

The Highland Council

Education, Children and Adult Services Committee - 28th August
2014

Agenda Item	7
Report No	ECAS 23/14

For Highlands Children 4

Report by Director of Care and Learning

Summary

This report introduces the final draft integrated Children's Service Plan.

1. Background

- 1.1 *For Highlands Children - Volume 4* (FHC4) is the Children's Service Plan for the Care and Learning Service, and incorporates as far as possible, the contribution of children's services delivered by NHS Highland. The final draft accompanies this report.
- 1.2 The plan identifies outcomes for children and their families and improvement priorities for the next five years.
- 1.3 The plan incorporates and builds upon outcomes identified within existing policy commitments of Highland Council.
- 1.4 The Performance Management Framework replaces the Framework developed as part of the partnership agreement which established Highland Council as the Lead Agency for delivering services to children in 2012.
- 1.5 *For Highlands Children 4* maintains and develops the themes articulated within *For Highlands Children 3*.
- 1.6 The Scottish Government passed the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill on 19 February 2014. The new Act places duties on public bodies to coordinate the planning, design and delivery of services for children and young people with a focus on improving wellbeing outcomes, and report collectively on how they are improving those outcomes.

2. The Planning and Operational Structure

- 2.1 *For Highlands Children 4* uses a service improvement model to determine outcomes, identify priorities and quality assure the plan.
- 2.2 A leadership group overviews the on-going work of the plan. This group has broad membership, including lead officers from Highland Council and NHS Highland, SCRA and Northern Constabulary. In addition there are staff representatives from NHS Highland and Highland Council, third sector partners and elected members, including the Children's Champion.
- 2.3 To support the improvement model, a number of improvement groups have been established to take ownership of the improvement agenda. These groups address:

- Schools
- Early Years
- Child Protection
- LAC
- Youth Action
- Mental Health
- Additional Learning Needs and Disability
- Young Carers
- Play
- Transitions
- Public Health and wellbeing
- Supporting Parents
- Practice model

3. Self-Evaluation

3.1 The leadership group and improvement groups use a self-evaluative approach to identify how well we are performing in relation to the outcomes we seek for children, young people and their families. This approach considers three key questions: how are we doing?; how do we know?; and, what can we do differently or better to improve outcomes for children and young people? The process also describes how children and young people, their parents and carers and other stakeholders are consulted with.

4. The Improvement Framework

4.1 The achievement of better outcomes for Highlands's children, their families and the communities in which they live is the overarching objective for children's services.

4.2 The outcomes are designed to consider the ways in which;

- Children and young people receive the help and support they need to optimise their well-being at every stage.
- Children and young people get the best start in life and enjoy positive, rewarding experiences growing up.
- Children and young people benefit from clear protocols, procedures and effective systems for recording observations and concerns which take account of best practice in information-sharing.

4.3 The outcomes relate to the impact of services on the well-being of children and young people using the SHANARRI indicators. It focuses on their experiences and the extent to which their lives and life opportunities will be enhanced to ensure they are;

- Safe
- Healthy
- Achieving
- Nurtured
- Active
- Respected and Responsible

- Included

5. Improvement Planning

- 5.1** Each improvement group has developed a workplan with a common format. The plans show all current improvement priorities, centred on the key outcomes.
- 5.2** The plans are dynamic and are monitored and updated regularly. Each plan is formally evaluated on an annual basis. Summaries of the improvement plans will be published in *For Highlands Children 4*, and then maintained and updated on the *For Highlands Children Website*

6. Performance management framework

- 6.1** The plan provides a performance management framework for monitoring and scrutinising the outcomes. The framework articulates the mechanism agreed for evaluating and measuring outcomes, responsibilities and timescales.
- 6.2** The performance management framework contains a number of quantitative measures built around the fourteen outcomes.
- 6.3** It is intended that the framework developed within FHC4 will replace the existing framework developed within the Partnership Agreement. Pre-existing measures are either replicated within the new framework or have been subsumed within the new measures. The new framework has been developed and agreed through collaborative partnership with stakeholders across the community planning partnership, including NHS Highland, but formal confirmation will be required at the Strategic Commissioning Group.

7. Implications arising from Report

- 7.1** *For Highland's Children 4* sets out our service planning and improvement objectives for the next five years. It takes account of existing resource allocation decisions. There will be further work to develop a commissioning plan, which will inform future service delivery and purchasing decisions, including contracting arrangements with partners.
- 7.2** The plan fulfils our legal obligations, including as part of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act, and seeks to address health and social inequalities.
- 7.3** The plan includes commitments to deliver and improve Gaelic medium provision.
- 7.4** The plan also takes account of the needs of rural areas, albeit (as identified in the recent Children's Services inspection) it also acknowledges that all services are not equally accessible across the Highland geography. Work continues with regard to this.
- 7.5** There are no climate change/carbon clever implications.

Recommendation

Members are asked to approve the final draft of the Integrated Children's Services Plan, subject to formal agreement with NHS Highland.

Designation: Director of Care and Learning

Date 18 August 2014