

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2017-2020

Getting It Right for South Lanarkshire's Children

VISION

To improve the quality of life for all in South Lanarkshire by ensuring equal access to opportunities and to services that meet people's needs



Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire's Children PIP

1. Poverty, deprivation and Inequality

The focus of the Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire's Children Partnership Improvement Plan (PIP) strives to recognise that all children and young people in South Lanarkshire require the right support at the right time. Our Children's Services partners are committed to working together to get it right for every child, young person and family in South Lanarkshire.

Within our Plan and our approach is to focus on the need to target our services to where there is the greatest need. For approximately 80% of our children, universal services offer the support necessary to ensure positive outcomes are achieved. However, some children and young people need extra help. Inequalities in health and attainment exist between children and young people from our more deprived communities when compared to those from our least deprived. These inequalities also exist in specific vulnerable groups e.g. care experienced children and young people and young carers.

We aim to use our combined resources effectively to ensure we deliver services which promote wellbeing, prevent adversity and provide the right help at the right time to those who need it. This will include the targeting of support to children, young people and families living in the most deprived communities and as a result our Plan seeks to embed this work to tackle poverty and inequality within the shared partnership approach.

Prevention and the provision of early support is the key to successful outcomes and by providing services which are well organised and equipped to deliver high-quality, joined-up, responsive support to children and their families, we aim for the best possible outcomes.

Each action contained within the Plan contributes to at least one of the seven poverty themes of the Community Plan e.g. under the Prevention and Early Support theme the following areas are highlighted:

- **Increase uptake of free school meals** - Partners will continue with initiatives to increase uptake of free school meals to work towards a reduction in the number of children living in low income households. This will contribute towards the themes of family focused inclusion strategy and tackling health inequalities.
- **Maximise income for families** - Children's Services partners will work in partnership with the Financial Inclusion Sector to deliver welfare advice services to pregnant women and low income families. In addition we will roll out the use of the Lanarkshire Money Worries App as a tool to support families to manage their finances. This will contribute towards the Family Focussed Inclusion Strategy.
- **Attendance of children and young people in the most deprived data zones** - We will take a focused approach to the tracking, monitoring of pupils attendance in the 20% most deprived communities and take appropriate and early action in relation to supporting school attendance of those pupils. This will contribute towards the theme of supporting education and skills development for young people.
- **Literacy of the pupils in the most deprived areas** - We will work with partners to produce change packages supported by the Pupil Equity Fund for literacy in primary and secondary schools and test in school establishments. This will contribute towards the theme of supporting education and skills development for young people.
- **Positive destinations for young people in the most deprived areas** - Partners will deliver a range of supports and tracking systems to identify early and offer the required multi-agency support to young people and their families. There will be a specific focus to closing the outcome gap between young people from the 20% most deprived data zones and their peers in the less deprived data zones. This will contribute towards the theme of supporting education and skills development for young people.

2. Statement of Ambition

The Scottish Government introduced Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) as a long term programme. It is relevant to each and every child in Scotland, and reaches across Children's and Adults' Services in the public and voluntary sectors to drive towards achieving better futures for all of our children and young people.

The Government have developed legislation to implement this vision through the Children and Young People Scotland Act (2014) parts of which have been enacted, crucially the statutory requirement for the CPP to produce a Children's Service Plan. Other parts of the Act are still being developed and will be implemented when finalised.

The GIRFEC approach ensures children and young people get consistent and effective support for their wellbeing wherever they live or learn. The South Lanarkshire Partnership was a pathfinder project for the Scottish Government and as such already uses the GIRFEC approach to ensure the way they support children, young people and their parents is consistent and effective. The vision of GIRFEC is shared by all Community Planning Partners in South Lanarkshire and the leadership is delivered through the GIRFEC Partnership Board and its wider governance structure. Significant effort has been placed on developing strong and collaborative partnerships for children, young people, their families, communities and professionals. The essence of this is to fundamentally improve outcomes for children and young people in South Lanarkshire, as articulated in the 'South Lanarkshire Children's Service Plan 2017-2020 (**Working Together: Making a Difference for South Lanarkshire's Children and Young People**).

The GIRFEC approach is for all children and young people because it is impossible to predict if or when they might need extra support and takes the following approach:

- **Child-focused** - It ensures the child or young person – and their family – is at the centre of decision-making and the support available to them;
- **Based on an understanding of the wellbeing of a child** - It looks at a child or young person's overall wellbeing – how safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included they are – so that the right support can be offered at the right time;
- **Based on tackling needs early** - It aims to ensure needs are identified as early as possible to avoid bigger concerns or problems developing; and
- **Requires joined-up working** - It is about children, young people, parents, and the services they need working together in a coordinated way to meet the specific needs and improve their wellbeing.

South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan and the associated PIP is underpinned by the Wellbeing Indicators advocated by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

These eight indicators outline our key commitment to embed the Scottish Government's Getting it Right for Every Child approach across the partnership:

- **Safe** - Children and young people are protected from abuse, neglect or harm at home, at school and in the community;
- **Healthy** - Having the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, access to suitable health and support in learning to make healthy choices;
- **Achieving** - Being supported and guided in their learning and in the development of their skills, confidence and self-esteem at home, at school and in the community;
- **Nurtured** - Having a nurturing place to live. In a family setting with additional help if needed or, where this is not possible, in a suitable care setting;
- **Active** - Having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport; which contribute to healthy growth and development, both at home and in the community;
- **Respected** - Having the opportunity, along with carers, to be heard and involved in decisions which affect them;
- **Responsible** - Having opportunities and encouragement to play active and responsible roles in their schools and communities and, where necessary, having appropriate guidance and supervision and being involved in decisions that affect them; and

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

Whilst the PIP is for all children and young people, providing services against a backdrop of tightening budgets there is a need to target our services to where there is greatest need. We know that for 80-85% of our children, universal services offer the support necessary to ensure positive outcomes are achieved. However, inequalities in health and attainment exist between children and young people from our more deprived communities when compared to those from our more affluent ones, this is also evident in some of our more vulnerable groups e.g. children who are looked after, or young carers.

The governance for Children's Services planning and delivery across South Lanarkshire is through the Getting It Right for South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board which meets on a quarterly basis and whose membership includes:-

- Police Scotland;
- South Lanarkshire Council;
- NHS Lanarkshire;
- South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership;
- South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee;
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA);
- Skills Development Scotland; and
- Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLAN) on behalf of voluntary sector organisations working with children and families.

Through effective partnership working the GIRFEC Partnership Board has agreed actions and developments which will help achieve the vision and ambition to ensure:

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

This vision is underpinned by a commitment to:

- Tackling inequality, discrimination and poverty;
- Promoting early support and prevention;
- Focussing on those areas where working together will make the biggest impact on children, young people and families;
- Ensuring a multi-agency approach to continuous improvement;
- Implementing a Workforce Development Strategy that builds the competence and confidence of our staff; and
- Ensuring meaningful participation and engagement of children, young people and families.

3. Extent and Nature of Issues

Prevention and Early Support Theme:

GIRFEC is about keeping the child and family at the centre and ensuring that supports are put in place at the earliest opportunity. Along with the eight wellbeing indicators this provides a framework to promote and achieve wellbeing and best possible outcomes for all our children, young people and families.

The early years of a child's life are critical in shaping future outcomes. The Early Years Framework identifies the need for change from a reactive to a preventative approach and provides a guide for early identification of need and early support through a universal approach. Universal services, such as maternity, health visiting and pre-school education, support a healthy start in life, positive parenting, nurturing home environments and quality pre-school provision. The Early Years Framework highlights the importance of wider predictors of future outcomes for children and families, including poverty, employment and living environments. Focusing on prevention and early support reduces future demand on services, resulting in better outcomes and more effective use of resources.

A shift towards prevention and early support offers the best opportunity for preventing future inequalities, at an economic, environmental, community and individual level. A focus on early child development is a key component of reducing inequalities, targeting those at risk and providing tailored support for those with the greatest need. It is estimated that around 40% of current spending is on interventions that could have been avoided by prioritising a preventative approach.

The implementation of the national Universal Health Visiting Pathway across Lanarkshire will further strengthen our work in the area of prevention, early identification and intervention throughout the early years of life *consistently* to *all* children under 5 and their families. This will involve using refocused approaches to Health Visiting practice and an emphasis on reducing health inequalities.

We have invested in making South Lanarkshire the best place in Scotland to learn through our Schools Modernisation Programme and Raising Attainment and Improvement Collaborative approaches. There is still a need to prioritise support to some pupils and work is underway to close the outcome gaps in school attendance, attainment and post school destinations for children and young people in the 20% most deprived data zones. These interventions will impact on long term outcomes in relation to attainment, poverty and sustaining employment.

Where are we now?

Within South Lanarkshire increasing numbers of children are living in low income households. This has a negative impact on child and family wellbeing, as well as future opportunities and aspirations. It is important that household incomes are maximised and families experiencing financial hardship are supported to find sustainable solutions. We will support parents towards and within employment and support young people to achieve positive post school destinations.

Planning for two national child health review contacts at 13-15 months and 4-5 years is now underway in addition to the current 27-30 month child health review. National developments will be kept under close review to ensure any local implementation difficulties or barriers are overcome.

Raising attainment for all is important, however reducing the attainment gap between different groups of children and young people will remain a priority and in particular pupils reflecting particular characteristics such as those who live within the most deprived communities and pupils entitled to free school meals. An important factor in raising attainment is providing the support for key target groups to maximise attendance at school where possible. Children from more deprived backgrounds are less likely to achieve key developmental, literacy and numeracy milestones. For example, 24% of children from the most deprived areas of South Lanarkshire were not reaching all of their developmental milestones at 27-30 months; this is compared to 12% of children from the least deprived areas. The majority of concerns were related to speech, language and communication. Raising attainment for all is important, however, reducing the attainment gap between different groups of children and young people will remain a priority.

Youth employment is crucial to the agenda and the transition from school to the world of work is a critical time to intervene and ensure young people achieve but more importantly sustain a positive destination post school. Over the last 6 years we have seen the outcomes for young people in South Lanarkshire improve significantly. This progress is to be commended and was a result of partnership action, targeted support, increased funding from the council which was supported by additional European funding. The partnership has also applied the GIRFEC principles and range of supports to meet the needs of young people to address the multiple barriers many of them face.

The picture is similar for young people who are Care Experienced with South Lanarkshire being above the national average but the gap with other school leavers remains too high.

Health and Wellbeing theme:

The health and wellbeing of children and families is vital for populations to live longer, healthier lives and make the most of life's opportunities. Health and wellbeing is affected by a range of wider factors such as income, where we live and the services we have access to.

Children's emotional wellbeing and mental health is nurtured primarily in the home, but services can and do make a difference. Universal services supporting parents and carers are a key way of promoting children's emotional wellbeing during the perinatal stage and in the early years. A secure

parent/child relationship is a key building block for the development of positive attachment and helps to build emotional resilience in children.

For older children and young people, support for parents and carers remains important. There is also evidence that schools and other agencies can enhance children and young people's emotional wellbeing for example by reducing risk taking behaviour, building self-esteem and resilience and supporting the development of social and emotional skills.

Where are we now?

Within South Lanarkshire we have improved access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and most recent figures show that 95% of children and young people are seen within 18 weeks (Scottish average is 79%). Lanarkshire's Parenting Support Strategy commits to supporting parents to be confident and competent in their efforts to build strong attachments with babies and young children and build resilience with children and young people. This aims to prevent the need for more intensive mental health intervention at a later date.

Data from the national SALSUS Survey shows a decreasing trend in young people reporting smoking, drinking alcohol and using illegal drugs. Whilst more young people from more deprived areas report smoking, this relationship is less clear for those using alcohol and drugs. Teenage pregnancy rates are also reducing in South Lanarkshire, although in under 16 year olds there has been no recent improvement and this requires some focus.

Overweight and obesity levels in P1 children are increasing, impacting on health and wellbeing now and in future years by increasing risk of chronic conditions such as Type 2 Diabetes and mental health problems such as low self-esteem. While South Lanarkshire meets its Physical Education (PE) in schools targets (two hours/periods per week), around a fifth (20.3%) of children in South Lanarkshire are overweight or obese. Obesity increases with age, so earlier intervention to support weight management is key including promoting breastfeeding. We will explore the RCS data to highlight areas of concern and identify physical activity and nutrition intervention that can address obesity figures.

Supporting vulnerable groups and keeping children safe

Children and young people can be vulnerable for a variety of reasons and need additional support, protection and on occasion care from different agencies. We recognise the importance of single and multi-agency assessment and planning as a starting point for all our children with support needs. Through our GIRFEC implementation we will continue to drive forward improvements in the quality of our assessment and planning to ensure risks and needs are identified and responded to as timely and effectively as possible.

Children with or affected by disability as well as those with Additional Support Needs (ASN) often experience inequality and discrimination causing both short and long term difficulties. The number of children and young people with ASN and disabilities is increasing and we recognise the need to put in place a long term strategy that will provide the best possible support in the future. Over the last few years we have engaged with families affected by disability to ensure they inform the planning and delivery of services.

Some young people get involved in offending behaviour and require targeted support from the Youth Justice Service to assist them to change patterns of behaviour and refrain from offending.

Where there continues to be serious concerns, some children may become 'looked after'. Children can be looked after at home, in kinship care, with foster carers, in residential homes or external residential establishments like schools or secure units. For those children unable to return home, permanent alternative arrangements are considered to promote wellbeing.

Those children and young people deemed to be most at risk will be subject to Child Protection procedures to help safeguard their wellbeing. The partnership works to: The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014; this provides a national framework for agencies and practitioners to understand and agree processes for working together to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children i.e. children exposed to parental substance misuse or emotional abuse linked to domestic abuse.

Where are we now?

South Lanarkshire Council has developed a continuum of provision for children and young people with ASN which includes standalone special schools, units and bases co-located with mainstream schools, support classes integrated within mainstream schools and packages of support for individual children within mainstream classes which match support to need. This provision supports children who are on the Autism spectrum and takes into account the Scottish Government's overarching policy to presume that all children should attend their local mainstream school unless circumstances rule this out.

Our school attendance rate for looked after at home children is 84.3% compared to 94.5% for those looked after away from home. Attainment levels for our looked after at home are poorer than their looked after away from home peers with an average tariff score of 57 for the middle 60% of all looked after at home compared with average tariff score of 327 for the middle 60% in those looked after away from home. Looked after at home young people also compare unfavourably with their looked after away from home peers in terms of positive post school destinations with a 2016 rate of 65.5% compared with 88.6%.

While South Lanarkshire has a positive youth offending trend it still sits above the national average, especially for repeat offences, as does referrals to the reporter on school attendance grounds which are currently more than twice the national average.

Children and young people referred to the Reporter has remained steady over recent years. In the year ending 31 March 2016 there were 1,260 referrals that involved 724 children. The number of children referred has remained around the same since 2010 following a significant drop in referrals. This was due to early screening through GIRFEC processes, domestic abuse processes, Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) for young people who offended.

The percentage of referrals for failure to attend school without reasonable excuse was 9.3% for South Lanarkshire as compared to the national average of 4.2%. School attendance is a priority area for the GIRFEC Partnership and a range of interventions are being put in place to improve school attendance of the most vulnerable groups.

The percentage of referrals for lack of parental care was 15.5% for South Lanarkshire as compared to the national average of 23.7%. This reflects the work undertaken across the GIRFEC Partnership to intervene early and work to support children and their families on a voluntary basis where possible reducing the needs for statutory measures of care.

On average in South Lanarkshire, we have 660 children and young people who are looked after at any point in time. Educational attainment is an important factor for all children, but more so for our most vulnerable children for whom it offers opportunities to improve their life chances by securing employment, a college placement, work based apprenticeship or training. We know that while outcomes for children and young people who are looked after are worse than the broader population, outcomes for those looked after at home is a particular concern and will be a priority over the period of this Plan.

Over the past three years there was on average 262 children on the Child Protection Register each year. The main categories of registration relate to neglect, emotional abuse (this includes exposure to domestic abuse in the household) and parental substance misuse. The partnership will work together to identify and provide appropriate supports to these children, young people and families to help reduce any impact on their life chances.

4. Priorities

Effective, collaborative self-evaluation and improvement activity are at the heart of our planning approach. Stakeholders have shared a wealth of data and information about provision, need and impact and through joint analysis of a wide range of data and intelligence; we have identified those groups of children and young people who require targeted support.

In order to identify these priority areas, data was gathered to inform a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This included population data and locality level data, across deprivation quintiles and

time trends. In addition, data was scrutinised for particular groups of children and young people e.g. those looked after at home.

The Data and Planning Group recorded where data showed an improving, static or worsening trend over time, the scale of inequality and areas where early intervention could reduce the likelihood of further problems in the future. A Prioritisation Tool was used to support this process and data gaps were noted.

We then undertook an extensive consultation with stakeholders at all levels to quality check this work. This took the form of three large multi-agency events involving over 220 staff and all our Children's Services partners.

Realigning Children's Services:

The South Lanarkshire CPP is a pathfinder with the Scottish Government's Realigning Children's Services (RCS). This programme supports local areas with Strategic Needs Assessment and effective Joint Commissioning Plans. South Lanarkshire Children's Services Partnership is working with the national Realigning Children's Services Team to improve joint strategic commissioning processes nationally and have completed a large-scale health and wellbeing survey with 510 parents of 0-8 year olds and 16,133 primary school pupils 9-11 years and secondary school pupils 12-16 years. The key findings of this consultation will be used with partners to guide and inform years two, three and beyond of our Children's Services Plan.

Existing services and resources have been mapped. Analysis and interpretation of this forthcoming dataset will inform Year 2 of the Children's Services Plan and support commissioning decisions in the coming years.

The Care Inspectorate Joint Inspection findings:

In 2014 the Community Planning Partnership underwent an inspection of Children's Services by the Care Inspectorate which reported in February 2015. Following the publication of the report of the Joint Inspection of Children's Services we developed an Improvement Action Plan which has addressed the areas of improvement from the Inspection Report and in turn has informed this Children's Services Plan.

The Improvement Plan contains six areas for action and 17 specific actions. At the time of writing this Plan, 13 actions are complete and a further four are still being progressed.

The effective setting of priorities is an essential element of strategic evidence-led planning and it will ensure that the work of the partnership is transparent in terms of targeting particular issues, in resource allocation decisions and in identifying opportunities for preventative work and early intervention.

5. Partnership Outcomes

The breadth and depth of the partnership work required to achieve wellbeing for all our children and young people is summarised within 3 overarching themes. These priorities are set out within the Plan, each with a high-level outcome. These are:

- **Prevention and Early Support** - Children have the best start in life and are supported to realise their potential;
- **Health and Wellbeing** - The health and wellbeing of children, young people and families is improved; and
- **Supporting Vulnerable Groups and Keeping Children Safe** - The life chances of our children with additional support needs and our most vulnerable children and young people are improved.

Lead officers have been identified for each of the areas of work contained within the PIP under the agreed outcomes, which in addition have been allocated to one of the groups within the GIRFEC Partnership governance structure to support the reporting process.

The agreed outcomes, indicators, actions and measures will be reported directly to the Children's Services Strategy Group and Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire's Children Partnership Board as an integral part of the scrutiny of Children's Services Partnership activity.

There should be some explanation of how the evaluation of the impact will be assessed as well as further needs and opportunity assessments to allow for the identification of new and emerging priorities as well as the scope of community engagement and feedback and the potential for this to be further expanded in relation to the work being progressed.

Priority Outcome 1: Prevention and Early Support: Children have the best start in life and are supported to realise their potential

Rationale: GIRFEC is about keeping the child and family at the centre and ensuring that supports are put in place at the earliest opportunity. Along with the eight wellbeing indicators this provides a framework to promote and achieve wellbeing and best possible outcomes for all our children, young people and families.

The early years of a child's life are critical in shaping future outcomes. The Early Years Framework identifies the need for change from a reactive to a preventative approach and provides a guide for early identification of need and early support through a universal approach. Universal services, such as maternity, health visiting and pre-school education, support a healthy start in life, positive parenting, nurturing home environments and quality pre-school provision. The Early Years Framework highlights the importance of wider predictors of future outcomes for children and families, including poverty, employment and living environments. Focusing on prevention and early support reduces future demand on services, resulting in better outcomes and more effective use of resources.

A shift towards prevention and early support offers the best opportunity for preventing future inequalities, at an economic, environmental, community and individual level. A focus on early child development is a key component of reducing inequalities, targeting those at risk and providing tailored support for those with the greatest need. It is estimated that around 40% of current spending is on interventions that could have been avoided by prioritising a preventative approach.

The implementation of the national Universal Health Visiting Pathway across Lanarkshire will further strengthen our work in the area of prevention, early identification and intervention throughout the early years of life *consistently* to *all* children under 5 and their families. This will involve using refocused approaches to health visiting practice and an emphasis on reducing health inequalities.

We have invested in making South Lanarkshire the best place in Scotland to learn through our schools modernisation programme and Raising Attainment and Improvement Collaborative approaches. There is still a need to prioritise support to some pupils and work is underway to close the outcome gaps in school attendance, attainment and post school destinations for children and young people in the 30% most deprived data zones. These interventions will impact on long term outcomes in relation to attainment, poverty and sustaining employment.

Drivers:

- ◆ The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014;
- ◆ Universal Health Visiting Pathway in Scotland - Pre Birth to Pre School and Child Health 2020, A Strategic Framework for Children and Young People's Health;
- ◆ The Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC);
- ◆ Curriculum for Excellence (2010) and Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act in 2004;
- ◆ The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011;
- ◆ Corporate Parenting Strategy: The Getting it Right for Looked After Children and Young People in South Lanarkshire; and
- ◆ Opportunities for All/Developing the Young Workforce.

Where are we now?

Within South Lanarkshire increasing numbers of children are living in low income households. This has a negative impact on child and family wellbeing, as well as future opportunities and aspirations. It is important that household incomes are maximised and families experiencing financial hardship are supported to find sustainable solutions. We will support parents towards and within employment and support young people to achieve positive post school destinations.

Children from more deprived backgrounds are less likely to achieve key developmental, literacy and numeracy milestones. For example, 24% of children from the most deprived areas of South Lanarkshire were not reaching all of their developmental milestones at 27-30 months; this is compared to 12% of children from the least deprived areas. The majority of concerns were related to speech, language and communication. Planning for two National Child Health Review contacts at 13-15 months and 4-5 years is now underway in addition to the current 27-30 month child health review. National developments will be kept under close review to ensure any local implementation difficulties or barriers are overcome.

Raising attainment for all is important, however, reducing the attainment gap between different groups of children and young people will remain a priority and in particular pupils reflecting particular characteristics such as those who live within the most deprived communities and pupils entitled to Free School meals. An important factor in raising attainment is providing the support for key target groups to maximise attendance at school where possible. Children from more deprived backgrounds are less likely to achieve key developmental, literacy and numeracy milestones. For example, 24% of children from the most deprived areas of South Lanarkshire were not reaching all of their developmental milestones at 27-30 months; this is compared to 12% of children from the least deprived areas. The majority of concerns were related to speech, language and communication. Raising attainment for all is important, however, reducing the attainment gap between different groups of children and young people will remain a priority.

Youth employment is crucial to the agenda and the transition from school to the world of work is a critical time to intervene and ensure young people achieve but more importantly sustain a positive destination post school. Over the last 6 years we have seen the outcomes for young people in South Lanarkshire improve significantly. This progress is to be commended and was a result of partnership action, targeted support, increased funding from the council which was supported by additional European Funding. The partnership has also applied the GIRFEC principles and range of supports to meet the needs of young people to address the multiple barriers many of them face.

The picture is similar for young people who are Care Experienced with South Lanarkshire being above the national average but the GAP with other school leavers remains too high.

We will measure progress towards this priority outcome with reference to the following indicators and targets					
Indicator(s) and Source	Baseline	Latest figures reported	Short Term Target (1 year)	Medium Term Target (3yr)	Long Term Target (10yr)
<p>Reduce percentage of all children living in low income households</p> <p>(Source: DWP/HMRC)</p>	(2014) 18.1%	(2015) 15.9%	17.6%	17.1%	16.6%
<p>Increase percentage of children within SIMD quintile 1 who will have reached their language developmental milestones at the time of their 27–30 month child health review (SIMD 1) and reduce the gap between SIMD Quintile 1 and SIMD Quintile 5</p> <p>(Source: Health ISD)</p>	(2016) 73 % Gap – 12.9%	(2017) 79.1% Gap - 12.4%	82% Gap - 12%	85% Gap - 11%	Maintain national target of 85% Gap - 10%
<p>Increase percentage school attendance for children and young people in SIMD 1</p> <p>(Source: SIMD 2016 Data)</p>	(2016) 91.1%	(2017) 90.6%	91%	92%	93%
<p>Increase percentage of children, within SIMD 1 will have successfully achieved Curriculum for Excellence first level literacy by P4</p> <p>(Source: SEEMIS)</p>	(2016) 54%	(2017) 61%	65%	57%	58%

We will measure progress towards this priority outcome with reference to the following indicators and targets					
Indicator(s) and Source	Baseline	Latest figures reported	Short Term Target (1 year)	Medium Term Target (3yr)	Long Term Target (10yr)
<p>Increase percentage of children, within SIMD 1 will have successfully achieved Curriculum for Excellence second level literacy by P7</p> <p>(Source: SEEMIS)</p>	(2016) 49%	(2017) 58%	59%	60%	62%
<p>Increase percentage of children, within SIMD 1 will have successfully achieved Curriculum for Excellence third level literacy by S3</p> <p>(Source: SEEMIS)</p>	(2016) 76%	(2017) 84%	84.5%	85%	87%
<p>Percentage reduction in the gap of positive destination outcomes for young people in the 20% most deprived data zones and their peers in the least deprived 20% data zones</p> <p>(Source: Education/ Insight)</p>	(2015-16) Lowest 20% - 89.9% Highest 20% - 95.1% Gap – 5.2%	(2016-17) Lowest 20% - 92.3% Highest 20% - 97.1% Gap – 4.8%	Reduce the Gap to 4%	Reduce the Gap to 2.5%	Reduce the Gap to 1.5%

We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above				
Change Required	Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)	Timescale	Responsibility	Poverty Focus
Increase uptake of free school meals	Continue with initiatives to increase uptake of free school meals	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	1,5
Increase uptake of 2 year old places	Workers in contact with families in early childhood highlight the opportunity of 2 year old nursery places.	March 2018	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	1,2
Maximise income for families	Health Visiting teams and Social Work Family Support Teams work in partnership with the Financial Inclusion Sector to deliver Welfare Advice Services to pregnant women and low income families	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	1
	Roll out use of the Lanarkshire Money Worries App	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	1
Language development	At 12-15 months all children with concern have a support package/outcome plan in place	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	1
Attendance of children and young people in the most deprived data zones	Track, monitor and take appropriate action in relation to school attendance of pupils in the 20% most deprived communities	March 2018	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	4
Literacy Development (Primary)	Produce a change package supported by Pupil Equity Funding for literacy in primary schools and test in school establishments	March 2018	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	4
Literacy Development (Secondary)	Produce a change package supported by Pupil Equity Funding for literacy in secondary schools and test in school establishments	March 2018	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	4

We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above				
Change Required	Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)	Timescale	Responsibility	Poverty Focus
Positive destinations for young people in the most deprived areas	Continue to work to close the gap in outcomes for young people in the most deprived 20% data zones and their peers in the least deprived data zones	March 2018	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	4

- 1 Family focused inclusion strategy
- 2 Supporting employment/childcare
- 3 Improving housing quality
- 4 Supporting education, skills, development – young people

- 5 Tackling health inequalities
- 6 Supporting safeguarding measures
- 7 Improving local environment

Priority Outcome 2: Health and Wellbeing: The health and wellbeing of children, young people and families is improved

Rationale:

Why is it important?

The health and wellbeing of children and families is vital for populations to live longer, healthier lives and make the most of life's opportunities. Health and wellbeing is affected by a range of wider factors such as income, where we live and the services we have access to.

Children's emotional wellbeing and mental health is nurtured primarily in the home, but services can and do make a difference. Universal services supporting parents and carers are a key way of promoting children's emotional wellbeing during the perinatal stage and in the early years. A secure parent/child relationship is a key building block for the development of positive attachment and helps to build emotional resilience in children.

For older children and young people, support for parents and carers remains important. There is also evidence that schools and other agencies can enhance children and young people's emotional wellbeing for example by reducing risk taking behaviour, building self-esteem and resilience and supporting the development of social and emotional skills.

Drivers:

- ◆ The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014;
- ◆ Universal Health Visiting Pathway in Scotland - Pre Birth to Pre School and Child Health 2020, A Strategic Framework for Children and Young People's Health;
- ◆ The Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC);
- ◆ Curriculum for Excellence (2010) and Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act in 2004;
- ◆ West of Scotland Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures;
- ◆ Corporate Parenting Strategy: The Getting it Right for Looked After Children and Young People in South Lanarkshire; and
- ◆ Opportunities for All/ Developing the Young Workforce.

Where are we now?

Within South Lanarkshire we have improved access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and most recent figures show that 95% of children and young people are seen within 18 weeks (Scottish average is 79%). Lanarkshire's Parenting Support Strategy commits to supporting parents to be confident and competent in their efforts to build strong attachments with babies and young children and build resilience with children and young people. This aims to prevent the need for more intensive mental health intervention at a later date.

Data from the national SALSUS Survey shows a decreasing trend in young people reporting smoking, drinking alcohol and using illegal drugs. Whilst more young people from more deprived areas report smoking, this relationship is less clear for those using alcohol and drugs. Teenage pregnancy rates are also reducing in South Lanarkshire, although in under 16 year olds there has been no recent improvement and this requires some focus.

Overweight and obesity levels in P1 children are increasing, impacting on health and wellbeing now and in future years by increasing risk of chronic conditions such as Type 2 Diabetes and mental health problems such as low self-esteem. While South Lanarkshire meets its Physical Education (PE) in schools targets (two hours/periods per week), around a fifth (20.3%) of children in South Lanarkshire are overweight or obese. Obesity increases with age, so earlier intervention to support weight management is key including promoting breastfeeding. We will explore the RCS data to highlight areas of concern and identify physical activity and nutrition intervention that can address obesity figures.

We will measure progress towards this priority outcome with reference to the following indicators and targets					
Indicator(s) and Source	Baseline	Latest figures reported	Short Term Target (1 year)	Medium Term Target (3yr)	Long Term Target (10yr)
Increase percentage of children with no emotional and behavioural developmental concerns at 27/30 months (Source: NHS/ISD)	(2016) 88.6%	(2017) 92.5%	93%	94%	95%
Increase percentage of P1 children within a healthy weight (Source: NHS/ISD)	(2016) 86.1%	(2017) 86%	86.5%	88%	89%
Increase percentage of school roll participating in Active Schools Programme (Source: South Lanarkshire Leisure-Annual Report)	(2016) 46%	(2017) 46.2%	47%	48%	50%
Increase percentage of all looked after children and young people Health Needs Assessments completed within 4 weeks (Source: NHS)	(2016) 59%	(2017) 43%	80%	85%	86%
Reduce percentage of 15 year olds drinking alcohol at least once a week (Source: SALSUS)	(2014) 16.2%	(2016) 18%	16%	15%	13%
Reduce percentage of 15 year olds reporting using drugs in the last month (Source: SALSUS)	(2014) 12%	(2016) 16%	11%	10%	8%

We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above				
Change Required	Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)	Timescale	Responsibility	Poverty Focus
Decrease emotional and social concerns impacting on early years development	Deliver attachment based programmes (Early Years Framework of Assessment and Intervention for Attachment and Resilience, Solihull and Mellow Parenting) to parents with an intensive level of need including children affected by substance misuse, domestic abuse and those at risk of child protection registration	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	1,6
	Establish an attachment strategy implementation group	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	1
Increase the number of children and young people with a healthy weight	Launch a bespoke pre-school membership across SLLC Services with an integrated Tiny ACE across all four localities	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	5
	South Lanarkshire Leisure will increase the quality and range of opportunities offered before, and after school and during lunchtime across sport and physical activity	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	5
Improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for LAACYF	Processes in place for prompt notification when young people become Looked After, wellbeing assessments and wellbeing plans responsive to individual needs with efficient pathways of support	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	4,5,6
Improve early identification and support for young people at risk of and/or experiencing poor emotional health and wellbeing	Continue to provide and deliver nurture based approach in establishments	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	4
Reduce risk taking behaviours around alcohol and drugs by young people	Provide alcohol/drugs education to young people and the staff who work with them	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	4,5

	Implement alcohol brief interventions with young people identified as having a difficulty as a way of addressing and reducing alcohol use	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	4,5
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- 1 Family focused inclusion strategy
- 2 Supporting employment/childcare
- 3 Improving housing quality
- 4 Supporting education, skills, development – young people

- 5 Tackling health inequalities
- 6 Supporting safeguarding measures
- 7 Improving local environment

Priority Outcome 3: Supporting Vulnerable Groups and Keeping Children Safe: The life chances of our children with additional support needs and our most vulnerable children and young people are improved

Rationale:

Children and young people can be vulnerable for a variety of reasons and need additional support, protection and on occasion care from different agencies. We recognise the importance of single and multi-agency assessment and planning as a starting point for all our children with support needs. Through our GIRFEC implementation we will continue to drive forward improvements in the quality of our assessment and planning to ensure risks and needs are identified and responded to as timely and effectively as possible.

Children with or affected by disability as well as those with ASN often experience inequality and discrimination causing both short and long term difficulties. The number of children and young people with ASN and disabilities is increasing and we recognise the need to put in place a long term strategy that will provide the best possible support in the future. Over the last few years we have engaged with families affected by disability to ensure they inform the planning and delivery of services.

Some young people get involved in offending behaviour and require targeted support from the Youth Justice service to assist them to change patterns of behaviour and refrain from offending.

Where there continue to be serious concerns, some children may become 'looked after'. Children can be looked after at home, in kinship care, with foster carers, in residential homes or external residential establishments like schools or secure units. For those children unable to return home, permanent alternative arrangements are considered to promote wellbeing.

Those children and young people deemed to be most at risk will be subject to Child Protection procedures to help safeguard their wellbeing. The partnership works to: The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014; this provides a national framework for agencies and practitioners to understand and agree processes for working together to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children. I.e. children exposed to parental substance misuse or emotional abuse linked to domestic abuse

Drivers:

- ◆ The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014;
- ◆ Universal Health Visiting Pathway in Scotland – Pre Birth to Pre School and Child Health 2020, A Strategic Framework for Children and Young People's Health;
- ◆ The Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC);
- ◆ Curriculum for Excellence (2010) and Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act in 2004;
- ◆ The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011;
- ◆ West of Scotland Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures;
- ◆ Corporate Parenting Strategy: The Getting it Right for Looked After Children and Young People in South Lanarkshire; and
- ◆ Opportunities for All/Developing the Young Workforce.

Where are we now?

South Lanarkshire Council has developed a continuum of provision for children and young people with Additional Support Needs which includes standalone special schools, units and bases co-located with mainstream schools, support classes integrated within mainstream schools and

packages of support for individual children within mainstream classes which match support to need. This provision supports children who are on the Autism spectrum and takes into account the Scottish Government's overarching policy to presume that all children should attend their local mainstream school unless circumstances rule this out.

Our school attendance rate for looked after at home children is 84.3% compared to 94.5% for those looked after away from home. Attainment levels for our looked after at home are poorer than their looked after away from home peers with an average tariff score of 57 for the middle 60% of all looked after at home compared with average tariff score of 327 for the middle 60% in those looked after away from home. Looked after at home young people also compare unfavourably with their looked after away from home peers in terms of positive post school destinations with a 2016 rate of 65.5% compared with 88.6%.

While South Lanarkshire has a positive youth offending trend it still sits above the national average, especially for repeat offences, as does referrals to the reporter on school attendance grounds which are currently more than twice the national average.

Children and young people referred to the Reporter has remained steady over recent years. In the year ending 31 March 2016 there were 1,260 referrals that involved 724 children. The number of children referred has remained around the same since 2010 following a significant drop in referrals. This was due to early screening through GIRFEC processes, domestic abuse processes, Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) for young people who offended.

The percentage of referrals for failure to attend school without reasonable excuse was 9.3% for South Lanarkshire as compared to national average of 4.2%. School attendance is a priority area for the GIRFEC Partnership and a range of interventions are being put in place to improve school attendance of the most vulnerable groups.

The percentage of referrals for lack of parental care was 15.5% for South Lanarkshire as compared to national average of 23.7%. This reflects the work undertaken across the GIRFEC Partnership to intervene early and work to support children and their families on a voluntary basis where possible reducing the needs for statutory measures of care.

On average in South Lanarkshire, we have 660 children and young people who are looked after at any point in time. Educational attainment is an important factor for all children, but more so for our most vulnerable children for whom it offers opportunities to improve their life chances by securing employment, a college placement, work based apprenticeship or training. We know that while outcomes for children and young people who are looked after are worse than the broader population, outcomes for those looked after at home is a particular concern and will be a priority over the three years of this Plan.

Over the past three years there was on average 262 children registered on the child protection register each year. The main categories of registration relate to neglect, emotional abuse (this includes exposure to domestic abuse in the household) and parental substance misuse. The partnership will work together to identify and provide appropriate supports to these children, young people and families to help reduce any impact on their life chances.

We will measure progress towards this priority outcome with reference to the following indicators and targets					
Indicator(s) and Source	Baseline	Latest figures reported	Short Term Target (1 year)	Medium Term Target (3yr)	Long Term Target (10yr)
<p>Increase percentage attendance of care experienced children and young people</p> <p>(Source: SEEMIS)</p>	(2016) 85.1%	(2017) 90%	90%	91%	92%
<p>Increase attainment for care experienced children and young people in line with national average and virtual comparator</p> <p>Care experienced young people obtaining 5 or more awards at Level 5</p> <p>(Source: Education/insight)</p>	(2014/15) 15.4% South Lanarkshire Average (22.6%) Virtual Comparator 9.6% Scottish Average	(2017) 22.5% South Lanarkshire Average (27.6%) Virtual Comparator 14.5% Scottish Average	22.5%	23%	25%
<p>Increase percentage of care experienced young people achieving a positive destination at initial survey</p> <p>(Source: SDS/Insight)</p>	(2016) 80% South Lanarkshire Average 69% Scottish Average	(2017) 89% South Lanarkshire Average 81%	89%	90%	90%
<p>Percentage reduction in the gap for destination outcomes for care experienced young people linked to the national average</p> <p>(Source: SDS/Insight)</p>	(2016) 15.92% 76.4% Scottish Average Gap – 17.4%	(2016) 8.06%	Reduce the Gap to 8%	Reduce the Gap to 7%	Reduce the Gap to 5%

We will measure progress towards this priority outcome with reference to the following indicators and targets					
Indicator(s) and Source	Baseline	Latest figures reported	Short Term Target (1 year)	Medium Term Target (3yr)	Long Term Target (10yr)
Reduce percentage of repeat referrals to Reporter on offence grounds (Source: SCRA)	(2016) 26.5%	(2017) 50.7%	25%	25%	23%
Reduce percentage of referrals to the Reporter for failure to attend school without reasonable excuse (Source: SCRA)	(2016) 9.3%	(2017) 10.3%	8%	7.5%	7%
Reduce number of pre-birth registrations for babies affected by substance misuse (Source: SW Database)	(2016) 35	(2018) 22	22	21	20
Reduce percentage of children affected by parental substance misuse on the Child Protection Register (Source: SWiS)	(2017) 34%	(2018) 30%	33%	30%	30 %

We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above				
Change Required	Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)	Timescale	Responsibility	Poverty Focus
Attendance at school for care experienced children and young people	All education establishments prioritise attendance tracking of pupils who are looked after at home	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	4
	Establish a care plan for those pupils looked after at home who require support to improve attendance	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	4
Improved attainment of care experienced children and young people	As an integral part of the Corporate Parenting Action Plan implement the duties of the designated managers/named persons role in all establishments with a focus on attendance	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	4
Improved employability tracking and monitoring of care experienced young people	Continue to ensure that the Multi Agency Tracking Group supports Care Experienced young people with post school destinations	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	4
A reduction in the number of children and young people being referred to Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) on offence grounds	Deliver Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) model (Getting it Right for Young People who Offend) in all localities	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	4

We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above				
Change Required	Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)	Timescale	Responsibility	Poverty Focus
A reduction in the number of children and young people being referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) on school attendance grounds	Deliver a series of briefings to staff in schools on how to best manage Staged Intervention process to support the implementation of attendance policy/procedures	March 2018	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	4
Reduce the impact of parental substance misuse on children and young people	All pregnant substance misusing women are supported by the locality Early Years Multi-Agency Forums (EYMAF)	March 2020	Getting It Right For South Lanarkshire Children's Partnership Board	1,4,5

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