

Agenda Item	4.
Report No	CPB/02/21

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Meeting: **Community Planning Board**

Date: **31 March 2021**

Report Title: **Integrated Children’s Services Plan 2021-2024**

Report By: **Head of Integrated Children’s Services, The Highland Council**

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides an update to the partnership on the latest iteration of the Integrated Children’s Service Plan (ICSP).

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board is asked to:

- i. Note the work undertaken by the Integrated Children’s Service Plan Board in producing a draft of the Integrated Children’s Services Plan 2021 - 2024.
- ii. Note that the draft plan will be presented to the June meeting of the CPP Board for consideration and approval.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource – The intention is to deliver the next iteration of the plan within existing resource. Further resource implications may be identified within the duration of the Plan (2021 – 2024).

3.2 Legal – There is a statutory requirement for partnerships to produce an ICS Plan every three years as outlined at 4.1 of this report. The plan will have a focus on meeting the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) – The next iteration of the ICS Plan will be delivered through the Community Planning Partnership infrastructure and will be aligned to the aspirations of the Highland Outcome Improvement plan with a focus on community resilience and participation.

3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – None

3.5 Risk – None

3.6 Gaelic – None

4. Background and Context

4.1 In February 2014 The Scottish Government passed the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill. The Bill 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. For Highlands Children 4 (FHC4) is the current integrated Children's Service Plan which responded to the requirements of this legislation.

4.2 FHC4 is a five-year plan which completed its cycle during 2020.

4.3 In December 2019, Scottish Government wrote to each of the strategic leads for ICS planning issuing new guidance to support the development of ICS plans across Scotland. This guidance determined that ICS plans should be embedded within Community Planning Partnerships.

4.4 The Integrated Children's Services Board has in recent months reflected on the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic and its impact upon communities including children, young people and families. Our needs assessment work in developing this draft of the integrated children's service plan has taken cognisance of the impact of the pandemic and our priorities for improvement are reflective of what has been learnt in recent months.

4.5 In August 2020, Scottish Government wrote out to strategic leads for ICS planning recognising that the impact of the pandemic would result in an inevitable delay in meeting requirements to publish the plan. They advised that partnerships could provide an update on progress in developing the plan by 1st October 2020 with a view to publication by April 2021. The update was sent on behalf of the ICS Board on the 26th September 2020.

5. Developing the Plan

5.1 Over the last 18 months considerable work has been undertaken to draft this iteration of the Highland Integrated Children's services plan. The pre-existing framework for integrated children's services planning has been replaced with a framework which is aligned to the Highland Community Planning partnership as outlined in the draft plan.

5.2 An integrated children's services plan board was established to develop the new plan and has met monthly to progress this draft. The board membership includes partners from Highland Council, NHS Highland, Police Scotland and a range of other local and national bodies including the Highland Third sector interface.

5.3 The draft plan is being developed in line with the Scottish government guidance for partnerships issued in December 2019.

- 5.4 The draft plan will outline what partners are doing to ensure that services are integrated for service users including children, young people, and families, that we make the best use of resources and are meeting our aims to safeguard, support and promote wellbeing, early intervention and prevention.
- 5.5 The draft plan will set out a clear, ambitious shared vision and has been developed to ensure it reflects relevant National Performance Framework Outcomes and incorporates a robust evidence-based joint strategic needs assessment. It includes analysis of quantitative and qualitative evidence and data relating to both service performance and child wellbeing.

6. Reporting and Governance

- 6.1 The Children's Services Plan is set within a complex planning and reporting landscape and has links to a number of other planning responsibilities and reports. In particular, our Community Planning Partnership Plan (The Highland Outcome Improvement Plan) includes ambitions that seek to improve wellbeing and life chances for children and young people. Our draft Children's Services Plan will assist partners to achieve these aspirations. In addition, the understanding of local needs and circumstances that are developed to inform the HOIP and Locality Plans, also underpin the strategic needs assessment for this draft plan.

7. Links with the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan

- 7.1 The Highland Outcome Improvement Plan 2017—2027 (HOIP) is focused on working together to reduce inequalities in Highland and outlines our aspirations for Highland and the specific actions we will undertake to deliver them. It was developed following extensive engagement with communities across Highland.
- 7.2 The HOIP's main ambition is to tackle the issues that lead to inequalities, to make the Highlands a fairer place, so that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of our region.
- 7.3 Whilst the aspiration of the draft Highland integrated children's services plan are consistent with those of the HOIP plan it is recognised that there are distinct features of partnership planning for children, young people and their families which requires a distinct planning infrastructure.
- 7.4 The draft plan is being developed through embedding children's rights articulated within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The participation of children and young people was central to both the development of the plan and determining future priorities for improvement. That evidence for our priorities for improvement are established through improved processes for needs assessment providing evidence for the priorities contained within the plan.

8. The Structure

- 8.1 The plan reflects the values and principles of Getting it right for every child. It places individual children at its centre, and considers services and support for those children individually, support for their wider families, community assets and more specialist services.

- 8.2 The plan articulates where partnership working improves outcomes for children, young people and their families. Individual services will have their own plans and where partnership working would enhance the priorities of discrete service plans, they are included within our priorities.
- 8.3 Where pre-existing partnership groups exist, these have been brought into the integrated children's service plan framework to provide oversight and governance. This includes the Highland Child Protection Committee, The Corporate Parenting Board and Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership.
- 8.4 Pre-existing HOIP delivery groups have discreet subgroups for integrated children's services including those with a focus on poverty and mental health. These provide a partnership place to develop a coherent approach to child poverty and to determine a whole system approach to mental health.
- 8.5 The Integrated children's planning board have also established a discrete group to progress planning around equalities and children's rights.

9 Priorities

- 9.1 The plan outlines our priorities for improving outcomes for Highlands Children. It articulates where partnership working improves outcomes for children, young people and their families acknowledging that individual services have their own plans.
- 9.2 Our partnership priorities for improvement are set around the following themes:
- Health & Wellbeing including mental Health
 - Child poverty
 - Children's rights and participation
 - Child protection
 - Corporate parenting
 - Alcohol and drugs

10. Next Steps

- 10.1 A final draft plan is currently being refined by the thematic groups and will be considered by each responsible body through their governance procedures prior to final consideration and approval by this Board at its next meeting.

Designation: Head of Integrated Children's Services, The Highland Council

Date: March 2021

Author: Ian Kyle – Head of Integrated Children's Services, The Highland Council