

Agenda Item	6
Report No	JMC-07-24

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL / NHS HIGHLAND

Committee:	Joint Monitoring Committee
Date:	19 June 2024
Report Title:	Integrated Children’s Services Report
Report By:	Chair, Integrated Children’s Services Planning Board

1.	Purpose/Executive Summary
1.1	This report provides an update on the Integrated Children’s Services Board and Delivery Groups.
2.	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Note and comment on the work undertaken by the children’s services planning partnership in delivering the Highland Integrated Children’s Services Plan 2023 - 2026. ii. Note the work of the delivery groups.
3.	Implications
3.1	Resource – The children’s services planning partnership will help determine future resource needs and priorities for improvement. 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 Integrated Children’s Service 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) – This iteration of the ICS plan is delivered through the Community planning partnership infrastructure and is / will be aligned to the aspirations of the Highland outcome improvement plan.
3.4	Climate Change / Carbon Clever - None
3.5	Risk - None

3.6	Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people) - None
3.7	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.
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 provided the structure and framework for our 2023 - 2026 plan.
5.	Integrated Children Service Board
5.1	The Integrated Children's Service's annual report was produced, disseminated, and approved through governance committees in March 2024.
5.2	Following the positive feedback from last year's Vision 26 event, The Integrated Children's Service Board are hosting another event this year to celebrate year one of the Integrated Children's Service Plan 23-36. The event is being held on Friday 30th August 2024, at Inverness Leisure centre. This networking event will showcase the range of work and activity being undertaken across the partnership to deliver on the outcomes contained within the plan. This event will be aimed mainly at professionals but will be open to children, young people and families who may wish to attend. A wide invite has been circulated across statutory services and third sector organisations.
5.3	The Vision 26 event will also celebrate the launch of the Children and Young People's Participation Strategy, which was an undertaking committed to during the 1st year of the Integrated Children's Service plan. The event and strategy will highlighting the importance of the voice of children and young people integral to our partnership working. The participation strategy is in the final stages of development. It is being led by Inspiring Young Voices codesigned with children and young people. The strategy aims to ensure the meaningful and equitable participation of children and young people. Input has been gathered from almost 1000 children and young people from across Highland. The strategy will be completed this month with an implementation plan in development to support the partnership in taking the first collective steps towards the goal of making Article 12 of the UNCRC an everyday reality in Highland.
5.4	The Board continues to support the development of meeting the standards of the Neurodevelopmental Specification. Work is ongoing to help identify integrated solutions to ensuring that children and families are offered the support they require.
5.5	GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) - Following the National update of GIRFEC and Child Protection procedures and practice guidance, the partnership has completed the alignment of our procedures to reflect the national guidance. The refresh reflects current national landscape including The Promise and United Nation Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Areas for improvement highlighted in the Joint Inspection

	for Children at Risk of Harm report highlighted the need to refresh and develop a shared language and understanding of GIRFEC across the partnership.
5.6	The Integrated Children's Service board are currently leading on the delivery of the GIRFEC Refresh and Reset across Highland. This started with face-to-face sessions supported by a pre-requisite eLearning module. Feedback is being sought across services, on the eLearning module, Multiagency Childs plan, the updated Child protection procedures, highlighting GIRFEC as a key part of the child protection continuum. With a strong focus on multiagency working and collaboration. The board have made a commitment to review the current Multiagency Childs Plan following these sessions.
5.7	It is understood that whilst the initial face-to-face sessions did not reach all stakeholders across the continuum of children's services there are plans for a wider reach taking a blended and targeted approach to delivery over the coming months. The eLearning module is available across multiagency learning platforms.
6.	Highland's Child Protection Committee
6.1	A Highland Launch of the Scottish Child Interview model (SCIM) and an Introduction to Bairns Hoose took place in late May 2024. Implementation of the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) continues to progress with £63,000 secured from the Bairns Hoose fund used to improve premises in Wick and Inverness which are spaces utilised for interviewing children and young people. Further Bairns Hoose Funding of £93,000 has been secured and will go towards the scaling up of this model across Highland.
6.2	The Child Protection Committee alongside the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice and Action for Children have been collaborating on the re-imagining youth justice initiative using the Scottish Approach to Service Design. An exploitation Steering Group has been established to oversee the CORRA funded project and development of RISE service and the Anchor project. Work with the national Missing People project is now completed.
7.	The Promise Board (Corporate Parenting)
7.1	A Keeping the Promise in Highland Evaluation report has been completed and captures the activity of work related to #KeepingThePromise in Highland. Whilst the ambitions of The Promise are far beyond just Health & Social Care this evaluation report focuses on the work undertaken by the Programme Manager (The Promise), Health & Social Care and highlights the achievements that have been made through partnership working.
7.2	The launch of the new Promise Language Guide took place at an event held on the 17 th May 2024. This work is to destigmatise language and practices across the partnership workforce. The production of a 'Language Guide', in the form of an online 'microbite' was developed through engagement with children and young people with experience of care and professionals working with children services. This event was a multi-agency 'Master Class' on Language delivered through the Child Protection Committee with partnership collaboration from Each & Every Child and the 'Write Right About Me' Aberdeen City Partnership.

7.3	A new Child's Rights & Participation Service hosted by The Highland Council will commence soon with officers having recently being appointed following a competitive interview process.
7.4	The 'HAS ANSWERS' app is now live. Developed by the Calmans Trust, this app provides a single point of contact support for care experienced young people moving into their new home. The development of this app will support care experienced young people as they move towards independent living providing a resource which highlights support and resources available.
8.	Highland's Rights and Participation Group
8.1	A training module has been created to sit on the Highland Council's Traineasy platform. This module supports the understanding of the UNCRC, Children's Rights and the importance of completing a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment. This work is integral to the Council's Integrated Impact Assessment project. The Integrated Impact Assessment goes live in July 2024.
8.2	An outline of a new website for Children's Rights and Participation has been developed and is expected to go live before summer 2024. This will provide a summary of the work being undertaken and a data base of the range of consultations completed. In addition, a report is now available on research undertaken on children's decision making in their Child's Plan meeting, which will inform the multi-agency child's plan review.
9.	Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership Group
9.1	Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) Awareness: Alcohol brief intervention training is now underway with community midwifery teams which includes FASD information. Mapping of external support services for women and families with alcohol and drug issues during pregnancy is also underway.
9.2	Five local Planet Youth / Icelandic Prevention Model coalition groups are now established with the support of newly appointed staff. Collaboration between the groups and Highlife Life Highland Youth Work Support Officers have set up a number of additional, 'Planet Youth', diversionary activities. These include both sport specific (football, basketball, hockey, netball), plus multi-sport and supervised gym sessions. Youth Work in Sport Officers have also planned local multi-sport festivals, which target both youth plus parents/guardians.
9.3	The Parents under Pressure programme is now being delivered for families and this programme includes opportunities for families to make precious memories.
10.	Whole Family Wellbeing Programme
10.1	The Programme Team have been working to develop the Funding Strategy for the Programme. This strategy outlines the approach to be taken for the allocation of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund. Work is ongoing to prepare for this to be fully implementable and is supported by the completion of the Whole Family Wellbeing Self-Assessment Toolkit. This strategy will be signed off by the Integrated Children's Services Planning Board on the 19 th of June 2024.

10.2	<p>The Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Practitioner Participation Sessions data, which was gathered during locality based; face to face; and on-line sessions between November 2023 and January 2024 has now been themed by the Programme Business Intelligence Officer. Further work around feedback from Families is also being gathered. The themes identified from the complete data set will shape how the programme develops the priorities and themes to be progressed locally.</p>
	<p>Designation: Chair of the Integrated Children's Services Planning Board</p> <p>Date: 5 June 2024</p> <p>Author: Ian Kyle</p>