



Inverclyde Alliance

## AGENDA ITEM NO: 8

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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Alliance Board</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>14 March 2022</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Ruth Binks Chair Inverclyde Children's Services Partnership</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Children's Services Plan Annual Report – 2020/21</b>		

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### 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Alliance Board of the annual progress report for the Children's Services Plan 2020/21.

### 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities and their associated health boards produce an integrated Children's Services Plan (CSP) to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people. The Act also established a 3 year planning framework, however due to Covid-19 the Scottish Government extended the submission deadline for Plans due in 2020 to 2021.
- 2.2 The Inverclyde Children's Services Plan 2020/23 was developed by the Inverclyde Children's Services Partnership and establishes four priority themes for the Partnership. These themes were agreed based on a comprehensive Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA), along with other associated strategies, which helped to identify the needs of children, young people and their families in Inverclyde. The four priority themes are summarised below:
1. To improve outcomes for children and families by developing a strong professional base with high quality multi-agency approached throughout a child's experience
  2. The promotion of a whole community approach to understanding mental health, wellbeing and the impact of trauma.
  3. To reduce the inequalities of health and educational outcomes linked to deprivation.
  4. To further improve outcomes, including attainment, for care experienced children, young people and their families.
- 2.3 Although conscious of the short time scale for any delivery or progress, the Scottish Government asked that a progress report on the 2020-21 Children's Services Plan be published by 31 December 2021. The full annual report can be accessed at the following link:  
<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/support-for-children-families/joint-childrens-services-planning/children-s-services-plan-2020-2021-annual-report>
- 2.4 Despite the reduced timescale for reporting and also the impact of COVID-19 upon services, the Children's Services Partnership have made good progress in taking forward areas of the plan. Paragraphs 5.4– 5.7 of this report outline the key progress points linked to the four priorities.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

- Note the annual report for the 20/21 Children's services Plan in line with the statutory requirements of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

**Ruth Binks**

**Chair of the Inverclyde Children's Services Partnership**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 Act seeks to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Scotland by ensuring that local planning and delivery of services is integrated, focused on securing quality and value through preventative approaches, and dedicated to safeguarding, supporting and promoting child wellbeing. It aims to ensure that any action to meet need is taken at the earliest appropriate time and that, where appropriate, this is taken to prevent need arising.
- 4.2 While overall responsibility for children's services planning sits with a local authority and its relevant health board, it is expected that the Plan will be developed in collaboration with other members of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), as well as with children, young people and their families.
- 4.3 The Scottish Government, understanding the significant pressure on local authorities during COVID-19, did not require planning partnerships to submit plans during 2020. They also understood that delivery of the plans may well change and develop as services continue to respond and recover from COVID-19. As a result, the Scottish Government requested that authorities submit the high level priorities during April 2021.
- 4.4 The 2020-23 Inverclyde Children's Services Plan 2020/23 builds on the work of the previous plan for the period 2017/20 and contributes to the delivery of the Alliance's vision of "Getting it right for every child, citizen and community." Although bound by a three year planning framework, the development of the new CSP was severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and consequently the Scottish Government extended the deadline for submission to 2021. The Plan was developed by the Inverclyde Children's Services Partnership which comprises of representatives from the main partner agencies, including Health and Social Care Partnership, Education and Community Services, Police Scotland, Voluntary Organisations, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Skills Development Scotland. The plan was reported to the Alliance Board for approval in June 2021.
- 4.5 A Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) to inform the plan is in place which, along with other associated strategies, has provided the Partnership with a strong evidence base from which an informed judgement could be made on the current needs of children, young people and their families, as well as achievements and areas for improvement. This has resulted in four priority themes being identified for the Partnership going forward:

**Priority Theme 1:** To further embedded GIRFEC in Inverclyde to improve outcomes for children and their families by developing a strong professional base for identifying, understanding and responding to need at the earliest opportunity, with clear, agreed, high quality multi agency approaches throughout a child's experience.

**Priority Theme 2:** Mental health is everyone's business and it affects all aspects of a child and young person's development. The promotion of a whole community approach to understanding mental health, wellbeing and the impact of trauma is essential.

**Priority Theme 3:** To reduce the inequalities of health and educational outcomes linked to deprivation.

**Priority Theme 4:** To further improve outcomes, including attainment, for care experienced children, young people and their families by developing a culture of ambition based on strong relationships that recognise the range of difficulties experienced by children and families and provide the scaffolding to protect safe, loving and respectful relationships.

## 5.0 Inverclyde Children's Services Plan – Annual report - 2020/21

- 5.1 Although conscious of the short time scale for any delivery or progress, the Scottish Government asked that a progress report on the 2020-21 Children's Services Plan be published by 31 December 2021. Given that the 2020-23 plan was understandably delayed because of COVID 19 – the timescale for the progress report has proved challenging. Progress in the plan has been made but in most cases this has happened in the latter part of the year. For completeness, the 2020-21 progress report references some actions and updates that takes place after the reporting period however it is hoped that the normal reporting cycle will be able to resume for the 2021/22 progress report.
- 5.2 The actions and performance measures associated with the delivery of the Priority Themes are set out in the Delivery Plan. Understandably the timescales for the actions for the delivery plan are still to be fully developed. This process will be organic for the year 2021, allowing for the capacity of different services and remaining responsive to need. The timescales and actions are being monitored by the lead for each priority, reporting into the strategic group.
- 5.3 The full Inverclyde update report can be accessed using the link below:  
<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/support-for-children-families/joint-childrens-services-planning/children-s-services-plan-2020-2021-annual-report>
- 5.4 **Priority Theme 1:**  
To further embedded GIRFEC in Inverclyde to improve outcomes for children and their families by developing a strong professional base for identifying, understanding and responding to need at the earliest opportunity, with clear, agreed, high quality multi agency approaches throughout a child's experience.

The following progress can be noted against this theme:

- The GIRFEC Quality Assurance (QA) group (alongside a performance management group) was reconvened in March 2021 and has established audit tools to audit provision. The GIRFEC QA group will audit referrals from universal services to Request For Assistance. A second audit group 'Tracing the child's journey through universal provision' is designed to audit early and effective intervention within universal services.
- Health visiting staff have modified their child assessment and planning document to reflect those of other services. Training in the Shared Chronology has taken place within health, education and children and families social work.
- The Child Protection Committee (CPC) training sub group has devised and delivered multiagency training (in relation to neglect, and child protection awareness) along the GIRFEC continuum. A proposal has been approved by the sub group and via CPC for the group to continue to develop training across the GIRFEC continuum.
- Practice guidance was developed in relation to Equal Protection legislation utilising GIRFEC principles and this could prove a model for other guidance. Scottish Government is undertaking a GIRFEC refresh which clarifies the role of the named person.

### 5.5 **Priority Theme 2:**

Mental health is everyone's business and it affects all aspects of a child and young person's development. The promotion of a whole community approach to understanding mental health, wellbeing and the impact of trauma is essential.

The following progress can be noted against this theme:

- The Inverclyde Wellbeing Service is now entering Year 2 of its development. This service is provided via Action for Children. It works with children and young people from 5 to 18 years of age. Key areas that service users have raised are low mood, anxiety and stress. The three Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) set for the service in year 1 were

overtaken.

- The Children and Young People's Community Mental Health (CYPCMH) agenda has led to an enhancement in staffing from Barnardo's and Action for Children (AfC) for this targeted area. Furthermore, a Research Assistant (RA) has been employed who is based within the Educational Psychology Service.
- The *No Wrong Door* approach is being developed to ensure that there is a single point of access to mental health services.
- *Nothing About Me Without Me* priority – work is currently taking place with services and service users to support systemic user led change. The work is taking place initially with pupils from St Stephen's HS and Port Glasgow HS. The plan is to move this across all high schools and work in the primary sector too evolving change in the system through feedback along the way.
- Inverclyde Educational Psychology Service has been central to the development of the Coping With Adversity (CWA) model. This was developed alongside partners from Lomond View Academy and Kibble School as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge. This model is based on the Three Pillars of Trauma – Safety, Connections and Self-Regulation.

### 5.6 Priority Theme 3:

To reduce the inequalities of health and educational outcomes linked to deprivation.

The following progress can be noted against this theme:

- Ongoing work to review the menu of opportunities open to all pupils via the council as well as via partners such as Skills Development Scotland. An Education Officer is leading on this work with a revised senior phase action plan now in place.
- Riverclyde Homes (RCH) as a lead Registered Social Landlord has established multi-skilled team to deliver support to prevent tenancy failure: Since recruiting the Tenancy Support Mentor and Income Maximisation Officer in April they have undergone a period of training and have been linking in with local organisations to introduce the project.
- Inverclyde Council has committed a further £30,000 per year for two years to maintain and support the Grieve Road Zero Waste Food Pantry.
- The Cost of the School Day Team has been re-established to identify actions and services that will support children and young people living in poverty. The team will ensure that new policy and areas of development are implemented through the poverty lens, and share impact and good practice examples.
- The 2021/22 Scottish Attainment Challenge plan continues to be implemented. Much of this plan is in line with the previous one with a further focus on recovery designed to ensure that all schools are using additional staffing / budget to best effect e.g. PEF and recovery staff linked to Scottish Government grants.
- The work to support schools with attendance is ongoing. Work with the Education Scotland Attainment Advisor is now under way again after the impact of COVID 19.
- The Principal Teacher for Early Learning and Childcare is leading a group of practitioners to develop outdoor play and healthy eating guidance.
- The Breast feeding mural is going ahead on Nicholson Street, this is in Partnership with Oak tree housing and local young people.

### 5.7 Priority Theme 4:

To further improve outcomes, including attainment, for care experienced children, young people and their families by developing a culture of ambition based on strong relationships that recognise the range of difficulties experienced by children and families and provide the scaffolding to protect safe, loving and respectful relationships.

The following progress can be noted against this theme:

- Funding has been awarded to establish the I Promise Team via Cora Foundation Promise Partnership. This funding will support the establishment of I Promise Team
- A Promise presentation was created in conjunction with Proud2Care Group to be used

with children, young people, families, communities and the workforce. The first presentation with Education staff took place in September 2021.

- An audit of all available information for LAC has been collated and shared across services.
- A governance group for LAC has been established and met for the first time in September 2021.
- Care experienced children continue to benefit from the CE Attainment Fund and there are clear benefits from families having a voice in identifying how direct funding is utilised. The Care Experienced Attainment Fund has also allocated funds to establish the post of a Virtual Head Teacher (see link to priority 2).
- A new outreach service from Lomond View Academy, was launched in Sept 21 with the aim to support schools to support all pupils to ensure alternatives to exclusion are in place as well as best practice to support pupils at risk.
- To address recruitment and retention issues with social work staff “spend to save” options are being explored to link with the Promise.
- HSCP Care Planning and Improvement Officers have completed Family Group Decision making training which will enable this model to be embedded in how we engage with families.
- Work undertaken with older care experienced young people to review assessment and planning for transition to independence. This created Going4ward paperwork to ensure that young people are working in partnership with services to support their journey to independence.
- Young people are now resident in the transition flats and are working jointly with services to develop the support they will receive whilst living there.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Legal: The requirement to produce an Children’s Services Plan is set out in Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

Financial Implications :none at present

Human Resources: none at present

Equality and Diversity: An EIA has been developed as part of the Children’s Service Plan.

Repopulation: There are no direct implications for repopulation arising from this report.

Inequalities: The Inverclyde Children’s Service’s Plan 2020/23 has a strong focus on the reduction of inequalities for our children and young people.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The priority themes within the plan have been informed by consultation with children and young people.

## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 14 June 2021 – Alliance Board report on Children’s Services Plan 2020-23.