



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

Safe Healthy Achieving Nurtured Active



getting
it right
for every child
in South Lanarkshire



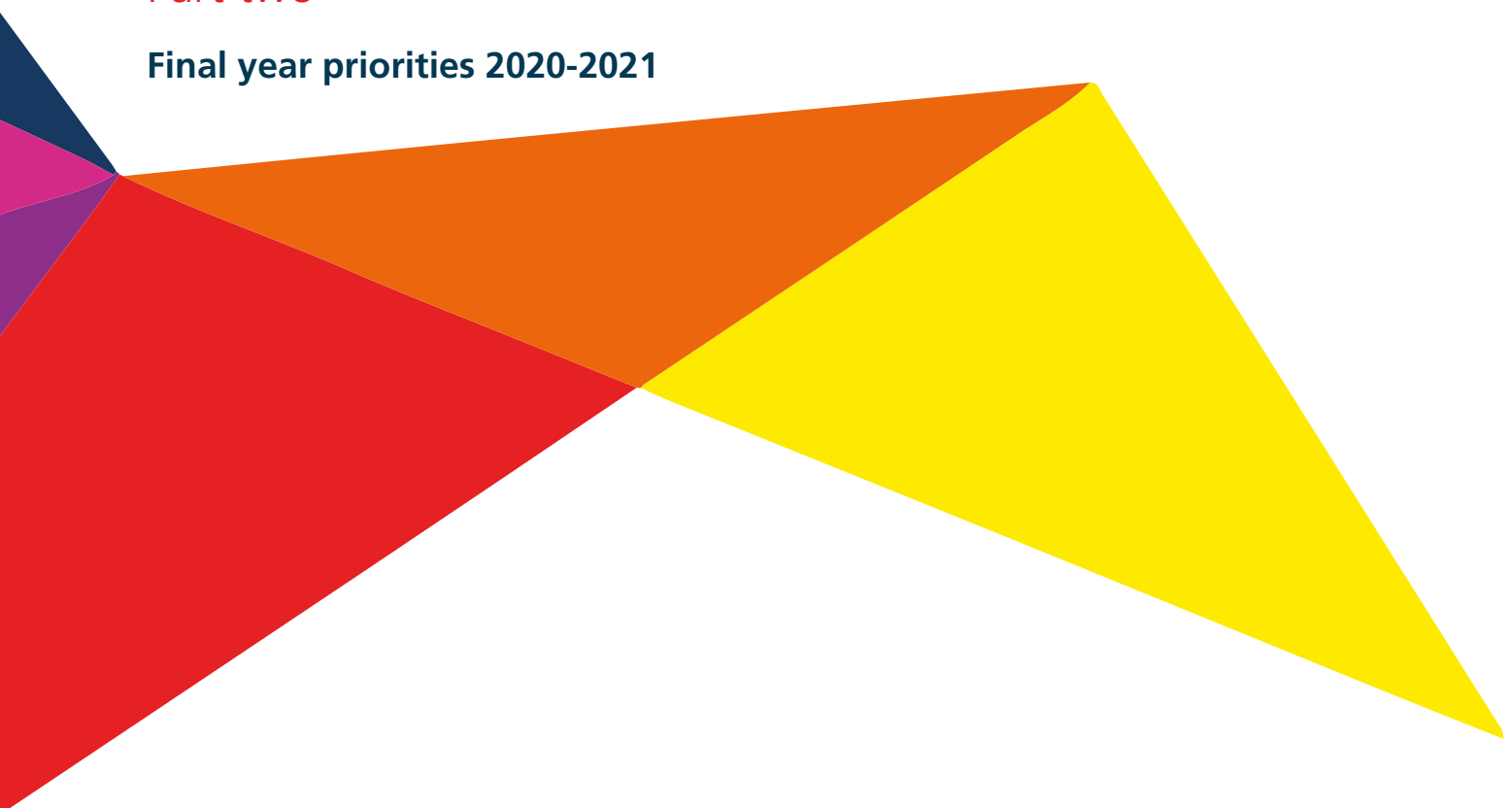
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Part two

Final year priorities 2020-2021



1. Foreword

Welcome to the third annual report for our current children's services plan 2017-2020 – Working Together: Making a Difference. This year's report takes the form of an annual report and not the final report we had intended. This is due to the current Covid19 pandemic which has meant that we have in line with Scottish Government guidance extended our current children's services plan for an additional year instead and will work to develop a new plan, which will begin in April 2021.



The new plan from April 2021 onwards will become a two year plan to provide synergy with the national planning cycle. In taking this approach we are appreciative of the flexibility provided by part 3, paragraph 8 of Schedule 6 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 ("the 2020 Act"). This has enabled us to take advantage of the flexibility provided by that Act to postpone compliance with the children's services plan duties to produce a final report at April 2020 and a new three year plan covering the period April 2020- March 2023.

This report highlights the progress our partnership is making towards our shared vision of ensuring that: *South Lanarkshire's children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.*

We highlight some key achievements and identify what we still need to do, to further improve the life chances of our children, young people and families.

Throughout the last year we have maintained our focus on the three themes of:

- Prevention and early support
- Health and wellbeing and
- Supporting vulnerable groups and keeping children safe

These have been the key drivers for our work and in working across these themes we have maximised the strength of our partnership and ensured our continued commitment to get it right for every child, young person and family in South Lanarkshire.

The work covered by our plan makes a valuable contribution towards South Lanarkshire's Community Planning Partnership aim of tackling deprivation, poverty and inequality and the continued challenge of reducing child poverty.

During the last year we engaged with the Care Inspectorate to participate in a joint inspection of services for children and young people in need of care and protection. The inspection identified a number of strengths of the partnership and where we can do even better, further strengthening our approach to continuous improvement.

The inspection was marked by a very high level of engagement and participation by our children, young people and families and the wider children's services partners and I would like to extend my gratitude for your contribution to the inspection process.

A feature of our evolving partnership will be to work with the Scottish Government and national partners to build on our strengths and implement agreed areas for development.

We will restructure our Corporate Parenting partnership arrangements to provide the mandate to key service leads and enable them to make the radical changes required to fulfil the aims of the Independent Care Review.

We await a bill to be put in place to establish children's rights legislation based on the United Nation Convention on Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scots law. We support the Scottish Government's strong commitment to get this work fully implemented and will continue our children's rights work, highlighted in Section Four of this report. We are informed by the UNCRC and supporting articles and given the impact of Covid 19, we will be striving to ensure the voices of our children and young people are being heard and acted upon.

Our partnership approach to providing Family Support has been to provide a robust and consistent Parenting Support Pathway with evidenced based programmes and supports.

The key feature of which, is that families know what services are available and how to access support. Prevention and early support are at the heart of our model and built into the programmes offered.

Central to all we do, is ensuring our work is informed by participation activity including engagement work with care experienced young people and work embedded in all our activity to ensure that the voices of our children, young people and families are heard as part of our shared planning processes. December 2019 saw the launch of our Champions Board, which we hope will provide a valuable opportunity for our care experienced young people to share their views and experiences with decision makers and drive improvement.

Over the next year we will continue to put improvement at the centre of our work and maintain a clear focus on the aspects of our work, that we need to improve to ensure best possible outcomes for our children, young people and families. In doing so we will ensure that children's rights impact assessments are carried out for our new Children's Services Plan and other strategic documents such as the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy due in 2021 and explore ways to involve children and young people at a structural level.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liam Purdie". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Liam Purdie

Head of Children and Justice Services



2. Our targets and priorities

Children have the best start in life and are supported to realise their potential.

- Children's exposure to second hand smoke in pregnancy and early childhood is reduced
- The number of children living in low income households is reduced
- Speech, language and communication in early years is improved
- School attendance of children and young people in the most deprived communities is improved
- Attainment of children and young people in the most deprived communities is improved
- Employability of young people within the most deprived communities is improved

The health and wellbeing of children, young people and families is improved.

- Emotional and behavioural concerns in early years are reduced
- More children and young people are a healthy weight
- Health and wellbeing of care experienced children and young people is improved
- Emotional wellbeing of children and young people is improved
- Substance misuse by young people is reduced
- Teenage pregnancies in under 16s is reduced

The life chances of our most vulnerable children and young people are improved.

- Employability of care experienced young people is improved
- Attainment for care experienced children and young people is improved
- Attendance at school for care experienced children and young people is improved
- The rate of repeat referrals to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) is reduced
- Support to children and families affected by domestic abuse is improved
- Support to children and young people affected by parental substance misuse is improved
- Support to children and young people with additional support needs is improved



3. Our plan and its progress

Our third annual report details how we have worked together to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in South Lanarkshire. It builds a picture of the information we have gathered as we report on the progress towards our stated outcomes.

We continue to embrace the additional scrutiny and duties that come with the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and we have welcomed the opportunity to engage with our Care Inspectorate colleagues to focus on activity around children and young people in need of care and protection. Our Child Protection Committee and Corporate Parenting partners are working to ensure that the Child Protection and Corporate Parenting agendas are more explicit within our children's service plan activity.

The various areas of Children's Services Plan activity are embedded in the work of our strategic subgroups and other supporting groups and regular monitoring and review is led by those who are closest to the work.

The impact of the Covid-19 crisis has impacted on the governance and formal reporting processes. We have however, revised our governance processes to support production of this report and help the partnership carry out a robust challenge and reflection process in relation to successes and areas for improvement.



The following section details the work undertaken in relation to each of our priority themes:



Prevention and early support

Vision

Children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.

Outcome 1

Children have the best start in life and are supported to realise their potential



Indicator 1.1

Exposure to second hand smoke evidenced during the **27-30 month Child Health Review** has reduced from **8.8% in 2018 to 6.2% in 2020.**



Health Visitors have been providing tobacco brief intervention support on smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke to new parents/carers until the six-week visit. In providing this support Health Visitors were able to test a referral pathway which led to a 21% reduction of exposure to second hand smoke for children with parents recorded as smokers. This work has now been rolled out to all the remaining teams with learning sessions planned this year to capture all the workforce. In addition, this work gained recognition in the finals of the Scottish Government National Quality Improvement Awards.

Indicator 1.2

Percentage of children living in low income households has **increased from our baseline figure in 2014 (18.4%) to the latest figure available 19.3% in 2017.**



The percentage of children living in low income households has increased slightly in South Lanarkshire, which is in line with the national picture, however partners continue to work to mitigate the impact of poverty on our most vulnerable families.

A range of activity to address child poverty is helping to increase income into households with children. The following areas of work highlight those explicit in our plan.

While the award rate of Free School Meals has been the best it has ever been, we measured a slight decrease in the uptake and have established a working group and created an action plan to increase this, particularly in secondary schools. We have increased communication with parents, such as changes to entitlement letters and schools advising parents when a child doesn't use their entitlement. We are also considering innovative ways of providing school lunches e.g. pick up points for young people leaving schools over lunchtime, rolling over the balance of the entitlement, alternative venues of providing free school meals and whether secondary schools should keep children in over the lunch period during the first and second year.

Almost all families benefit from a routine financial wellbeing enquiry by Health Visitors and Family Nurses when their child is aged three months and at the 27/30 months Health Needs Assessment, which is now well embedded in practice. Referrals are sent direct to South Lanarkshire Council's Money Matters service, which has recorded an increase in the number of families being supported and as a result, families are more financially stable with households averaging £2569 in increased benefits per annum. A new financial wellbeing app 'My Life, My Money Lanarkshire' has been put in place that replaces the previous 'crisis app'. The new app is providing a comprehensive and improved resource of information, advice and support on welfare and money worries in Lanarkshire.

The third sector provides a range of support to tackle poverty and have developed a number of partnerships and referral pathways to co-ordinate this support. Hamilton Citizen's Advice Bureau delivered targeted community services for low income families, single parents and pregnant women through information and advice to maximise income and improve financial wellbeing, COVEY Befriending have supported parents to access foodbanks and delivered workshops on healthy eating, Liber8 delivered one to one mentoring support and groupwork sessions on financial wellbeing and budgeting and Healthy Valleys provided six weekly community cafés and a food crisis café where over 100 families in food poverty/low incomes were encouraged to attend and get free healthy meals and support to access specialised support.

Community Links provided a number of local SELECT HUBS across South Lanarkshire offering employability support to families including Universal Credit application assistance and various associated online activities/functions. They also co-ordinated and supported the delivery of free family school holiday activities in targeted areas, including a Back to School event in the Hamilton area, where families have access to free school clothing, accessories and children's haircuts.



Indicator 1.3

Improvement activity in 2017 aimed to reduce inequalities at the 27/30 month child health review indicated the need to focus improvements on SIMD Quintiles 1, 2, 3 and 4. The latest figures evidence that three out of four SIMD areas have achieved and some exceeded the national goal of 85% of children meeting their expected developmental milestones. We have seen upward trend in SIMD 1, **including another improvement in SIMD 1 from 73% in 2017, 79.6% in 2018 to 84.4% this year.**



The Speech and Language Therapy teams have been working with key agencies to improve outcomes for children in relation to speech language and communication needs. Speech and Language staff are now based in 10 Early Years establishments across South Lanarkshire.

There has been close collaboration with health visitors to develop a pathway and early intervention resource to be delivered at the 12-15 month review for children with a speech and language concern. There has been a series of workshops to all Health Visitors to promote understanding around early intervention for children with speech, language and communication concerns, alongside promotion of a national resource to support learning and development requirements. Initial evidence suggests the number of children who require access to specialist services has reduced and this will continue to be evaluated in the coming year.

Speech and Language Therapy staff have also been working with early years staff to deliver early support for children in Early Learning and Childcare. There has been training for 200 early years practitioners in the Hanen programme's 'developing language in early years settings'. Staff have reported increased confidence in supporting children's early language development.

The 'Languageland' programme has been taken forward in 21 establishments which give early years practitioners resources and activities to support children's language development in small group settings. Evidence indicates that children who participate in this group make progress in at least one area of their communication skills over a six week period.

The 'Happy Chatty Places' resource has been developed, which offers ideas and resources to ensure that children have access to communication rich environments in the early years and that speech, language and communication needs are identified and supported early.

Work has been undertaken to develop and publish a Children and Young People's Speech and Language Core Pathway. This offers advice to all families and stakeholders about the services available. Early Language workshops for parents and the use of social media platforms ensure that key messages around early language development are promoted widely.

A range of parenting programmes have been delivered to support children's development. In the last year we have offered online Solihull training to parents and carers. The Solihull Approach Online is a universal resource for parents and carers from the antenatal period to 19 years, offering learning and interactive activities, quizzes and video clips. The resource focuses on developing nurturing and supportive relationships between children and their carers.

Parents accessing the resource have increased understanding of their child's behaviour in the context of their child's development and the parent-child relationship. In total 369 parents and have benefited from information about pregnancy, labour birth and understanding your baby. We also had a Lanarkshire wide Bookbug practice sharing event (now in its fifth year) with 75 staff in January, which helped to support staff delivering the programme across a range of sectors and settings. Healthy Valleys provided support for 120 vulnerable families to attend sessions in their community and incorporate Bookbug and Play@home activities into their Health and Wellbeing courses.

We have regular Healthy Start steering group meetings with health improvement staff who have early years responsibility to review best practice and discuss what more we can do to improve the services we offer, including the new Scottish Government scheme "Best Start Foods". This was launched in August 2019 to replace the Healthy Start scheme. We have prioritised promotion of the scheme and supported parents with the application process throughout the year, including social media campaigns and training for staff. Part of our support included increased development of local vitamin distribution with 44 distribution venues available, including health centres, community venues, family centres, libraries and community groups. These venues are very visible in our communities where families with young children can easily access support. Beneficiaries have included pregnant and postnatal mothers and the Syrian refugee communities.

Our early years staff have been working with NHS and other colleagues to highlight available nursery places for two year old children. This has resulted in 15.5% of eligible places being taken up by families, an increase on the 10% recorded last year. Staff support parents to access places at nurseries, who in turn can advise if parents are eligible for either a funded place, or would be exempt from charges as a family seeking work or through one of South Lanarkshire's low-income exemptions. Families benefit from increased employability, access to new job opportunities and potential increase in household income.

Indicator 1.4

School attendance

22018/19 School Attendance rates improved in all categories - primary 94.4% (up from 92.3% in previous year) secondary 90.2% (up from 86.9%) and ASN 91.7% (up from 88.9%) data demonstrating a total figure of 92.6% (up from 90.1%).



Education Resources' Operating Procedure on attendance has been revised and published after consultation with school managers and stakeholders. This is now part of a suite of procedures which ensure that South Lanarkshire is compliant with all current guidance and instructions from Scottish Government. We work on the basis that poor attendance is as much an additional support need as dyslexia, or other learning difficulties. School staff apply a staged intervention approach to this issue, engaging with families and other professionals to support vulnerable families and encourage full attendance at school. We expect that the percentage attendance of pupils in the 20% most deprived communities will improve by at least 2% on aggregate in the academic session 2020-2021 because of this support.

COVEY befriending has worked with Education colleagues to provide individual and group work support for over 100 socially isolated young people many of whom reported a more positive school experience helping to improve attendance.



Indicator 1.5

Percentage of children successfully achieving relevant levels of literacy

Primary 4 – First Level:

The latest figure is 57.5%, a slight decrease from 2017/18 figure of 60% but still an increase on our baseline figure of 54%.

Primary 7 – Second Level:

The latest figure is 60.1% an increase on 2017/18 58.6%.

S3 - Third Level:

Our latest figure is 88.7% slightly up on 2017/18 88.5%.



Our priority has been to ensure that literacy difficulties are identified as early as possible and appropriate support is provided at the right time.

A robust training programme for staff has promoted active literacy in phonics, spelling and reading and is well established as part of South Lanarkshire's Literacy Strategy. Approximately 1200 staff from across 100 primary schools have benefited from training. To date 34 schools have been part of the Active Literacy Project from 2017-2020, receiving additional training and support. The evidence from the schools involved in the project 2017-2019 demonstrates a positive upward trend in reading attainment.

Staff have benefited from support from the Curriculum and Quality Improvement Service and Psychological Services to provide quality professional learning materials and training, including: Primary One Early Level Literacy Training, Supporting Children with Literacy Difficulties at First Level and beyond, Early Level Reading Interventions Handbook – an interactive resource to support staff in identifying, assessing and supporting literacy difficulties at Early Level.

A 'Catch Up Literacy' training programme has been offered to all primary schools to support pupils experiencing difficulties with aspects of literacy. Approximately 295 staff have been trained across 89 primary schools. We have invested in 'Train the Trainer' training in Catch Up Literacy for one member of staff which makes South Lanarkshire staff the first accredited Catch Up trainers in Scotland.

The Curriculum Quality Improvement Service Literacy Team have worked with the Library Service, the Scottish Library and Scottish Book Trust to encourage and support schools in developing and enhancing their school and community reading cultures. This has included a 'Teachers as Readers' group in association with the UK Literacy Association and the Open University. Twenty-five primary teachers have been supported to develop their pupils' reading interest and enjoyment by engaging with research-informed practice. Each school/community project is unique and has been identified using baseline data and will be measured using appropriate success criteria. The success of the projects will be shared across all establishments via a showcase event.

Using a targeted early language programme in partnership with Educational Psychology and Speech and Language, primary one children at Beckford Primary School were supported with their early literacy skills, showing significant gains for receptive and expressive language scores and substantially closing any gap in literacy attainment. One year after completing the programme, the pupils continued to show improvement and their scores remained in line with their peers. Children and parents reported improved confidence, language, and literacy skills. Following on from this project, work will now spread to four additional Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) schools, to continue work to further reduce the poverty related attainment gap across South Lanarkshire.



We have carried out a review of transition arrangements across schools with Social Work managers, practitioners and stakeholders and established clear guidelines for staff on effective enhanced transition processes. In session 2019-20, 630 children across the Council area benefited from a targeted enhanced transition between primary and secondary school. The materials provided to support the process of enhanced transition for individual pupils have been recognised as being of the highest quality at a national level. These materials are accessible for families and encourage their understanding of the most effective transition activities, leading to pupils having less concerns when moving from primary into secondary school.

Burnhill Action Group supported by Healthy n Happy, deliver a weekly Family Hub in where families can get involved in structured activities like sport, homework clubs, themed celebrations and growing activities.

Indicator 1.6

The gap between the positive destination rate for school leavers in the **most deprived 20%** and **least deprived 20%** was **4.9%** for young people leaving school in academic year 2018/19. This is below the national gap of **5.3%**



School Leaver Destinations

The Youth Employability Service works closely with all secondary schools and partners including Skills Development Scotland to identify those young people who need extra support to make a positive transition from school and provides individualised one to one support through the Aspire programme. The gap between the positive destination rate for school leavers in the most deprived communities and those in the least deprived communities has reduced to 4.9% for young people leaving school in academic year 2018/19. This is below the national gap of 5.3%.

Young people also receive support from a range of third sector organisations including COVEY, who provided places for 18 young volunteers to develop skills in working with young people with an additional support needs. This resulted in increased confidence and the opportunity to pursue further education in their chosen field and Liber8's StreetBase project, which helps young people apply for college places and employment, assisting with application forms, CV's and references. Clydesdale Community Initiative provided supported workplace training and personal development programmes for young people referred through the Aspire programme, who are unable to access mainstream support due to individual challenges.



Health and wellbeing

Vision

Children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.

Outcome 2

The health and wellbeing of children, young people and families is improved



Indicator 2.1

Percentage of children with no emotional and behavioural developmental concerns at 27-30 months

The latest figure evidences **89.9%** of children with no emotional/behavioural concern at 27-30 months, a slight reduction on the previous year



Over the last year we have delivered a range of parenting courses across all four localities, engaging with 166 parents. Programmes included the attachment based Early Years Framework of Assessment and Intervention for Attachment and Resilience, Solihull and Mellow Parenting. Courses were delivered to parents with an identified need, including children affected by substance misuse, domestic abuse and those at risk of child protection registration.

Parents with children aged between three and six with a behavioural concern, received one to one support and group work through the Incredible Years programme. Six groups were delivered with 46 families benefiting from the programme and 58% had recorded improved emotional and behaviour needs at the end of the programme. Of those that attended, 37% of parents lived within areas of high deprivation

The Education Resources Attachment Strategy document was produced along with accompanying resources including the A to Z of Attachment-Informed Practice leaflets and posters and Attachment Strategy Pledge Cards. An Attachment Strategy short film was also produced.

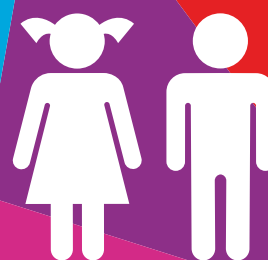
As part of the strategy a total number of 792 children's services practitioners have received training in attachment theory and practice. Evidence gathered from 477 training participants highlighted that the training has increased professional knowledge about attachment and increased confidence in applying new skills and knowledge. Staff reported building positive relationships with pupils, improved communication; better reflection; increased parental involvement and importantly, providing a safe, secure, and nurturing environment to be able to see the whole child.

Third sector organisations offer a range of local supports that include one to one and group support, early years parent cafés, baby massage and counselling for parents. Parents also benefit from peer support to families with children under the age of 5, who have been identified as needing extra support via Midwives, Health Visitors, Family Nurses and Social Work. This approach to support benefits the whole family, with parents reporting improved mental health and wellbeing and a reduction in substance misuse.

Indicator 2.2

Percentage of P1 children with a healthy weight

The current figure is
76.4% and remains below the target of 88%.
(Last year's figure was 77%)



The Active Schools programme provides a positive and increasing range of sport and leisure opportunities. In 2018/19, 21,200 young people attended the programme (**47% of the school roll**) and maintained the level of participation across the programme.





A number of programmes support breastfeeding as part of South Lanarkshire's Baby Friendly accreditation. Staff have benefited from training around behaviour change skills to manage difficult conversations, particularly around breastfeeding. A Midwife post has been established to support staff, improve practice and encourage skin to skin contact between mother and baby in the Neo Natal Unit. We are supporting the recently launched "Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland" scheme and working to encourage local businesses to sign up and support a breastfeeding friendly culture.

In addition third sector organisations continue to support the breastfeeding agenda in a range of ways, including early years parent cafés, baby massage courses and health inputs for parents and brief interventions which promote the benefits of breastfeeding. The most recently reported breastfeeding rates in South Lanarkshire are: Exclusive breastfeeding 24.7%, any breastfeeding 32.2%.

NHS Health Improvement staff and schools have been delivering the Healthy Schools Framework. Work is underway to extend this to secondary school settings by developing a 3rd and 4th level resource. We currently have 69% of South Lanarkshire primary schools using the Healthy Schools Approach, which has led to increased understanding of health and wellbeing for staff, pupils and their families.

The Active Schools Programme works with school pupils to provide valuable opportunities to engage in sport, physical activity, fitness programmes and leadership opportunities. Last year there were 21,200 participants in the various strands of the programme. The programmes Sports Coach Academy provides support for young people to develop their skills and knowledge in sport and exercise and helps young people develop further education and employability options. In 2018/19 the team also supported 91 local community Sport Clubs to provide opportunities in schools with 1,012 attendances taking place, increase in the number of young people who make the transition into club sport following this experience.

Active Schools Case Study

Last year the Active Schools team also focused on developing interventions in partnership with Education Resources and other Community Planning partners to engage young people not participating in the programme. This included a partnership with the Fire and Rescue Service to educate senior pupils on road and water safety. Various workshops took place at the local fire station to allow the young people to fully experience the dangers and importance of fire and road safety. The young people then incorporated these messages into their sports coaching sessions to engage and inform their peers whilst back in their school.

The Early Years ACE initiative has continued to develop with 437 Live Tiny ACE memberships across 2019/20. Leisure and Culture delivered approximately 50 different Tiny ACE activities and organised a number of special events throughout the year. On average there were 139 different classes delivered per week throughout a range of venues across South Lanarkshire and to promote the activities to families an annual brochure was produced and promoted via a variety of partners, platforms and mediums. One of the key links has been with health visiting teams to promote opportunities and the provision of free vouchers to encourage vulnerable families' participation. One new programme has been the launch of Tactile Tots themed sessions which aims to develop capacity for sights, sounds, touch and smell. Songs and rhythms guide the child as they play and explore their senses. Trained staff deliver the sessions and participant to support families meet new friends.

Third sector organisations from across the authority offer important local support to families in our communities e.g. cookery workshops aimed at improving nutrition, growing food locally, weaning, fussy eaters, cooking on a tight budget and certificated REHIS courses. They often work with statutory providers such as Leisure and Culture to connect community development opportunities with local youth sporting groups (eg, Aspiring Communities - Halfway and The Circuit, or by directly delivering courses with healthy messages through after school and holiday programmes, outdoor play and exercise.

Hannah

Hannah began her journey at Uddingston Grammar School as a Young Ambassador in 2016. She was selected by the PE Department at school and attended a National Conference at Hampden. In September that year she began her volunteering.

Hannah was involved in helping to plan the school's Active Girls Day and helping at various clubs within school. She raised awareness of sport and physical activity by leading assemblies for different year groups.

In 2017, Hannah was accepted onto our Active Schools Sports Coach Academy programme. This involved six weeks of training with our team and then leading a six week multi sport extracurricular club for all P4/5 pupils.

Hannah was part of a team of pupils who helped with the running of various clubs at lunchtime and after school. A particular favourite was the lunchtime Dodgeball club which she ran with other pupils and could have up to 40 pupils playing at one time – they loved it !!!

In S6, Hannah continued to help with clubs and activities in schools, helping to organise Active Girls Day in Uddingston Grammar and continuing the dodgeball club and S1 badminton. Her help was invaluable, and the PE department were always grateful for her help.

She participated in the National 5 course in Sport and Recreation which involved learning about all the industry and preparing and leading sessions for younger pupils in school. This led to Hannah pursuing a career in sport and physical activity through an HNC course at New College Lanarkshire.

Hannah continued her learning through the delivery of clubs and sessions in the Uddingston and Holy Cross Learning Communities for various age groups and sports. The pupils all engaged fully in her sessions and she formed great relationships with them. Hannah has become a respected and well liked member of the volunteer team, reflecting that her journey through school and the Active Schools programme has helped her develop as a person and gain the qualifications and qualities needed for a career in sport and physical activity.





Indicator 2.3

Percentage of all looked after children and young people health needs assessments completed within 4 weeks.

We have achieved **83% health needs assessment completions** within target timescales over the 12 months to March 2020.



We have worked to ensure that more care experienced children receive a Health Needs Assessment when they come into care. We have established an improved process for prompt notification when a child or young person becomes looked after, with wellbeing assessments and wellbeing plans responsive to individual needs being put in place early. A partnership improvement working group was established at the end of last year to address wider challenges around the Health Needs Assessment and ensure care experienced children and young people have the best support for their physical and emotional health needs.

To promote the health and wellbeing of care leavers as part of our commitment to the Care Leavers Covenant, we have established a dedicated Throughcare and Aftercare team. We have committed to establish a multi-agency Throughcare and Aftercare Strategy and subgroup under the Corporate Parenting Strategy, which will drive key changes for care leavers. 100% of eligible care leavers have registered with primary health care (GP and Dentist).

Indicator 2.4

Percentage of young people accessing school counselling service presenting with anxiety.

The most recent figure available of 60% is a slight reduction (2.1%) on the 2017 baseline of 62.1%. Within the reporting period CAMHS delivered a service to approximately 1256 young people and their families within South Lanarkshire.



Families and young people have been supported through a variety of evidenced based therapeutic interventions delivered according to need, including family focussed therapies, Cognitive Behavioural Therapies (CBT) Dialectical Behavioural therapies (DBT), Attachment based therapies, Child Psychotherapy and group work.

CAMHS have recently developed an advice line that is supporting quicker access to families and professionals to gain help, support and direction sooner. In addition the advice line is able to direct families toward online resources and inform them of other helpful and relevant services that can support them to address the concerns that exist for young people.

There were two Parents in Control groups delivered for parents of children diagnosed with ADHD and parents increased their confidence with behavioural management strategies. 32 parents participated and reported reduced frequency, intensity and perception of challenging and problematic behaviour.

The CAYP (CAMHS for Accommodated Young People) service held a Foundations for Attachment group attended by 16 people. In addition an 18 week Nurturing Attachments group was completed, which 8 foster families attended.

The Counselling in Schools provision continues to be a crucial support for young people experiencing stress and anxiety issues. Having direct access to trained counsellors in school provides a reassurance and support tailored to early support and individual need. This is an area of investment and work is ongoing to make the most of additional resources being made available by the Scottish Government.

We have continued to support young people experiencing anxiety by delivering one to one support in schools, as part of the Let's Introduce Anxiety Management (LIAM) programme. School Nurses, Teachers, Pupil Support Staff, and Youth Family and Community Learning staff provide dedicated one to one support in school or in the community for children and young people with anxiety. Training and ongoing coaching is provided by Clinical Psychologists who can offer wider support and signposting. We have supported 244 staff, who are trained to provide the support.

The response from young people who have been supported has been very positive and feedback includes: "It really helped me with my worries and fears.", "Felt like I could talk about any of my worries and would be helped as much as possible.", "One thing that was really good was that I felt like I could open up to someone for the first time" and "Mrs M took time and effort to help me through my journey." Children and Young People reported a significant reduction in anxiety following LIAM support on a self-rated score of Anxiety and Depression and also reported being closer to their own personal goals set at the beginning of the LIAM process.

The nurture approach to support vulnerable pupils has been well established by schools across South Lanarkshire over the previous decade. This nurture ethos has been supported by targeted training for secondary school staff and the development of nurture bases in all our secondary schools. The number of pupils benefiting from support in secondary schools for session 2019-2020 was estimated at 270 children, leading to reduction of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and establishing a smoother transition from primary. The nurture support helps pupils prepare physically and emotionally for learning, encourage friendships and equips them with the necessary social skills to adapt to secondary environments.

A comprehensive consultation and scoping exercise (managed by a consortium that included Youth Family and Community Learning, Regenfx, Terminal One and HIPY) was carried out to establish the need for a new mental health support service for 14 – 18 year olds. Funding was secured to establish a 12-month pilot project that commenced in November 2019 called GoTo.

In addition our third sector provide an extensive menu of community based support, such as help to manage stresses and anxieties e.g. in relation transition to high school and during times of grief, loss and bereavement, counselling for 16+ and befriending groups for additional support needs young people with nurturing at their heart. This local support helps children and young people develop social confidence and build their self-esteem, strengthening emotional resilience and improving social relationships.





Indicator 2.5a

Percentage of 15 year olds drinking alcohol at least once a week

Indicator 2.5b

Percentage of 15 year olds reporting using drugs in the last month

The latest figures (provided via the SALSUS 2018 Survey) indicate **22% of S4 pupils said they had drunk alcohol** in the week prior to the survey. **15% of South Lanarkshire pupils in S4 indicated they had taken drugs** in the last month.



The LANDED project has provided alcohol and drugs education to staff and also young people who work directly with young people. They have also supported University of West of Scotland student teachers tailoring training to compliment Health and Wellbeing Substance use within the Curriculum for Excellence. They have also delivered nine Alcohol Brief Interventions training to 75 staff who work directly with young people. Feedback from staff has shown an increase in knowledge and confidence in relation to drugs and alcohol issues whilst engaging with young people.

LANDED have delivered 63 workshops to a total of 531 young people in a wide variety of community based settings and trained 38 young people as peer educators with a focus on Alcohol. The young peer educations have gone on to deliver workshops to 142 young people who are the most vulnerable young people in South Lanarkshire, or most at risk of being involved in risk taking behaviours

The Link Project has worked to support the re-integration and transition for young people moving back into the community following a period in custody. The staff work with other partners to ensure better outcomes for often vulnerable young people. Help is provided seven days a week including evenings and weekends from when a young person is released. The project has helped clients improve access to services, reduce re-offending, improve psychological health and social integration, restore relationships with family, and friends and improve accommodation, employment and education options.

The members of the third sector Chief Officer's Group, Children and Young People Sub Group provided support for young people who are affected by substance misuse. E.g. Regenfx Youth Trust has two projects that target young people involved in alcohol and drug misuse. The Junior and Senior Street use immersive theatre combined with issue-based workshops, to explore issues affecting young people today. A crucial part of the workshops include ensuring young people know of other services that can help and how to access them. Liber8's Streetbase project provides support to young people affected by alcohol and substances misuse, with a focus on prevention and education.

Link Project Case Study

The Link Project became involved with a young person aged 19 who was subject to MAPPA. He was discharged from Polmont and had no family support due to the nature of his offences. His alcohol use had been a concern throughout his life and he had suffered significant adverse childhood experiences. He had experienced four bereavements including both parents who were killed and was a survivor of sexual abuse. He had a distrust of services and low self-esteem. The staff met him on five occasions in prison prior to his release to commence the relationship process.

Staff collected the young person from prison and transported him to his identified supported accommodation placement. An appointment was made at the local GP surgery and counselling sessions provided. In addition the young person participated in an adult mindfulness programme with daily support in the form of transport to appointments, which increased trust and sustainability. Staff helped him address issues of alcohol issue in partnership with Addaction colleagues and further developed a relapse and recovery plan.

The young person completed an Outcome Star, where he identified timely goals such as budgeting, personal hygiene, sexual health and help with his ongoing alcohol use. The use of social media also caused concern due to the nature of his offences, so staff delivered protective behaviour support. The programme, Love Rocks helped him address risk taking behaviours in the form of further exploitation. This young person has secured an apprenticeship and a first aid certificate. He has completed three groups over a 16 week period and has plans to be a peer mentor for other young people experiencing alcohol issues and significant trauma.

Indicator 2.6

Pregnancy rate in under 16 per 1,000. Rates of teenage pregnancy in South Lanarkshire have followed the national trend and have reduced over time.

The teenage pregnancy rate for those **under 16 is currently 3.2 per 1000 (2017)** a reduction of 0.5 per 1000 in the rate from previous figures of 3.7 per 1000 (2015).



The Teenage Pregnancy Pathway has been included in the Education Resources - 'Framework for Inclusion and Equality'. A Teenage Pregnancy and Young People action plan was developed with SLC Education Resources, including Youth Family and Community Learning and a working group was established to implement agreed actions.



Supporting vulnerable groups and keeping children safe

Vision

Children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.

Outcome 3

The life chances of our most vulnerable children with additional support needs and our most vulnerable young people are improved



Indicator 3.1

Percentage of care experienced young people achieving a positive destination after leaving school.

Positive destinations of care experienced young people in **2016** – **78.1%**
Positive destinations of care experienced young people in **2017** – **89.2%**
Positive destinations of care experienced young people in **2018** – **90%**
Positive destinations of care experienced young people in **2019** – **91.5%**



Care experienced young people leaving school benefit from extra dedicated support from a multi-agency tracking group which tracks the destinations of all care experienced young people. The group includes membership from the Youth Employability Service, Skills Development Scotland, Corporate Services and Social Work.

All care experienced young people are supported through the group and young people requiring bespoke employability support are referred to the Aspire programme. A pilot programme to support care experienced young people into employment with South Lanarkshire Council was delivered in 2019 and supported five young people into jobs. In all 91.5% of care experienced school leavers made a transition to a positive destination in 2018/19 an increase from 90% the previous year and is significantly above the national rate of 82.4%.

Indicator 3.2

Percentage of care experienced young people obtaining 5 or more awards at level 5

In **2018** the figure for care experienced young people with **5 or more awards at level 5** was **9.9%**, this is up from **4% in 2018/19**.



The Inclusive Education Service created a comprehensive programme of in-service activity to support all designated senior managers in their duties to supporting looked after children. The materials for this programme have been provided to all relevant staff. New Operating Procedures 'Preventing and Managing Exclusions' was launched after consultation with stakeholders. As a result, we have seen a sustained reduction in exclusion rates for looked after children, the most recent figures for children looked after at home is down from 0.54% in 2014-2015 to 0.30%. For children looked after away from home the exclusion rate has dropped from 0.46% in 2014-2015 to 0.20% in 2019. These figures remain above the average for all pupils and so activity needs to continue to focus on this issue with school managers.

All children and young people subject to a Compulsory Supervision Order have a 'Child's Plan' in place as an integral part of their assessment, planning and support.

Going forward a member of staff within Inclusive Education Service will be given the remit to work with schools to share best practice on how to meet the needs of children who are looked after and particularly those looked after at home.

COVEY worked with 15 Looked after at home young people aged 8-14, with a view to increasing confidence and helping towards their attainment goals. This one-to-one mentoring support was supported through the Scottish Government's 'Intandem' program.

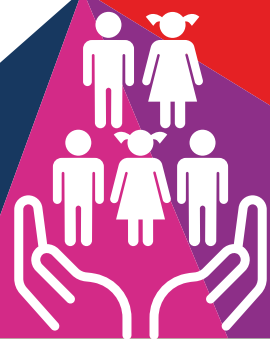




Indicator 3.3

Percentage attendance of care experienced children and young people

The overall attendance of care experienced pupils in **2018 was 89.9%** down very slightly from **90% in 2017**. This is the latest available data as the Scottish Government publication: Education Outcomes for Looked After Children isn't expected until September 2020.



We put staged intervention at the core of our support model, working on the basis that poor attendance is as much an additional support need as dyslexia or other learning difficulties, engaging with families and other professionals to support vulnerable families and encourage full attendance at school.

We have also revised our operating procedure on attendance after consultation with school managers and stakeholders, to provide strong guidance for staff. We know that attainment for care experienced children is lower than their peers and as a result we have worked to create the conditions in all schools for care experienced children to learn to meet their potential. Care experienced pupils are supported to attend school, to participate fully when they are there and to achieve to the best of their ability, so that we can work together to close the gap for these children.

To ensure that all schools have the most up to date information on which of their pupils are subject to a compulsory supervision order (looked after), the Inclusive Education Service works directly with the Scottish Children's Reporters Administration. Weekly updated information on wellbeing is provided to managers in schools and establishments, so that they are immediately aware of which children are subject to these orders. Our Framework for Inclusion and Equality and clear guidance provides clarity for school managers to how to support children who are looked after.



Indicator 3.4a

Percentage of repeat referrals to Reporter on offence grounds (Source SCRA)

***Children with >1 offence referral in year**

The percentage of children and young people with **> 1 offence referral is 45.6%**. A reduction of over 13% from 58.7% in 2017/18.



Indicator 3.4b

Percentage of referrals to Reporter for failure to attend school without reasonable excuse (Source SCRA)

The latest figures (2018) show **11.3%** of children and young people were referred to the reporter on the grounds of failure to attend school without reasonable excuse, an **increase from the previous year 2018 of 8%. (2017 10.3%)**.



Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) is central to our 'Whole System Approach' to youth justice, which addresses the needs of children, young people and their families involved in, or at risk of, offending. During 2019/20 there was an increase in the total number of young people supported by EEI, up by 22% from 2018/19. Those young people being supported by Police and Social Work are more likely to experience a one-off referral with minimum intervention and no repeat offending. We know that this way of working provides a good opportunity to understand behaviours, explore consequences, build confidence and address issues with peer relationships. Young people are supported to make positive friendships, return to school, explore opportunities for employment and a positive future. In addition, families have been supported with other issues for which they may not otherwise have sought help, for example financial advice and making introductions to other services for support.

Through good risk management planning, a range of services are brought together to provide a holistic approach to support young people most at risk of harming themselves or others. All young people subject to Care And Risk Management (CARM) have a robust risk assessment completed. The young person then benefits from an individualised risk management plan tailored to meet their needs and intended to reduce risk through a multi-agency network of support centred around the young person and their family. Staff training has increased capacity to risk assess young people in conflict with the law between the ages of 12-18 years. Across four localities there are 34 workers who have received training in specific risk assessment tools.



This holistic approach promotes understanding of behaviours to manage risk, whilst supporting the young person to achieve their potential in terms of personal wellbeing, healthy lifestyle and staying safe. Positive outcomes for young people include remaining in school, attending further education, participating in hobbies and having healthy relationships with family and friends. Staff have identified psychological benefits for young people as being increased self-esteem and a sense of worth and acceptance.

CARM Case Study

The following is an example which highlights the benefit of CARM.

A young person 14, who was coming to the attention of police every weekend in relation to their participation in anti-social behaviour in the community. The CARM procedures were then initiated and within two weeks a comprehensive risk management support plan was developed in partnership with the family, Social Work, Education and the Police. Following support, it was recorded that there had been a reduction in offending behaviour and there is an established network of support around the young person. Regular monitoring and review has resulted in better outcomes for the young person, who now reports feeling less angry and better able to use coping strategies. The young person has also completed an outdoor course and gained a recognised qualification.

Inclusion as Prevention is a five year project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and involves South Lanarkshire Council, Action for Children, Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice (CYCJ) and Dartington Service Design Lab. Inclusion as Prevention moved into Phase 2 of the project at the end of 2019 which involves Cambuslang / Rutherglen locality as a test of change site. Practitioners, young people, families and community are involved in a co-design approach. Our main focus has been to “re-shape the design and delivery of preventative services with children and young people who are at risk of offending and their families instead of relying on a crisis driven approach when a young person becomes involved in offending. We work to identify and intervene at an earlier point in the lives of children who are at risk of becoming involved in future offending, or other negative outcomes, tackling the root cause.

Indicator 3.5

Number of incidents of domestic abuse where children were affected that were referred to social work

Over the last few years domestic abuse incidents have increased, however. **This year (2020) 1369 incidents were recorded compared to 1237 in the previous year (2019).**



As part of South Lanarkshire's Gender Based Violence Strategy it remains a priority to support staff working with families experiencing domestic violence. This takes a range of forms including specific training events and one-off events. Over the last year, 298 staff have completed Gender Based Violence multi agency training. We held three additional events as well as circulating information online to staff and organisations and in particular, sharing information throughout the 16 days of action campaign in September.

South Lanarkshire's Women's Aid continue to work to support women and children affected by domestic abuse, as a priority and over the last 12 months they have provided direct support to 314 children and young people, an increase on the 148 supported in the previous year.

The Violence Against Women Partnership has produced up-to-date and accessible online guidance about the services available to support families affected by domestic abuse and how to access them. Specialist advocacy services are available for all women and girls, including advice on legal, financial and housing rights and options; group-work, safety planning and support finding and contacting support services. Partners also provide awareness raising in primary and secondary schools and youth settings to offer age-appropriate interventions to raise children, teachers and parents' understanding and awareness of gender based violence, and positive, healthy relationships as part of a whole school approach.

Since the introduction of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, almost all of South Lanarkshire's police officers have had additional specialist training from Police and partners. As a result, officers better understand the ways in which perpetrators seek to manipulate calls for help and the justice system, and how offences under the Act are aggravated through the use of children in perpetrating domestic abuse.

Indicator 3.6a

Number of child protection pre-birth registrations for babies affected by substance misuse.

The annual figure has reduced from **44 in 2018/19** to **12 this year as a result of a consistent approach to identifying vulnerable families at a locality level through the Early Years Multi Agency Forum (EYMAF) model.**



Indicator 3.6b

Percentage of children affected by parental substance misuse on the child protection register.

Over the last reporting period **26%** of the children registered on the child protection register were affected by substance misuse. **This compares to 30% in 2018/19**



The Lanarkshire Additional Midwifery Service (LAMS) provides specialist antenatal care to women across Lanarkshire who have a current or recent history of drug and alcohol misuse and associated complex needs, including poor mental health, domestic abuse and homelessness. LAMS also work with local social work teams and supports midwives by providing substance misuse and child protection training to help ensure early identification and support to families who are in need or at risk. In the past year 2151

Antenatal bookings were completed and 100% of these women received a completed Alcohol Brief Intervention (ABI) by a qualified midwife.



By LAMS continuing to work closely with newly qualified midwives, it increases staff's knowledge and confidence when working with women affected by substance misuse. It allows appropriate referrals to the relevant agencies to be done in a timely manner. By supporting midwives in increasing their knowledge base around substances, stigma and trauma overall reduces inequalities and feelings of judgement from women. This has resulted in building trusting relationships with families and higher engagement rates and care plans for women are more robust and have women at the centre of care provided.

The Community Addiction Recovery Service (CAREs) provides key support for parents suffering from alcohol and drugs misuse, including help with detoxing from alcohol or drugs, substitute prescribing, talking therapies, or harm reduction information. Parents are encouraged to explore other ways of gaining support for recovery, by thinking about important relationships within their lives and local community. CAREs provide support on alcohol or drug problems affecting important areas including housing or employment as part of recovery plans. Staff use the Drug and Alcohol Star to measure outcomes and the impact of substances on an individual's parenting and the improvement after receiving support. CAREs staff benefit from bespoke training on use of Outcome Star for analysis, with the majority of CAREs multi-disciplinary team now trained. The Outcome Star Framework is being embedded in the work of child protection meetings and case conferences as a means of showing progress.

NHS Lanarkshire and other partners have developed a variety of measures to raise the awareness of the "no alcohol no risk" strategy. Leaflets to highlight the risks of drinking in pregnancy are given to women as part of initial consultations. These leaflets are available from the Health Improvement Library and are also being accessed by a wide variety of services within NHS Lanarkshire, Education Resources, the 3rd sector and other partners. Foetal Alcohol Spectrum (FASD) prevention materials are also available on the NHS Lanarkshire public facing website. Disorder (FASD) briefing sessions are provided to a wide variety of staff within Health and Social Care and there is an awareness raising FASD prevention e-learning module available for staff within Health and Social Care and Education. All women with alcohol dependency are offered a referral to LAMS and to the wider Alcohol Support Services.



Indicator 3.7

Percentage of pupils with ASN recorded within primary and secondary establishments. The rate of pupils identified with ASN in mainstream establishments appears to have increased substantially since the 2013 baseline.

The current figures illustrate **26.2%** in primary school and **25.1%** of pupils in secondary school. This is most likely to be a result of more successful identification of ASN needs and a better understanding of support required.



The expected rate is circa **20%**
1:5 across South Lanarkshire.



Our Framework for Inclusion and Equality has been in South Lanarkshire schools since March 2018 and provides schools with current advice on numerous topics relating to inclusion and equality and how to best support pupils with additional support needs. There have been over 50 in-service briefings for staff on how to use the Framework.

The Framework for the Education of Pupils who have Autistic Spectrum Disorder was published at the same time and staff have benefited from additional briefings and encouragement to take time to explore the information available within this document. In reviewing the information contained within this framework, practitioners and managers were keen for Inclusive Education Service to provide further specific advice and guidance on meeting the needs of children on the Autism spectrum with extreme demand avoidance. A working group was set up involving practitioners, speech and language therapists, educational psychologist and Inclusion officers to develop this advice provide it to schools and establishments.

COVEY provided individual support and group befriending aimed at the transition years, including a group of eight young people with additional support needs helping them move into college. They also worked closely with the Autism Resource Combination Hub (ARCH), Supporting Autism in Lanarkshire (SAIL) and through referral from Education to give support to 25 young people who are affected by Autism.



4. Children's rights

The right to be myself



Recognising, respecting and promoting the rights of children and young people is central to improving outcomes for all children and young people. This section sets out a range of rights-based practice taken by children's services partners in South Lanarkshire.

A strong rights-based approach can make a significant difference to children and young people's lives and improve the quality and impact of services. These examples act as an encouraging reminder of the impact of our commitment to children's rights as we work to further our collective and single agency practice.

Building from a strong baseline we have set out to understand the wide range of practice that reflects the 42 articles in the United Nations Convention Rights of the Child. We recognise that children and young people want the right to be themselves and this is a feature of our approach to children's rights.

In November and December 2019, we held a series of locality events for around 300 staff, that helped reflect on rights-based practice and set the agenda for further improvement. This included a keynote input from Bruce Adamson, Children's Commissioner for Scotland on the importance of working towards best practice in children's rights.

We are listening more to young people than ever before through a wide range of participation and engagement practice, much of which is articulated within this section.

While our commitment to co-produce our intended Children's Services Plan 2020 -23 with children and young people has been interrupted due to the Coronavirus emergency, the foundation has been established to build a strong children's voice in the process. An engagement working group has been established to develop meaningful and creative ways to make sure that the planning process for the new plan is at least in part driven by the views and experiences of our children' young people and families.

What next for children's rights in South Lanarkshire

A fully developed rights-based approach will be used to help improve practice and to further improve outcomes for children and young people, particularly those who are most disenfranchised.

As a partnership we will continue to embrace a comprehensive rights based approach to our work, however we know that even more requires to be done to increase awareness and understanding of the rights of children across South Lanarkshire in order to effect this change.

In progressing the children's rights agenda, the Partnership will seek to deliver on the following commitments as part of our plan of action to make children's rights-based practice in South Lanarkshire the best it can be.

- Work to co-produce the new Children's Services Plan with children and young people (forthcoming Children's Services Plan April 2021)
- Continue to use the Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) model in developing South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan 2021-23, the refreshed Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan and other areas of policy and strategy affecting children and young people including single agency plans
- We will work with all partners to make sure that our policies and practices are compatible with the UNCRC rights and the planned duties to be incorporated into Scots law, before the new legislation comes into full effect.
- Further develop awareness of Children's Rights into workforce development opportunities provided to the children's services workforce
- Fully establish our 'Champions Board' to further enhance the voices of our care experienced children and young people
- Analyse Pupil Equity Funding to increase our understanding on what impact it is having on learning
- Introduce child health and wellbeing assessments for children affected by homelessness
- Look to introduce the role of children's rights champion in CAMHs service.
- Establish a new structure for Corporate Parenting with care experienced children and young people
- Promote rights-based practice and ensure all children's views are heard by all partners when deciding about care plans and their future with children's views at the core
- Further develop our Right to be Myself approach and think about the impact of gender issues and how we are open and responsible in supporting children and young people their experiences
- Be imaginative in engaging with children and young people who do not tend to engage in traditional consultation process. E.g. make use of social media to provide platforms for children and young people to share their views and experiences in a safe environment
- Provide opportunities for children and young people to participate in locality based events and explore how we can develop more creative opportunities for participation
- Identify ways to work with parents and carers to raise their awareness of children's rights and ensure children having a better understanding of responsibilities along with rights



5. The Independent care review

The Care Review is “an independent, root and branch review of Scotland’s care system”, the underpinning legislation, practices, culture and ethos. The Care Review has been built on five foundations of voice; family; care; people and scaffolding and these must be at the heart of how Scotland thinks, plans and priorities for its children and families.

We recognise that the only way significant improvements can be made is by understanding the full extent of what it means to experience care. The lived experience and wisdom of people has been at the very heart of the Independent Care Review and will be at the very heart of the responses to share care review planning in South Lanarkshire. South Lanarkshire Council Children and Justice Services has already been involved in work of the Independent Care Review, specifically the stop: go and edges of care work.

We refer to ‘The Promise’ as opposed to recommendations, recognising that there must be unwavering commitment to radical change that transforms the culture of care.

At its core, is the commitment to keep children with their families where it is safe to do so and above all else, value the importance of relationships with families.

While work is beginning to cascade responses across Scotland, in South Lanarkshire we are working to shape local practice and involve service providers, professionals and volunteers involved in the lives of children to implement change. Our progress will be reported to our Champions’ Board, which was launched in December 2019 and our Corporate Parenting Strategy Group/Board.



6. Self-evaluation and quality assurance

Self-evaluation and quality assurance processes are central to the work of the Children's Services Partnership. This activity is led by the Continuous Improvement Group, which reports to the Children's Services Strategy Group and Getting It Right for South Lanarkshire's Children Partnership Board on the progress and impact of service delivery for children, young people and families.

The Continuous Improvement Group leads on activities to identify where quality needs to be maintained, where improvement is needed and where services should be working towards excellence. The Continuous Improvement Group directs, maintains and manages the delivery of multi-agency self-evaluation activity at strategic and locality level. It reviews and updates the Continuous Improvement Framework and Programme of single and multi-agency self-evaluation activity on an annual basis.

The Child Protection Committee support continuous improvement through planned audit activities that measure child protection in a multi-agency context. It also delivers a range of training opportunities that support services across South Lanarkshire. Steady improvements can be evidenced through routine audit and evaluation activity carried out by child protection services across the partnership.

Joint inspection of children's services

Between August and December 2019, we participated in a joint inspection of services for children and young people in need of care and protection in South Lanarkshire. The inspection covered a wide range of partners that have a role in providing services for children, young people and families in need of care and protection. The scale of the inspection included:

- Meeting with 111 children and young people and 53 parents and carers to hear about their experiences of the support received
- A children, young people, parents and carers survey about their views of services received 102 responses from children and young people and 56 responses from parents and carers
- Auditing a wide range of documents and joint self-evaluation materials provided by the partnership
- Speaking to staff with leadership and management responsibilities
- A staff survey, which received 1162 responses
- Extensive focus groups with over 400 staff who work directly with children, young people and families
- Observation of a range of different types of partnership meetings and events including a locality multi-agency event for around 100 staff from all children's services partners
- Audit of practice, via a sample of records held by services for 109 of the most vulnerable children and young people

The extensive inspection activity provided a valuable perspective of the support provided for children and young people in need of care and protection and identified the following strengths and areas for improvement enabling the partnership to focus improvement activity around certain areas of practice.





Strengths

1. Effective child protection arrangements are supporting most children and young people to remain safe.
2. Nurturing, caring and trusting relationships between staff and parents are impacting positively on outcomes for many children and young people.
3. Staff show a high degree of support for senior leaders and benefit from a culture of learning and a comprehensive range of training, development and support opportunities.
4. A structured and comprehensive range of parenting programmes and initiatives, detailed within South Lanarkshire's parenting pathway and delivered flexibly by caring and compassionate staff, is supporting parents and carers to be more confident and resilient.

Priority areas for improvement

1. Corporate parenting arrangements to support improvements in outcomes for all looked after children and young people.
2. Support for care leavers to transition successfully into adulthood and improved systematic approaches to the health and wellbeing needs of all looked after children and young people who have left school and care leavers.
3. Use of outcomes data to demonstrate the impact services on the lives of children and young people.
4. Involving and seeking the views of children, young people and their families in care planning and review processes as fully as possible.

The Continuous Improvement Group will lead developments on these four areas for improvement, as well as the core remit of gathering evidence of impact, practice reflection and identifying general areas for improvement.

Promoting and extending good practice is a feature of our shared improvement agenda and is embedded across the partnership. We hold regular partnership events such as senior manager's seminars and locality practitioner events which allow us to involve as many staff as possible in important improvement activity.



7. Our partnership

The Getting It Right for South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Strategy Group and Partnership Board have set a strong vision for our joint work.

South Lanarkshire's children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.

We constantly review how we work together in partnership as part of our approach to good governance and work to ensure that structures and systems across the partnership reflect existing and emerging priorities for improvement identified from robust audit activity.

The structure highlighted below illustrates the current governance structure and important linkages across South Lanarkshire's Community Planning Partnership and Child Protection structures.

As part of our ongoing reflection, the partnership has agreed to refocus the third theme of our plan to concentrate on children and young people in need of care and protection. This lens will allow us to be in step with the national inspection model led by the Care Inspectorate and also build on the momentum and goodwill developed with all stakeholders as part of our recent inspection process.

The Child Protection Committee

As a multi-agency partnership working together to keep children safe, the South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee (SLCPC) and a number of associated sub groups work across children's services to improve outcomes for children and young people. To monitor activity across all areas of work at local and national level, including the expectations of the national Child Protection Improvement Programme, the SLCPC Quality Assurance and Management Information Sub Group, through its Self-Evaluation Strategy plans audit activities in a number of creative ways throughout the year. This includes direct consultation activity with children, young people, families and communities. Quality assurance activity includes joint audit activity as agreed within the Children's Services Plan.

Findings are shared widely across child protection and children's services and offer quantitative and qualitative data on areas of strength and areas for improvement. The SLCPC supports shared improvement work on delivering outcomes planning across a number of areas, including parental substance misuse, mental health and neglect. Work is driven by both the Child Protection Committee Business Plan and the Children's Services Partnership's Joint Self Evaluation and Continuous Improvement Activity Plan. These partnership activities serve to illustrate the shared vision that all children and young people have a right to be cared for and protected from abuse and harm.





Engagement with children and families

Article 12 of the UNCRC states that children and young people should have their say when adults are making decisions that affect them and their opinions are taken seriously. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 ensures that children's rights are realised and that they properly influence the design and delivery of policies and services.

The participation and engagement of our children and young people has been central to the planning process and continues to be a key influence on our joint planning including as we develop our new children's services plan. Some recent examples include:

- Champions Board
- Online survey to inform the next Children's Services Plan
- Inspection questionnaire survey
- Mind of My Own app for care experienced young people
- Youth services survey
- Survey of children and young people's experiences of the Covid 19 impact
- Recruitment of staff to the newly established Throughcare and Aftercare team

In early 2020 we carried out a public facing online consultation with children, young people and communities. Key issues arising from this survey include the following themes:

- The need to be more creative in tackling child poverty and inequalities and strengthen the links between the Children's Services Plan and the Local Child Poverty Action Report
- The importance of parental health and wellbeing and the home environment and the impact on the health and wellbeing of children and young people
- Mental and emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people, including nurture and attachment improved services and community-based support
- The continued importance of early intervention/prevention support to families

Engagement with staff

The participation and engagement of staff is a highly valued aspect of our work. Regular senior managers events and locality seminars enable staff from all partners to contribute to our planning and evaluation and reflect on progress against key targets.

Over the last year around 600 staff from across all the partners attended at least one of these events and 1162 members of staff responded to the survey carried out as part of the recent inspection. This provided a strong perspective of what is working well for our workforce and what needs to be better. As a partnership we are using this evidence to inform how we work together.

Our Staff Handbook helps staff understand fully how the work that they do contributes towards our goal of improving outcomes for our children, young people and families.

8. Workforce development



We are committed to the delivery of high quality workforce development activity and the following activity reflects our investment into ensuring that staff are supported to deliver high quality, well informed services to children, young people and families.

- Locality events take place every six months to provide opportunities for staff on a multi-agency basis to work together to inform children's services strategic developments through self-evaluation activities, the sharing of good practice and thematic staff development elements. The events are well attended by staff from across the children's service workforce and approximately 600 staff have participated over the last 12 months.
- Participation in a range of Improvement Theory led initiatives designed to embed improvement practice into the children's services workforce, including the Mental Health and Wellbeing in Education Programme and the Baby Friendly Improvement groups and a multi-agency action plan to support breastfeeding initiatives
- We have supported delivery of the Low Intensity Anxiety Management (LIAM) training across the multi-agency workforce which aims to enable support to be delivered to children and young people experiencing anxiety
- Training for health visitors on second hand smoke brief interventions
- Robust Active Literacy training programme for 1200 staff to support the development of phonics, spelling and reading
- Training for 800 staff on attachment theory and practice led by Education's Psychological Services
- Support and training for staff delivering the Healthy Schools and Healthy Schools Plus programmes
- Gender Based Violence training for 298 staff
- Training in substance misuse for a range of staff groups supporting, children, young people and families directly
- A train the trainer course for the 'You and Your Child' programme is increasing staff capacity for future delivery
- Incredible Years training focusing on school age children, for staff in Youth, Family and Community Learning and third sector organisations



Action Plan 2020-21 (Interim year)

In maximising the impact of this interim year of our Children's Services Plan, we continue our aspiration to support our children, young people and families and make the most effective and efficient use of available resources.

Our approach will largely be exceptions driven, where activity will be focused on the areas that over the past three years have still not rated green on our 'traffic light' analysis. These areas of work are still important in fulfilling the aspiration of achieving our three high level outcomes and providing best possible outcomes for our children, young people and families.

We will continue to face existing and new challenges and opportunities in a practical and planned way and ensure that we work to maintain a balance between local and national priorities.

The key areas of challenge for each of our themes are articulated in the table below. While we want to ensure that our priority areas of work are manageable, particularly at this uncertain time, these areas are not exclusive

Our response to the Independent Care Review recommendations will be a feature of our work as a partnership going forward.

Prevention and early support

Outcome 1. Children have the best start in life and are supported to realise their potential

- We will support the short life working group to develop innovative ways to increase the uptake of the Free School Meal award, particularly across secondary schools
- We will review the progress of the Parenting Support Pathway and develop the next phase of the model focusing on families with children nine years+
- We will continue to support children, young people and families disadvantaged by the impact of Covid19 e.g. increased access to online parenting programmes

Health and wellbeing

Outcome 2. The health and wellbeing of children and families is improved

- We will review the work of the Substance Misuse Subgroup to ensure a strong alliance with the work of the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
- We will work to develop additional activity to support the implementation of the Lanarkshire wide Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy which will be developed with input from children's services partners from South Lanarkshire and from children and young people
- We will share the work to support the emotional wellbeing of girls and young women as part of the National Health and Wellbeing Improvement Practicum with all key partners and work with the Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative to extend the learning and use of improvement methodology

Children and young people in need of care and protection

Outcome 3. The life chances of our most vulnerable children with additional support needs and our most vulnerable young people are improved

- We will review our Corporate Parenting arrangements to ensure that the governance of systems to support our care experienced population is as robust as it can be
- We will fully implement the newly established Throughcare and Aftercare Service for care leavers to support transition successfully into adulthood
- We will develop our joint approach to understanding the use of outcomes data which will help us fully understand the impact services have on the lives of children and young people and make appropriate additional planning decisions
- We will improve our systematic approaches to carrying out comprehensive health and wellbeing needs assessments for all looked after children and young people and care leavers to ensure the right supports are put in place
- We will fully implement our 'Champion's Board' involving and seeking the views of children, young people and their families in care planning and review processes
- All partners will work together to agree innovative responses to the recommendations contained in the Independent Care Review

Additional priorities for our Children's Services Partnership

The following areas of activity will be a priority for our local partnership in this interim year of the children's services plan:

- We will develop our focus of the third theme of our plan to be more explicit of the support offered to children and young people in need of care and protection
- We will continue our work towards producing a Children's Rights Report that reflects our commitment to fully implementing the UNCRC
- We will publish a fully inclusive joint strategic needs analysis with all partners including children, young people and families that will inform all aspects of planning across the partnership
- We will ensure creative and meaningful co-production approaches to developing our new Children's Services Plan (rescheduled for April 2021) which will be led by our Participation and Engagement Working Group
- We will work with our partners across the Community Planning Partnership to further step change around child poverty activity
- We will strive to understand the short, medium and long-term impact of COVID-19 on our children and families and work together to implement the mitigating actions needed





Appendix 1

Children's rights in South Lanarkshire



Approximately **350 staff** benefited from **participating in children's rights multi agency workshops** young people contributed to the **Youth Services Survey**



We completed an online survey about the early impact of **Covid 19** and have had over **3000 responses** from children and young people



Hundreds of young people from South Lanarkshire took part in events across Scotland in September 2019 to demand **urgent action on climate change**



314 children and young people who had experienced domestic abuse, benefited from direct support from Women's Aid, an **increase on the 148** supported in the previous year



Bespoke support for care experienced young people moving to a positive post school destination meant **91.55%** made a **positive transition** in 2019 the **highest ever figure**



244 staff have been trained to help children and young people with **anxiety management through the LIAM initiative**



21,200 pupils were involved in the **Active Schools programme**, **48%** of school roll

There was an **increase** in the total number of young people supported through **Early and Effective Intervention**, up by **22%** from 2018/19





The following examples provide an insight into our commitment to the children's rights agenda:

What we have done to support the UNCRC articles

(i) General measures of Implementation

Article 42 (knowledge of rights)

We hosted a series of multi-agency locality events for children's services staff around the theme of children's rights and debated and shared existing good practice. We identified areas for further improvement that informed our future commitments and actions. We know staff have a greater understanding of the environment and barriers children may be experiencing due to training and awareness raising and have an increased commitment to putting systems in place to allow children's voices to be heard

In Education establishments, teaching children their rights has helped develop a deep understanding of the concept of rights in general and the UNCRC in particular. Children are very aware of own rights and confident in expressing and articulating them.

All reports and papers presented to relevant groups across the children's services governance structure are required to demonstrate links to those articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) that are relevant to the matter being discussed.

(ii) General principles of the UNCRC

Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)

We have completed our biennial Youth Services Survey providing an opportunity for young people to identify priorities for service design across various planning processes.

The Corporate Connections Board continues to ensure that young people are involved in decisions about policy changes and how services are developed and monitored.

We involved 60 families with a lived experience of poverty in shaping work around our Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) and actions to tackle child poverty. Since the publication of our first report, children, young people and parents have given their views on the actions we are taking and what is missing. This valuable perspective will inform our next LCPAR

Healthy n Happy delivered a youth activist development programme across Cambuslang and Rutherglen, supporting young people to develop aspirations for their community and help them take action to affect the change they want to see happen.

(iii) Civil rights and freedoms

Article 2 (non-discrimination)

All key staff in Education Resources have received briefings in the use of the Framework for Inclusion and Equality designed to ensure the most vulnerable children and young people get the support they need when they need it.

(iv) Violence against children

Article 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect)

We provide regular child protection training for staff, either on a single agency basis, or directly through the Child Protection Committee.

We have a clear Child Protection Policy and Guidance for staff in all partner agencies, ensuring that child protection processes are working well and giving young people the opportunity to disclose concerns in an appropriate way.

Our partnership commitment to children's rights and to listening to the views of children and young people is explicit in our Child Protection Business Plan.

(v) Family environment and alternative care

Article 9 (separation from parents)

We have established a new Champions Board, supported by Who Cares Scotland? The Champion's Board was launched in January 2020 and has strengthened the voice of care experienced children and young people in South Lanarkshire.

We provide advocacy support for care experienced children in terms of their rights, those children accommodated have access to advocacy via Who Cares Scotland? e.g. support when going to children's hearing.

We have established the roll out of the Mind of My Own tool for care experienced children and young people have used the tool to share their views and experiences about their lives and the support they receive.

(vi) Basic health and welfare

Article 24 (health and health services)

We have further implemented the national Low Intensity Anxiety Management (LIAM) Programme with training provided to over 240 school nurses, teachers, pupil support staff, and youth, family and community learning staff on a one to one manualised intervention for children and young people with anxiety. Ongoing coaching is provided by clinical psychologists who offer wider support and signposting for children and young people.





(vii) Education, leisure and culture

Article 31 (leisure, play and culture) (vii) Education, leisure and culture Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)

South Lanarkshire's Active School Programme provides opportunities for all children and young people to participate in sport, play and culture. We have engaged with over 21,200 participants in the Active School Programme in 2018/19. We will further develop opportunities for young people from disadvantaged groups (ASN, care experienced, SIMD 1) to become sports leaders by continuing to work in collaboration with young people, families and colleagues to develop programmes which are fun, engaging and accessible to all. The Active Schools Programme is available across every community across South Lanarkshire and is free and open to all people in our communities to volunteer, participate or officiate. A dedicated team of coordinators and staff are on hand to support children and young people on the journey.

The Tiny ACE initiative encouraged physical activity in the early years and has continued to develop with 437 Live Tiny ACE memberships across 2019/20. Leisure and Culture delivered approximately 50 different Tiny ACE activities and organised a number of special events throughout the year. On average there are 139 different classes delivered per week throughout a range of venues across South Lanarkshire and to promote the activities to families an annual brochure was produced and promoted via a variety of partners, platforms and mediums.

(viii) Special protection measures

Article 40 (juvenile justice)

We have further implemented the Whole Systems Approach to Youth Justice and put children and young people at the centre of this process.

The Early and Effective Intervention model provides an ideal opportunity to understand behaviours, explore consequences, build confidence and address issues with peer associations for young people. Young people are then supported to make positive friendships, return to school, explore opportunities for employment and a more positive future.

The Inclusion as Prevention initiative seeks collaboratively to re-shape the design and delivery of preventative services, with children and young people who are at risk of offending and their families at the centre of the process. The project has been created through co-design and co-production re-designing services, by shifting from an acute and crisis driven approach when a young person becomes involved in offending, to support at an earlier point in the lives of children who are at risk of becoming involved in future offending or other negative outcomes, tackling the root cause.

Key contacts

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Children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.



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

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