

**STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**  
**COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2022**



**CHILDRENS SERVICES SDP**

**Date of last meeting:** 28 January 2022 (CSP Meeting)  
 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (workshop)  
 18 March 2022 (CSP Meeting)

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

n/a

**Follow up action agreed by the SDP CHAIRS EXECUTIVE following 14<sup>th</sup> March 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 and coordination of strategic initiatives and delivery of the Children's Services Plan. The SDP has also had a workshop to horizon scan on forward business and the implications for how the SDP undertakes its work.

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

Since the last meeting of the Community Planning Board, there has been 2 meetings of the SDP – 28 January and 18 March and a workshop to look at how best to maximise collaborative advantage given the volume of new initiatives that are on-going or on the horizon. 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 including on mental health services for children and young people and on the vaccination programme for young people.

**Streamlining Initiatives**

There are multiple initiative underway of significance to children's services including:

- The Promise
- UNCRC Implementation
- GIRFEC refresh
- New Outcomes Framework for Children's Services
- New Child Protection Guidance
- National Care Service discussion
- New Public Health Framework
- The Whole Family Approach across alcohol and drugs
- Criminal Justice Bill

A key focus of the SDP is reviewing implementation and where collaborative advantage is merited.

A key consideration is supporting frontline staff to navigate all these strands. Also now need to look at the impact of Covid in the longer term and its potential for impacting on outcomes relating to e.g. inequality or the developmental impact on children.

**Forward Look Workshop**

The SDP members spent a half day undertaking a virtual workshop focused on:

- The evolving context of children’s services
- What’s working well
- Even better if
- Implications for structure and ways of working
- Next steps

The outputs of that are being assessed and the next SDP meeting will start to shape an action plan but key elements that were identified were incorporating the user experience more centrally, getting better at telling our story and incorporating regular self-evaluation.

**How Good is our Third Sector Partnership**

We’ve been working with Children in Scotland to undertake some self-evaluation work on how good is our third sector partnership. The Third Sector is an active contributor to the children’s services strategic agenda in South Ayrshire but timely to do some work on the role and contribution of the third sector in an evolving landscape. Work is still on-going but the process has been really useful; taking time out to discuss experiences and perceptions with our third sector lead was really valuable.

**Child Death Overview Process**

The SDP also had a really useful presentation on the child death overview process so that there is a shared understanding of the steps that are undertaken when a child sadly dies within South Ayrshire.

**Child Poverty**

The Scottish Government is publishing the new national Child Poverty Delivery Plan on 24 August and that will help inform the refresh of the local child poverty plan. The effect of rising prices, especially fuel prices, is expected to make child poverty a priority area.

**Annual Reports**

Work is underway on the children’s services and the child poverty annual reports

**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;
- Developing an Action Plan from the Forward Look Workshop; and
- Keeping the children’s service plan under review in light of COVID and new legislation and guidance particularly the National Child Poverty Plan due to be published in late March.

**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: March 2022**