the area concerned,*
- (ii) ensures that any action to meet needs is taken at the earliest appropriate time and that, where appropriate, action is taken to prevent needs arising,*
- (iii) is most integrated from the point of view of recipients, and*
- (iv) constitutes the best use of available resources,*

***(b) that related services in the area concerned are provided in the way which, so far as consistent with the objects and proper delivery of the service concerned, safeguards, supports and promotes the wellbeing of children in the area concerned.***

In line with the Act, The Scottish Government (SG) on behalf of ministers will review all CSPs between April and October of the year of submission, and provide Children's Services Planning Partnerships (CSPP's) with individual written feedback. This is based on statutory review criteria as detailed in [Part 3 Statutory Guidance \(Children's Services Planning\)](#).

### Context since preview review

Based on the review of 2017-2020 Children's Services Plans in 2019, individual feedback reports were provided to each CSPP and a national overview report was shared with the CSP Strategic Leads Network. Following this, SG undertook a [formal consultation](#) to evaluate whether Part 3 statutory guidance remained helpful and fit for purpose, or if amendments should be made to further enhance this. Following [analysis of consultation responses](#) and publication of the [SG response](#), a revised version of Part 3 statutory guidance was published in 2020 in advance of the 2020-2023 planning/reporting cycle.

### Coronavirus

In response to the unprecedented impacts of Coronavirus, a notification was issued to the CSP Strategic Leads network in July 2020. This advised that a degree of flexibility was being offered to submission timescales to ensure revised Children's Services Plans could be updated to meet the current/future needs of children, young people and families in light of the pandemic. Those CSPPs not in a position to submit their new plan in April 2020 were required to publish a statement by 30 September 2020 which provided clarity on the plan driving joint working in the interim, and set out a timetable for finalising their new CSP. In accordance with paragraph 10(2) of the *Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 Act*, public bodies were required to comply with this duty "as soon as is reasonably practicable," with a revised deadline for submission of CSPs extended to 31 March 2021.

It was acknowledged that:

- 2020-2023 Children's Services Plans may need to be initially published as a final draft pending conclusion of impacted internal governance processes.
- Partnerships may set local priorities and outcomes for children and young people which focused more immediately on resilience and pandemic recovery.
- Pandemic circumstances may impact on longer-term planning – with the process of annual review highlighted as an opportunity for CSPP's to revise their plan as needed and adapt this to meet the changing circumstances/needs of local children, young people and families.
- While the extent/nature of stakeholder engagement may have been impacted, CSPPs were expected to facilitate engagement with children, young people, families, and other stakeholders to the fullest extent possible within capacity limitations.

**11** Children's Services Plans were submitted to the Scottish Government by 31 March 2021, and the remaining 19 CSPs were received by end of October 2021.

### **2021 Review of Children's Services Plans (CSPs) – Individual Feedback**

The following report provides feedback on Children's Services Plans submitted in 2020/2021, which cover the statutory planning period to 31 March 2023. This feedback is intended to support CSPPs to consider areas of strength, and potential areas for development, in their articulation of the local approach to Children's Services Planning. This aims to support CSPPs in continuous improvement activity as part of each 3-year planning cycle. It is not intended as a statement on compliance with associated legislation or assessment of standards of service delivery. Feedback reports should therefore be considered in conjunction with learning from single and multi-agency quality assurance and self-evaluation activity by each CSPP, together with findings from inspection.

#### **Method**

Analysis has been undertaken by the SG Children and Families Analysis Team, working in conjunction with the Strategy Team. A number of expectations regarding the content, format, and process of developing a Children's Services Plan are explicitly outlined in Part 3 statutory guidance. These are summarised into 12 key criteria used as the basis of analysis for the purposes of individual feedback reports. A list of the criteria is provided in Appendix A. The report discusses each criterion in turn, providing explanatory commentary on how the Plan addresses the criterion and where increased coverage or a stronger articulation of the criterion would be beneficial. Each feedback report provides a summary of the key areas of good practice and areas where further support and development is needed.

Where information could not be identified within a plan, this has been indicated within the report in the relevant criterion section. There may be areas for further clarification as the terminology, governance arrangements, and models of operational service delivery vary significantly across Scotland's 30 CSPPs.

## Review South Ayrshire's Children's Services Plan 2020-2023

### Areas of strength of the Plan

- Strong links with NPF and GIRFEC - map of services/actions against SHANARRI and NPF outcomes
- Covers children's and related services
- Focus on early intervention and prevention
- Narrative around engagement tools
- Clear governance structure and timescales
- Discuss budget
- Measurable indicators of progress
- Evidence-based priorities

### Areas where more support and development is needed

- Link data and evidence more explicitly to the rationale behind the strategic priorities
- More specific priorities headings
- Better PDF layout

## 1. Vision, Partnership and Priorities in South Ayrshire for 2020-2023

### Vision (Criterion 1)

South Ayrshire's children's services planning partnership (CSPP) has a shared vision.

"All children and young people in South Ayrshire deserve the chance to reach their full potential. We will support those who start at disadvantage and remove barriers for those who are struggling, we will stretch the ablest and protect and nurture all children, especially the most vulnerable. Our aim is to reduce inequalities in outcomes for children and young people, in particular, to close the gaps in outcomes related to deprivation so that all can achieve their potential."

### Governance

The CPP works collaboratively with partner agencies and volunteers to develop and deliver this Plan. There is frequent mention of these collaborations and working groups formed by several representatives in order to align and deliver services.

A section of the Plan (p. 28) discusses the partners of the CPP. These partners meet regularly as the Children's Services Strategic Planning Partnership and report to the Community Planning Board. The Partnership is chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive, Director of People - South Ayrshire Council. These partners include South Ayrshire Council, Health and Social Care Partnership and Police, together with South Ayrshire Youth Forum representative, Third Sector representative and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration.

The Plan includes a table of the governance arrangements and timescales for the CPP's reports (p. 29), which makes the Plan seem manageable and well-organised. A diagram of the children's services governance structure would make this section even clearer and more user-friendly.

## **Strategic Priorities 2020-2023 (Criterion 5)**

The Plan sets 5 high level priorities:

- 1. Outstanding Universal Provision**
- 2. Tackling Inequalities**
- 3. Love and Support for our Care Experienced Young People and Young Carers**
- 4. Good Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing**
- 5. Promoting Children's Rights**

The Plan sets 5 priorities for 2020-2023. These are very broad from their headings, but are then divided into specific high level actions, which make this Plan very ambitious and specific (pp. 11-13). The priorities are a result of the joint strategic needs assessment analysis, and feedback from young people and partners, and are measurable through a range of measurable indicators of progress.

## **2. Services Offered and Activities Planned**

### **Children's and Related Services (Criterion 6)**

The Plans mentions and/or discusses in detail a range of universal and targeted children's services delivered by the CSPP, across partner agencies, including Third Sector organisations, such as services that support or address looked after children, Bookbug, baby massage, healthy eating, family nurse, youth justice, additional support needs, educational attainment, youth work, child poverty, holiday meals, Throughcare and Continuing Care, young carers, school counselling, LGBTI young people, advocacy, leisure, Active Schools, healthy start vitamins, adverse childhood experiences (ACES), apprenticeship opportunities and the Duke of Edinburgh Award. There is also mention of related services, such as family wellbeing services, money advice services and parent learning programmes.

### **Prevention & Early Intervention (Criterion 7)**

The Plan reports on several services with a focus on prevention and early intervention, such as breastfeeding support, child smile, support to quit smoking during and after pregnancy, early education intervention, and early intervention supports for vulnerable young people with poor mental health. Parents Early Education Programmes have been delivered in 2018-19, together with other relevant services, such as Bookbug.

### **Getting it Right for Every Child (Criterion 8)**

The Plan is underpinned by the Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) model. The high level actions defined for each priority are mapped against the 8 SHANARRI wellbeing aspects (pp. 11-13) – an area of best practice of the Plan. In addition to that, a section of the Plan (pp. 14-27) discusses each of the 8 SHANARRI aspects separately and key services delivered in order to achieve these aspects. This section is slightly repetitive, but is rich in information on the services delivered.

One of the key actions of this Plan is to refresh the GIRFEC model (p. 12). Among the services delivered are the family nurse partnership, health visitors and school nurses, ACES awareness and support.

### **Children's Rights (Criterion 9)**

The Plan embeds the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and one of its strategic priorities focuses on promoting children's rights. Among the Plan's high level actions is to develop a Schools' Champions Board to give care experienced children and young people a voice; and to increase the number of schools with Rights Respecting School status. In page 23 the Plan discusses in detail events linked to the Champion Board service, key findings from these events and other initiatives, such as 1,000 voices.

In the section where priorities are mapped against aspects of wellbeing (SHANARRI), the Plan would have been enhanced by also including relevant UNCRC articles.

### **Strategy for supporting families (Criterion 11)**

Among the Plan's main aims is to support family wellbeing, provide intensive family support (focused on families in crisis) and family wellbeing services. Barnardo's South Ayrshire Families offers a Family Resource Service, including several programmes for parental wellbeing, parenting, baby massage and so on.

The CSPP has adopted a Whole Systems Approach and is planning a pilot in the Belmont Academy cluster. They are working towards becoming Permanence and Care Excellence Programme (PACE) ready, which is a whole systems approach.

### **Links to statutory plans and reports (Criterion 15)**

The Plan mentions several links with other partners, underpinning plans and strategies. Among these are Child Poverty Action Plan, Champions Board Implementation Plan, Young Carers statement, Stop Go Charter, Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, Physical Activity Strategy, and Children's Hearing System. The Plan also includes a list of other plans referenced in page 28. It also implements the findings from the Independent Care Review.

### **COVID-19 (not required in the Guidance)**

This Plan does not mention COVID-19 and its impact on children, young people and their families nor new emerging needs and any adjustments being made to the development and delivery of the services in light of the pandemic.

### **Future services / Shift of resources (Criterion 12)**

The Plan reports budget information and how it is spent across partners and services (p. 28). There are also several mentions of training the workforce to recognise and offer support to pregnant women who are smoking, GIRFEC training, development opportunities in relationship based approaches and low level anxiety management, and training that supports Article 12 of the UNCRC. There is also mention of the use of the Pupil Equity Fund and Attainment Challenge Programmes to reduce the poverty related attainment gap. The CSPP will run a pilot of a service in an Academy and will support an Individual Small Grants programme for care experienced young people.



### **3. Use of Data and Evidence**

#### **National Performance Framework Outcomes (Criterion 2)**

The Plan's priorities are mapped against the 11 National Performance Framework (NPF) outcomes in a very useful table in page 30 of the Plan.

#### **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Criterion 3)**

A strategic needs analysis section (pp. 7-9) includes key facts from the 2019 Realigning Children's Survey (RCS). With the aid of the joint strategic needs assessment analysis, the CSPP reviewed the balance of their service provision across partners and several key examples are reported. This section would be more complete if a brief conclusion/summary would link the key findings with the priorities identified in the Plan and the local emerging needs.

#### **Evidence & Data on service performance and child wellbeing (Criterion 4)**

A section is dedicated to key statistics to set the local context (pp. 5-6). This is an interesting section, but the data could have been presented slightly differently to be more user-friendly – the graph in page 5 is hard to read and the key facts in page 6 would be more useful if comparisons with the Scottish average and/or across time were included. A section on page 10 presents key findings from the Big Ask – young people identified areas that need further development and the CSPP included them all in their priorities and/or actions. Some information on when the Big Ask occurred, using which tools and who participated would have enhanced this section.

The Plan describes key services delivered in detail including aim, actions, leads, indicators of progress and key statistics on the services' users and service performance – an area of best practice of the Plan.

There is mention in the Plan of the Say It Out Loud survey which will help the CSPP identify supports for young people's emotional wellbeing. The CSPP also uses data by the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) to understand children and young people's involvement with the Children's Hearing System.

#### **Engagement & Ownership (Criterion 10)**

The Plan aims to listen to children and young people's views through the use of youth voice structures, such as South Ayrshire Youth Forum and Member of the Scottish Parliament. Young people's feedback in the Big Ask was used to develop the Plan's priorities. Care experienced children and young people are involved in the development and delivery of this Plan through the Champion Board (p. 23).

There is mention throughout the Plan of Third Sector representatives delivering children's and related services, such as Barnardo's South Ayrshire Families.

#### **Monitoring & Evaluating (Criterion 13)**

For each priority the Plan includes a list of specific and measurable indicators to measure its progress (pp. 31-33) – an area of best practice of the Plan. This list would be even better if current and target percentages were included.

In terms of layout of the Plan, it would be useful to bring the measures of success (pp. 31-33) closer to the outcomes listed in pages 11-13 so that the link between objective and how its achievement will be measured is more explicit.

#### **4. Structure of the Plan, Best Practice, Challenges and Support Needed**

##### **SMART (Criterion 14)**

The Plan is short, well-structured and rich in information. The Plan's priorities are clearly defined and discussed in detail, as are the services delivered. The sections are short with mostly clear headings and nice images. The report includes a graph (p. 5) and a box (p. 20) which are hard to read, and a few blank pages. The section on pages 14-27 which discusses each of the aspects of wellbeing (SHANARRI) seems slightly repetitive to what's included in the previous section. The contents and 1-page summary at the start of the document are helpful.

*Specific* - the Plan is very specific regarding its high level actions and services. It is also very specific in terms of governance and monitoring progress

*Measurable* - it is measurable as it outlines a list of measurable indicators of monitoring the progress

*Achievable* - it seems achievable, with a very clear governance structure and monitoring plan

*Relevant* - it is relevant, with a great narrative around the services offered

*Time-related* - it is time-related as it provides time scales for the delivery of the Plan.

##### **Areas of strength**

The Plan is ambitious and manageable, with clearly defined high level actions and a great narrative around universal and targeted services delivered. The Plan shows how the CSPP are taking action to promote wellbeing and children's rights, focus on family support, early intervention and prevention services, and support vulnerable groups of children and people. The priorities cover a broad range of children's services, from health and wellbeing, to child poverty, children's rights, and corporate parenting. They are manageable, evidence-based and measurable, attached to a list of measurable indicators of progress.

The governance structure is strong and the Plan includes a table with timescales and leads. The CSPP adopted a collaborative approach and offers several engagement tools and opportunities to children and young people to participate to the Plan's development, delivery and review. There is good use of data and evidence in the Plan, providing information on children and young people wellbeing, emerging needs and service performance.

The Plan presents strong links with GIRFEC, UNCRC, NPF, and the Promise. One of its strengths is mapping high level actions against relevant aspects of wellbeing (SHANARRI) and the priorities against the 11 NPF outcomes. The Plan also presents strong links with other local plans and strategies. Finally, it discusses the children and families budgets and how this will be spent across services and partners.

##### **Areas that need further support**

The Plan fulfils all the criteria from the Guidance. A few areas of development include a better PDF layout with clear graphs and easy to read tables and graphs, even if printed in black and white. Moreover, some data could be linked more explicitly to the Plan's development and the priorities could have more specific headings.

## **Next Steps**

There is no requirement to provide an update to the Scottish Government in response to the feedback which has been provided in this report. However, should any CSP Strategic Leads find it helpful to discuss any aspect of their CSPPs feedback, please get in touch via:

[C&F.StrategicEngagement@gov.scot](mailto:C&F.StrategicEngagement@gov.scot)

## **National Summary Report**

The Scottish Government will provide an analytical evaluation report which provides a national overview of key findings from the review of all 30 CSPs. This is anticipated to be available in early 2022. It will highlight themes, areas of strength, and identify potential areas of focus for improvement activity.

This report will contribute to future development work on different aspects of Children's Services Planning, and will be shared in draft with the CSP Strategic Leads Network for their consideration. This will inform any recommendations being made to the COVID-19 Collective Leadership Group (CLG) and builds further on the collaborative development work undertaken through the CSP Strategic Leads Network and CLG over 2021.

The review of CSPs therefore contributes to the ongoing development of our collaborative approach to improving outcomes for children, young people and families across Scotland.

## Appendix A: Statutory review criteria

Does the Children's Services Plan....
1. Have a clear, ambitious compelling shared vision of what will be achieved by the end of the plan?
2. Reflect relevant National Performance Framework Outcomes?
3. Incorporate a robust evidence-based joint strategic needs assessment of the current population of the children and young people in its area?
4. Include analysis of quantitative and qualitative evidence and data relating to both service performance and child wellbeing?
5. Identify a manageable number of measureable priorities clearly linked to the joint needs assessment to ensure that the rationale behind the priorities is explicit?
6. Cover local services which fall into the categories of both 'children's services' and 'related services' in its scope?
7. Recognise and describe services which can fulfil both 'primary prevention' and 'early intervention' across all aspects of wellbeing?
8. Describe how the Children's Services Planning Partnership is creating and maintaining effective Getting It Right for Every Child practice for individual children, young people and their families?
9. Describe how the Children's Services Planning Partnership is using children's rights to inform the structural, procedural and outcome framework of the plan?
10. Convey a shared sense of ongoing engagement and ownership with staff, children, young people, families and the wider community, evidencing that the Children's Services Planning Partnership has made full use of stakeholder's ideas and suggestions?
11. Set out a comprehensive strategy for supporting families through a broad range of preventative and early intervention approaches from universal services to targeted intensive support and describe the rationale for how and where the family support services are provided?
12. Describe what services are going to be developed in the future and specifying which areas will see disinvestment in order to facilitate the shift of resources towards preventative and early intervention options?
13. Set clear indicators for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of children's services in terms of their success in responding to and addressing children's wellbeing needs?
14. Present all the information in an easily accessible format which is SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-related)?
15. Illustrate links (or incorporation) of other statutory plans and reports?