

Agenda Item	6
Report No	JMC-16-23

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL/ NHS HIGHLAND

Committee: Joint Monitoring Committee

Date: 27 September 2023

Report Title: Integrated Children’s Services Plan 2023 - 2026

Report By: Chair Integrated Children’s Services Planning Board

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report introduces the Community Planning Partnership’s Integrated Children’s Services Plan 2023 – 2026.
- 1.2 The report provides (Appendix 1) the Highland Integrated Children’s Services Plan for 2023 - 2026 for noting by this committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
 - i. Note the work undertaken by the Integrated Children’s Service Plan Board in producing the Highland Integrated Children’s Services Plan 2023 - 2026.
 - ii. Note and provide comment on the plan which has been approved by the Community Planning Partnership Board

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 (2023 - 2026)
- 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 as at 7.4.
- 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 as at 7.1.

3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** - There is no impact on climate change as a result of this report.

3.5 **Risk** – None

3.6 **Gaelic** – There is no impact as a result of this report.

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.

4.2 In December 2019, Scottish Government wrote to each of the strategic leads for Integrated Children's Services planning issuing new guidance to support the development of ICS plans across Scotland. This guidance determined that children's services plans should be embedded within Community Planning Partnerships. This guidance also provides the structure and framework for our 2023 - 2026 plan.

5 Developing the plan

5.1 Over the last 18 months, considerable work has been undertaken to draft this iteration of the Highland Children's Services plan. The well-established integrated children's services planning board has met monthly during the last 12 months and has worked effectively in determining the themes and priorities. In addition, during this period the board have hosted a series of workshops to agree the change ideas articulated within the plan and developed the Joint Strategic needs assessment which determined the priorities for this plan.

5.2 The board membership comprises;

- Head of Community Support and Engagement – The Highland Council
- Principal Educational Psychologist – The Highland Council
- Head of Health Improvement, Public Health - NHS Highland
- Head of Education – The Highland Council
- Lead Officer – Child Protection Committee
- Independent Chair – Child Protection Committee
- Executive Chief Officer Health and Social Care and Chief Social Work Officer – The Highland Council
- Child Health Lead – The Highland Council
- Superintendent, Partnerships – Police Scotland
- Head of Children & Justice Social Work Services – The Highland Council
- Director of Public Health – NHS Highland
- Head of Operations Women and Children's Directorate – NHS Highland
- Nurse Director – NHS Highland

- Programme Manager – Family wellbeing programme
- Director of Children & Families (Aberlour) – Third sector
- Deputy Chief Officer HTSI – Third Sector
- Chief Officer, Inspiring Young Voices – Third Sector
- Youth Work Manager, Youth Highland – Third Sector

6 The Plan

- 6.1 The plan outlines our priorities for improvement to ensure that services are integrated for service users including children, young people and their families, that we make the best use of resources and are meeting our aims to safeguard, support and promote wellbeing, early intervention and prevention.
- 6.2 The plan has been developed to ensure it reflects the National Performance Framework Outcomes and incorporates a comprehensive evidence-based joint strategic needs assessment. This assessment includes analysis of quantitative and qualitative evidence and data relating to both service performance and child wellbeing.
- 6.3 The plan is supported by a performance management framework which determines clear indicators for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of outcomes in responding to and addressing children’s wellbeing needs.
- 6.4 The plan has been developed through a lens of embedding children’s rights articulated within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and reflects the values and principles of Getting it right for every child. It also reaffirms our commitment to ‘Keeping the Promise’.
- 6.5 Where pre-existing partnership groups exist, these have been brought together into the children’s service planning framework to improve continuity and prevent duplication. These groups include the Highland Child Protection Committee, The Promise Board and Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership.
- 6.6 Pre-existing HOIP delivery groups have discreet subgroups for integrated children’s services including those with a focus on poverty and mental health.
- 6.7 The plan is consistent with the Highland Outcome improvement Plan 2017—2027 (HOIP) which shares a focus on working together to reduce inequalities in Highland.
- 6.8 Both plans aim 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. We endeavour to do this by listening to our communities and working with them to make Highland an even better place to live, work and play.

7 A Life Course Approach

- 7.1 Our objective is to improve outcomes for Highland’s Infants, Children and Young People through local delivery of services and provide support by considering the needs of their families across a life course from pre-birth to young adulthood. In taking a life course approach we can more readily identify opportunities to minimise risk and enhance the protective factors through evidence-based interventions.

- 7.2 A significant feature of this plan is our aspiration to develop community scaffolding for our supports through our community-based whole family wellbeing programme. This programme aims to reduce inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of the Highland Population through improving cohesion, co-ordination and collaboration of whole family support within Highland's Communities. Working to the founding principles of this plan, communities will be supported by a partnership programme team lead by a programme manager and supported by locality coordinators.

Designation: Chair of the Integrated Children's Services Planning Board

Date: September 2023

Author: Ian Kyle

Appendices: