

# Getting it right

for South Lanarkshire's  
children and families



**Children's Services Plan**  
2012 – 2018

# Foreword



## Welcome to “Getting it Right for South Lanarkshire’s Children and Families”, our children’s services plan.

This will be the 5th Children’s Services plan for South Lanarkshire. The 2009-12 plan was framed within the Scottish Government’s National Strategic Objectives (Wealthier and Fairer, Smarter, Healthier, Safer and Stronger, Greener) and reflected the Concordat signed between the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).

It is essential that we build on our achievements from previous children’s services plans and ensure that our commitment to providing the best outcomes possible remains central to all we do.

From 2012 onwards we will have a greater focus on Getting it Right for Every Child and in particular the wellbeing themes:

South Lanarkshire has made good progress in implementing Getting it Right for Every Child in placing the child at the centre and ensuring that children’s services partners work together in the same way to improve wellbeing outcomes for children and families.

Over the last three years Getting it Right has been tested, evaluated and reviewed. We are confident that the themes detailed below set out in Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire’s Children and Families will improve the outcomes for children and young people in South Lanarkshire.



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## Introduction

**“Getting it Right for South Lanarkshire’s Children and Families” sets out the approach being taken to continually improve outcomes for all children and families across South Lanarkshire. The plan has been jointly produced by the agencies who work in partnership to deliver better outcomes across children’s services.**

This will be done by clearly articulating the children’s services outcomes with the high level aims within South Lanarkshire’s Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).

The planning partners are:

- Community health partnership NHS
- Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA)
- Skills Development Scotland
- South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee
- South Lanarkshire Council
- Strathclyde Police
- Voluntary Sector Organisations working with children and families

This plan has been informed by actively engaging and empowering children, young people and families and staff of all the agencies in contributing towards the content. We have done this through a variety of methods, both specifically for the production of the plan and through our ongoing approach to continuous improvement.

Through continuous consultation processes with children and young people they have told us that it is important that their views are listened to. Other people including organisations we have consulted with told us the following areas are important:

- Health is important with better access to healthy eating and physical activities for children and families
- Good provision of affordable sporting and leisure activities

- Improve access to local health services including youth only facilities which are open in the evenings
- Improved communication and consultation between service providers and children and parents/carers
- The opportunity for parents/carers and children to learn together are important
- Make better use of new technology
- Access to services in the rural area can sometimes be difficult because of distances and lack of adequate public transport
- Disabled children like opportunities to be active
- Children who have been previously looked after have access to accommodation that meets their needs.

In producing the plan we have also taken cognisance of national and local policy and priorities.

This plan is for children, young people, parents and carers and staff working across all agencies that deliver children’s services. It is intended to be a working tool for support staff and managers to ensure that our shared vision is implemented effectively by all partners in the drive to improve outcomes for children and families.

## What do we mean by an outcome?

“An outcome just means achieving something that you have chosen and will help you to have the life that you want”.



## Section 2



# Our vision for children and families in South Lanarkshire

**Our vision for children and their families in South Lanarkshire is to ensure that they live in a community where they are safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, respected, responsible and included. They should be part of a society where they have the opportunity to maximise their full potential and have access to good quality health, education and leisure services.**

In order to achieve this vision, South Lanarkshire's Children's Services and its partners will work jointly to support children, young people and families.

This vision is underpinned by a commitment to:

- Tackle inequality, discrimination and poverty
- Promote early intervention and a preventative approach
- Focus on those areas where working together will make the biggest impact on children and families
- Self evaluation and continuous improvement
- Workforce development



South Lanarkshire encompasses a diverse mix of urban and rural environments and is located in the West of Scotland's central belt, straddling the upper reaches of the river Clyde and the Southern uplands. South Lanarkshire has an estimated 311,880 population making it the fifth largest of Scotland's local authority areas.

Children and young people make up a significant proportion of the authorities population with an estimated 68,509 (0-18 year olds) residing in South Lanarkshire. As at April 2012 50,600 children and young people attend South Lanarkshire's schools. (Nursery, Primary, Secondary and ASN establishments).

While we will endeavour to get it right for every child and young person in South Lanarkshire, however we require to target our resources at the following vulnerable groups.

- Children at risk of harm
- Children and young people experiencing domestic abuse
- Looked after and accommodated children and young people
- Young people affected by homelessness
- Children and young people affected by alcohol and substance misuse
- Children affected by poverty.
- Early Years/0-3 years
- Children and young people with experience of poor health
- Children with Additional Support Needs (ASN)
- Young Carers

A key aspect of this approach will be implementing an early intervention approach within our work.



## Building on our achievements

**We want to ensure that the plan continues to work towards the best possible outcomes for children and their families. We will do this partly by building on our achievements of the previous plan and ensuring that this momentum is carried in to the new plan and beyond.**

Highlights of our previous plan include the following:

- The HMIE inspection of services to protect children took place in September 2010. Key strengths noted were that staff were working well together to help and support children at an early stage and meet the longer term needs of children who have experienced abuse or neglect.
  - Having a safe and secure home environment is important in the well being of children and families. In South Lanarkshire we have been working to reduce the number of families who find themselves homeless. Housing and Education staff have been working closely together to make sure we support children and young people who are experiencing homelessness.
  - The Lanarkshire Parenting Strategy has been approved by the Getting It Right for Every Child Programme Board. The strategy was officially launched in October 2011 and demonstrates a clear commitment to supporting parents.
  - Bookbug sessions targeted at family literacy, have been extended to all libraries and work continues to support library visits by all sections of our communities. The number taking part in the Annual Summer reading programme increased by 26% in 2010.
- Through new programmes including “The Street”, young people have had more opportunities to make positive life choices and become more active.
  - Many young people need help in coping with the challenges they face in life. South Lanarkshire’s FAIR programme helps us support children at school, to identify the positive things in life and deal with the risk they face. Over the last year there has been good progress in developing a FAIR programme to support work with children under five and young people who have left school.
  - Service managers meet in all localities to ensure, that young people who are ready to move from children’s services to adult services are supported as well as possible. These meetings are called Future Planning.
  - Young People and partners organised a successful Corporate Parenting event to reflect on the delivery of services to Looked after children and young people. This has now become an annual event in our children’s services calendar.
  - There has been a range of events taking place to support the reduction of alcohol, substance misuse and smoking amongst young people. This includes the current consultation process taking place with regard to Lanarkshire’s Tobacco Control Strategy and Action Plan. A central library resource for borrowing has now been established and other resources have been distributed to all schools. A programme to increase parental awareness of the impact of second hand smoke on children was launched in October 2011.



We are also aware of external factors as we strive to achieve the desired outcomes contained within the plan. Changes in national policy, economic circumstances and local need will affect how we deliver services over the next three years.

- Child Poverty is forecast to rise as a result of the economic downturn and the Welfare Reforms being introduced by the UK Government. 150 practitioners, managers, elected members and community activists attended two Child Poverty conferences and identified actions to be taken forward in some of our most deprived communities, through Integrated Children's Services (ICS) Locality groups.

We are also aware of external factors as we strive to achieve the desired outcomes contained within the plan. Changes in national policy, economic circumstances and local need will affect how we deliver services over the next three years.

Some of key challenges will be:

- Disadvantage, deprivation and tackling social exclusion
- Health inequalities
- Economic factors and public sector finance

# Section 4



## How will we deliver better outcomes?

### **We will base our plan around the Getting it Right wellbeing indicators.**

This approach means that:

- Children and young people should have their views listened to and should be involved in decisions that affect them.
- These eight wellbeing indicators will be the main outcomes we will seek to achieve in our plan:
  - Safe
  - Healthy
  - Achieving
  - Nurtured
  - Active
  - Respected
  - Responsible
  - Included
- We will develop a Performance Framework which will identify how we will seek to achieve these eight outcomes through the actions we progress.

Research shows us that these eight elements of well being are essential in understanding how children grow and develop. Together these eight wellbeing indicators help us to understand how best to work with children and their families to achieve the best possible outcomes for them, both as children and throughout their lives.

We have also based this on what we know about our services and demands which have been monitored in recent years.

We will expect actions to improve Early Years and Early Intervention, Tackling Child Poverty and Parenting including Corporate Parenting and Child Protection, to run through each of the eight headings. We will work with children, young people and families using an Assets based approach which will recognise their valuable contribution towards achieving a better future for all.

The delivery mechanism for achieving the outcomes in this plan will be steered centrally through joint planning groups, but essentially the delivery will be undertaken by a range of staff from Education, Health, Housing, Police, Scottish Reporters' Administration (SCRA), Skills Development Scotland, Social Work, and voluntary organisations working in the following localities:

- Clydesdale and Larkhall
- East Kilbride and Strathaven
- Hamilton, Blantyre and Uddingston
- Rutherglen and Cambuslang

Local Area Coordination Groups in these areas will plan and monitor progress and report progress into the central planning structures. Self evaluation and a focus on continuous improvement will feature strongly within this performance improvement approach.

Details of the specific areas for action are detailed on the following pages.





## South Lanarkshire's outcomes and areas for action

### South Lanarkshire outcome:

# Safe

Children and young people are protected from abuse neglect or harm at homes, at school and in the community.

### South Lanarkshire actions

- Work together to reduce the impact of neglect on children and young people.
- Reduce the number of persistent young offenders through effective partnership working.
- Work together to reduce the effects of domestic abuse on children and families.
- Refine the core set of performance measures for child protection.
- Monitor the implementation of key actions contained in the "Treat Me Well" anti bullying guidance.





## South Lanarkshire outcome:

# Healthy

Having the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, access to suitable healthcare and support in learning to make healthy choices.

### South Lanarkshire actions

- Implement the actions within the Maternal and Infant Nutrition Framework.
- Carry out the teen pregnancy self assessment and implement an action plan 2012-2015.
- Support the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence in educational establishments and youth settings.
- Support the delivery of the smoking education prevention programme as in the NHS Lanarkshire Tobacco Control Strategy.
- Continue to work to reduce levels of alcohol consumption and substance misuse amongst young people.
- Continue to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people through developing and increasing access to services.
- Ensure that the principles of Getting it Right are shared beyond Children's Services and adopted in all services that support adults with responsibility for children.
- Develop a local and focused plan to ensure children maintain a healthy weight.
- Consider how we work together more effectively to reduce the impact of substance misuse during pregnancy.





## South Lanarkshire outcome:

# Achieving

Being supported and guided in their learning and in the development of their skills, confidence and self-esteem at home, at school and in the community.



## South Lanarkshire actions

- Work to make our young people successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- Work with families to improve literacy and numeracy skills.
- Work to maintain attendance and reduce exclusion figures in our schools.
- Maintain the highest possible quality of education for children, young people, families and communities in South Lanarkshire with a particular focus on improving the performance of the lowest attaining children and young people.
- Support young carers to be all they can be.
- Support young people who are looked after to achieve their potential.





## South Lanarkshire outcome:

# Nurtured

Having a nurturing place to live. In a family setting with additional help if needed or, where this is not possible, in a suitable care setting.

### South Lanarkshire actions

- Continue to support children and young people build resilience and self esteem.
- Improve services for children and families affected by homelessness.
- Work together with children and young people who are looked after and their families, to achieve their potential and maintain positive relationships where possible.
- Continue to work to increase the partnership planning and assessment around meeting the specific needs of children and young people with Additional Support Needs.
- Embed attachment practice and methods across all agencies through workforce development.
- Target supports for vulnerable parents including substance misusing parents to learn nurturing skills and ensure their children have opportunities for appropriate nurturing.
- Ensure a commitment to taking forward the actions in the Lanarkshire Parenting Support Strategy.







## South Lanarkshire outcome:

# Active

Having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport which contribute to healthy growth and development, both at home and in the community.

### South Lanarkshire actions

- Increase the number of schools achieving eco (environmental) awards.
- Provide a range of opportunities and activities for children, young people and families to increase levels of physical activity and participation.
- Promote children and young people's development through play.





## South Lanarkshire outcome:

# Respected

Having the opportunity, along with carers, to be heard and involved in decisions which affect them.

### South Lanarkshire actions

- Promote volunteering opportunities for young people within their communities.
- Increase the participation of all children, young people and their families in decision making processes relevant to their lives.
- Increase the participation of children, young people and their families in service development and improvement.





## South Lanarkshire outcome:

# Responsible

Having opportunities and encouragement to play active and responsible roles in their schools and communities and, where necessary, having appropriate guidance and supervision and being involved in decisions that affect them.

## South Lanarkshire actions

- Continue to support young people who move from children's services to adult services.
- Improve the opportunities for young people leaving school to develop employability skills in order to achieve and sustain positive destinations.
- To promote responsible parenting through implementation of Lanarkshire's Parenting Support Strategy.







## South Lanarkshire outcome:

# Included

Having help to overcome social, educational, physical and economic inequalities and being accepted as part of the community in which they live and learn.

### South Lanarkshire actions

- Develop capacity within our communities to reduce the impact of poverty on children.
- Continue to provide more targeted learning opportunities and employability support for parents and carers within our communities.
- Provide Financial Inclusion supports to families in need to maximise household income.
- Provide vulnerable children and young people with the chance to take part in artistic and cultural activities.

- Continue to provide a wide range of diversionary activities for children and young people.
- Continue to make sure even more young people become involved in influencing services through the youth council, youth forums, pupil council's and other means.
- Develop a mechanism to communicate Getting it Right for Every Child to parents and carers.



Included





## Further information

### **Further copies of the plan are available from:**

Performance and Support Services  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Floor 9, Council Offices  
Almada Street  
Hamilton ML3 0AA

Or visit South Lanarkshire Council's website:

[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

### **Translations and other formats:**

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

Phone: 0303 123 1015

Email: [equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

# Section 7



## Useful links

### **Scottish Government National Strategic Objectives**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Strategic-Objectives>

### **GIRFEC toolkit**

<http://www.girfecinlanarkshire.co.uk/resources/>

### **GIRFEC outcomes**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright/practical-tools>

### **South Lanarkshire Council Single Outcome Agreement**

[http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/improve/info/20/single\\_outcome\\_agreement](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/improve/info/20/single_outcome_agreement)

### **NHS Lanarkshire Tobacco Control and Strategy Action Plan**

<http://www.nhslanarkshire.org.uk/Involved/consultation/Documents/Tobacco-Control-Strategy/Tobacco-Control-Strategy-Draft.pdf>

### **Lanarkshire parenting Strategy**

<http://www.girfecinlanarkshire.co.uk/2011/10/parenting-support-strategy/>

### **NHS Lanarkshire maternal and Infant Nutrition Framework**

<http://scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/01/13095228/0>

### **HMIe Inspection of services to protect children**

[http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/3849/joint\\_inspection\\_of\\_services\\_to\\_protect\\_children\\_and\\_young](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/3849/joint_inspection_of_services_to_protect_children_and_young)

### **Teenage Pregnancy self assessment and toolkit**

[http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/teenage%20pregnancy%20web\\_tcm4-593480.pdf](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/teenage%20pregnancy%20web_tcm4-593480.pdf)

### **Employability in Scotland**

<http://www.employabilityinScotland.com/>

### **Scottish Government Play, talk read**

<http://www.playtalkread.org/>

### **Scotland Health Improvement Agency**

<http://www.healthscotland.com/>



If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs. Phone: 0303 123 1015  
Email: [equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)  
[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)