



Dumfries and Galloway Children's
Services Plan

Joint Annual Report

Year 2: 2021-2022



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1. Introduction

This is our second Joint Annual Report on our 2020 to 2023 Children's Services Plan, and covers the reporting period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. The purpose of the report is to demonstrate progress against the aims and objectives in the plan and to identify any areas for improvement and/or re-prioritisation in the year ahead.

The Children's Services Plan is our overarching plan for children's services in Dumfries and Galloway, and sets out our joint vision, approach and ambitions for children and young people, building on progress made in the previous plan.

The central aims of our Children's Services Plan are to

- Safeguard and support the wellbeing of children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway.
- Promote early intervention and prevention to address needs at the earliest opportunity or to prevent them arising.
- Deliver services that appear as integrated as possible to the children, young people and families who use them.
- Make best use of resources.
- Ensure that related services, for example Housing and Alcohol and Drug services are also delivered in a way that as far as possible promotes children's wellbeing.

Our Children's Services Plan is a high-level, strategic plan that sets out the shared joint priorities for Dumfries and Galloway and provides a roadmap for delivery. At the end of our last Children's Services Plan in 2020, our position was that the Community Planning Partnership had delivered an ambitious plan of improvement with many key successes, particularly with regard to child protection. The *Getting it right for every child* (GIRFEC) framework continued to be embedded across partner agencies. A wide range of anti-poverty measures had been resourced, developed and delivered. Significant investment in staff had supported new and creative ways of working more effectively with children and families. Challenges remained, especially with regard to closing the attainment gap; securing improved outcomes for care-experienced young people and improving the way we support children with disabilities. Our ambition was that our 2020-23 Children's Services Plan would continue to deliver improvement across these areas of challenge.

Our six priorities in our 2020-23 plan are that by working together with our children, young people, their families, and communities:

1. Children and young people are safe and free from harm
2. The life chances and outcomes for care experienced children and young people improve
3. The impact of poverty on children and young people is reduced

4. The mental health and wellbeing of children and young people improves
5. Children and young people with complex needs and disabilities are enabled to reach their potential
6. How we support parents and carers to meet the needs of their children and young people improves.

The six priorities have more detailed action plans that sit beneath them and are underpinned by our GIRFEC approach.

As with the first year of our Children's Services Plan, this reporting period has continued to be defined by the Covid-19 pandemic and its impacts on children, young people, families, communities and staff in Dumfries and Galloway; and the effects on planning and service delivery. Following the end of restrictions, we are still to see the longer-term impacts of the pandemic on child wellbeing.

At the time of reporting, we are now in the final year of our current Children's Services Plan, and we have started the development process for our 2023-25 plan. A Strategic Needs Assessment is in progress, to identify needs of our children, young people, parents and carers and communities. This will be used to engage with a wide range of stakeholders in identifying priorities for the next plan.

The following sections contain a summary of activity against each priority in the plan, with information on key successes, challenges, and any re-prioritisation that may have been necessary.

2. Progress against our priorities

2.1 Priority 1: Children and young people are safe and free from harm

2.1.1 About this priority

Our Public Protection Committee (PPC) is responsible for our multi-agency approach to child protection. In Dumfries and Galloway, we have historically had relatively high numbers of children on the Child Protection Register. In 2017/18 the local rate of registration per 1000 children was 8.1, compared with a national rate of 4.7. Our rate dropped to 5.3 in 2018/19, however by 2019/20 our rate had dropped further to 1.8, below the National rate of 4.3. In Scotland the most common concerns identified for children at the point of registration in 2018/19 and 2019/20 were Domestic Abuse and Neglect. However, in Dumfries and Galloway our most common concerns were Domestic Abuse and Parental Drug Misuse in 2018-19. In 2019/20 Domestic Abuse and Neglect became our top two concerns, followed by Parental Drug Misuse.

In prioritising the need to keep children safe and free from harm, we agreed five main aims for our 2020-23 plan:

- Children and young people are better protected by continuing to improve our identification and response to harm.
- Children are better protected by the early identification of and response to supporting children and families affected by substance misuse
- Children and young people can protect themselves through increased awareness of domestic abuse and greater understanding of healthy relationships by children, young people and the wider community.
- Children and young people are better protected through the early identification and response to the impact of domestic abuse.
- Children and young people will benefit from the support of an integrated youth justice service which understands problematic behaviours, avoids unnecessary criminalisation and supports transition to adulthood

2.1.2 The position at the start of the reporting period

In 2020/21, public protection was prioritised, and revised governance arrangements put in place with regular oversight by Chief Officers. Despite challenges presented by the pandemic, we had continued to deliver a programme of improvement activity throughout the first year of our Children's Services Plan. This included:

- Ongoing implementation and embedding of the strengths-based Signs of Safety approach.
- Reviewing and updating various policies and procedures; and continuing to make improvements in our quality assurance systems.

- Continuing to work on the Minimum Dataset for Child Protection Committees across Scotland, working in partnership with the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS)

2.1.3 Progress in 2021/22

Children and young people are better protected by continuing to improve our identification and response to harm.

During the reporting period there were 4,516 referrals to Children and Families Social Work, reflecting a busy year in which the service dealt with some very complex and challenging areas of work, together with the additional impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Of these referrals, 87% were for children to be considered in need with the remaining 13% related to children in need of protection.

In 2021/22 the number of children referred into Child Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) increased by 11% compared to the previous year. A total of 1,097 children were referred into Child MASH with 532 children discussed at Interagency Referral Discussion (IRD). A total of 266 Child Protection Investigations were completed, resulting in 87 Child Protection Planning Meetings, an increase of 12% compared to the previous year.

As of 31st March 2022, there were 47 children on the Child Protection Register with the most prevalent risk factors being domestic abuse and emotional abuse. In addition, in recent months larger sibling groups have impacted on registration figures.

In May 2021 Dumfries & Galloway launched the Scottish Governments Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM). A core component of the model is the Joint Investigative Interview (JII). These are forensic interviews conducted jointly by trained police officers and social workers where there is concern that a child has been or is being abused, and/or is a witness to criminal behaviour that is likely to be traumatic for them. As well as ensuring a trauma-informed approach, the model also ensures the visually recorded interview can be used as “evidence in chief” and the child won’t need to appear in court and be further traumatised because of their experiences.

The new model for undertaking interviews is underpinned by an extensive training programme for Interviewers (10 weeks) and throughout 2021/2022 4 Social Workers and 5 Police Officers have been trained. Five Senior Social Workers have also been trained as managers to brief and debrief interviewers alongside Police colleagues.

During the reporting period, 111 interviews were undertaken.

- 61 % of children interviewed had past or current social work involvement, 39 % were not known to social work.
- 36% of the children were known to SCRA, either currently or in the past, 64% were not known at all.
- 81% of the children interviewed were victims or possible victims of abuse, 69% of these children were suspected of being abused by someone within their own family.
- 58% of the interviews led to disclosures by children (13% were not recorded).
- Crime reports were raised as a result of 52% of the interviews (although the outcome was not recorded for 21%).

Signs of Safety was fully implemented in November 2019. Since then, Social Work staff have delivered 11 training events to new workers and refresher training to all staff. There have also been several multi-agency basic awareness events. Almost all of these have been virtual but gradually we are moving to in-person training.

Based on feedback from those who attended Days 1 and 2, Children and Families Team Managers started to work on what Days 3 and 4 would look like. It is based on being supportive and enabling of the practical application of signs of safety and how the tools can be utilised in the different processes. Days 3 & 4 consist of workshops to go through these tools in more detail and drill down into practice to break down the current barriers/apprehension staff appear to have.

Workshops include safety planning in Dumfries and Galloway; purpose and preparation for visits; solution focused questioning; timelines/trajectories; child's version of the plan; networks and network meetings; and signs of safety assessment. These workshops will also be available separately as refresher opportunities.

To allow us to identify the application of Signs of Safety practices and assess the support this provided when gathering and updating information, in November 2021 to March 2022 we conducted a further collaborative audit of 50 cases which had been closed within the last 6 months. The audit included file reading and evaluations with children and parents and surveys with staff.

At the beginning of this reporting period, the Pre-Birth Strategic Group agreed and implemented a change to the way we work with vulnerable women who are pregnant and where those vulnerabilities could affect how safely they are able to look after their babies. Based on a review of how we approach this work and the impact this has on these women, we aligned our Pre-Birth processes to existing referral and child protection processes and timescales with the aim of earlier assessment and decision making allowing for more time to build relationships with women and their families before their babies are born. This has led to earlier and more effective interventions, with vulnerable women knowing from a much earlier stage what

professionals are concerned about and having time and support to develop their own safety plans in preparation for their babies being born.

Following the completion of a training needs analysis which was completed by all partners September/October 2021, the information gathered highlighted that there were six priority areas from a child protection perspective. As a result, the Multi-agency Child Protection training materials were revised in addition to the Multi-Agency Signs of Safety training materials and sessions for both were incorporated into the Public Protection training calendar from February throughout 2022.

September 2021 saw the publication of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland. Local Authorities have 18-24 months for local implementation. Dumfries & Galloway have a local Child Protection Guidance implementation group whose membership include representatives from across the partnership and who meet monthly.

The National Guidance for CP implementation - key themes, challenges/ opportunities and structure have been incorporated into the Multi-Agency Child Protection training detailed above.

A Smart Survey was created and launched in June 2021 to capture children and families experience of attending Child Protection Planning Meetings. Twenty-three responses were received from a possible 73 Child Protection Planning Meetings.

A Short Life Working Group has been established to look at gaining service user feedback more creatively and meaningfully and have this embedded into practice as opposed to episodic occurrences. The smart survey will continue to be circulated meanwhile.

A scoping exercise will be circulated for partners to complete in order to capture the pockets of good practice already happening in relation to "lived experience" so this can be built upon.

Children are better protected by the early identification of and response to supporting children and families affected by substance misuse

The Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) Community Engagement Officer has been working with the Public Protection Committee Engagement group offering advice and support around drug and alcohol training for teachers.

Children and Families Social Work as part of the ADP Board supported a bid by Aberlour to the Corra Foundation to consider implementing a Whole Systems Approach for Families. Aberlour commissioned Collaborate CIC to oversee the project.

Aberlour's Families2gether provides transitional support for family members returning from prison (in partnership with Dumfries Prison and Dumfries and Galloway Alcohol and Drugs Partnership).

Engagement with children and young people was done through the children and young people's needs assessment. The report highlights a number of gaps around services for children and young people and challenges for the ADP.

Work has already begun to address gaps highlighted by the Needs Assessment with regard to Third Sector services and the ADP.

Work is still being progressed with Aberlour around the Whole Systems Approach for Families.

The ADP recently held a Development Day in response to the needs assessment identifying the gap in stakeholders' knowledge of the ADP. It is planned to have follow up events.

The ADP Strategy is in development which will include Children and Families as part of the priorities going forward. An action Plan will also be developed by the ADP and this will link in with Children's Services plan.

ADP has provided funding to Children and Families Social Work to progress the Whole Family Support agenda. This will involve working with Third Sector partners to ensure support is available for the entire family.

Children are better protected by the early identification of and response to supporting children and families affected by domestic abuse

Violence against women and girls continues to be a pervasive issue throughout the world including Dumfries and Galloway.

It is recognised that increased awareness of domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women should be ongoing and will not be completed during the period of the Children's Services Plan. Understanding of healthy relationships (and recognition of gender-based violence) will continue to be a priority.

The Violence Against Women Subcommittee (which includes representatives from statutory and specialist services) identified (from anecdotal feedback) that children and young people are not always able to identify healthy relationships and abusive behaviour which has reinforced the importance of focusing on domestic abuse and other types of violence against women.

Furthermore, the VAWG Subcommittee has undertaken regular community surveys, and these have identified that there is a varied understanding of the continuum of violence against women reinforcing the need to continue raising awareness.

Prior to the pandemic there was a programme of awareness raising with young people in schools that included “Big World” this has not recommenced. Staff from statutory and the specialist violence against women organisations have been unable to undertake as many prevention lessons as pre-pandemic levels due to capacity for some of the organisations as well as public health measures. Dumfries and Galloway Rape Crisis’s Sexual Violence Prevention Officer delivered 138 sessions to 1116 young people in the period 2021/2022.

During 16 Days of action (25th November to 10th December) there was a significant amount of information on social media aimed at raising understanding of violence against women. Information on where victims can access support was posted on social media over the festive period and on Valentine’s Day. A virtual event for local leaders was held during 16 days with input from a survivor of domestic abuse who articulated her concerns for the wellbeing of her children. She reinforced the importance of services understanding the impact of domestic abuse, focusing on when abuse manifests as controlling behaviour rather than physical abuse. There was also input from a previous participant in the Youth Song Writing Campaign who spoke of the impact of the competition leading to a change in career direction and a commitment to activism around violence against women. Participants were also provided with information on the national trauma project and the Sexual Violence Prevention work locally.

As part of celebrations for International Women’s Day, Youth Work Services arranged an event to launch Young Women’s Network DG. There was a domestic abuse workshop provided as part of event.

A joint event for International Women’s Day was arranged by the Violence Against Women Team, Dumfries and Galloway College and the University of the West of Scotland on the Emily Test with 71 people registering to attend. Fiona Drouet delivered a very impactful account of her daughter’s experience of abuse and her subsequent completion of suicide whilst at university. The event was challenging and raised awareness of the need to continue to provide awareness raising and training for staff and students as well as information on how to access support.

A newsletter with information on VAW support services and awareness work was sent to Child Protection Leads in schools along with an overview of domestic abuse with the offer of a resource to be used by schools.

Children and young people are better protected through the early identification and response to the impact of domestic abuse.

There was a reduction in the delivery of training due to Covid. During the period 2021/22 an overview of domestic abuse was delivered during Public Protection week (with 56 applicants). Local Women’s Aid organisations also undertook awareness events with staff in Education and Health. Domestic Abuse was identified as a priority for training for staff following consultations via the Public Protection Committee’s Learning and Development Subcommittee and further training is planned in 2022/23.

During 2021 there was an opportunity to bid to the Scottish Government's Delivering Equally Safe Fund. The bid was successful and has allowed the commencement of the internationally recognised Safe and Together approach to domestic abuse. The multiagency Safe and Together Steering Group is directing and overseeing activity to embed Safe and Together in Dumfries and Galloway. The first overview sessions of Safe and Together took place at the end of March with over 70 people attended. There will be additional overview sessions in June and during 16 days of activism.

The core training will be delivered to Children and Families Social Work staff in the first instance and will commence in August. A 7 minute briefing on Safe and Together has been circulated to raise awareness of the approach and the awareness sessions. There are surveys in development to identify baseline information from staff, victim/survivors and leaders. In the year ahead, there will be continued roll out of Safe and Together training and awareness which will support services to become more domestic abuse informed, supporting adult victims and their children. Once the training is established there will be development of supporting policies.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) continued to meet every 4 weeks to action plan for those at highest risk of serious harm and death due to domestic abuse. In 2021/21 there were 163 cases discussed (70 of these were repeat cases) with 234 children affected.

2.1.4 Key successes

Child Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has continued to operate remotely throughout this period, but we are reassured through monthly IRD Review that this has not impacted adversely on partnership working and decision making for our most vulnerable families. IRD Review (undertaken jointly by Police, Social Work, NHS, and our Lead Officer Public Protection (Child Protection)) has consistently concluded that the right families are being referred for discussion at IRD and when they proceed to full IRD, the right safeguarding decisions are being made.

Within this period, the Scottish Child Interview (SCIM) Model has become embedded with decisions about whether a Joint Investigative Interview (JII) is needed being made within the IRD process with social work staff within MASH coordinating this.

Activity specific to the workings of MASH, including IRD data alongside qualitative findings from monthly IRD Review are reported to PPC through the Child Protection Scrutiny Group and inform the Child Protection Minimum Data Set.

Because of developments in relation to implementation of the Scottish Child Interview Model and the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019, social work has been leading on some joint work with the Scottish Government's Leading Improvement Team to review and further improve Child Inter-Agency Referral Discussions. This has resulted in several workshops with Child MASH staff utilising improvement methodology to identify small tests of change aimed at improving the quality of multi-agency information sharing and analysis and ultimately supporting staff to make the best decisions we can for our most vulnerable children.

Dumfries and Galloway Public Protection week 2022 was an opportunity for partner organisations to connect with the community and share best practice and knowledge. We wanted to highlight how we all work together at all levels, to provide a co-ordinated response to our most vulnerable citizens and reiterate the significance of Public Protection being everyone's responsibility.

The week offered a comprehensive programme of events featuring on-line workshops and presentations, some delivered by national leads for Scotland and others by colleagues from local partner agencies. Each event's central theme and focus was on the importance of protecting children and adults and reducing violence against women and girls.

Presentations included an overview of Domestic Abuse, Department of Work & Pensions, Missing People, Hourglass Scotland, Adult MASH, Signs of Safety, ADP in conjunction with "We are With You," culminating on the Friday with Adult Support and Protection - the ability to safeguard & then the psychological understanding of hoarding, to coincide with National Adult Support & Protection Day on 20th February 2022.

Each event captured a varied audience from the multi-agency partnership and included representatives from children's services, health, education, adult services, criminal justice, Community Safety Officers, the Out of Hours service, alcohol & drugs partnership, Police Scotland, and where appropriate members of the public.

Over three hundred delegates attended the events during Public Protection week with forty-four formal responses via the survey. Comments from individual events included "informative," "extremely helpful," "so relevant," "powerful," "interactive & informative," "refreshing," and "useful resources shared."

2.1.5 Next steps

Public Protection Week 2023 - The principal request from the 2022 feedback in relation to topics to be included in the 2023 event was trauma informed practice. Discussions have already taken place via the Learning & Development Sub-Committee for this to be developed and a Short Life Working Group to be established to address this.

As an interim measure, the importance of trauma informed practice will be referenced in the suite of multi-agency child protection training to be delivered throughout the remainder of 2022 and the partnership will continue to look to engage with the local Trauma Champions in our region.

2.2 Priority 2: The life chances and outcomes for care experienced children and young people improve

2.2.1 About this priority

This priority is led by the multi-agency Corporate Parenting Group. When our 2020-2023 Children's Services Plan was developed, the Corporate Parenting Group had identified four aims and accompanying high-level actions for this priority. These had been agreed by the Children's Services Executive Group and had been included within our Children's Services Plan. However, the Corporate Parenting Group were closely following the work of the [Independent Care Review](#), which was carrying out a root and branch review of the care system in Scotland. In 2020, the Care Review published their findings as [The Promise](#). This set out a vision for Scotland with five foundations. The Corporate Parenting Group then reviewed their existing aims and actions against the Promise, and took a decision to refresh these to ensure that the five foundations of The Promise were at the heart of the 2021/2023 Plan. The Corporate Parenting Group also agreed a vision:

'to give all children and young people – who are the experts in their lives – influence and shape the services which are being provided for them to make sure they get the right help at the right time'.

Our revised Corporate Parenting Plan (appendix) now contains a set of pledges under 4 themes, each with an action plan. These are:

- Housing and accommodation
- Interaction with young people
- Raising attainment
- Improving access to health

2.2.2 The position at the start of this reporting period

At the start of the reporting period, we had been successfully accepted to be one of three local authorities in Scotland for the Scottish pilot of the Bright Spots Programme. In this, we were joining over 50 local authorities from England and Wales who use the **Your Life, Your Care and Your Life Beyond Care** surveys to gain insight into the lives and experiences of looked after children and care-experienced young people based on the things that are important to them. The Bright Spots surveys explore care experienced children and young people's subjective wellbeing, an issue that has become ever more important in recent times.

During the reporting period, we delivered the Bright Spots programme in Dumfries and Galloway, and we were pleased with the exceptionally high levels of engagement in this from 43% of our care-leavers and 62% of our children. Following the reporting period, analysis of the findings took place, and we will use these findings to influence service development and to refresh our Plans. The next stage of this programme of work has commenced with the opportunity to engage with our young people at the #We Care Event with a programme of activity planned to engage further with our children and young people, Young People's Champion

Board, partners and the wider communities to think and plan what the findings mean for our own practice and identify key priorities for change and improvements, ensuring we meet the needs of our children, young people and families, rather than the needs of our systems.

2.2.3 Progress in 2021/22

We have a statutory duty to report on our Corporate Parenting Plan, and a detailed report on this is attached at Appendix 1, containing details of progress against all actions under the 4 thematic workstreams.

In addition to this we would like to highlight the following key areas of progress

- Young people, along with staff have been active in developing better understanding of the labelling that can often be associated with many of our children. An example of this work is the consultation with our young people resulting in our Leaving Care Team name changing to the Young People's Transition Team.
- We have successfully secured suitable accommodation at one of our newly refurbished third sector providers allowing for our young people's transition team workers to use to meet young people in a welcoming community-based environment
- Significant improvement area in relation to the offer and accessibility of advocacy for all our young people, together with securing additional investment to ensure us to increase our commissioned services with our third sector providers.
- Delivered for the first time the Foundations of Attachment 6 week training programme to support parents and carers to nurture attachments with their child,
- Creation of our Family Hub75 West, rolling out an edge of care service designed to put families in the driving seat of creating loving and safe homes for children on the edge of care.

2.2.4 Key successes

Our transformation programme has been progressing at speed, key successes are set on in Appendix 1, examples including

- a significant decrease in the number of children on the child protection register re the development of our personalised relationship-based approach for all our workers when supporting our children and families, building better, more trusting relationships, identifying the local supports within their own family and friends network and communities.

- number of children subject to Compulsory Supervision Order decreased, again due to our approach on building better, more trusting relationships that we have built with children and families.
- successful in securing investment from The Promise Partnership – A Good Childhood in partnership with Children’s and Young People’s Centre for Justice to ensure our approach to children and young people in conflict with the law is rights-respecting.
- Secured investment to support improvement in youth justice together with securing a small allocation of funding to support the participation of our children and young people in the development of the Bairns Hoose Standards.
- robust training programme to enhance the skills of our foster carers including identifying the needs and requirements of our foster carers, introduction of a fee for foster carers and seeking an increase to our foster care mileage
- successful carers engagement day supported by the Promise Team Scotland
- supporting 15 unaccompanied asylum seekers across our Region
- participation in the Bright Spots Programme to listen to our children and young people in care and care leavers, about the things that are important to them
- our Families First project launched test of change activities in North West of the region to support for our families experiencing substance misuse to ensure support for families experiencing substance misuse with the behaviours and infrastructure in place ensuring sustainability of change and as a way to alleviate the negative impacts on all family members.

2.2.5 Next steps

The main focus will be responding to what our children and young people have told us through the Bright Spots Programme to identify our key priorities for the year ahead.

Work is underway

- prioritising brothers and sisters relationships which include increasing the number of foster carers who can care for brothers and sisters within one home, and will form part of our training programme promoting the importance of sibling contact.
- to ensure that all our young people who require accommodation to access and sustain accommodation they choose and is available to meet their needs when they need it most together with working with our Registered Social Landlords and private sector landlords to identify and implement early intervention initiatives to improve tenancy sustainment and prevent homelessness.
- Within our education settings we introduced our Care Experienced Teachers Team together with our Care Experienced Support Officers focusing on

improving the education attainment for our young people focusing on removing barriers to learning, improving tracking and monitoring, improving attendance and attainment, reducing exclusion and provide equal access to opportunities.

- We will introduce a develop a partnership approach to progress opportunities to look at specific cohorts of young people in education to identify what we could do better at re-engaging them successfully
- Our health and social work colleagues will continue to deliver the Foundations of Attachment training on a wider scale to improve the uptake of health assessments offered .
- Roll out of our new approach to virtual reality applications to deliver training to adapt our approaches to ensure we build staff resilience
- Secured support from Who Cares Scotland colleagues on key activities including the development and introduction of awareness and training to key strategic groups on corporate parent responsibilities and E-Learning targeted at practice level staff

We recognise the need to improve data gathering and reporting required in all areas of our action plans to ensure we can evidence impact of our interventions.

2.3 Priority 3: The impact of poverty on children and young people is reduced

2.3.1 About this priority

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 introduced an annual requirement for Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) which notes progress and reflects on the work undertaken over the preceding year, and also sets out an action plan for the year ahead. Responsibility for the LCPAR sits with our Children's Services Strategic and Planning Partnership, and our ambitions for Child Poverty are reflected within the Children's Services Plan.

Within the 2017-20 Children's Service Plan, Poverty was one of the high-level aims under a previous wider priority about addressing barriers. In our current plan Child Poverty is now a priority in its own right, with the key aims linking to the three key drivers of child poverty.

The Tackling Poverty Co-Ordination Group in conjunction with public and third sector partners across Dumfries and Galloway were assigned responsibility for delivery of Priority 3 in the plan, however this has now been superseded by new arrangements which are detailed in the summary of progress.

2.3.2 The position at the start of the reporting period

Our work throughout 2020-21 was dominated by the immediate need to respond to the pandemic, however our Community Planning Partnership focused on ensuring

that families hit the hardest received the help and support required to meet their basic needs and respect their human rights.

In March 2021 our Community Planning Partnership agreed a new Poverty and Inequalities Strategy and to implement that Strategy, a new Partnership was established. As part of this new approach four Sub-Groups were also to be established, one of which being 'Developing our approach to Child Poverty'. It was planned that this new group would support us to re-focus and progress our partnership approach to tackling child poverty through enhanced collaboration across the whole system, and by increasing the voice of those with lived experience of poverty. The other three Sub-Groups will also contribute to our work to deliver the Strategy Action Plan, while supporting us to tackle child poverty. The other groups are as follows:

- Tackling severe and persistent poverty and destitution and building individuals' and communities' ability to deal with the effects of poverty
- Maximising income and reducing debt of people facing poverty
- Reducing financial pressures on people facing poverty.

2.3.3 Progress in 2021/22

The most recent data shows that Dumfries and Galloway continues to have one of the highest rates of child poverty in Scotland at 22.9%, 1.9% above the national average, and ranked 7th highest in 2020-2021 out of 32 Local Authority areas. Although our Region saw a slight reduction in the rate of child poverty in 2020-21, almost 1 in 4 children are still living in poverty.

Dumfries and Galloway, local partners continued to be committed to and united in our determination to improve the lives of children and families living in or at risk of poverty. Though our work throughout the reporting period continued to be dominated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were further significant achievements in ensuring that families hit the hardest have received help and support to meet their basic needs and respect their human rights.

For many local families, the impacts of the pandemic have continued to emerge, and in some cases throwing more families into poverty. The demand for advice and crisis help has increased further. As with any emergency situation, those in most need who have no financial cushion, always suffer the greatest impacts to their already challenging lives.

Though many of the pandemic restrictions began to lift during the course of the reporting period, organisations continued to face challenges whilst doing their best to support children and families through the second year of the pandemic. Staffing and resource limitations continued to impact the ability of services to return to the 'new normal' in service provision.

Membership of the Developing Our Approach to Child Poverty Sub-Group of the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership was agreed, and the group was remitted to develop the Local Child Poverty Action Report Annual Report and Actions for the coming year, and also provide advice on future permanent arrangements and structures. The group met for the first time in June 2021 and subsequently agreed to undertake a process of self-assessment which was facilitated by the Improvement Service in December 2021. This process supported stakeholders to reflect on the local approach to Child Poverty work, consider any challenges or areas for improvement, and begin to plan collaboratively for future action across the whole system to tackle child poverty and mitigate its impacts.

In March 2022 the Sub-Group were supported by Public Health Scotland through public health needs assessment approach to build a picture of what the local child poverty 'system' looks like in Dumfries and Galloway. The process was also designed to enable the partnership to identify what data is currently being recorded, how that data is being used and to establish how the data could better inform the priorities for this work to support families locally. At the time of writing, a second workshop was held to complete the process in June 2022 and the Sub-Group awaits the outputs from Public Health Scotland to support them to share the learning widely across the Community Planning Partnership.

The self-assessment process, the work to map our child poverty system, and further development of our Child Poverty Sub-Group of the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership, contributed to the development of a new Child Poverty Action Plan for 2022 to 2026 which is focused on delivering activities which will make a real and sustainable difference to the lives of children and families in Dumfries and Galloway who are experiencing financial hardship. This new forward plan will be agreed through the approval process of the 2021-22 LCPAR which is due to be finalised during Summer 2022. It will also take cognisance of, and compliment, the action plans of the other three Sub-Groups of the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership.

Since early 2021, the costs of living across the UK have been rising, affecting the affordability of goods and services for households. Many factors have impacted rising inflation rates including increased consumer demand, supply chain bottlenecks, increased energy prices as a result of the increased demand as pandemic restrictions were lifted, and lower than normal production of natural gas. Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has also affected energy prices which in turn has increased both petrol and diesel prices and home energy bills. These higher prices began to be seen by families during the reporting period of this LCPAR, and are expected to continue to increase significantly. With Russia and Ukraine also producers and exporters of agricultural products such as wheat, grain and many metals, and given existing challenges in the system, these products have become more expensive on international markets, leading to increases in food and material prices across the UK. As the global economy recovers from its recession there has

been increased demand for products, especially consumer goods, and materials which has further exacerbated the need and increased demand for all of the above. Whilst almost all households reported an increase in their costs of living, low-income households will be more affected by price increases as they spend a larger proportion than average on energy and food.

2.3.4 Key Successes

Through our continuing joint project between our Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Services and our Education Services Teams, we are continuing to identify and increase the number of pupils who are being registered to receive Free School Meals within our Region. This process is being completed by cross referencing the families who are registered on our Welfare and Benefits System with those on our Education Systems and then by contacting them to complete a Welfare and Benefit check to ascertain if they would be eligible to receive this additional benefit.

Within the 2021/2022 Academic Year, the number of pupils who are now in receipt of Free School Meals has increased to 4,405. These statistics can be broken down to Electoral Ward level and are invaluable in helping us to identify where the highest levels of poverty and deprivation are emerging within our Region.

When any child is registered for the Free School Meal Benefit, our Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Services also administer additional grant funding from both our Local Authority and the Scottish Government. This includes Free School Clothing Grants (we pay grant awards of £150 per pupil for Secondary Pupils & £134 per Primary Pupil within our Region through a Policy Development Funding allocation of £155,000), Family Pandemic Payments, Scottish Child Payments, Bridging Payments and Holiday Food Fund Payments. Within the 2021/2022 Academic Year families in most need within our Region received a total of £3,713,236.

All payments are made to the parents / carers bank accounts to follow our cash first approach which gives our parents and carers the choice of where and how they can best support their own families. This provides the highest level of dignity possible and also the maximum choice which is incredibly important to families who struggle every single day in their constant battle against both poverty and deprivation. The majority of this funding will again be spent within the local area and our Region.

Dumfries and Galloway Council also committed additional funding of £105,000 in April 2021 to cover the costs of Holiday Food Fund Payments over the school holiday periods to all eligible children who are registered in Nursery Education and who would be eligible to receive this support once their children were of school age. This again provides parents who are struggling to help them through the challenging school holiday periods and gives them the choice of where and on what items they wish to purchase to feed their own children.

Two dedicated services continued to be delivered to all residents in need through our Financial Wellbeing Services within Dumfries and Galloway Council and also through our Advice and Information Services Commission which is delivered by Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service (DAGCAS). The Commission which is funded by Dumfries & Galloway Council includes financial debt advice and income maximisation services which have been specifically designed to complement our Council's own Financial Wellbeing Services. In 2021-22 2,502 clients were supported to achieve combined financial gain of £6,707,191, with the majority of this additional income which has been achieved for those most in need spent within the local economy of Dumfries & Galloway which significantly increases the sustainability of every Ward within our Region.

Throughout 2021/2022 our various projects to reduce Digital Exclusion have been progressed, increasing the amount of digital devices and connectivity available to all children, young people and families throughout our Region. Within Education Services Teams, a total of £1,002,278.20 was allocated to fund the provision of digital equipment which included one Laptop for every household registered for Free School Meals. This significantly benefitted the families supported as it helped to reduce the competition within each home for access to devices where there is more than one child of school age, especially when they are trying to complete any homework assignments and additional learning. This built upon the Scottish Government Connecting Scotland Programme and Third Sector Hardship Fund, as well as a new Digital Device Refurbishment Project which has been developed by the Castle Douglas IT Centre during 2021-2022.

2.3.5 Next steps

The finalisation of the Child Poverty Action Plan for 2022 to 2026 will provide a focus for the partnership to deliver over the year ahead. Whilst almost all households report an increase in their costs of living, low-income households will be more affected by price increases as they spend a larger proportion than average on energy and food. We will monitor the cost of living situation closely, taking any additional actions that we are able to in order to support those most at risk, while continuing to listen to those with lived experience.

2.4. Priority 4: The mental health and wellbeing of children and young people improves

2.4.1 About this priority

The Covid-19 pandemic has led to an increase in demand for mental health services in Dumfries and Galloway. However, prior to the advent of the pandemic, mental health and wellbeing had already been identified as an important priority from a range of sources including the school wellbeing surveys that took place as part of our involvement in the Realigning Children's Services programme.

This priority is led by the multi-agency Mental Health Strategy Group which contains representation from Health, Education, Social Work, Youth Work Services and the Third Sector. The action plan has these main aims:

- To ensure that all children and young people have access to the mental health and wellbeing support that they need when they need it. This includes a breadth of access, close to home and in a timely manner, matched to the needs expressed. This involves the development of a wellbeing hub model and the development of youth Information workers in schools providing low level mental health support.
- To ensure recognition of, and early intervention for perinatal mental health issues and to improve access to psychological and mental health services. This involves the development of clearer and more efficient pathways for referral in line with national direction, and multi-agency specialist clinics for those at risk.

2.4.2 The position at the start of this reporting period

At the start of the reporting period, the Youth Work low level mental health support in Schools was a particular success, and had a very positive evaluation report; the Peri-Natal Mental Health Service was in development; and a range of engagement work was underway with young people and women. However, the demand for mental health services greatly increased during the pandemic, and waiting times for CAMHS had increased at the start of the reporting period.

2.4.3 Progress in 2021/22

Development of a wellbeing hub model:

During the reporting period, work had taken place on the development of a hub model and mental health pathway, with the mapping of mental health services across Dumfries and Galloway. The development of a 'Single Point of Contact' is integral to the model, and in March 2022, work on this was progressing, with the establishment of weekly meetings between CAMHS, School Nursing and Clinical Psychology services. At these multi-disciplinary meetings, referrals to services are screened and directed to the correct service. In developing the mental health pathway, major elements are the 'entrance and exit' parts of the pathway – and the work on the single point of contact is key to getting the referral criteria right, and

entry into the pathway. This work needs to take place in line with implementation of the CAMHS Service Specification.

Building capacity within schools

One of the primary objectives under this priority, is to build the capacity of school staff to support the mental health of young people. Part 1 of Dumfries and Galloway Educational Psychology Services training was completed in a pilot school in January 2022, with 45 teachers involved. Part 2 training has been prepared by Dumfries and Galloway Educational Psychology Services and will be used with a pilot school in August 2022. Part 3 training is currently being developed.

Resources for schools have been updated to respond to requests for specific wellbeing materials, for example supporting children from the Ukraine.

Mental Health Support in Schools Project

The Mental Health Support in Schools Project ('Youth Counselling') has given young people across Dumfries & Galloway access to low level mental health support which has supported them to overcome the challenges and barriers they face in life. This project has involved Youth Information Workers in secondary schools and Youth Workers within Primary schools. These workers have completed COSCA Counselling Skills Training to spot the signs of mental health issues in a young person, offer mental health first aid and to be aware of when it is time to escalate a situation by sharing concerns with the designated safeguarding lead within the school/mental health teams. The expected outcome is to prevent mental health problems developing in the first place and reduce the number of young people requiring mental health support from NHS or other more formal mental health services.

A report produced in September 2021 highlights the success of this project. 350 young people received 1:1 interventions between August 2020 and June 2021. Pre and post intervention data shows a 91% positive impact of the intervention. 5% of referrals were redirected to other, more appropriate, services. The data is feeding back into our planning and highlighting gaps in our offer. For example, during the second lockdown, there was a significant increase in young people identifying as young carers – this information led to youth work linking in with Young Carers service and creating targeted group sessions.

The Counselling in Schools project in Dumfries and Galloway has been highlighted by the Scottish Education Secretary as an example of good practice. Educational Psychology and Youth Work have presented at national conferences on the collaborative advantage of the two services (and two Directorates) working together to implement this project. Factors which have contributed to the success of the project include: using a clear implementation plan (Fixen's model); identifying clear roles; planning for evaluation from the outset; engaging with young people and

school staff; bi-monthly data gathering and analysis; and ongoing training and supervision of Youth Work counsellors. A data report for the school counselling service for session 21/22 is expected in August 2022.

Peri-Natal and Infant Mental Health (PIMH) Services

Throughout the reporting period, work continued on the development of Peri-Natal and Infant Mental Health (PNIMH) Services, with the establishment of a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency working group which carried out the development work required to set up new specialist services. The Peri-natal function of the PNIMH Service offers joint working with the Community Mental Health Teams using a Dispersed model of service delivery.

A Maternal Wellbeing Survey was developed with input from women with lived experience and from Third sector organisations. After agreement with Senior Management Team in the Mental Health Directorate the questionnaire went live on Social Media. A total of 65 women completed it, of which 34 indicated they wanted to meet to find out more about becoming involved in further participation work. All of these women were contacted and 12 agreed to meet for individual conversations about their lived experience. The next stage is to develop a reference group to support co-production as the PIMH service develops.

This participation work has been conducted by clinical staff in the PNIMH service, which although an important piece of work, has impacted upon the capacity of these staff members as they are also engaged in clinical work. In addition, a report been submitted to Senior Management and reviewed by the Communication and Engagement Group for a Participation Officer. The ability to develop this post will depend upon availability of funding. The Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Services were operational by 31 March 2022 despite ongoing challenges with recruitment to posts, particularly the Specialist Midwife role.

In Perinatal Mental Health Nursing

31 assessments were carried out between September 2021 and August 2022. More women within the perinatal period have been assessed by Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs) without the Perinatal Mental Health Nurse being involved. Work is underway to look at how to capture this information going forward. Dumfries and Galloway is a dispersed service so due to capacity issues the Perinatal Mental Health Nurse cannot be at all Joint assessments.

In Perinatal Psychology

50 assessments were carried out in the same time period. There were also 9 additional 'Did Not Attend' (DNAs) to the first appointment with no response to the follow-up contact.

Eighty consultations have been provided to health and social care staff on perinatal clinical issues.

We have focused upon engagement with Experts by Experience via a Social Media survey on Maternal Mental Health with 65 respondents and 14 in depth conversations with women following this. This qualitative data is due to be analysed for key themes. A Reference Group of Experts by Experience is planned.

The PNIMH services have also provided regular consultation to colleagues in Health and Social Care. Seven training sessions have been provided to a range of agencies across Social work, Health and Third sector on Perinatal Mental Health topics in this time period.

Funding for Community based mental health and wellbeing support

Scottish Government awarded each Local Authority a grant to be utilised to deliver new and enhanced community based mental health and emotional wellbeing supports and services for children, young people, their families and carers.

The purpose of the grant is to support children and young people aged 5 – 24 (up to 26 if care experienced) and their families to improve their mental health and emotional wellbeing and this will be provided by people with the right knowledge, skills and experience to support them.

The funding is used for supports and services in addition to those that were already provided through schools and CAMHS. Supports and services should recognise and respond to the factors which contribute to poor mental health, such as poverty, homelessness, substance use and other issues.

Children, young people and their families will receive the support they need, when they need it, underpinned by the values, principles and components of GIRFEC. These supports and services should be visible and easily accessible, and everyone involved in supporting mental health and wellbeing should be clear about their role. The aim is that support is focused on being there for children, young people and families at the earliest opportunity, with an emphasis on preventing distress and mental ill health worsening.

Dumfries and Galloway Council Social Work were allocated £430,000 of Community Mental Health Wellbeing funding from Scottish Government. We then split most of the funding between our current commissioned partner providers in the form of grants to enhance their current services or to create new ones.

- **Aberlour** - Aberlour have created an Orchard Project at Lincluden Abbey with over 145 fruit trees. The project aims to enlist families and children from the community to help which will hopefully reduce social isolation and increase emotional, psychological, and social well-being. They offer a range of early

years and primary 1-5 activities at the Orchard. Aberlour have also installed an outdoor gym and have plans for allotments too.

- **Barnardo's Hear 4 U** - Barnardo's have used the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing grant to create an Advocacy Within Schools Project. They provide a Referral base and Drop-in Service for Children and Young People to talk about any worries, uncertainties, or questions they may have. It offers advice on options moving forward from their worries and children and young people can access information on clubs/local services which may support from. The service works through worries or uncertainties within any area of their wellbeing by listening, carrying out activities & worksheets in order for them to find a path moving forward from the worries. The idea is to support the children and young people in these areas before the worry or issue becomes a problem or unmanageable.

- **Dumfries and Galloway Befriending Project** - The Befriending Project have used the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing grant to employ a new co-ordinator post to increase capacity and enhance the service. The major aim of the Befriending Project is to improve and enrich the lives of vulnerable and isolated young people aged 8-18 through befriending. Adult volunteers are recruited, trained and matched with young people, who are referred to the Project by a variety of agencies such as social work, education, health and youth services. The befriender and young person meet regularly on a one-to-one basis to spend quality time together exploring interests and new activities within the community.

- **Dumfries and Galloway Carers Centre** - The Carers centre have used the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing grant to employ a Young Carers Wellbeing Support Worker to develop activities and programmes to support young carers. This includes partnership working with Dumfries and Galloway Youth Work Services to develop a program specifically for Young Carers to build on confidence, self-esteem, resilience and a steppingstone to access more universal services. Other initiatives include a fund for Young Carers to receive vouchers for them and/or their families and Drawing/Photography for Enjoyment Sessions.

- **Quarriers** - Quarriers have used the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing grant to establish an Early Intervention Emotional Health and Wellbeing Support Service based in some local schools to help young people to build confidence to achieve their goals and develop the resilience to cope when times are tough. The aim is for the young person to be able to manage life's ups and downs more effectively when feeling anxious, stressed, worried,

overwhelmed, or low and prevent risk-taking behaviours. Through one-to-one sessions, small groups and drop-in sessions, Quarriers staff support young people to look at what is going on in their lives and address the emotional challenges and barriers they face.

- **Upper Nithsdale Family Service** - Upper Nithsdale Family Service have used the CMHW grant to run a Blues Approach Programme in Sanquhar Academy. The programme consists of six sessions exploring mental health issues and provides Cognitive Behaviour Therapy to support and manage mental health issues. The programme will be aimed at pupils in S1, S2, S3, S4 and any identified young people in S5 and S6.
- Upper Nithsdale Family Service has also delivered after school groups targeting P3, P4, P5 and P6 to provide activity-based support using Kids Talk intervention tool to allow children to have a safe talking space, to explore new ways of managing symptoms of anxiety, low mood and isolation using child Cognitive Behaviour Therapy tools.

Engagement with stakeholders – CAMHS Participation and Engagement

Involving young people and families brings new energy and ideas to projects and services. CAMHS is working towards achieving shared decision making and co-production. This level of participation enables both service-providers and service-users to equally influence outcomes with their expertise, and ensures that decisions are safe, and person-centred.

The CAMHS Youth Forum, was established during lockdown, this group meet once a month online, there are currently **8 young volunteers** from across Dumfries & Galloway. The young people share their experiences and ideas, as they understand what it is like to access services and work in partnership with professionals to make positive improvements together.

- 3 members of the CAMHS Youth Forum co-produced a World Mental Health Day article for DG Health Blog along the CAMHS Participation lead.
- 1 member of the youth forum co-facilitated a webinar alongside the CAMHS Participation Lead around 'Children & Young People's participation during a pandemic' for Healthcare Improvement Scotland.
- 2 Young people from the forum have also shared their lived mental health services experience with policymakers when they had a conversation with Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister of Mental Wellbeing and Social Care, alongside See Me and BEAT Young Champion's.
- Youth Forum Members have also met with NHS Dumfries and Galloway Chief Operating Officer online, to share their CAMHS Participation experiences.

Engagement took place around improvement activity relating to CAMHS waiting times. The key aim was to ensure children and young people received their initial assessment within 4 weeks of referral, ensuring they received appropriate treatment, advice and/or signposting to the right service and person at the right time. Young people and families were sent a short survey to complete or were contacted by phone after their mini assessment for listening and learning from their experiences of speaking to a Mental Health Professional.

By April 2022, **52 completed short surveys were received from young people and families**. These showed that the majority of young people and parents feel listened to and value the conversation around their mental wellbeing and even if not for CAMHS will be signposted or given psycho-education resources to support their mental wellbeing or patient journey to next destination.

Last year CAMHS were successful in gaining external funding from See Me Arts Stigma, to establish a new arts-based project for young people to participate within alongside local artist Hope London. The Be Kind project, **led by nine young people** delivered an engaging animation and booklet sharing their advice and experiences of mental health. The young people wanted to highlight the importance of talking about Mental Health and where you can seek support locally. **Over 50 people** attended the project's online launch and **500 copies** of their educational booklet have been produced and distributed to children and young people across the local authority.

The Together's State of Children's Right report, seeks to inspire and enable everyone in Scotland to put children's human rights at the heart of everything they do. NHS Dumfries & Galloway CAMHS 'Be Kind' project has been included within this report, which was shared by See Me, as a good practice participation example, our case study is on **page 108**.

This is the link to watch the 'Be Kind' animation produced by CAMHS Young People's Mental Health Forum: <https://linktr.ee/DGCAMHS>

Since April 2021, the **CAMHS Arts and Wellbeing Group** of children and young people has met **15 times online, with 54 children** and young people participating within these throughout the year. The group has worked alongside Out Post Arts and taking part within their Art Journal Taster pilot project. Sometimes it is not easy to put feelings into words, but using creative art methods gives young people another way to express their emotions and share their experiences with others.

Involvement in art-based projects has many positive impacts for young people: It gives them the opportunity to:

- meet like-minded young people and make new friendships

- learn new skills
- increase social skills and interactions
- improve cognitive abilities
- share thoughts and ideas with others
- work towards an end product - whether this is an art/photography exhibition, producing resources/cartoon sketches and other media.

This gives young people a sense of achievement where they feel included, safe, not judged, relaxed, proud and a sense of belonging.

The Digital Website Project: as a service we have identified that at the point of entry to CAMHS, we need to improve how we are communicating and sharing mental health information with children, young people, their families and other professionals. This digital website project is aligned to both local and national strategies; we established our website working group at the beginning of 2022. We have **5 young people and 4 parents/carers involved** within this project. Collaborative informal educational methods and approaches are being used from the start. This ensures that the voices of young people and their parents/carers are equal partners within this process.

We also ensured we gave other people who would like to contribute their thoughts and creative ideas on this project, the opportunity to do this through producing a short Microsoft Forms survey. **Within 12 days, 63 people completed this survey (19 young people, 21 parents/carers, 19 professionals and 4 members of the general public)** This information has given us a better insight into what information and functionalities will add value to young people, families and professionals.

The website is currently being built in partnership with NHS Communications and an external web design company.

Online Digital Engagement : From April 2021 to April 2022, we reached over **67,325 individual people** on our social media platforms, sharing information, videos and sign posting. Over **179 children and young people** have participated within creative giveaways for raising awareness of national mental health campaigns.

2.4.4 Key successes

At the start of the reporting period, increased demand for mental health services had led to a large increase in waiting times for CAMHS. However, with concerted efforts over the year, by the end of the reporting period, compliance with the target was back up to nearly 100%.

The mental health support in schools work evaluated very positively in 2021, and at the time of writing a Year 2 evaluation report is in production.

Engagement work is progressing well with young people involved in the development of the website through a co-productive approach.

2.4.5 Next steps

Challenges continue with recruitment to specialist posts, and this is a nationwide issue with regard to mental health trained clinicians at all levels – at one point this year there were around 200 mental health positions open for recruitment across Scotland.

Looking ahead, as a partnership we need to review our current approach to trauma-informed practice.

2.5 Priority 5: Children and young people with complex needs and disabilities are enabled to reach their potential

2.5.1 About this priority

This priority is led by the multi-agency Children's Disability Strategy Group. The priority has four aims:

- Children with neurodevelopmental disorders (for example Autism Spectrum Disorders, ADHD, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome) will be diagnosed at the earliest possible opportunity. This involves the development and implementation of a new Neurodevelopmental Assessment and Diagnostic Service to provide appropriate support and interventions
- Educational pathways and the range of options for children with complex needs (including Autism Spectrum Disorders and social communication disorders) will be strengthened in order to improve outcomes. This involves reconfiguring resource provision for children with complex needs across Dumfries and Galloway; and reconfiguration of services and approaches within Education to more effectively target those with complex needs.
- Young people with disabilities will experience a smooth transition to adulthood. This involves reviewing transition processes to identify gaps and areas for improvement and address these.
- Families with children and young people with disabilities will have access to range of support options to meet individual needs and improve outcomes. This involves an independent review of short breaks provision; and a mapping of wider available supports and any gaps in provision for families which will inform planning of provision.

2.5.2 The position at the start of this reporting period

In Year 1 of the plan (reporting period 2020/21), progress against the actions was significantly inhibited by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdowns. The impact on children and young people with disabilities was significant due to the reduced access to education, health and well-being support, social experiences and opportunities, and respite and short breaks.

During lockdowns, the work of the Neuro-developmental Assessment and Diagnostic Service mostly stopped because of the inability to carry out face-to-face assessment. Staff tried to do as much as possibly virtually, but assessment through face-to-face appointments is core work, and a backlog of cases built up.

The pressure on families during the lockdowns with limited access to support and respite was also significantly increased.

As a result of the above factors, in April 2020 the Children With Disability Strategy Group made the decision to put its action plan on hold, and focus on the immediacy of addressing these gaps in provision and pressure for families. The group moved to a monthly meeting so that partners were able to regularly provide updates and jointly plan responses to issues as they arose, both strategically and operationally.

In 2021, in the current reporting period, the group were in a position to return to the action plan. However, when the action plan was reviewed, it was recognised that the action plan in part reflected an historic perspective on how services can work together to collectively improve the lives of outcomes for children and young people with disabilities in Dumfries and Galloway. COVID recovery planning highlighted a degree of disconnect between the historic plan and immediate needs in relation to recovery. This led to some re-prioritisation of actions.

2.5.3 Progress in 2021/22

Children with neuro-developmental disorders (for example Autism Spectrum Disorders, ADHD, Foetal Alcohol Syndrome) will be diagnosed at the earliest possible opportunity

This aim is being delivered through the development and implementation of a new Neuro-developmental Assessment and Diagnostic Service (NDAS) to provide appropriate support and interventions for children with ASD, ADHD, Foetal Alcohol Syndrome and other neuro-developmental disorders.

This action is on track, with the pilot project complete, and full roll-out of the new service from Summer 2022.

We have an Autism diagnostic backlog with around 400 children awaiting an assessment in July 2022. There are 3 diagnostic pathways to address the backlog:

- Communication Disorders Assessment Team (CDAT)
- NDAS
- Short term commission from private healthcare (Healios)

To deliver all the timescales for completing the backlog, information has been drawn from a number of sources, including schools, detailing relevant assessment information for many of the 400 children awaiting diagnostic assessment. Families will be contacted in July 2022 to inform of which diagnostic pathway their child will take.

The final year of the current Children's Services plan will see full rollout of the Neuro-development Assessment service and clearance of the previous CDAT backlog.

Educational pathways and the range of options for children with complex needs (including Autism Spectrum Disorders and social communication disorders) will be strengthened in order to improve outcomes.

This aim involves a focus on reconfiguring resource provision for children with complex needs across Dumfries and Galloway; and reconfiguring services and

approaches – including the staged intervention approach within Supporting Learners – to more effectively target those with the most complex needs.

With regard to the review of resource provision across the region – the original Additional Support for Learners (ASL) work that was planned, has been incorporated into the whole system shift for Education and Learning.

Work to improve coordination of healthcare in schools has been delayed to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Work re-commenced work on an Autism Strategy for Dumfries and Galloway, and the literature review for this strategy has been completed, and a briefing presented to the Children with Disabilities Strategy Group. A working group for the strategy has been established and is progressing this work.

Young people with disabilities will experience a smooth transition to adulthood

This work was delayed due to the pandemic, but during the reporting period the Transitions subgroup has been established. This work will be impacted by the Transition Bill which will be re-presented to the Scottish Parliament after it fell away in May 2020 due to the pandemic. The work ongoing is very much focused on establishing a realistic pathway with reasonable timeframes for young people.

Families with children and young people with disabilities will have access to a range of support options to meet individual needs and improve outcomes.

Action for Children were commissioned by Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Joint Board (IJB) to carry out an options appraisal of alternative service delivery models for short breaks and support services for children and young people with complex disabilities and/or profound health care needs and challenging behaviour in Dumfries and Galloway.

The Options Appraisal Report was published in September 2021, and consultation on the findings took place with stakeholders.

The next steps are that an Options Appraisal Development Group will:

- review the findings of the Action for Children Consultation in relation to short breaks for children with disabilities.
- agree a multi-agency recommendation to the IJB on the proposed option for the future development of short break services by November 2022

2.2.4 Key successes

A particular success has been the completion of the pilot for the new Neuro-developmental Assessment and Diagnostic Service and the roll-out of the new service. This new service will help to address the backlog of cases in Dumfries and

Galloway and help children and their families to get faster diagnoses, and despite all the many real-time immediate challenges presented by the pandemic, the development and piloting of this service was still able to move ahead.

2.3.5 Next steps

Going forwards, the work of the Options Appraisal Group on the future development of short breaks services needs to be embedded under Priority 6 within the plans of the Whole Family Support Group.

The delayed work on Transition needs to continue so that young people have realistic pathways into adulthood.

We need to develop our Autism Strategy for Dumfries and Galloway.

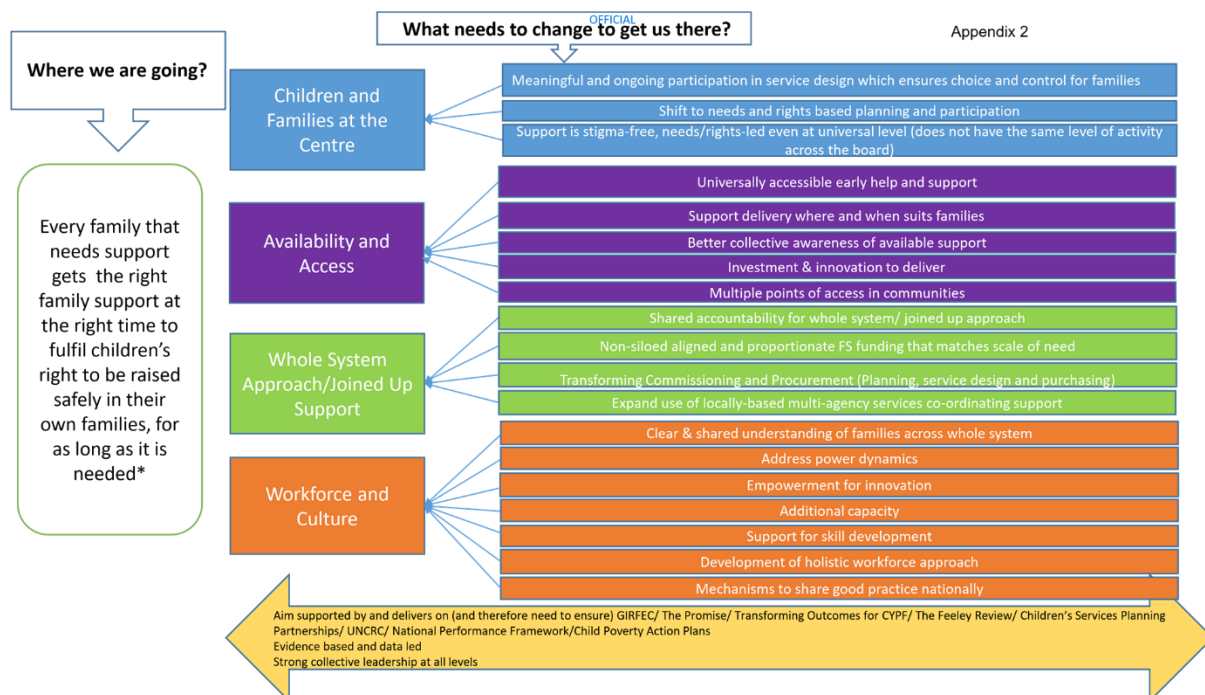
2.6 Priority 6: How we support parents and carers to meet the needs of their children and young people improves.

2.6.1 About this priority

This priority is about building the capacity of parents and carers. The aims identified by the group up to February 2022 were:

- Women will experience improved continuity of care across the whole maternity journey, with vulnerable families being offered any additional tailored support they may require.
- Within our areas of greatest need, families, service providers and members of the community make a positive difference to all children, families and the community, strengthening and building the capability of the local community to meet the changing needs of children and families.
- Parents and Carers have access to a continuum of structured and coordinated parenting support which empowers them to meet the needs of their child.
- Parents and Carers have access to learning opportunities which enable them to improve their life chances and be better placed to meet the needs of their child.
- Parents and carers are able to have their voices heard with regard to meeting the needs of their child.

We now aim to set out The Whole Family Support Agenda across Dumfries and Galloway. The following diagram sets out Scottish Government’s draft Family Support Route Map.



2.6.2 The position at the start of this reporting period

Despite the pandemic, the partnership continued to support parents and carers to meet the needs of their children and young people in 2020-21. Although there was significant difficulty in facilitating face to face activity, in some cases supports were delivered virtually or in different ways, which provided opportunities to test new ways of working with really creative ideas examples included Home Start Wigtownshire distributing ingredients to families and then having a virtual cooking session together. The Young Carers Project delivered online art classes for children and young people to have fun and learn a new skills with their peers. Within Children and Families Social Work and the Family Support Service and Health Services essential services continued to be in-person.

2.6.3 Progress and Achievements in 2021/22

Although the pandemic has persisted as an issue during the reporting period, we have continued to make progress against priority aims, building on how we support parents and carers to meet the needs of their children and young people.

- The regionwide WINGS (Women Individually Nurtured Grow Strength) team of midwives have continued to support vulnerable women, maintaining good outcomes in patient satisfaction, multi-agency feedback and clinical outcomes.
- The mellow bumps initiative was paused due to covid 19 pandemic and there have been recent plans to conduct a feasibility assessment. This will determine if recommencing across the region will be viable and sustainable, given the reduction in number of facilitators and the existing facilitators requirement for refresher training. This assessment has now commenced and if deemed feasible then funding will need to be explored and secured.
- The Family Nurse Partnership approach also continues to be operational across the whole region offering intensive home visiting support to teenage mothers antenatally to the child's second birthday. A short-life multi-agency working group was formed in March 2021 to explore how the Incredible Years Parenting Programme could be re-instated by the partnership. Some short-term funding has been identified to support this being progressed and the group are due to meet during Summer 2022 to take this forward.
- Family Hub 75 West in Stranraer and The Aberlour Family Centres in Dumfries and Stranraer, Homestart, Dumfries Toy Library, and the Action for Children Family Centre in Upper Nithsdale have been among resources able to continue develop their support to local families within their communities, this has become easier over the course of the reporting period given the

relaxation of restrictions. The resources have continued to adapt to the needs of the families who use them. The links between Universal and Statutory services and 3rd Sector and community-based resources continue to develop.

- The Family Support Service which started in November 2020 has developed to provide early preventative support to families, within their own homes and in their communities. In the first year of the service 160 families (250) children were referred and this year there have continued to be an average of 20 referrals per month. Referrals are for a range of support including parenting difficulties, establishing routines and boundaries, addressing significant neglect, supporting parents and children with mental health challenges, Autism and disability, kinship families, domestic violence and supporting school attendance, particularly returning to school after Covid-19. Currently 50% of the families we support are only supported by the Family Support Service within Children and Families Social Work whilst the other 50% are supported as part of a plan with the Locality Social Work Team. 'Terrific Twos' campaign was launched on Facebook and is due to be again detailing the benefits of accessing a 2-year-old place for eligible families.
- Joint work has been undertaken with colleagues from Revenue and Benefits team to identify families that may be eligible for a funded two-year-old place but have not applied. Information has been sent out to all families detailing the offer of Funded 2-year-old places.
- With a view to increasing the number of childminding services in the region and targeting rural areas to further support accessible childcare, colleagues across the Council in partnership with Scottish Childminding Association, funded by South of Scotland Enterprise, a recruitment campaign is ongoing. Six people are progressing with registration and training to become a childminder, with further expressions of interest from areas across the region.
- Although family learning and adult learning opportunities have been delivered throughout the pandemic, the relaxation of restrictions has also enabled a significant increase in the number of opportunities being planned and delivered, and has made engagement with families easier. This has included both accredited and non-accredited programmes such as Peep which has offered parents the opportunity to gain accreditation, leading to further training and/or employment. Ante-natal Peep sessions have also been piloted and the evaluation of these sessions will be used to help inform our future offer alongside other programmes. The Lifelong Learning Team also piloted the Save the Children Families Connect programme, building parental confidence to support their child's play and early learning.

- We have continued to listen to the voices of parents and carers through both statutory and non-statutory engagement. This has been achieved through ongoing engagement by practitioners with families in their day to day role, service specific engagement activities with families in receipt of specific services, and other region wide engagement such as the Scottish Government Parental Involvement and Engagement Census 2022, Parent Council Chair Survey (in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Parent Council Forum (DGPCF) who are in an independent parental forum and additional survey data from Connect, a membership organisation and charity for parents and carers who need advice or information about anything around education. In Dumfries and Galloway we have group membership for all Parent Councils and Schools. Officers continue to engage with Education Scotland and other national partners regarding information for parents/families and network through the Scottish Parental Involvement Officers Network (SPION) to cascade current and planned engagement opportunities and resources for parents/carers.

Development of the Priority 6 Group

Following the publication of the Family Support Route Map, which built on the previously published Family support Vision and Blueprint, in December 2021 the partnership agreed that the 'Parenting Working Group' that was previously responsible for this priority should be replaced by a new 'Whole Family Support Group'. The purpose of this group is to deliver on the ambitions of the Family Support Route Map, as well as the family support ambitions described through The Promise.

A development session for the new Whole Family Support Group was facilitated in March 2021, with support and input from The Promise Team at the event. This provided an opportunity for local partners to describe and reflect on their current family support offer in order to inform future plans.

2.6.4 Key successes

Across Dumfries and Galloway 551 families have been involved in our Peep blended learning approach via Peep Sway Newsletters. One hundred per cent of parents, who returned feedback, felt that Peep sessions have increased their confidence in their ability to support their child's learning.

Equity and Excellence leads are trained in the Peep Learning Together programme, a structured, evidence-based programme in which parents and children learn together to support family learning and parental engagement. With the support from colleagues in Lifelong Learning all of these practitioners have recently re-introduced face to face sessions. These practitioners are also trained in Peep Progression

Pathways which offers parents the opportunity to gain formal accreditation of their learning through the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) supporting parents into further training and work. A pilot programme in partnership with D&G College and the Employability and Skills Service was also developed for PEEP parents to undertake training to become Classroom Assistants, with 11 parents participating.

Education and Learning Directorate as part of a Council wide approach has been working through Volunteer Scotland's requirement for Investing in Volunteer Status (liV), Investing in Volunteers is a national Charter mark of excellence in working with volunteers. And although we are still awaiting official confirmation that we have met as a Council any outstanding conditions, it is likely that Dumfries and Galloway will be the first Scottish Council to have reached this standard. Using our data and the refreshed Volunteer guidance as a result of the liV process, we look forward to welcoming parents and family members back into schools post Covid restrictions.

Employability and Skills Service also developed close working partnerships with Family Nurse Practitioners across the region to facilitate cross referring of young women, and their partners where appropriate, providing ongoing employability support following their intervention.

Since implementation of Signs of Safety Relationship based practice and the development of the Family Support Service at the end of 2020 we have seen a reduction in the numbers of children on the Child Protection Register and also the number of children living at home subject to statutory orders has reduced from 125 in Quarter 1 2020/21 to 101 in Quarter 4 2021/22.

The multi-agency collaborative audit in January-March 2022 showed a significant improvement in involving families in developing their own plans and including their support network and that plans were also developed in a child-friendly format.

Child's plan measure	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-22
Plan shared in a child friendly format	31%	21%	82%
Includes family/friends/community	17%	52%	91%

2.6.5 Next steps

A follow up development session for the new Whole Family Support Group is planned for Summer 2022, and thereafter a revised action plan will be progressed. the four main priority themes from the Promise that will form the basis of our Whole Family Support plan through to 2021 will be:

- Family Support
- Peer and Community Support
- Service Integration
- Family Therapies

To ensure our work is aligned to Scottish Government's Route Map, The Promise's Plan 21/24 and what our children and families have told us, the following sets out our plan for the next 6 months. This will be updated as and when required on feedback activity with our children and families.

We need to consider Whole Family Support as a continuum of support starting with individual families and communities, third sector provision that is based on the needs of geographical areas, often with a specific focus such as drug and alcohol support, mental health, disability, early years and parenting. All families should have access to universal services and additional supports such as health and education when families need help.

We have been completing a mapping exercise identifying supports to families throughout Dumfries and Galloway, this was started by the Parenting Group, and will link in with other priority areas. Once complete we will be able to identify where there are gaps and this will inform our plan going forward.

Once the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund is made available the partnership will progress an appropriate process in order to invest the monies locally in line with the set criteria, and therefore this will dovetail with the work of the Whole Family Support Group.

We are planning to restart the Incredible Years parenting programme later this year once a co-ordinator has been employed and leaders have been trained.

We will continue to work with families to understand and meet their support needs, in order to improve outcomes and reduce the number of children in the care system, engagement, gathering data and reporting will be fundamental.

3. Children's Rights

Publication of our 2017-20 Children's Rights Report was delayed due to the pandemic, but was published in 2021 and is available [online](#).

Our position in our 2017-20 Children's Rights Report, was that as a partnership, we were able to provide evidence of compliance with articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), but that we needed to develop a joint strategic approach to children's rights. The development of the report led to a decision to establish a Member-Officer Working Group, to include members of Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council. This Working Group will lead on the development of an action plan, and arrangements for future reporting on children's rights.

4. Our partnership arrangements

Up to 2021, strategic leadership of children's services planning in Dumfries and Galloway sat with the then Children's Services Executive Group (CSEG). In April 2021, at the start of the reporting period, CSEG took a decision to review their Terms of Reference to ensure that the membership and operating arrangements of the group were fit for purpose going forwards. The group then carried out a self-evaluation exercise of their partnership working which examined:

- the role and purpose of the group
- membership
- frequency of meetings
- reporting by Priority Leads
- how members would constructively challenge and hold each other to account

Following this exercise, CSEG decided to revise planning arrangements and to replace CSEG with a Children's Services Strategic and Planning Partnership (CSSaPP). The revised partnership comprised two groups: an executive group and a broader planning group.

The CSSaPP Executive Group is responsible for leading the joint planning, development, improvement, and scrutiny of children's services in Dumfries and Galloway. The membership of this group comprises:

- Chief Education Officer (chair)
- Chief Social Work Officer
- Nurse Director
- General Manager for Women Children's and Sexual Health Services
- Superintendent Police Scotland
- Locality Reporter Manager
- Children's Services Manager (advisor)

The broader planning group comprises the Chairs of our 6 Priority Groups and other senior representatives from across our multi-agency partnership.

5. Measuring success

5.1 Our Indicators

We have 29 current indicators grouped around 'SHANARRI' (Appendix 2) that taken together, give a global picture of children and young people's wellbeing in Dumfries and Galloway. We have also linked these indicators with relevant priorities in the plan. This is a reduction on the number in the previous plan, as we have sought to use those with more of a focus on vulnerability. Most of the indicators allow us to compare our performance over time with Scotland and with other comparable local authorities.

Many of the indicators are published nationally within statistical publications by [Scottish Government](#) and [Public Health Scotland](#). Some of the statistics are collected over the course of the academic year and others over a financial year. Publication schedules also vary, with many of the statistics being published in the year following the reporting period. This means that at the time of reporting, we have some data for 2020-21 and some for 2021-22.

The Covid-19 pandemic has posed particular challenges in measuring performance as the impacts on services have skewed the baseline of what would be 'normal'. This means that we need to be cautious in interpreting data on our indicators.

Of the 29 statistics in our indicators:

- There are 8 where we do not have up-to-date or comparable data as the result of the pandemic (for example child weight reviews were postponed during Covid, so we are missing data).
- 16 are showing positive or relatively stable trends – either the figures have improved, or have remained relatively stable with any decline within a reasonable level of fluctuation.
- There are 5 that we would seek to improve.

5.4 Monitoring and reporting

CSSaPP continues to report directly to Chief Officers Group. Regular progress updates on the Children's Services Plan are submitted to the Community Planning Board; and Annual Reports on the Children's Services Plan are presented to Dumfries and Galloway Council and the Integration Joint Board Clinical and Care Governance Committee.

6. In conclusion

As with the previous year, the 2021-22 reporting period has continued to be defined by a range of challenges which have included:

- The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on demand for services; the backlog of cases in some services and the additional demand for mental health services. The pandemic has had the biggest impact on children and families who were already vulnerable, and we do not yet know what the longer-term impacts will be on child development.
- Recruitment continues to be an issue across our children's services partnership in Dumfries and Galloway, especially for specialist positions within health. This is an issue at a national and UK level and is driven by a range of factors which we are not necessarily able to fix by ourselves - despite all our innovative attempts to recruit staff.
- The poverty and cost of living crisis – again we can seek locally to mitigate the impacts, but we are facing a nationwide cost of living crisis which is driven by factors outwith our control.

Despite these challenges, we believe that we have strong strategic and planning partnership, and this has underpinned our shared approach to delivering the aims of our children's services plan. As a partnership, we have continued to support each other through a difficult period, reviewing and refreshing our strategic planning arrangements in order to achieve best value from our partnership working.

Our Public Protection Partnership have maintained a clear focus on keeping children and young people safe, while building on our strength and relationship-based approaches, and this has delivered a reduction in the number of children on the Child Protection Register and subject to statutory intervention. As we continue to make progress with our Corporate Parenting Plan the positive engagement with the Bright Spots programme will help us to further understand how we are doing and support the development of future actions as we also work to deliver the ambitions of The Promise.

We have mitigated the impact of poverty through increased provision of free school meals, holiday food payments, income maximisation and combating digital exclusion, while new planning arrangements have increased the capacity within this key area locally. Although there has been a huge increase in demand for mental health support, there has been a reduction in CAMHS waiting times, supported by capacity-building in schools, youth counselling and CAMHS engagement work.

Following a successful pilot scheme our new Neuro-developmental and Diagnostic Assessment Service has launched, while an options appraisal for short break

services has also been undertaken. Our PEEP blended learning approach enabled families to increase their confidence in supporting their children, while a re-focus of our strategic group responsible for how we support parents and carers has positioned the partnership to deliver on the family support agenda while maximising future opportunities from the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.

In 2022-23, the final year of our current three-year planning cycle, there remain actions across all of our identified priority areas that require continued focus from our partnership, however we remain committed to maximising our collaborative approaches in order to deliver on the ambitions of our 2020-23 plan. During the year ahead we will also deliver an ambitious new plan for 2023-26 which will build on the progress we have made to date, while seeking to address our emerging areas of need identified through our planned consultation and engagement activities.

APPENDIX 1: Report on Corporate Parenting Action Plans

Priority 2 – The Life chances and outcomes for care experienced children and young people improve

The tables below set out the progress on the Corporate Parenting Plan - Action Plans for the period 1 April 2021 to March 2022.

Action Plan – Raising Attainment Improvement Focus for our Looked After Children			
Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
Use looked after children data to monitor and review school performance and individual needs	Joint working across Social Work and Education to improve reliability of various data regarding our care experienced children and young people	Definitive evaluation in Education and Social Work in relation to what data is held in relation to Care Experienced Children and Young People and gaps identified. Planning in place to create accountability frameworks around this data to ensure high quality and complete data	This activity will be undertaken for the duration of the current Corporate Parenting Plan
	Review of information sharing protocols		
	Regular meetings between Principal Teacher – Care Experienced Children and Young People and Social Work – Locality Managers	LAC audit of school reports for LAC Reviews completed and will inform future planning	
	Shared communication between SEEMiS and MOSAIC systems	Information sharing protocols are being evaluated and improved through joint working	
	Refreshed guidance and expectations to schools		
	Key role of Lead Professional and Designated Senior Manager in schools to collate, monitor and act upon Care Experienced Children and Young People data	Regular meetings between key, parallel staff in Education and Social Work have taken place and are now regularly scheduled. These meetings are facilitating checks and balances and the production of aligned, joint guidance to frontline practitioners Designated Senior Manager role has been approved within Education in initial planning. Consultation within schools is currently underway	

Action Plan – Raising Attainment Improvement Focus for our Looked After Children			
Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
To reduce looked after children's exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Early intervention supporting the Care Experienced Children and Young People cohort to reduce the incidents leading to exclusion – key responsibility of the Lead Professional and Designated Senior Manager -Enhanced robust and immediate alternatives to exclusion involving an increased number of partners -Increased challenge to schools ahead of exclusion to ensure the scaffolding of help, support and accountability is responsive and effective 	<p>The overall exclusion rate for Looked After children and young people reduced by 1.2% in 2020/21 from 6.1% to 4.9%</p> <p>This compares to an overall reduction in exclusion rate for all children and young people of 0.3%, from 1.4% to 1.1%</p>	This activity will be undertaken for the duration of the current Corporate Parenting Plan
To improve Looked After Children attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Early intervention and family support delivered in partnership with Social Work (Lead Professional), schools (Designated Senior Manager) and Supporting Learners -Improved planning protocols aimed at reducing barriers to attendance 	<p>Looked After at Home Pupils' attendance 21/22 was 85% a decrease of 4%</p> <p>Looked After Away From Home Pupils' attendance 21/22 was 89% a decrease of 9%</p> <p>The total attendance for Looked After Pupils 21/22 was 87% a decrease of 5%</p> <p>Although there has been a slight decrease, this is reflected for all school pupils in this period as a result of COVID-19 isolation and testing regulations in Schools</p>	This activity is due to be undertaken through the period up to August 2022

Action Plan – Raising Attainment Improvement Focus for our Looked After Children			
Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
To improve tracking and monitoring of Looked After Children attainment	Working with schools, CECYP team and accreditation partners e.g., Foundation Apprenticeships to ensure robust and reliable tracking information is informing responsive and effective support and improved attainment	Attainment of Senior Phase, Looked After young people improved in 11 out of 12 measures in session 19/20	Progress on this activity is continuing up to & including Sept 2022
To build capacity and develop the role of Looked After Children champions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Refresh LAC Champion role to that of Designated Senior Manager (DSM) with associated roles and responsibilities -Establish a DSM in every school with CECYP -Establish a DSM network through which professional learning, support and challenge is provided 	<p>Removal of LAC Champion title to reflect changing language approaches and roles / responsibilities</p> <p>Designated Senior Manager role has been approved within Education in initial planning. Consultation within schools is currently underway</p>	
To build capacity and develop the role of the Care Experienced Children and Young People support officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Review of roles and responsibilities -Establish effective quality assurance and professional review processes -Improved formative evaluation -Establish clear line-management and corporate decision-making processes 	<p>Initial consultation and planning meetings have taken place</p> <p>Clear strategic direction is working through the system and affecting early change</p>	August 2022
To improve Looked After Children positive destinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Partnership working between lead professionals, designated senior managers, schools, SDS and partners -Robust tracking of CECYP in relation to attainment, destination planning and point of exit from school -Intensive support of CECYP not in school -Presumption that CECYP do not leave school without a positive destination <p>Partnership arrangements are in place with Employability, Young Peoples Transition Service and Schools to ensure effective monitoring for our LAC and Care Leavers onwards destinations.</p>	CECYP moving into a positive destination increased by 17% from 2019 to 2020 to a 3-year high of 84% - 3.6% lower than the virtual comparator	

Action Plan – Raising Attainment Improvement Focus for our Looked After Children

Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
To support school staff to identify care experienced Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Early intervention supporting the Care Experienced Children and Young People cohort to reduce the incidents leading to exclusion – key responsibility of the Lead Professional and Designated Senior Manager -Enhanced robust and immediate alternatives to exclusion involving an increased number of partners -Increased challenge to schools ahead of exclusion to ensure the scaffolding of help, support and accountability is responsive and effective 	<p>The overall exclusion rate for Looked After children and young people reduced by 1.2% in 2020/21 from 6.1% to 4.9%</p> <p>This compares to an overall reduction in exclusion rate for all children and young people of 0.3%, from 1.4% to 1.1%</p>	This activity will be undertaken for the duration of the current Corporate Parenting Plan
Identify and implement targeted intervention and prevention activity and projects to support our young people (up to the age of 26) to sustain meaningful positive destinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Improved tracking and early intervention within schools -Improved partnership working including information sharing and joint planning -Further develop prevention and post-school projects 		this activity has recently commenced with the new lead officer

Action Plan – Housing and Accommodation for Young People Under 18 Years of Age

Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
<p>Parents and carers are advised of their parental responsibilities to support children and young people throughout their childhood</p>	<p>-Social Workers undertake robust and honest discussions with parents and carers that they are the primary care giver for their children and young people and must be supported and encouraged to do this together with supporting families to develop their own support networks to allow children to remain at home and providing families with intensive support at an early stage of Social Work involvement so they have the help when they need it</p> <p>-Parents and carers are reminded of their parental responsibilities to care for their own children and helped to understand the trauma of not being able to live at home with parents and siblings.</p>	<p>Development of our personalised relationship-based approach, for all our workers when supporting our children and families - we are using the danger statements and safety goals to be clear to families about our worries and aims.</p> <p>The child's plan is now illustrating the use of the support network.</p> <p>Quality assurance through supervision and looked after reviews by our Reviewing and Chairing Staff to ensure this is embedded and of a consistently good standard throughout every child's plan.</p>	<p>This activity will be undertaken for the duration of the current Corporate Parenting Plan</p>
	<p>-Key stakeholders and partners encourage and support parents to care for their own children and young people in their own homes or within their extended family relationships wherever possible.</p> <p>Direct work is undertaken with families to support children and young people to continue to live at home or with extended family members.</p>	<p>In the child's plan the role and how often they will see the child of all professionals across all partners/services is clear - particularly at the start professionals will form part of the support network. This is evident in all plans and will form part of the ongoing quality assurance together with forming part of our learning and development.</p>	

Action Plan – Housing and Accommodation for Young People Under 18 Years of Age

Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
To ensure that robust searches for friends and family are considered prior to a child or young person being Looked After in Local Authority care.	Children and families are supported to remain living within their own family network wherever possible.	<p>We currently have 331 of children living in kinship arrangements. This is an increase of 7% from foster care v's kinship care over the past three years. We always explore friends and families prior to looking out with / considering foster placement. All referrals to family placement team have to evidence that we have explored kinship opportunities.</p> <p>The number of Residence Orders we have applied for in the last year evidences the impact on our practices.</p> <p>There were 13 presentations for Kinship Carers to be approved to care for 16 children in 2021-22.</p>	This activity will be undertaken for the duration of the current Corporate Parenting Plan
	Area Team Social Workers ensure that all children have a genogram completed to clearly identify their immediate and extended family network including friends and neighbours.	Children's assessment includes a genogram that is reviewed with children and family. This forms part of our quality assurance practices undertaken by our Chairing and Reviewing Team.	
	All children and young people have a robust SOS safety Support network plan in place.	<p>Roles and responsibilities together with frequency of meetings are detailed in all child's plan.</p> <p>Safety plan developed makes use of the network plan developed by families and all professionals</p> <p>This forms part of our quality assurance practices undertaken by our Chairing and Reviewing Team.</p>	

Action Plan – Housing and Accommodation for Young People Under 18 Years of Age

Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
	Support parents and carers to care for their own children via support being offered or via Self directed support to help them do this.	<p>Development and introduction of our Family Support Service that helps family develop skills / building on their strengths / build confidence as parents.</p> <p>Our newly developed Outreach Team within the West of Region to support families help keep children at home when families in crisis.</p> <p>Our staff currently signpost families where appropriate with SDS packages and help families to use PAs and to access support such as Quarriers. This also help build the families support network – 78 SDS packages in the past 12 months.</p>	
	Parents and carers offered a range of opportunities to help them improve their life chances including access to family centres, family support, attendance at parenting programmes, attendance at nursery, playgroup, etc	<p>Identifying current parent programmes – identify and bridging gaps to introduce a programme accessible to all including tangible support to sustain change.</p> <p>Development of Family Centres in Stranraer and Dumfries to supplement the work commissioned with Action for Children in Upper Nithsdale and Aberlour in Stranraer, Annan and Dumfries.</p> <p>Road map currently being developed for practitioners and parents with a view to developing this in collaboration with third sector organisations.</p>	In progress

Action Plan – Housing and Accommodation for Young People Under 18 Years of Age			
Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
To ensure that robust recruitment approaches are in place to offer a range of alternative accommodation options for children and young people who require to be Looked After	<p>-To actively seek to recruit foster families and supported lodgings providers to meet the needs of children and young people aged 0-18 years who cannot live at home and for those young people who remain in continuing care placements until the age of 21 years.</p> <p>Approval by Elected members in December 2021 to a new fee based scheme for foster carers will support recruitment in 2022.</p> <p>Research and benchmarking desk top review undertaken to scope the provision in other LA areas and how this can be taken forward in D&G.</p>	Recruitment drive undertaken in October 2020 and May 2021 (coincided with foster carers fortnight). Focussed on sibling groups, emergency carers, teenagers, supported lodgings providers and accommodation for UASC.	Events take place twice yearly (October / May)
To develop and enhance the skills of foster carers to care for those more challenging young people to allow them to continue to live within Dumfries and Galloway	Robust assessment process in place for the assessment and approval of foster carers.	Review of initial enquiry/initial assessment and Pre-Approval process involves more robust screening and adapting signs of safety front door approach and key questions. 16 week timescale introduced from application to presentation at panel to prevent drift and delay.	
	Robust training programme to enhance the skills of foster carers and identify needs and requirements of our foster carers.	<p>Training programme developed for foster carers for 2021 which was delivered by internal and external facilitators covering a range of topics as requested by foster carers via survey monkeys, monthly supervisions and support groups. This training plan will be reviewed November 2021 and a programme of events circulated for 2022.</p> <p>Roll out of extensive training opportunities via our online training facilities via the Training Hub.</p>	

Action Plan – Housing and Accommodation for Young People Under 18 Years of Age			
Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
	A range of effective support to carers via supervision meetings, group support and peer support.	Discussions are ongoing with LAC health colleagues to develop a trauma informed learning programme for staff and carers. Carer support groups continue to be offered on a monthly basis in each locality via MS Teams and facilitated by staff in FPT. Foster carers monthly supervision with supervising workers has embraced the signs of safety approach and focuses on strengths of the placement, success, and goals. Supervision template/pro forma reflects these discussions.	
	Foster care buddy system to develop a shared care or reciprocal overnight care in times of crisis and holiday periods for the carers and the young people.	An informal buddy system approach has been introduced in an attempt to make this happen and there is evidence to suggest this works and is in accordance with The Promise themes – work to formalise via a policy/procedure is progressing.	
To recruit pro-spective adopters to offer permanent family options for children who can-not return to their families	To recruit, assess and approve adoptive carers for children and families for those children who cannot return home.	Review of initial enquiry/initial assessment and Pre-Approval process to involve more robust screening and adapting signs of safety front door approach and key questions. 16-week timescale introduced from application to presentation at panel to prevent drift and delay.	
	Access national resources for adoptive carers to enhance the choice for Children and Families Social Workers when planning for children’s futures.	In accordance with legislative requirements, adopters who have been approved and have not been matched with a local child after 3 months are placed on Scottish Adoption Register. The Adoption Service has successfully matched children via the Scottish Adoption Register with adoptive carers to ensure they have permanent homes for the remainder of their childhood.	

Action Plan – Housing and Accommodation for Young People Under 18 Years of Age

Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
To recruit long term foster carers to offer permanent family options for young people who cannot return home to live but where adoption is not an option.	Recruit, assess and approve long term foster carers for children and families for those children who cannot return home. The approval of fee-based payment in December 2021 to all longer term foster carers will help to promote the service and ensure that prospective foster carers are financially supported in 2022 to care for children on a permanent basis.	Recruitment drive undertaken in October 2020 and May 2021 (coincided with foster carers fortnight). Focussed on sibling groups, emergency carers, teenagers, Supported lodgings providers and accommodation for UASC. In addition, discussions are taking place to comply to Care Inspectorate descriptors. Some foster carers have dual registration under these descriptors. These will be revisited for the children in long term placements as these are presenting challenges our fostering resources. When approving foster carers going forward, the recommendations re approval status needs to be in accordance with these descriptors.	
	Work in partnership with Independent Fostering Providers to increase capacity for children and young people who require to be Looked After.	The Scotland Excel Fostering and Continuing Care Services Framework was re-tendered and renewed in May 2021. The purchase of 22 external fostering placements via the Scotland Excel Fostering Framework has enhances the range of fostering options for the service throughout 2021-22.	
	Ensure that all efforts are made to ensure ongoing family and sibling contact throughout the young person’s care journey.	In accordance with the signs of safety approach training has been delivered to foster carers to emphasise the importance of their role in ensuring the child/young person in their care stays connected to their family and community and be as natural as possible. A Carer Engagement Day was arranged on 22.06.2021 and the theme was making The Promise a reality. Staying connected was a key theme.	

Action Plan – Housing and Accommodation for Young People Under 18 Years of Age			
Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
		Training on keeping Siblings connected and together has been delivered during 2021-22 to social work staff and panel members.	
To ensure that wherever possible siblings will be cared for together to preserve their sibling relationship to ensure this is a lifelong strength for them.	To ensure that brothers and sisters can be cared for together wherever possible. External training has been delivered to highlight the importance of this to frontline workers.	A recruitment drive was held in October 2020 and May 2021 with a specific request for foster carers for sibling groups. If siblings are not able to be placed together, they are accommodated with carers who stay close to one another and regular, natural sleepovers and play dates are arranged. Links have been established with Stand-Up for Siblings members (Scotland wide partnership) for advice and guidance.	
	If separated there needs to be robust plans in place to review, maintain and sustain the sibling relationship throughout the duration of their care experience.	Reflected in the forthcoming legal changes in the Children (Scotland) Act 2020 which places a legal duty on Local Authorities to take steps to promote personal relations and direct contact between children looked after (S17 of 1995 Act) by the authority and their siblings – sibling defined as having at least one parent in common.	
To develop residential childcare services to ensure that the most challenging young people can continue to live within Dumfries and Galloway	To consider the development of an outreach service / satellite flats in the East and West of the region to enable young people to transition to semi-independent living in a stepped and phased approach. Partnership working with registered social landlords continues to review future accommodation options.	The redesign of Cairnryan House staff team is complete. The service will now be able to offer a crisis intervention service in the West of the region. Work will be taken forward to consider the development of an outreach service in the East as a test of change development. Initial discussions have taken place with a registered social landlord and this will be progressed in the next 6 months.	

Action Plan – Housing and Accommodation for Young People Under 18 Years of Age			
Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
	To work in partnership with independent providers of residential children to increase capacity for young people who present with challenging behaviour and who require to be Looked After.	The Scotland Excel Children’s Residential Care and Education including Short Breaks Framework is currently in place until 30 April 2022 . DGC Social Work also hold meetings with local residential private providers on a 6-monthly basis.	
	To develop a robust framework for moving on from living in a Children’s house to allow young people a safe environment to build and enhance their skills while being supported to do so.	Work is due to commence to engage with young people to develop a framework to meet the individual needs of all young people who need to move on ensuring this is clear, transparent, and achievable.	
To ensure that all children and young people aged 5 plus have access to an independent advocate to ensure their views and voices are heard in key decisions which are made in their lives	Children and Young People who are looked after children are referred to the independent advocacy service.	DGC Social Work currently commission Barnardo’s Hear 4 U Service to provide Advocacy services to all LAC. The current contract is in place until 31st March 2022. Barnardo’s also provide Advocacy via the Children’s Hearing System which is a separate Scottish Government commission, and this is also in place until 31st March 2022.	
	Each child or young person has a SOS words and picture explanation as to why they are accommodated in Local Authority care.	This is an area of work we are currently progressing – training/workshops have been developed and are currently being rolled out. This is an area for further development across staff groups.	
	Children and Young People are supported to undertake life story work to help them understand why they are LAC	Life story work is currently built into the child’s plan and set out in timeline. This forms part of our Quality Assurance practices.	

Action Plan – Housing and Accommodation for Young People Under 18 Years of Age

Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
Early intervention and prevention of children moving into temporary accommodation	<p>Reducing the current number and the period of time children moved into temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Discussions and explorations have commenced with Housing services to consider a Housing First Model of service deliver to meet the needs of this group of young people</p> <p>A review has commenced of Young Peoples Pathway plans.</p>	This is an area of work in which we are all trying hard to seek alternative actions to reduce the number of young people who have moved into temporary accommodation	

Action Plan – Housing and Accommodation Action Plan for Young People Over 16 Years of Age

Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
1.Develop homeless prevention protocols which address the needs of particular groups including Young People,	Develop and implement a protocol for Young People including for Leaving Care	Housing Option and Homeless Services established hospital discharge pathway and now in use	
	Develop and implement a Prisoner Discharge protocol	Housing Option & Homeless Service / Scottish Prison Service – HMP Dumfries and Criminal Justice Social Work established prisoner discharge protocol and now in use	

Action Plan – Housing and Accommodation Action Plan for Young People Over 16 Years of Age

Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
Prisoners, Leaving Care, Hospital Discharge, Armed Forces Personnel, and persons with no recourse to public funds	Develop and implement a protocol for Young People	Young Person Housing Protocol completed and circulated for stakeholder views. Subject to amendment and implementation within the next few months.	
Review the need for and potential effectiveness of mediation services in preventing homelessness	Review need for mediation in relation to family breakdowns involving young people and where this would best sit within the partnership	Consultation undertaken through the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.	update required
	Desktop research of mediation services and other LA experiences of using and commissioning mediation services	Consultation undertaken through the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.	
	Develop business case and cost model for implementing a mediation service across the region linked into the Family Support Service	Consultation undertaken through the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.	
	Commission and implement a 2-year fixed term contract for delivery of service	Consultation undertaken through the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.	

Action Plan – Housing and Accommodation Action Plan for Young People Over 16 Years of Age

Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
Work with RSLs and private sector landlords to identify and implement early intervention initiatives to improve tenancy sustainment and prevent homelessness	Additional Temporary Housing Options and Homeless Officers (focussed on prevention and housing options work)	Officers in place, reviewed January 2021 and extended to end of 2021/2022 – work progressing well in partnership with RSLs	
	Introduction of a Housing Options and Homeless Education Programme	This action will be reviewed in light of new ways of working required due to COVID-19	
	Introduction of start-up grants for our care experienced young people	Work has started to outline proposal which will be shared with Social Work Manager prior to further discussion at a Corporate Parenting Group Meeting for endorsement Start up grant proposal has been agreed and put in place and ratified by the Corporate Parenting group.	
	Increase training and awareness of early intervention activities and assistance across both the RSL and PSL sectors	This is currently ongoing, roll out of activities has been delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Target date will be revised as and when necessary.	
	Work with RSL and PSL to identify those struggling financially due to COVID-19 at an early stage and agree mitigation actions to prevent eviction action	Implemented successfully with two major RSL partners. To date 34 households have had assistance through this programme.	

Action Plan – Housing and Accommodation Action Plan for Young People Over 16 Years of Age			
Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
Work with partners to review temporary accommodation provision and models to ensure they match our future requirements for rapid rehousing.	Develop the business case and costings for a core and cluster hostel style provision for short term placements Work with Loreburn to review the use of Hope Place - Clear transition process in place - Review and planned closure of Hope Place in parallel with the development of new housing options for young people such as Housing First for Youth.	The need for this action will be reviewed once Housing First Model is in place Work is being taken forward to review the need to consider new housing options for young people pending the closure of Hope Place. A tendering exercise has taken place and future meetings will be developed to take actions forward.	on hold
Work with partners to review permanent accommodation provision and models to ensure they match our future requirements for rapid rehousing.	Plan the future housing needs of young people and care experienced young people are considered in the strategic development of new build developments across Dumfries and Galloway	Work continuing to identify options – annual review of Investment Plan will be considered at Economy and Resources Committee in September 2021.	
Work with DGHP to Review and evaluate Holm Park View to inform future planning of housing needs for young people.	Create a business case and project plan for the ongoing sustainability of Holm Park View in partnership with third sector providers including the National Lottery	Further partnership discussions have taken place and the existing contract has been extended for 2022-23.	

Action Plan – Housing and Accommodation Action Plan for Young People Over 16 Years of Age			
Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
To enhance the Number of Supported Lodgings Providers who can support young people aged 16-21 years	Recruit Supported Lodgings providers across Dumfries and Galloway to be able to offer a range of supported accommodations options for young people who require additional support.	A recruitment campaign was completed in late 2021 and early 2022 but interest was very low. This will be subject to a rolling recruitment campaign throughout 2022.	
To have identified accommodation in place for Unaccompanied Asylum seeking young people.	Develop accommodation options for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People who arrive in D&G	A recruitment campaign was completed in late 2021 and early 2022 but interest was very low. This will be subject to a rolling recruitment campaign throughout 2022.	
Work in partnership with Loreburn Housing to support the creation of the Foyer Developments in the West of the region to support vulnerable young people	Development of an agreed service specification which will provide foyer access to a range of young people requiring additional housing support across Dumfries and Galloway.	<p>The Stranraer Foyer is due to open in the Autumn. The Dumfries Foyer is no longer going ahead.</p> <p>The opening of the Stranraer Foyer has been delayed due to the pandemic. Partnership working is in place between social work, homelessness and Loreburn to consider how this service will support vulnerable young people in the west.</p>	

Action Plan – Housing and Accommodation Action Plan for Young People Over 16 Years of Age

Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
Review all use of existing B&B accommodation to minimise the use of this in the future	Develop service agreements with local providers to consider the development and commissioning of community services	Work has commenced to consider alternative options but this is challenging in view of the limited availability of social care housing for young people throughout Dumfries and Galloway.	
Review and plan for the implementation of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order which will go live in January 2021	Review the existing use of B&B accommodation in accordance with new legislation.	<p>Review completed September 2020, no longer unsuitable accommodation in use across the Region. Temporary Homeless Accommodation complies with this Order</p> <p>Social Work has commenced to consider alternative options but this is challenging in view of the limited availability of social care housing for young people throughout Dumfries and Galloway.</p>	

Interaction with Young People Action Plan			
Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
Theme: Family and Sibling Contact			
Conduct a review into spaces used for contact, specifically looking at their availability and suitability across the Region in line with current Scottish Government restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Undertake review of spaces within LA owned buildings and non-owned buildings -Share and implement findings with Social Work Staff and other professional bodies -Signposting to all organisations with availability 	<p>Desktop review in progress identifying current social work buildings will be fit for purpose for use of contact including exploration of facilities at the New Family Centre developments.</p> <p>We have now secured rooms for use with our Third Sector organisations at North West Resource.</p> <p>Further work to review and identify appropriate other council facilities; partners and third sector organisations facilities.</p>	
Training held with staff having difficult conversations with young people surrounding contact to ensure they have the appropriate skills to communicate this effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify young people to support the development of the training programme -Develop and implement training programme -Young People design and present and facilitate to third year social work students from the West of Scotland University prior to them going on final placements 	<p>Training programme currently under development for all staff with young care experienced people part of the development team. This online training will be mandatory for all staff and include competency frameworks.</p> <p>Liaise with University Staff at the Crichton Campus to re-instate the listen2us input to final year social work students reviewed in line with covid restrictions</p>	

Interaction with Young People Action Plan			
Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
Looking at the longer-term impact on young people of being unable to have family contact to identify areas where we can improve practice	<p>Rolling out training to promote the importance of sibling contact has commenced with all foster and adoption panel members and foster carers</p> <p>-Looked after childrens' plans should reflect contact with all brothers and sisters</p> <p>-All looked after reviews should discuss and explore family relationships and how these are maintained and sustained</p> <p>-In the event of a sibling group to be accommodated separately the arrangements will be made to ensure they have regular and natural contact</p> <p>-We will explore contact taking place in a creative digital and family friendly environments</p> <p>-Adoptive and/or children in long term care will have the opportunity to maintain letterbox contact with their birth families</p>	<p>Training programme devised and has commenced</p> <p>Currently developing more creative means using digital devices.</p> <p>A key aspect of looked after childrens' reviews is to consider and agree contact arrangements with friends and family members.</p> <p>Progress has been made to place large sibling groups of children together to maintain and sustain their relationship.</p> <p>Training sessions have been delivered to C&F Social Work staff during April to consider siblings and involvement at Hearings.</p> <p>There is an established letterbox contact in place.</p>	

Theme: Transport			
<p>Treating care experienced young people as though you would your own children – fighting for them to have opportunities and ensuring that they are not alone</p>	<p>Continually review Corporate Parent Plan to reflect the progress made in line with delivering on Our Promise</p> <p>Sharing relevant and appropriate information that care experienced young people can access for example the care experience bursary</p>	<p>Agreement to refresh the Corporate Parent Plan in the voice of our children with our children.</p> <p>Elected Member seminar was held to share a summary of the Independent Care Review and what this means for us as Corporate Parents.</p> <p>Each child’s pathway plan is individualised for each child to ensure they have opportunities.</p> <p>All care experienced young people are encouraged to pursue further education and supported to apply for a care experienced bursary to provide them with financial support throughout the duration of their studies.</p> <p>The ongoing actions of the Housing and Accommodation Action Plan will support this.</p>	

<p>Every care experienced young person receives their provisional licence, is supported through their theory test should they wish to do this and should be supported / contribute to the driving lessons and practical test.</p>	<p>-All new Pathway plans to include consideration of this but young people will be supported and encouraged to do this when they identify this is the right time for them to consider this or feel they have the confidence to do this</p> <p>-Existing Pathway plans to be reviewed to allow for each care experienced young person to progress if they wish.</p>	<p>A paper presented to our SLT to identify long term sustainability of funding. Consideration in pathway plans developed with all care experienced young people.</p> <p>The following costs are estimates based on current figures</p> <p><u>Initial costings – these figures are based on the current maximum eligibility</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><u>Eligible</u></th> <th><u>Costing</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Provisional Licence</td> <td>£43 x 377</td> <td>£16,211</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theory Test</td> <td>£23 x 377</td> <td>£8,671</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Practical Test</td> <td>£62 x 377</td> <td>£23,374</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Agreed, going forward, that Provisional Licence and Theory Test will be offered. Even if the young person doesn't wish to proceed to a theory/practical test, the Provisional Licence is a good form of ID, for a couple of years.</p> <p>Funding on driving lessons is actively explored on an individualised basis.</p>		<u>Eligible</u>	<u>Costing</u>	Provisional Licence	£43 x 377	£16,211	Theory Test	£23 x 377	£8,671	Practical Test	£62 x 377	£23,374	
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<p>Theme: Knowing Your Rights</p>															
<p>Systems developed that make sure young people on an ongoing basis are educated about their rights under the UNCRC and Children and Young</p>	<p>Adopt a rights-based approach for all LAC and endorsed via LAC reviews and pathway plans.</p> <p>All young people have the choice to be referred for independent advocacy and the development of a rights-based leaflet</p>	<p>Refresh of looked after children review process and procedures to embed a rights-based approach across social work for all staff is currently underway</p> <p>Engagement with Barnardo's and Young People to be planned.</p>													

<p>People (Scotland) Act 2014</p> <p>A place where young people can ask any and all questions, similar to Cool2Talk and someone will get back to them with appropriate links and contact details</p>	<p>A user friendly website and social media platform to be researched and developed.</p> <p>To explore national initiatives to consider how we take this forward.</p>	<p>A working group to be created to develop an appropriate platform / to identify what is currently available / engagement with young people to identify what they want and need.</p> <p>Consideration is being given to the Bright Spots Programme and other initiatives such as the Local Offer of Engagement</p> <p>Cool2talk has been extended for 2022-23.</p>	
<p>Corporate Parents making a statement and commitment to fully support care experienced young people within all policy and publicity documents</p>	<p>Housing and Accommodation Action Plan refreshed and delivered on</p> <p>Launch of Leaving Care web page</p> <p>Launch of virtual care experienced academy</p>	<p>Council Launched the Care Leavers Covenant in 2016</p> <p>Endorsement of pledges for the Housing and Accommodation Action Plan for all care leavers and following implementation of the new MOSAIC system.</p> <p>Work has commenced on supporting documentation for all care leavers throughout Dumfries and Galloway.</p> <p>Secured a graduate to undertake the development of the virtual care experienced academy</p>	
<p>Theme : Leaving Care</p>			
<p>All young people eligible to receive a leaving care services should be referred for consideration to the leaving care team</p>	<p>Consideration for discussion at the first looked after review following on from the young person's 15th birthday as to the future involvement of leaving care services</p>	<p>Work currently progressing to develop new transition model in terms of incorporating this into the updated Looked After Children procedures</p>	

<p>between their 16th and 18th birthday. This will ensure that young people are aware that there is someone to support their transition, whenever they are ready to begin this process</p>	<p>Information sessions to be provided to Children and families social work teams to ensure that they are full aware of the role and remit of the leaving care team and ensure timely referrals to the team.</p>	<p>Following discussions with children and families social work teams, case responsibility will remain with locality teams while children remain at school prior to transition to leaving care to ensure consistency.</p> <p>Leaving Care Team will attend C&FSW Team Meetings to explain their role and remit and process for referral.</p> <p>SSW Leaving Care has briefed CRO's on ensuring this is on the young person's review after they turn 15.</p> <p>Celcis (Throughcare and Aftercare) have delivered training on transitions for young people to adulthood in Jan 2022, attended by Leaving Care, Children and Families, Family Placement Team, Hardthorn Road and CRO's</p> <p>The Fostering and Adoption Service will take forward the registration of a new Continuing Care Services and further work and training will be developed to consider how this shall be implemented in practise and the importance of such discussions taking place at the young person's review after they turn 15 but have not reached the age of 16 years.</p>							
<p>Young people deserve to know who they are and be able to prove it. Passports and birth certificates should be provided for all young people upon their transition out of care</p>	<p>A passport will be provided to all looked after children when a permanence plan has been endorsed or at the earliest possible time</p> <p>Refresh processes to enable handover over of birth certificate upon transition out of care</p> <p>Consideration of timing for the issuing of passports</p>	<p>Work progressing to review pathway plans to include consideration of timing giving the complexities of applying for a young person once a CSO has been terminated. To be discussed at LAC Reviews and checklist for referral to Leaving Care</p> <p><u>Initial costings – these figures are based on the current young people</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><u>Eligible</u></th> <th><u>Costing</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Passport</td> <td>£75 x 377</td> <td>£28,275</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>Eligible</u>	<u>Costing</u>	Passport	£75 x 377	£28,275	
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		<p>A paper has been presented to Senior Leadership Team to identify long term sustainability of funding. Currently being paid by Leaving Care Service, if they don't have one already.</p> <p>Birth certificates are £10 – funded through Leaving Care Service – no issues have arisen thus far.</p> <p>These documents will now be purchased by Children and Families Social Workers when they are Looked After to ensure they have these key documents as they grow and develop. For those who transition to the Leaving Care Service without them the Leaving Care Service will ensure the young person is supported to obtain these documents as soon as possible.</p>	
All young people communicated with on their birthday and at Christmas	Leaving care workers will communicate with all young people on their birthday and Christmas card currently open to them and those who remain in contact with the service which may involve the sending birthday and Christmas card.	<p>All young people will now be communicated with from the leaving care workers at birthdays and Christmas – now in place.</p> <p>Revenue costs need to be identified for sustainability - Costs agreed to continue to undertake this gesture</p>	
Young people receiving information surrounding their life stories	<p>Development of Life story work with young people – Signs of Safety will support this via words and pictures</p> <p>Training on life story work to be rolled out to area teams</p> <p>Incorporate into Quality Assurance practices</p>	<p>SOS words and pictures will be in place for all young people who are looked after to help them understand their story.</p> <p>Life story work is being undertaken with individual young people and training currently being rolled out across area teams within the next 12 months</p> <p>Desk top review to be undertaken to dip sample that the above is in place.</p>	

<p>Consistent workers where possible, or if there's a lot of staff changes, then this should be communicated to young people in real time</p>	<p>Regular contact details of allocated social worker and senior social worker sent to children, families, young people, parents and carers</p>	<p>Regular contact details of all professional and non-professional staff shared with children, families, young people, parents and carers.</p> <p>Additional procedures (issue of notification annually will be built into this)</p>	
<p>All young people receiving a 'going into care' booklet and a contact card for a place they can call</p>	<p>All children and young people have access to booklet with appropriate information including Out of Hours Team should they need it.</p> <p>Safety Networks of relevant people are identified and used in the child's safety plan in accordance with the Signs Of Safety Approach</p>	<p>Draught copy has been created by the Listen2us group next step is to develop a working group including representatives from locality social work and partners to finalise.</p> <p>Name to be changed to something more appropriate – discussions taking places taking places taking place</p>	
<p>Create an app/YouTube and training workshop about what it is like to be in care that can be incorporated into existing trainings for professionals</p> <p>To review online materials which can be shared with young people to access the right materials at the</p>	<p>All children and young people have access to the app/YouTube with appropriate information including Out of Hours Team should they need it.</p>	<p>A working group to be created to develop an appropriate platform / to identify what is currently available / engagement with young people to identify what they want and need.</p> <p>Consideration is being given to the Bright Spots Programme and other initiatives such as the Local Offer of Engagement</p> <p>Website being created which will have appropriate links for children and young people to access from reputable sources.</p> <p>OOH contact number will be accessible on website, alongside the 'booklet'</p>	

<p>right time for them Just a suggestion</p> <p>Or develop/ commission an app?</p>			
<p>Creating positive content about the achievements of children, young people and adults who are care experienced to be shared appropriately</p>	<p>Developing a culture of celebrating the success of our care leavers – to further strengthen how important it is for our young people to know that they had people in their lives who encouraged them and were there for them.</p> <p>Elected member seminar scheduled and will include testimonies from our children and young people</p> <p>Introduce Leaving Care newsletter twice a year developed with our young people</p> <p>Offer incentive to our young people to help in the support and development of leaving care web site, newsletter and our virtual leaving care academy</p>	<p>Care leavers take an active part in the interview of key Leaving Care staff members.</p> <p>Graduate secured to support the development of our Virtual Care Leavers Academy</p> <p>Good news stories are recorded and shared to promote the positive outcomes achieved by our care experienced young people.</p> <p>Good news stories are included in the Chief Social Work Officers Annual Report.</p> <p>Elected Member seminar held to raise awareness of the needs of care experienced young people across all elected members.</p> <p>There are plans in place to develop and annual report for the Leaving Care Team to fully reflect the work of the service and the positive outcomes achieved by our young people.</p>	
<p>Young people who have experienced care to receive special protection and an automatic interview when applying for jobs with the council, NHS and other</p>	<p>Dumfries and Galloway Council to adopt a Guaranteed Interview Scheme for those under the age of 25 including young people who have experienced care. This work will be incorporated into the cyclical review of the Council's Recruitment & Selection Policy and Procedure within 2021.</p>	<p>The Council continues to participate in the Kickstart Scheme providing a range of opportunities to young people including Leaving Care, fostering and adoption, Family Hub75West etc The services continue to support our kickstart recruits to offer then a range of work, training and development opportunities</p>	

organisations with a Corporate Parenting duty.			
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Improving Access to Health for Our Looked After Children

Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
We will have a particular focus on children and young people who are care experienced at home who we know to be the most vulnerable in terms of health and wellbeing – rolling programme for the timely delivery of CEL 16 health assessments for all children and young people who become newly looked after in Dumfries and Galloway.	<p>Children, young people and families will benefit from the early intervention and feedback that this assessment was of benefit to them.</p> <p>Improve on the number of children accessing both core and specialist health services as a result of attending CEL 16 new and return health appointments</p> <p>Meet the Scottish Government target that 90% of CEL 16 assessments will happen within 4 weeks of notification</p>	<p>Working together with the Specialist Health and Wellbeing Services developing system for capturing data to identify and understand the ‘As-Is’ position and identify data available from CEL 16 and gain an understanding of what this is telling us</p> <p>Engagement sessions have been completed with key stakeholders and the data from this is currently being gathered together to inform the test of change</p> <p>Audit tool devised to analyse key health demographics. Audit undertaken and findings collated – following data collected it has been agreed for a test of change with school nursing colleagues commencing next school term then progressing to capture health sub-set indicators for assurance on completed immunisation, dental registration, sexual health screening, substance misuse screening in preparation for whole-system readiness.</p>	

Improving Access to Health for Our Looked After Children			
Action	Progress from 1 April 21 to 31 March 2022	Evidence of outcomes	Comment
	Build relationships with children BEFORE their health assessment to encourage uptake	<p>Series of social media platforms and emails to undertake stakeholder engagement for the purpose of seeking views of children, young people, families and other key stakeholders</p> <p>First two secondary schools have been approached to share the names of care experienced children in the school. The SN is then going to meet and beginning to build relationships with those children looked after at home – first review commencing 1 March 2022</p>	

Action Status	
	Unable to complete by due date OR major issues to be resolved OR CSSaPP input required.
	Not started but expected to be complete by due date OR minor issues which are anticipated to be resolved.
	Started, and on track to be complete by due date.
	Complete
	Unknown

Raising Attainment Action Plan

Our Pledges

- **We will** develop and promote the role of Corporate Parents for raising academic attainment and promoting wider attainment and participation

- **We will** contribute to Dumfries and Galloway's aspiration that young people will be in positive and sustained destination, and as part of the Young Person's Guarantee, support 100% of them to move into and sustain positive, meaningful destinations beyond school and be supported by appropriate training
- **We will** improve the educational attainment of care experienced children by removing barriers to learning, improving tracking and monitoring, improving attendance, reducing exclusion, and providing equal access to opportunities
- **We will** develop, deliver, and support intervention and prevention initiatives targeted at children and young people, aged between 0-26 to improve their wellbeing and attainment levels

Key Successes

- Care experience children and young people moving into a positive destination increased by 17% from 2019 to 2020 to a 3-year high of 84% - 3.6% lower than the virtual comparator
- The overall exclusion rate for Looked After children and young people reduced by 1.2% in 2020/21 from 6.1% to 4.9%
- Attainment of Senior Phase, Looked After young people improved in 11 out of 12 measures in session 19/20

Evidence of Improved Outcomes

- Improved attendance evident in some cases at the individual level in following month's attendance report
- Care experienced education team positive impact of targeted work with identified individuals (using pre and post intervention measures)

Housing and Accommodation Action Plan

Our Pledges

- **We will** be confident that our services are as effective as they can be when they are shaped by the voices of children, young people and care leavers.
- **We will** ensure that all transitions from birth to young adulthood will be well planned and children and care leavers will experience safe, secure and stable placements, with as few moves as possible and to avoid homelessness and prevent homeless presentations.
- **We will** work with all young people who require accommodation to access and sustain the accommodation they choose and is available to meet their needs when they need it most.
- **We will** work with Housing providers to ensure there is a range of safe and comfortable accommodation choices to meet the needs of all young people at a time when they need this most for as long as they need this.
- **We will** ensure that a range of housing options will be available to vulnerable young people to access permanent accommodation options, or temporary accommodation if permanent is not immediately available, to meet their individual needs when they need this most to enable them to make a successful transition when they are ready to do so.

Key Successes

- Development of our personalised relationship-based approach, for all our workers when supporting our children and families

- Service redesign of Cairnryan House completed with an outcome to offer a crisis intervention service in the West of the region.
- Robust training programme to enhance the skills of foster carers and identify needs and requirements of our foster carers.
- Work with RSLs and private sector landlords to identify and implement early intervention initiatives to improve tenancy sustainment and prevent homelessness.
- Development and introduction of hospital discharge pathway
- Prisoner discharge protocol developed and introduced in collaboration with Housing Option and Homeless Service, Scottish Prison Service – HMP Dumfries and Criminal Justice Social Work
- Compliance with the Unsuitable Accommodation Order across Region, with the Order timelines met
- Successful Carers Engagement Day supported by The Promise Team
- Supporting 15 unaccompanied asylum seekers across our Region
- Extension of the contract for Holm Park View in partnership with DGHP/Wheatly

Evidence of Improved Outcomes

- The number of Residence Orders we have applied for in the last year is evidence to us the impact on our practices
- Increase of 7% from foster care v's kinship care over the past three years.
- 34 households with children have had assistance through our programme to a value of £24,861 - early intervention
- initiatives to improve tenancy which has been successfully implement with two major RSL partners.

(attached case study x 3 – Me still to draw up)

Interaction with Young People Action Plan

Our Pledges

- We will ensure that our Looked After Children and Young People are given the same opportunities that any good parents would provide for their child, and that we have the same expectations and aspirations as we would for our own children.

Key Successes

- Our young people told us that they want someone to communicate and recognise that it is their birthday and at Christmas receive a card. We have now introduced this where all our young people open to our Leaving Care Service will be contacted, and their birthday will be acknowledged. At Christmas, we provided a gift in the way of a voucher and chocolate selection box each which was well received and we hope to do this every year.
- Secured suitable accommodation at the newly refurbished North West Resource Centre through partnership working with Aberlour, which allows for Children and Families Social Work Teams to use for family time and our Leaving Care Team to meet with young people in a welcoming community-based environment.
- All of our young people currently open to the Leaving Care Service are being offered the opportunity to apply for passports and provisional driving licences and theory tests. This will be funded by the Service.

Evidence of Improved Outcomes

- All our young people open to our Leaving Care Service who received the Christmas gift felt valued and greatly appreciated the gesture.
- Young people are making the use of the facilities at the NWRC (i.e., washing machine, food bank) and opportunities have arisen enabling a couple of young people to volunteer in the Café.
- 14 Young people have taken the opportunity to purchase a passport, and 11 are progressing with their driving licence.
- 5 young people are currently undertaking driving lessons.
- In partnership with external fostering agencies, we have ensured that large siblings' groups have been able to continue to live together as a family maintaining and sustaining their sibling relationships.
- There is evidence that some siblings have re-established contact after many years of being prevented from doing so by being support-ed by their worker to make this happen.
- Many care-experienced young people have made some remarkable success stories including securing an internship with Scottish Government, qualifying as a mental health nurse, obtaining UK citizenship for an Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking young person, being successful in national awards and many more.

Improving Access to Health for our Looked After Children**Our Pledges**

- **We will** be confident that all children and young people who are looked after are invited to a health assessment within 4 weeks of the initial request and have a clear understanding for the reasons of this assessment - what this will look and feel like to them.
- **We will** ensure that each individual health assessments meets the individual needs of all children and young people.
- **We will** increase the uptake of appointments by ensuring that children, young people and families understand the value for them.

Key Successes

- Completed the gathering of evidence to understand our present system. Includes a case note audit of 40 families who did and did not attend their health assessment. Results 1. Those with significant mental health problems are more likely not to attend 2. Those young people looked after at home who are invited for their first health appointment are least likely to attend.
- Engaged with children and young people about their experience of health assessment
- Completed focus groups with key professionals involved including social work colleagues and school nurses
- Changes made to the notification form to include information about how young people would like to engage with their health assessment and offering virtual as well as face to face options.
- Identified the first area for improvement – clinics carried out in schools again

APPENDIX 2: Children's Services Plan Performance Indicators

Indicators are sorted by 'SHANARRI', and linked with relevant priorities

SAFE

Indicator		Target (if applicable) or direction of travel	Previous data (if available)	Baseline (latest available data) in 2020	Year 1 figure (2021)	Year 2 figure (2022)	Comment
Number of children on the Child Protection Register as rate per 1000 population aged 0-15 years CSSaPP_01	Priority 1	No target.	Rate was 4.0 in 2017/18	Rate was 0.8 in 18/2019	Rate was 1.1 in 2019/20	Rate was 1.5 in 2020/21	
Emergency hospital admissions for Unintentional Injuries for children aged 0-15 in Dumfries and Galloway	Priority 1 Priority 5 Priority 6	No target – aim to reduce		2018/19 207	2019/20 181	2020/21 184	Unintentional injuries can occur in any age group, but children and the elderly are generally more vulnerable.

HEALTHY

Indicator		Target (if applicable) or direction of travel	Previous data (if available)	Baseline (latest available data) in 2020	Year 1 figure (2021)	Year 2 figure (2022)	Comment
Primary immunisation rate by 12 months of age – 5-in-1/6-in-1	Priority 6	Aim to maintain	2018 – 97.4%	2018-19- 97.7%	2019-20- 97.4%	2020/21 97.0%	
Primary immunisation rate by 12 months of age - PVC	Priority 6		2017-18- 97.6%	2018-19- 97.9%	2019-20- 97.9%	2020/21 97.8%	
Primary immunisation rate by 12 months of age – Rotavirus	Priority 6		2017-18- 95%	2018-19- 95.3%	2019-20- 94.9%	2020/21 94.2%	
Primary immunisation rate by 12 months of age - MenB	Priority 6		2017-18 – 97.2%	2018-19- 97.6%	2019-20- 97.4%	2020/21 97.3%	
The percentage of 27-30 months reviews completed	Priority 5 Priority 6	Aim to increase	2017-18- 94.6%	2018-19- 93.6%	2019-20- 95.2%	2020/21 94.1%	D&G has a high level of coverage; the Scotland average is 90.2%.
The percentage of children in Primary 1 at risk of being overweight and/or obese	Priority 3 Priority 6	Aim to reduce	DG rate was 24.4% in 2017/18 National rate was 22.5% in 2017/18	DG rate was 25.7% in 2018/19, National rate was 22.4%.	DG rate was 24.2% in 2019/20 but National reviews are incomplete.	2022 – reviews have re-started but we do not have data for 2020/21	No local or national data was captured for primary 1 weight for 2020/21 due to school closures during CoVID19. From September 2021, the current P1 cohort measurements were taking place.
LAC completed waiting times for health assessment (Percentage of those LAC who receive a health	Priority 2	The standard is that 90% of children		Between January and December 2020	As of May 2021, the percentage of CEL16	In December 2021 the percentage of CEL16	The LAC health care team and school nurses are undertaking some improvement work in schools to improve the

assessment within 28 days of referral).		who become looked after will have a new health assessment within 4 weeks of the service receiving notification		The percentage of referrals completed within 28 days was 78%	(LAC Health Assessment) referrals completed within 28 days is 70%.	(LAC Health Assessment) referrals completed within 28 days was 71%.	engagement of young people at LAC health assessments. We had a previous 'Did Not Attend' rate of 20% and this has reduced to 14%.
The percentage of pregnant women in the worst performing Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivations (SIMD) quintile booked for antenatal care by the 12th week of gestation.	Priority 1 Priority 3 Priority 6	LDP Standard At least 80% of pregnant women in each SIMD quintile will have booked for antenatal care by the 12th week of gestation.	2017-18- 85.3%	2019-20- 85.8%	2019-20- 85%	2020/21 85.4%	In Dumfries and Galloway, our lowest-performing figure was 85.4% compared with a standard of 80%.

ACHIEVING

Indicator		Target (if applicable) or direction of travel	Previous data (if available)	Baseline (latest available data) in 2020	Year 1 figure (2021)	Year 2 figure (2022)	Comment
Percentage of LAC School Leavers who enter a positive Destination P2C3M05Q&C_PI03	Priority 2	87.2%	2017/18 – 82.9%	66.7% in 2018/19	84% in 2019/20	90.32% in 2020/21	This was a significant improvement on the previous year.
The percentage of children meeting developmental milestones P2C3M01Q&C_PI19	Priority 5 Priority 6	80%	2017/18 - 81%	84% in 2018/19	85% in 2019/20	84% in 2020/21	
Percentage of young adults (16-19 year olds) participating in education, training or employment. (Annual Participation Measure – Local Government Benchmarking Framework) CSSaPP_13	All priorities	91.6%		2018/19 – 91.2%	92% in 2019/20	94.6% in 2020/21	This is a universal indicator rather than one targeted on vulnerability. These indicators allow us to compare performance for our more vulnerable children and young people with those for all children and young people. All priorities are relevant, because successful delivery of all our priorities should have an overall impact on our population of children and young people.
Proportion of Primary pupils achieving expected levels in all three Literacy organisers	All priorities		2017-18 69%	2018/19 - 69%	2019/20 – no data	2020/21 59%	For 2020 the absence of external assessment information, and the Ministerial

P2C3M01Q&C_PI12							direction to award estimated grades, led to a different pattern of attainment than we have seen in previous years. The results for 2020 should not be directly compared to those in previous years or future years
Proportion of S3 pupils achieving Third Level or better in all three Literacy organisers	All priorities		2017/18 – 88%	2018/19 - 83%	2019/20 – no data	2020/21 59%	
P2C3M07Q&C_PI13							
Proportion of Primary pupils achieving expected levels in Numeracy	All priorities		2017/18 – 77%	2018/19 - 77%	2019/20 – no data	2020/21 69%	
P2C3M01Q&C_PI14							
Proportion of school leavers attaining 1 or more award at SCQF Level 4 or above P2C3M01Q&C_PI16	All priorities	96%	2017/18 – 97%	97% in 2018/19	96% in 2019/20	97% In 2020/21	This allows us to compare attainment of all school leavers with those who are looked-after.
Proportion of Primary pupils achieving expected levels in all three Literacy organisers (LAC) P2C3CYPLL12d	Priority 2	68%		2018/19 - 31%			Education CfE PIs were not recorded in 2020 and most were not recorded in 2021.
Proportion of S3 pupils achieving Third Level or better in all three Literacy organisers (LAC) P2C3CYPLL13d	Priority 2	84%		2018/19 - 40%			
Proportion of Primary pupils achieving expected levels in Numeracy (LAC) P2C3CYPLL14d	Priority 2	75%		2018/19 - 41%			

Proportion of S3 pupils achieving Third Level or better in Numeracy (LAC) P2C3CYPLL15d	Priority 2	84%		2018/19 - 80%			
Proportion of school leavers attaining 1 or more award at SCQF Level 4 or above (LAC) P2C3M05Q&C_PI04	Priority 2	86%	2017/18 - 71%	2018/19 – 62%	2019/20 – 72%	2020/21 65%	

NURTURED

Indicator		Target (if applicable) or direction of travel	Previous data (if available)	Baseline (latest available data) in 2020	Year 1 figure (2021)	Year 2 figure (2022)	Comment
Number and percentage of children being referred to the Children's Reporter on care & protection grounds.	Priority 1 Priority 6	Aim to reduce	2017-18 509 (of total 611) 83.3%	484 (of total 588) Children referred in 2018-19. 82.3%	2019-20- 456 (of total 534), 85.4%	2020-21- 538 (of total 587). 91.6% 2021/22 – 620 (of total 659)	This is one of the indicators where statistics for 2021/22 are already published, and show an increase in both children referred, and the percentage referred on care and protection grounds.
Balance of care for Looked After Children: % of children being looked after in the community (Local Benchmarking Framework) P2C1M8SW_PI03	Priority 2	Aim to increase		94.2% in 2018/19	93.4% in 2019/20	92.4% in 2020/21 Rate for Scotland was 90.3%	In Dumfries and Galloway we continue to have a proportion of children looked-after in the community. This means that children are looked-after at home with parents/carers; with other family members or friends; or with foster carers or prospective adopters.

Percentage of Looked After Children with more than one placement within the last year. P2C1M5SW_P102	Priority 2	Aim to reduce		18.7% in 2018/19	18.1% in 2019/20	24% in 2020/21	Placement moves are not necessarily negative when planned and agreed.
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RESPONSIBLE

Indicator		Target (if applicable) or direction of travel	Previous data (if available)	Baseline (latest available data) in 2020	Year 1 figure (2021)	Year 2 figure (2022)	Comment
Number and percentage of children being referred to the Children's Reporter on offence grounds, Section 67 j grounds. CSSaPP_27	Priority 1 Priority 4	No target – aim to reduce	2017-18- 159 (of 611). 26%	2018-19- 148 (of 588). 25.17%	2019/20- 139 (of 534) 26% 2020/21- 107 (of 587) 18.2%.	2021/22: 90 out of 659 (13.65%)	More young people were referred to the Children's Reporter in total in 2021-22, but fewer of these were referred on offending grounds than the previous year.

INCLUDED

Indicator		Target (if applicable) or direction of travel	Previous data (if available)	Baseline (latest available data) in 2020	Year 1 figure (2021)	Year 2 figure (2022)	Comment
Attendance Rate, Primary School, Dumfries and Galloway for Looked after Children. P2C3CYPLL22	Priority 2	94.1%		95.7% in 2018/19	93.58 in 2020/21 94.53% in 2020/21	2021/22 91.81%	We have a Care-Experienced Team in Education who track and monitor attendance (and exclusions) of children and young people on a monthly basis.
Attendance Rate, Secondary School, Dumfries and	Priority 2	85.4%		84.87% in 2018/19	83.23% in 2019/20	84.24% in 2021/22	

Galloway for Looked after Children. P2C3CYP23					87.75% in 2020/21		
Number of homelessness applications from applicants who were looked after as a child by the local authority within the last 5 years. P3C1M1NS_PI01	Priority 2	20		20 in 2018/19	20 in 2019/20 28 in 2020/21	27 in 2021/22	Accommodation is one of the 4 priority action plans within our Corporate Parenting Plan. Reasons for homelessness applications are complex. Legislation was in place to prevent evictions during the pandemic, however there was an increase in homelessness applications due to the breakdown of family relationships.