
Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	5 October 2020
Report By:	Ruth Binks Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	
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Subject:	Inverclyde Children's Service Plan 2020-2023		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the position of Inverclyde Strategic Children's Service Planning Partnership in relation to the publication of the 2020-2023 Children's Service Plan.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Under the Children and Young Person's Act 2014 Local Authorities and Health Boards are required to provide the Scottish Government with a three year Children Services Plan, setting out and demonstrating the actions planned, taken and delivered to improve outcomes for children and young people in their area. Children's Services Plans are about creating and maintaining a local environment which facilitates effective GIRFEC practice.
- 2.2 The children's service plan and annual reports should be submitted as soon as reasonably practical following the end of the planning year which is noted to run from 1 April to 31 March. The Children Service Plan for 2020-2023 were due to be submitted in April 2020 however this was extended as a result of Covid -19.
- 2.3 The Scottish Government have since advised of a revised submission date of 30th September 2020 by which time local authorities must either submit their full children service plan or publish a statement explaining the timetable and process for revising the draft plan and explaining what plan is currently supporting integrated working and to send revised plans by 31 March 2021.
- 2.4 The strategic leads have reviewed the work that remains outstanding and considered some of the developments in the early help arena as a result of the pandemic situation and recommends that Inverclyde Children Service Planning Partnership publishes a statement to advise the Government that it intends to review and revise its priorities and publish its final plan by March 2021.
- 2.5 The body of this report provides a rationale for the recommendation provided.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to:-
- Note the developments cited within the body of this report in relation to the altered landscape for children's service planning
 - Support and approve the recommendation of the Children Service Planning Strategic Partnership to revise the draft Children's Service Plan for 2020-2023 and publish a revised and final plan in March 2021.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Under the Children and Young Person's Act 2014 Local Authorities and Health Boards are required to provide the Scottish Government with a three year Children Services Plan, setting out and demonstrating the actions planned, taken and delivered to improve outcomes for children and young people in their area. Children's Services Plans are about creating and maintaining a local environment which facilitates effective GIRFEC practice.
- 4.2 1st April 2017 was the date by which the first three year Children's Services Plan was required to be in place. Scottish Government Guidance was reviewed and revised in 2020 and more detailed criteria for the children's service plan was provided to support local authorities. An annual report detailing the progress of the plan is now also required.
- 4.3 The guidance states that the children service plan must:
- Have a clear, ambitious compelling shared vision of what will be achieved by the end of the plan
 - Reflect relevant National Performance Framework Outcomes
 - Incorporate a robust evidence-based joint strategic needs assessment of the current population of the children and young people in its area
 - Include analysis of quantitative and qualitative evidence and data relating to both service performance and child wellbeing
 - Identify a manageable number of measureable priorities clearly linked to the joint needs assessment to ensure that the rationale behind the priorities is explicit
 - Set out a comprehensive strategy for supporting families through a broad range of preventative and early intervention approaches from universal services to targeted intensive support and describe the rationale for how and where the family support services are provided
 - Describe what services are going to be developed in the future and specifying which areas will see disinvestment in order to facilitate the shift of resources towards preventative and early intervention options
 - Set clear indicators for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of children's services in terms of their success in responding to and addressing children's wellbeing needs
 - Present all the information in an easily accessible format which is SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-related)
 - Illustrate links to other statutory plans and reports
- 4.4 The children's service plan and annual reports should be submitted as soon as reasonably practical following the end of the planning year which is noted to run from 1 April to 31 March.

Between January 2020 and March 2020 the Inverclyde Children Service Planning group evaluated the previous plan and agreed the high level outcomes for the 2020-2023 plan to be:

1. Improving attainment and outcomes for LAC,
2. Minimising poverty and deprivation,
3. Providing early help via trauma informed partnership working
4. Improving joined up working between children and adult services when addressing complex and multiple needs within a family.

The strategic leads for each area were tasked to develop these outcomes further and produce the plan to be submitted to the Scottish Government.

- 4.5 The Covid -19 Pandemic commenced resulting in disruption and delay in attending to our strategic priorities, these tasks were intentionally paused to allow agencies to focus on realigning operational structures to provide key support to children and families during the pandemic.
- 4.6 The Scottish Government have since met with local authorities and recognised the disruption and delay that the pandemic crisis has caused and also that this may have altered how local authorities wished to progress with their next 3 year children's service plan. The Scottish Government have since advised of a revised submission date of 30th September 2020 by which time local authorities must either submit their full children service plan or publish a statement (attached as Appendix 1) explaining the timetable and process for revising the draft plan and explaining what plan is currently supporting integrated working and to send revised plans by 31 March 2021.
- 4.7 The lives of children and families in Inverclyde have changed unexpectedly and inexplicably as a result of the pandemic situation. The well documented challenges for the community relating to deprivation, mental health and substance misuse have been further compounded by issues of loss, social isolation and loss of income for some families.
There have also been positive developments during this time of crisis that we want to further strengthen and build upon. Partners and communities have come together to support each other and our most vulnerable, demonstrating the strength and effectiveness of early help and Inverclyde's incredible capacity to care for its own people when needed. The lives of the children and families will continue to be affected by the pandemic for years to come and we want to ensure our children's service plan is targeted to address this.
- 4.8 The publication of the care review findings on the 5th February 2020 has also given us cause to review our priorities. The voices of children were loudly heard within the findings telling services what they wanted to us 'stop' and what they wanted to 'go' with in relation to how we design and provide our support. This must therefore also be reflected in the revision of the children's service plan.
- 4.9 Inverclyde children's planning partnership has reviewed the context as a result of the significant changes and developments described and intend to publish as statement (Background paper 7.1) denoting our intention to revise our draft Children's Service Plan and publish a revised plan in March 2021. Our integrated work shall continue to be guided by the continuation of the previous Children's Service Plan and in these ever changing times by our partnership Covid recovery plans.
- 4.10 The final Children Service Plan shall be subject to approval at the Alliance Board on the 15th March 2021 before submission to the Scottish Government on the 31st March 2021.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS - N/A at this time

FINANCE - N/A at this time

5.1 Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
- N/A at this time					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
- N/A at this time					

LEGAL

5.2 N/A at this time

HUMAN RESOURCES

5.3 N/A at this time

EQUALITIES

5.4

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	N/A at this time

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 N/A at this time

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Statement relating to the publication of the Inverclyde Children's Service Plan 2020-2023



Statement Inverclyde
CSP 26.8.2020.docx

APPENDIX 1

As the chair of Inverclyde's Strategic Children Service Planning Partnership I am publishing this statement to advise our service users, community, partners and the Scottish Government of our timetable for the publication of our revised three year Children Service Plan 2020-2023.

The Children's Service Plan and annual reports should be submitted as soon as reasonably practical following the end of the planning year which is noted to run from 1 April to 31 March.

As you are aware the Covid -19 Pandemic commenced in March 2020 resulting in disruption and delay in attending to our strategic priorities. These tasks were intentionally paused to allow agencies to focus on realigning operational structures to provide key support to children and families during the pandemic.

The Scottish Government have recognised the disruption and delay that the pandemic crisis has caused and also that this may have altered how local authorities wish to progress with their next 3 year Children's Service Plan. The Scottish Government have provided a revised submission date of 31st September 2020 by which time local authorities must submit their full children service plan or publish a statement explaining the timetable and process for revising the draft plan and explaining what plan is currently supporting integrated working and to send revised plans by 31 March 2021.

The lives of children and families in Inverclyde have changed unexpectedly and inexplicably as a result of the pandemic situation. The well documented challenges for the community relating to deprivation, mental health and substance misuse have been further compounded by issues of loss, social isolation and loss of income for some families. There have also been positive developments during this time of crisis that we want to hang onto as partners and communities have come together to support each other and our most vulnerable, demonstrating the strength and effectiveness of early help and Inverclyde's incredible capacity to care for its own people when needed. The lives of the children and families will continue to be affected by the pandemic for years to come and we want to ensure our children's service plan is targeted to address this.

The publication of the care review findings on the 5th February has also given us cause to review our priorities. The voices of children were loudly heard telling services what they wanted to 'stop' and what they wanted to 'go' in relation to how we design and provide our support.

Inverclyde children's planning partnership have reviewed their situation as a result of the significant changes and developments described and intend to revise our draft Children's Service Plan and publish a revised plan in March 2021. Our integrated work shall continue to be guided by the continuation of the previous Children's Service Plan and in these ever changing times by our partnership Covid recovery plans.