

Dumfries and Galloway

Children's Services Plan 2017-20:

Third Joint Annual Report for Year 2019-2020



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Introduction

This is the third and final Joint Annual Report on Dumfries and Galloway's [2017-2020 Children's Services Plan](#) and covers the period April 2018 to March 2019. The aim of this report is to demonstrate how well Dumfries and Galloway have continued to achieve the overall [aims of children's services planning](#) as set out by the Scottish Government in statutory guidance. As this is the third and final report for the Children's Services Plan 2017-20 the report will also take the opportunity to look back over the lifetime of the Plan and assess its achievements and the outcomes delivered for children and young people.

In Dumfries and Galloway, the partnership has taken an evidence-based approach to children's services planning with a focus on prevention, early intervention and vulnerability. The underlying principles of the plan include

- strong collaborative leadership with a readiness to provide resources to achieve shared aims;
- a commitment to addressing inequalities, for example poverty and the impact of disability
- a rights-based approach;
- a commitment to smarter working
- a commitment to providing services that are shaped by the views of children and families.
- the need to be ambitious and aspirational while being realistic about prioritising what can and will be delivered.

Dumfries and Galloway's Children's Services Plan 2017-20 contained six priorities with Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) as the overarching framework through which they were delivered:

Our priorities were:

1. We will ensure that children and young people are safe and free from harm
2. We will ensure children and young people get support at the earliest appropriate time through prevention and early intervention
3. We will improve the wellbeing and life chances of our most vulnerable children and young people
4. We will work to reduce or remove barriers so that all children and young people have equality of opportunity
5. We will deliver the best possible health and wellbeing for all children and young people
6. We will raise attainment and be ambitious for all children and young people

The previous two annual reports provided assurance that positive progress had been made across all priorities with some areas showing particular strengths. Annual reporting also provided an opportunity to review the priority actions to ensure that these were still the right ones needed to deliver the aims of the plan in a changing landscape. Planning is and should be a dynamic process; flexible enough to respond to a fast changing national and local picture without diverting from the overarching aims. New priority actions were therefore included in year two and have been further progressed in year three.

In evaluating progress of the plan, the partnership has used a range of data sources and approaches. Data on delivery and impact of priority actions has been analysed with collaborative judgements agreed on progress, strengths and challenges.

This report provides the detail of our key strengths and overall improvement both in the reporting period (2019-20) and looking back over the whole period of the plan. Evidencing outcomes for children and young people remains challenging. Children's and young people's lives and families are complex, the impact of services and supports is not always directly measurable and there is often no simple way to link a service or intervention with an immediate impact on a child or family. Taking each priority this report will, therefore, provide evidence of approaches used, of performance indicators, of outputs delivered, of the views of children and young people, and a variety of outcome indicators. We will also use case studies to illustrate how outcomes for children and young people have improved.

Planning and improvements in children's services are not necessarily complete at the end of a plan both challenges and opportunities remain as we move forward to the next Children's Services Plan 2020-23.

Priority 1 - We will ensure that children and young people are safe and free from harm

The Plan had an ambitious programme of improvement activity under Priority 1 and in the three years of the plan there was very good progress across the majority of these actions.

Our primary activity in keeping children and young people safe is to be able to recognise and respond quickly to potential harm and risks. This involves ensuring fast, effective information sharing and decision making across agencies and the development of our children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has delivered this.

MASH – initially established in February 2017 this is now fully operational, - it involves staff from Police, NHS and Social Work working together in the same space, sharing information and making decisions through the IRD (Initial Referral Discussion) process and system. Our target is that all IRD decisions are made within 24 hours of receipt of referral. Since 2017 93% of all IRDs have had decisions taken within 24 hours. 3525 children and young people have been referred to Child MASH since 2017, and of those, 1705 were subsequently discussed at IRD with all agencies sharing information.

“Co-location has led to improved understanding of respective agency roles and responsibilities.”

“Working closely with others within this area also allows for a more effective and efficient working arrangement.”

“I believe partnership working has improved. The availability of staff for discussion and advice/reflection is helpful. The accessibility of staff is excellent. The face-to-face discussion is of benefit as is the structure and process.”

Feedback from MASH staff

Improvement in the identification of risk is only the first step. Subsequent assessment and planning to keep children and young people safe are also critical. Over the three years of the plan improvements in assessment and planning have been achieved by introducing and embedding the use of evidence-based approaches and tools such as the National Risk Framework and the Neglect Toolkit. Furthermore in 2018 the Public Protection Committee agreed to adopt the Signs of Safety approach to assessment and planning for children and young people. A major investment of funding and capacity was agreed to implement this approach.

Signs of Safety – this approach aims to empower families and develop sustainable change by working more directly with families themselves, by harnessing their networks of supports and by listening more effectively to children and young people. Since 2019 the following Signs of Safety events involving over 1000 staff from across agencies have been held

- 3 x Leadership events
- 6 x 2 day basic introduction training – involving 162 staff
- 3 x 5 day advanced training sessions – involving 108 staff
- 1 x Partnership event
- Bespoke training sessions for the NHS, MASH staff, Chairs of Case Conferences and Fostering and Adoption Team
- Specific training inputs on Core Groups and working with Children with Disabilities
- 3 x Practice Lead Sessions
- 1 x Signs of Safety Launch Event – involving 150 staff

This strength based, solution focussed approach has been welcomed by staff and families alike.

*I am excited about the future and helping families to stay together –
Social Worker*

*It honours families, removes threats and really empowers, rather than
creating helplessness/ dependency – Social Worker*

*I feel it gels very well with the principles of GIRFEC and solution
focused meeting and can add a constructive framework for
assessment and planning to meet the needs of the young people -
Teacher*

Raising awareness within communities of the role they can play in keeping children safe and highlighting new areas of risk and potential harm was also an area of focus for the plan. For Domestic Abuse there was a focus on raising awareness within the community but also at school level to support early intervention and preventions. In March 2019 a year long campaign aimed at raising awareness and understanding of Child Sexual Exploitation was launched.

Domestic Abuse

- 30 awareness-raising sessions were delivered to children and young people that identified different types of violence against women and the impact of these.
- Dumfries and Galloway have been awarded White Ribbon Status for the region's work against domestic abuse and gender-based violence. There were significant activities and events including training White Ribbon Speakers; encouraging local people to sign the pledge to “never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women”; and liaison with Queen of the South football club to support D&G becoming a White Ribbon area
- 639 young people received inputs between 04/04/18 – 08/02/19. The inputs were on White Ribbon and domestic abuse (see above) and there was also involvement in Big World and The Toon (a peer-support experiential awareness-raising resource for young people).

Child Sexual Exploitation - this campaign led by the CSE Multi-Agency Group demonstrated commitment of time and resources across the partnership and elements of the campaign were used by other areas in Scotland. It involved all types of media and was aimed across a wide section of the community

- Bus Advertising for 6 weeks across Dumfries & Galloway.
- Radio Adverts for 2 weeks on West Sound Radio.
- 8500 Children and Young People Cards distributed to children and young people in S2 to S6 and S1 pupils (where deemed appropriate)
- Just under 12,000 Parent Leaflets distributed through school bag drops to parents of all pupils in P6 & P7 and also all Secondary pupils.
- 3780 Leaflets for the general public distributed to Council Offices, NHS premises, Dentist Offices, Police Stations and Schools.
- 285 public posters distributed to Council Offices, NHS premises, Dentists, Police Stations, Schools and Taxi Offices.
- 938 Information Cards for Businesses distributed to all Licence Premises and Taxi Drivers
- 32 Workshops were delivered (16 in Secondary Schools) to a total of 2058 children, young people, parents, public and professionals from across all agencies.

It would not be possible to deliver high quality services and supports to families to keep children safe without staff who have the necessary skills and competence. A continued commitment to a range of quality learning and development opportunities was maintained throughout the lifetime of this plan. All opportunities were planned, developed and delivered on a multi-agency basis recognising that to keep children and young people safe all agencies have to work together.

Learning and Development 2017-20

Over the last three years we have delivered a total of 81 sessions of the 14 multi-agency training courses, involving 1080 places delivered to staff from across all agencies (this does not include the Signs of Safety training). We also have a suite of e-learning that provides basic awareness. Courses covered a range of topics:

- GIRFEC : Assessment and Analysis – Developed in 2017
- Attendance at CPCCs – Developed in 2017
- Child Protection Training
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child's Plans and Solution Focused meetings
- Information Sharing and Chronologies
- Injuries to Non-Mobile Children
- Introduction to Child and Adolescent Mental Health
- Introduction to Mental Health and Attachment in Looked After Children
- Listening and Responding to Children affected by Parental Substance Misuse
- Risk, Risk Assessment and National Risk Framework
- Neglect and Intro to Neglect Toolkit
- Solihull Approach
- Working with Resistance – Developed in 2018.

We have reviewed the majority of these training courses at least once during the three years to ensure that they remain relevant and immediate. Learning from Significant Case Reviews has also informed this area.

Priority 2. - We will ensure children and young people get support at the earliest appropriate time through prevention and early intervention

Early intervention and prevention underpin children's services planning as a whole, but within the Plan Dumfries and Galloway committed to a number of key actions which aimed to prevent issues arising and to provide support to families at the earliest opportunity. Continued embedding of our GIRFEC approach is key to this.

GIRFEC – over the course of the plan this approach has been fully embedded in Dumfries and Galloway. Early planning takes place for children and young people putting them at the centre using the named person as their point of contact. There is an agreed suite of GIRFEC products and paperwork which is used across the partnership and which ensures that there is a shared approach and language regardless of agency involved. Dumfries and Galloway have also adopted a solution focused approach to planning for children and young people and this supports and mirrors the Signs of Safety approach in child protection.

There are now 895 Children's plans within Primary and Secondary Education.

Over the three years, 11 sessions have been delivered in Solution focussed Approaches, Child's Plan and GIRFEC Assessment and Analysis involving 126 staff from across agencies.

In August 2018, a GIRFEC Practice Log was established to act as a single point of contact for named persons and others to contact for initial advice and record issues/ points of learning. The Log also provides a single record of issues and queries to allow collation and better quality assurance processes and inform strategic planning.

Since August 2018, a total of 129 issues have been logged and dealt with.

To support partnership working and develop local responsive services to identified need GIRFEC Locality Groups were re-established across all 4 localities in 2019.

In a survey of named persons in 2018 82% strongly agreed that Getting It Right for Every Child has improved the way we plan to meet

Parenting

In further recognition of the need to move away from crisis driven responses and deliver early intervention and prevention we acknowledged the critical role that parents and carers play in meeting the needs of children and young people and our responsibility to provide the right level of supports and services to enable them to do this.

Parenting approaches and family support arrangements have included the Solihull Approach as our underpinning philosophy with all staff working with children and families being trained on this approach by an in-house team of facilitators.

Our in-house team of facilitators have delivered 4x 2-day training sessions to 48 staff from across all agencies.

Parenting programmes have included Mellow Bumps and Incredible Years which were successfully delivered across Dumfries and Galloway in 2019-20. We have also tested the delivery of the Peep Learning Together programme across Dumfries and Galloway, initially targeting our communities with the greatest evidence of need.

Incredible Years®

The Incredible Years® programme is aimed at parents and carers who have children aged 3-6 years. Incredible Years® supports and helps parents to manage their child's emotions and behaviour in a positive way. It also helps parents prepare their child for starting school and provides an excellent opportunity to meet other families and support each other in a friendly, relaxed environment. The programme is delivered through groups with sessions in Dumfries and Galloway led by two group practitioners. Weekly contact and support is available between sessions. Staff have been trained to run high-quality parents' Incredible Years® groups throughout Dumfries and Galloway.

Incredible Years

- 94% of families enrolled in the groups had children with elevated behaviour problems; this targets the precise children for whom Popp is intended and well exceeds the national average of 67%.
- 22 families across the region were involved in the 2019 programme, with 15 completing the entire 14 week programme.

Feedback on Incredible Years from parents/carers:

“I have more confidence to be able to be a parent”

“I feel supported, reassured and understood”

“Better bond/understanding (with child)”

“Group discussions fun and helpful”

“We are starting to think more positive”

Feedback on Incredible Years from referring workers:

“As the referring worker I could not believe the difference this programme made to mother and son’s life. It completely changed. Concerns have significantly decreased and there is now limited support going into the home. Mum’s confidence has flowered in her parenting capacities. She is following through and using different strategies with behaviour. The small group of two really did help mum to learn to her full potential and we have definitely observed this. Also mum’s new found confidence has benefited her son as there are no longer as many issues at school which is a significant change from previously.”

“The parent shared that the Incredible Years Programme has given her confidence in parenting her children and has improved her self-esteem, she made friends with other mothers which is a breakthrough for this mum; she feels she would benefit from some follow up programme.”

Mellow Bumps

Over the course of the plan, 61 mothers in total took part in a Mellow Bumps course. These took place in the East of the region as there were issues with facilitation and engagement in the West.

The PEEP Learning Together Programme

By March 2020, through the PEEP programme:

- Lifelong Learning Co-ordinators had delivered 3 more cohorts of training.
- A total of 49 delegates were trained. This included 47 D&G staff members and 2 participants from other local authorities.
- D&G Lifelong Learning Coordinators/Peep Trainers have been working with the Peep organisation to design and pilot a Peep programme for P1 parents and children. The Pilot was due to take place in several Scottish Schools during the 2020 summer term although this was postponed due to Covid-19 related restrictions.
- Lifelong Learning staff delivered 16 Peep groups throughout the school year. These included 160 parents and 195 children.
- 32 Adults undertook SCQF Accreditation at levels 3, 4 and 5. Two individuals have since applied to college and three have gained employment on completion of the accreditation.
- The Lifelong Learning Justice Assistant delivered Peep taster sessions in D&G Prison.
- The Youth Work Team continue to deliver Peep sessions with young parents.

Early learning and childcare – 1140 hours

Dumfries and Galloway's delivery and implementation of the Scottish Government's early learning and childcare policy (1140 hours) has been a key success over the last three years. Considerable resource has been committed to engaging with parents and the community, upskilling and developing the required workforce and ensuring that the infrastructure is in place to deliver this ambitious programme across a diverse and rural area.

1140 Hours implementation in Dumfries and Galloway

Dumfries and Galloway adopted a phased approach:

Phase one of the expansion in Dumfries and Galloway commenced in August 2017 with nine settings; eight authority nursery classes, one voluntary provider and a number of childminders beginning to deliver 1140hrs of Early Learning and Childcare during the academic year.

Phase two included five more settings in January 2019 with an additional two local authority nursery classes, two voluntary providers, one private provider and several additional childminders offering 1140 hours to children within their community.

Phase three commenced in August 2019 with an additional fifteen settings and more childminders offering additional hours to almost 1000 children in the Autumn and over 1100 children in Spring.

Dumfries and Galloway Council completed the procurement of services to deliver 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare in February 2020.

- 40 private and voluntary providers have been accepted onto the framework,
- 45 childminding services have also been accepted onto the framework.
- Around 40% of the eligible two year old cohort are taking up the offer of a place.

Workforce Development

Key to the success of the implementation of 1140 hours has been the development of a skilled workforce. In partnership with the University West of Scotland the Council has supported three cohorts of Early Learning and Childcare staff to undertake the BA Childhood Practice degree. 28 staff were supported in cohort one and two and a further 12 staff commenced studies in August 2019.

Edinburgh University are delivering 'Froebel and Childhood Practice' Course, 49 members staff are undertaking the course including 9 from the private and voluntary sector. PEEP 'Learning Together' has been delivered to staff in 40 local authority settings and has also been offered to private and voluntary providers. Session Leader Bookbug has also been available for practitioners. Developing Number Knowledge training package and support material has been produced and delivered to almost 80 practitioners to enhance knowledge and understanding of children's skills progression in numeracy.

93% early learning and childcare local authority nurseries and 90% funded providers have at least one member of staff trained in the Solihull approach supporting parents and children's social and emotional wellbeing.

4 senior managers are engaging in the Scottish College for Educational Leadership Programme in Early Years programme to improve knowledge, skills and leadership in the early years.

Care Inspectorate Grades for ALL funded Providers of ELC: Good or above					
		Quality of Care and Support	Quality of Environment	Quality of Staffing	Quality of management and Leadership
Local authority 44 settings	Nos	41	43	41	43
	%	93%	98%	93%	98%
Funded Providers 40 settings	Nos	39	37	38	38
	%	98%	93%	95%	95%
Childminders 40	Nos	39	40	40	39

Family Nurse Partnership (FNP)

Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is a licensed programme, originally developed in the USA and underpinned by an extensive worldwide research evidence base, in which specially trained nurses work with first-time teenage mothers to improve the health, well-being and economic self-sufficiency of them and their children.

The Family Nurse Partnership commenced in NHS Dumfries and Galloway in October 2018, initially as a 3-year test programme in the Nithsdale locality. During 2019, the programme expanded to provide the service in Annandale and Eskdale localities. In June 2020 there were 2.65 Whole Time Equivalent Family Nurses. The service is being developed incrementally across the localities and aims to serve the whole region by its 3rd year.

Since the programmes commenced there have been 70 referrals of teenage mothers, 59 of those receive the Family Nurse Service. 8 potential clients did not opt- in to the programme, 3 have left the programme for other reasons.

Health Visiting

The Universal Health Visiting Pathway was set out by the Scottish Government in 2015. The Pathway presents a core home visiting programme to be offered to all families by Health Visitors as a minimum standard. NHS Dumfries and Galloway adopted an incremental approach to delivery of the pathway. All 11 pathway contacts (home visits) are now being implemented, with the introduction of the 4-5-year review in May 2020.

Dumfries and Galloway have vacant Health Visitor posts, but in teams across the region where there are staffing challenges, action plans are in place to ensure the Universal Pathway contacts can be delegated to HV Assistant Practitioners. We are working to recruit to these vacancies.

All children with a Child's Plan have the support of a Health Visitor as Named Person. Where GIRFEC national practice model assessment identifies support needs for early intervention, the Health Visitor provides that support, or planned care is delegated to HV Assistant Practitioner. Requests for assistance are made to partner agencies where necessary.

Feedback from families on Health Visitor input

"Always flexible, can phone about anything"

"Very good information, premature baby, lots of support"

"Good communication, Good bond"

The 27-30 Month Review

The 27-30 Month Review is carried out by Health Visitors. The review involves an assessment of children's growth and development, and the provision of advice and support for children and their families.

The 27-month Review

In Dumfries and Galloway in 2017-18:

- 94.4% of eligible children had a 27-30 month review,
- 97% of children reviewed had meaningful data recorded in ALL domains – both the highest coverage in Scotland according to the NSS Child Health 27-30 Month Review Statistics Scotland 2017/18

Parents as First Teachers (PAFT)

The annual report for Parents As First Teachers August 2019-20, indicates that NHS Dumfries and Galloway Health Visiting Assistant Practitioners delivered Parents As First Teachers programme to 92 parent-infant relationships. The programme provides early, consistent, individualised support, at home to first time parents where there are vulnerabilities identified by Health Visitor assessment. PAFT increases parents' understanding of how to strengthen their use of positive parenting behaviours when playing with their child. 74% of the families served were experiencing multiple traumas and stressors, including those experiencing financial anxiety (57%), mental health issues (49%), single-parenthood (25%), and housing insecurity (11%). Issues concerning domestic abuse, substance misuse and involvement with the criminal justice system were also present in the families supported.

Priority 3. - We will improve the wellbeing and life chances of our most vulnerable children and young people

Our most vulnerable children and young people are those who are looked-after or care-experienced. As corporate parents, we made the promise below to them which we have sought to deliver:

We are committed as individual organisations and as a community planning partnership to giving looked after and care experienced children, young people and care leavers the best chance in life.

Underpinning all our efforts to improve outcomes for care-experienced children and young people is the principle that children and young people have the right to have their voices heard on decisions that affect their lives. One of our primary aims therefore, has been to ensure that there are structures in place for care-experienced children and young people to give their views in their own case-planning, and also about the services that they use.

Engagement with care-experienced children and young people

This has been delivered in a number of ways:

- The development of our Champions Board using funding from the Life Changes Trust.
- A survey of looked-after children and young people at school, commissioned by the Champions Board and led by the Listen2Us group. A total of 90 of our looked-after children and young people responded to this.
- Our Council's new youth democracy structures are designed to include representation from communities of interest as well as geographic areas.
- Use of Barnado's Advocacy Service to support looked-after children and young people

What looked-after children and young people told us:

- 85% said that they either partly or completely understood the role of Social Work.
- 66% said that they knew either some or all of their rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 74% felt either 'kinda included' or 'completely included' in decisions that affected them.
- 80% knew who to speak to if things were not going well.
- 84% said there should be more information available to children and young people on going into care.

Things that looked-after children and young people said were most important to them were:

- Sibling contact
- Young people in care/ care leavers knowing their rights and what they do if something has gone wrong.
- Support to young people who are getting ready to leave/have left care.
- Improving communication about going into care.
- Young people in care/care leavers knowing what they are entitled to.
- Breaking down the stigma (stereotype/ reputation) associated with being in care
- Transport

We have responded to what children and young people have told us, initially with a Champions Board Action Plan to address specific issues, and by using their views to help shape our new Corporate Parenting plan in 2020.

Health Assessments

Children and young people who are care-experienced can have unmet health needs and it is vital that these needs are identified and addressed as quickly as possible. Over the last three years, we have improved the way in which we respond to the

health needs of looked-after children and young people, ensuring that health screening takes place in a timely fashion.

The target is that health assessments for looked-after children should be carried out within 4 weeks of notification. In practice, assessments are usually offered within 4 weeks, and work is ongoing to encourage young people to attend.

Health Assessments for looked-after children and young people

The rates of completion of health assessments in the timeframe have improved over the last 4 years:

- In 2016, 161 health assessments were carried out, with 37% completed in the timeframe.
- In 2017, 160 were carried out, with 63% completed in the timeframe.
- In 2018, 198 were carried out with 76% completed in the timeframe.
- In 2019, 112 were carried out with 80% completed in the timeframe.

Access to Leisure & Sport

As corporate parents, our aspiration is that our looked-after and care-experienced children and young people should have the same opportunities as their non-looked-after peers. Our role as corporate parents is not just about providing social work services, but about actively removing any barriers that children and young people might experience to participation. Through our engagement with young people, one of the early requests raised by young people through the Listen2Us group and the Champions Board was to improve access to leisure and cultural activities for looked-after and care-experienced children and young people.

This led to the development of the DG Access scheme for looked-after and care experienced children and young people. The scheme was established over 4 years ago to provide free membership to Council-led leisure and sport sessions, classes and facilities.

Free access to Council-led leisure and sport activities

In 2019, in response to a review, the scheme was re-branded as Club Sport and made easier to use with a faster turn-around of the application process when applying for new membership. In line with all other membership types, Club Sport members are issued with a card that when scanned, automatically applies a 100% discount so that the scheme operates in a non-stigmatising way where young people do not have to declare their personal circumstances.

The changes that have been implemented were all identified by young people involved in Listen2Us, the wider Champions Board project and social work services and based on initial feedback of the new scheme. The changes have removed some of the barriers that were preventing some people's participation. Colleagues within Youth Services and Leisure and Sport Services are currently working to make further improvements around communication with membership holders and referees.

Over 350 young people are currently registered with Club Sport.

Number of attendances by children and young people and care-leavers participating in leisure and sport activities through the Access to Leisure Scheme	
Year	Number
2015-16	166
2016-17	239
2017-18	310
2018-19	378
2019-20	801

Accommodation

Our aim with the Children's Services Plan was to transform the way that we provide housing options for young people aged 16 to 24 who are care-leavers so that care-leavers would be better prepared to manage a tenancy and at less risk of becoming homeless. We did this through the development of supported housing such as Holm Park View and the implementation by Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership of a Common Allocation Policy for social housing.

Housing for care experienced young people aged 16-25

Homes4D&G is a partnership between Dumfries and Galloway Council and the four Registered Social Landlords that work in Dumfries and Galloway. In 2017, Homes4D&G developed a Common Housing Register. This register is a computer-based single waiting list which is used by all four landlords in the partnership. The register makes it quicker and easier for people to apply for housing, because they only have to fill in one application form and their details are shared with all four landlords.

As part of the development of the register, the Homes4D&G partnership also developed a Common Allocation Policy which uses a points system to allocate properties that become available. This policy includes a Care Experienced Young Persons Protocol that aims to ensure that there is a co-ordinated response to the accommodation needs of care-experienced young people aged 16-25.

Under this protocol, when care-leavers have been assessed as ready for a tenancy, they are granted 75 'Priority Points'. These points are designed to meet urgent housing need as quickly as possible. When young people are leaving care, the Homes4D&G team will work with colleagues in Social Work to ensure that the young person is ready to manage their own accommodation. Social Work use a 'pathway plan' that sets out the needs of each young person leaving care, and the Homes4D&G team seek to identify the accommodation that will meet the needs of the young person and provide the best possible outcomes for them.

It is recognised that some young people might need additional support before they are ready for a tenancy, and supported housing provides a 'half-way house' where they can develop the skills they need.

Holm Park View supported housing project

Holm Park View provides accommodation with support for vulnerable looked-after young people and care-leavers to meet their identified needs. It is transitional housing aimed at helping young people gain the skills they need to move on and live independently. Young people can live at Holm Park View for up to two years. The length of time there will depend on the level of support needs and the progress made at Holm Park View. Each young person is allocated a support worker who works with them to help them gain skills in all areas of their tenancy upkeep and housing support.

The only way to access Holm Park View is through a referral from Children and Families Social Work Services. Development staff work closely with the Leaving Care Team and Children and Families locality teams to make sure that all the needs of the young people are met.

The approach has proved effective in meeting the needs of these vulnerable care-leavers who were not ready to sustain a tenancy without support and who might otherwise have come to the attention of multiple services. Those who are moving into their own homes have developed the life-skills that they need to manage their own home and have established relationships with support workers.

Young people using Holm Park View

Since the project started in 2012,

- 58 young people have stayed at the project.
- 8 young people are currently staying at Holm Park View.
- 17 moved to stay with family or friends.
- 11 young people went to private lets, supported tenancy or back to temporary accommodation.

Education

Our aim is to close the attainment gap between care-experienced pupils and their peers. To help us achieve this, we established a bespoke Care-Experienced Raising Attainment Group and a dedicated team whose main focus is to build capacity of the system to support children and young people. Initially, the work targets those looked-after and care-experienced children and young people who are currently underperforming in school. Furthermore, teachers working in this area have been trained in key interventions including Catch-up Literacy, Catch-up Numeracy, Nurture, Emotion Works and Seasons for Growth bereavement/loss support.

In April 2018, the local authority introduced a zero target for looked-after pupil exclusions. We are still to meet that target, but exclusions of looked-after pupils have greatly reduced since that point.

Care-Experienced Education Team

- Care-Experienced teachers have targeted a total of 138 pupils across the region using literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing interventions to close the attainment gap. Data in April 2020 demonstrated improvements in attendance and exclusions for looked-after children who had accessed the interventions. Of the pupils who had exclusions at the start of the intervention, almost all had no further exclusions.
- The exclusion rate for looked-after pupils dropped to 155.12 incidents per 1000 pupils in 2019/20 - down from 374.10 per 1000 in 2018/19.

Closing the attainment gap has continued to be a challenge, and it is acknowledged that embedding these changes and demonstrating impact will take time.

Training and Employment

Dumfries and Galloway's Employability and Skills Service works with partners in a Local Employment and Skills Partnership to develop a coordinated approach to employability services across our region and deliver the DG Youth Guarantee. This is an extension of the Scottish Government's commitment that every single 16-19-year-old in Scotland will be offered a place in appropriate learning or training if they are not already in a job, Modern Apprenticeship or in education. In Dumfries and Galloway, this has been extended to people up to the age of 24 years old.

- From April 1st 2017 until 31st March 2020, Employability and Skills registered 43 clients that were categorised as a “Looked After Young Person”. In the last financial year 2019-20, there were 9 Looked After clients signed up to the service, all of whom were still working with the service in June 2020.
- In financial year 2019-20, there were 15 young people who identified as a “Looked After Young Person” supported into a positive destination – employment, further/higher education, etc. Of these, over 50% were in to paid employment over the same time period. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it may be that some of these young people have since returned to the service for further support

Employment and Skills Case Study #1

The service supported a young person who had not had a good experience of education. He also needed help with the type of social and personal life-skills that are needed in the workplace.

Despite his previous experience of education, once the young person came to the Employability and Skills Service, he engaged fully with the service and applied for jobs both within and outwith Dumfries and Galloway. The service, in partnership with Social Work, supported the young person to prepare for moving away from Dumfries and Galloway by helping him learn how to live independently and to manage his expectations in work. The service also helped the young person to prepare for employment by working with him on social norms and development of good routines.

The young person succeeded in obtaining secure, full-time paid employment with training and career prospects outside Dumfries and Galloway.

Employment and Skills Case Study #2

Another young person supported by the service had also had a very negative experience with education and had difficulty trusting and engaging with services.

The young person's key worker took time to build a trusting relationship and worked with the young person to help them develop 'softer' skills first – like social skills and relationship-building. Gradually, the key worker was able to break down the young person's numerous barriers.

With this support, the young person was eventually able to see Education as a viable option, and was successfully accepted onto a science course at College

Priority 4. - We will work to reduce or remove barriers so that all children and young people have equality of opportunity

Delivery of anti-poverty actions

Since June 2015, our Dumfries and Galloway Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy and accompanying Action Plan have delivered a portfolio of over 60 interlinked projects and initiatives which have been developed in consultation with our Tackling Poverty Reference Group Members (volunteers with a lived experience of poverty).

These projects have included the development and delivery of a range of projects and services which have directly reduced the costs of the School Day including covering the costs of Home Economics and Technical Design Classes, the Holiday Food Fund Programme, Free Sanitary Products in Schools (developed before the allocation of funding from the Scottish Government), Breakfast Clubs in Schools, funding for the costs of S5 & S6 Subjects including Geography, Art & Design, Photography for senior pupils and in addition the costs of travel to support pupils to attend extra-curricular activities.

The Intensive Family Support Service which was developed and delivered by Dumfries and Galloway Council's Social Work Team and funding through Anti-

Poverty Policy Development Funding of £1.2 Million has supported families in complex poverty to break the cycle of poverty. Between September 2017 and March 2020, 134 families have been provided with intensive family support provision.

Our Council's Welfare and Housing Options Support Team was put in place to help individuals and families in complex poverty to avoid eviction and to act as a conduit between Landlords (both RSL's and private sector), the Department of Work and Pensions and also other Council Services including the Council Tax Team who may be owed large sums of arrears. This team has continually prevented evictions for families since its inception in September 2017 and has prevented children going through the disruption, emotional upheaval and damage of their family being evicted from their home.

Holiday Food Fund Programme

We recognised that the early delivery of our Holiday Food Fund Project needed to reach more of our pupils in the most remote settlements of the region.:

- Third Sector Partners were invited to apply for funding to deliver Holiday Food Fund Programmes (fun activities plus free food) during all School Holidays beginning with the October School Holidays in October 2019.
- During each School Holiday period, we now have between 15 – 18 projects which are delivered throughout our region and in every Ward. Every pupil who is eligible for Free School Meals can now attend events and activities which are open to all (therefore reducing any stigma) with their friends and siblings which has greatly reduced the financial pressure which is placed on families during all holiday periods.
- To date over 7,600 pupils have been supported with these new activities and food during the October, Christmas and Mid Term (Feb 2020) Holidays.

The introduction of statutory Local Child Poverty Action Reports in 2019 was welcomed by partners in our region as providing an increased focus on this group of vulnerable children, and especially on the six high risk groups.

Reducing the Costs of the School Day: Increase in Registration for Free School Meals, The School Uniform Grant and Free School Uniform Project

- We have increased our Council's annual School Uniform Grant to £134.00 per pupil, per year (the Scottish Government now subsidise each Local Authority to provide at least £100.00 per pupil and our Council contribute the additional top up through Anti-Poverty Policy Development Funding). This grant is now the highest of all Local Authorities in Scotland.
- A joint Project between our Financial Wellbeing and Education Services matched data of families who were eligible to receive Free School Meals (and therefore the Free School Uniform Grant) with those who had not registered for this service. An additional 638 pupils were identified and contacted and by the end of March 2020, 3,339 pupils in total (17.88% of total pupils) are now registered to receive these additional support costs.
- We have also developed a Free School Uniform Bank Project which began in June 2018. Donations of used and new uniforms, footwear, stationery and School Bags are made at various Donation Points around our region (both Third Sector Organisations and Dumfries and Galloway Council Services support this project). These donations are then available to collect at various multi-purpose locations around the region which offer anonymity to the families calling in to remove stigma. These two projects above ensure that every pupil within our Region has a high level of funding for new School Uniforms to purchase within the Summer Holidays and the choice of top up clothing and accessories throughout the year. Over 2,500 pupils have benefitted from choosing additional clothing through this project

Young Carers

In Dumfries and Galloway, we are working to support Young Carers through Young Carers Statements. These statements are completed by the young person with help from a support worker from the Young Carers' Project. The Statements enable Young Carers to express their feelings and needs and find out what impact their caring responsibilities have on their life. The aim of the Statements is to support Young Carers in their caring role and ensure that their needs are taken into account by services.

Young Carers

- Between 2017 and March 2020, a total of 71 Young Carers Statements were completed.
- Between 2017 and March 2020, a total of 21 Young Carers Reviews were completed.

Quotes from Young Carers around their experience of completing a Young Carers Statement

"It shows how far I have come with support"

"Reflection and time to talk about my situation"

"helped with my feelings and what things I need to know"

"Helped me to tolerate other people and their behaviour"

"Focuses on mine and mums needs and promotes ideas"

Children with disabilities

Children's services partners in Dumfries and Galloway had agreed that a systemic approach was needed to effectively support children with disabilities. In 2018, a multi-agency group was established with the aim of developing a Children's Disability Strategy. The vision of the group was to:

Deliver services and supports that optimise the health and wellbeing for children and young people with disabilities through promoting choice and control and enabling families.

The group focused on ‘enablement’ of disabled children, young people and their families and made some progress with mapping existing transition arrangements across all agencies. However, with the scale and complexity of the work involved in mapping all relevant services and supports, it became apparent that a strategic approach to children with disabilities needed to be a priority in its own right rather than a single action within the Children’s Services Plan. As a result, this action has been carried forward into the 2020-2023 Children’s Services Plan as ***Priority 5: Children and young people with complex needs and disabilities are enabled to reach their potential.***

Priority 5. - We will deliver the best possible health and wellbeing for all children and young people

Ensuring that children and young people have the best possible health and wellbeing involved improvement activity in a number of key areas.

Relationship Education and Sexual Health Services

- Training for primary and secondary school staff and others working in informal settings on Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood education continues to be offered across the region.
- All primary and secondary probationer teachers attended a learning session on Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood education
- All schools in Dumfries and Galloway are now accessing the new national suite of resources for delivering Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood learning and teaching to children and young people aged 3-18.
- Young people continue to access services for their sexual health and wellbeing –

Attendances and phone calls to Sexual Health Dumfries and Galloway by young people aged under 20 in calendar year 2019		
587 young people attended	1136 attendances in total	253 phone calls (88.5% of calls from females)

- A one year awareness campaign on child sexual exploitation was launched by the Public Protection Partnership in March 2019 with workshops delivered to young people in every secondary schools
- Delivery continues of the multi-agency Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Action Plan, and linkage with the Family Nurse Partnership programme
- Continued delivery of cool2talk service – see below

Cool2talk

'cool2talk' is an interactive digital service for young people age 12-20. Young people can use the service to:

- post health related questions that are answered honestly and accurately within 24 hours
- read questions and answers on a range of topics already posted on the website
- access a one to one counselling service.

The website offers reassurance, encouragement, information and advice on any health-related issue as well as sign posting to appropriate local or national services.

The two year pilot of cool2talk was completed in August 2019. The evaluation demonstrated that:

761 questions were posted by young people from Dumfries and Galloway

- 52% questions were posted by young people aged 13 to 15 years, 29% posted by young people aged 16-19 years, 3% by young people aged 20 or over, 16% by young people under 12 or not specifying their age
- 74% of questions were posted by young people identifying as female, 16% by young people identifying as male and 10% identified in another way or didn't specify
- 26% of questions related to mental and emotional health and wellbeing, 26% to sexual health, 22% to relationships, 17% to general health, 4% to services. 2.4% to alcohol and drugs and 2.5% to diet and physical activity.

Questions were posted by young people across the region with 41% posted by young people in Nithsdale, 26% by young people in Annandale and Eskdale, 18% by young people in Wigtownshire and 15% by young people in Stewartry.

Service delivery maintained 24/7 with 100% responses within 24 hours

Feedback from local young people demonstrates that most young people would return to and recommend the website to peers, reporting that responses were friendly, understanding, helpful, non-judgemental and trustworthy.

Additional qualitative feedback from young people also suggests that responses to questions posted was likely to have a long term impact on health and wellbeing.

Mental health and wellbeing

Children's and young people's mental health was one of the local areas of priority action in the 2017 to 2020 Children's Services Plan, and this reflects the national picture where there is a need to focus on improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. Improving mental health will continue to be a priority in its own right in the 2020 to 2023 Children's Services Plan. The need for this focus was reinforced by Dumfries and Galloway's engagement in the Scottish Government's Realigning Children's Services programme.

As part of this programme, wellbeing surveys were carried out with primary and secondary pupils across Dumfries and Galloway. Below are some of the findings of these surveys.

Mental Health and Wellbeing in Dumfries and Galloway – findings of Wellbeing Surveys

- Overall, using a composite mental wellbeing measure, 90% of primary school pupils in Dumfries and Galloway had average/high mental wellbeing, but 10% of pupils had low mental wellbeing.
- **80%** of primary pupils reported that they always or often felt happy
- Using the composite wellbeing measure, 82% of secondary school pupils had average/high mental wellbeing.

Pupils eligible for Free School Meals and those with Additional Support Needs reported lower life satisfaction:

Of children who were eligible for Free School Meals-

- In primary schools, 21% of those who were eligible for reported low/medium life satisfaction, compared with 16% of those who were not eligible.
- In secondary schools, 45% of those eligible for Free School Meals reported low/medium life satisfaction compared with 31% of those who were not eligible.

Of children with additional support needs (ASN)-

- In primary schools, 30% of those with ASN reported low/medium life satisfaction compared with 22% of those without ASN.
- In secondary schools, 39% of those with ASN reported low/medium life satisfaction compared with 30% of those without ASN.

The Youth Information Service

A multi-agency strategic group led the work in schools in relation to Health and Wellbeing. This highlighted resilience and mental health and (exam) stress and anxiety as key issues for children and young people. Funding was secured to provide 3 Full Time Equivalent 'Youth Information Workers' delivering low level mental health support to young people in need, through one-to-one support, informal drop-ins and group work programmes.

The Youth Information Service has delivered:

- 22 Mental health ambassadors in schools.
- In October 2018 3 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) officers were appointed using Pupil Equity Fund.
- The group also committed to a stress control pilot within a secondary school delivering to S3/4 students through the curriculum as part of Personal and Social Education with over 40 teachers having undertaken Stress Control Training.

In the school year 2019/20:

- 174 young people have received 1-2-1 support with issues including: self-esteem, confidence, mental health, sexual health, relationships, bereavement, anger, domestic abuse, family, money, poverty, drugs & alcohol, anger, self-harm and self-care.
- Informal drop ins were delivered across all 15 schools along with C4U. Drop in sessions have been well attended in most schools.
- A total of 2 Boys Groups, 7 Girls Groups and 3 mixed groups have taken place across the region, with 75 regular young people attending.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

CAMHS is a multi-disciplinary team, offering a community-based service throughout Dumfries and Galloway, to children, young people and their families/carers, who are experiencing emotional, behavioural and or/ mental health problems including psychiatric disorders. CAMHS also offer a Child and Adolescent Substance Service (ISSU18).

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Over the course of the Children's Services Plan, CAMHS has delivered the following:

- A CAMHS in Primary Care pilot
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Training has been delivered for parents and joint consultation sessions held
- A CAMHS Social Media Strategy has been produced and approved. This provides a framework for the CAMHS/ISSU 18 service, to use social media to inform, engage and consult with children, young people, parents & carers.
- CAMHS now has a Twitter and an Instagram page, alongside a Facebook page.
- A CAMHS Participation and Engagement methods flyer was produced, explaining the different ways children, young people and families can currently get involved and engaged.
- Views of young people and families, and opinions on their experiences of using NHS Near Me & Telephone Call Appointments have been sought and fed back to the CAMHS Team.
- There were 1402 referrals to CAMHS in the year April 2019 to March 2020, on average 117 referrals a month.

CAMHS offer a range of therapeutic interventions including:

- Information and advice
- Individual and family therapies
- Group work
- Psychiatric assessment
- Medication for certain conditions

Active Schools

The Active Schools programme has continued to support opportunities for young people to take part in sport and physical activity before, during and after school. Working in partnership with schools and community sport clubs.

Active Schools

- 224,083 total participant sessions were delivered through the Active Schools programme in the 2018/19 Academic Year
- This included 8,449 individual participants in the Active Schools programme of which 49% were female.
- The programme now has 513 people supporting the delivery of the Active Schools Programme including 246 qualified volunteers.
- There are 34 D&G School that have registered for the sportscotland School Sport Awards. This equals a total of 28.1% from the authority. There has been a total of 9 that have achieved Gold.
- A Coaching and Volunteering Group has been established in January 2020.
- A mapping exercise completed against Coaching Scotland Framework and the group membership has been reviewed with a wider invite extended to sportscotland, Sport Leaders UK and to D&G College to improve the provision of coaching support.

School Nursing

The refocused role for School Nursing, which was tested in NHS Dumfries & Galloway during 2016-2017, is now being rolled out across Scotland. This model has a continuing focus on prevention, early intervention and support for the most vulnerable children over five years. In addition, School Nursing concentrates primarily on ten priority pathway areas under the overall headings of vulnerable children and families, mental health and wellbeing and risk-taking behaviour:

- Emotional/mental health and Wellbeing
- Substance misuse: drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- Child protection
- Domestic abuse

- Looked-after children
- Homelessness
- Sexual health and wellbeing/Pregnancy and parenthood
- Youth justice
- Young carers
- Transitions

Within Dumfries and Galloway, the new model for School Nursing is now fully embedded in practice. Referrals from other professionals or agencies are made via a Single Point of Contact email address, while a self-referral contact number has been established for parents/ carers and young people.

School Nursing:

- For the 2019/20 school year there were 323 referrals to School Nurses.
- Referrals came from Education (63%), Health (15%), Social Work (4%) and self referral (5%).
- 86% of referrals were accepted for school nurse intervention. The main reasons for the declination of referrals are that the young person is being seen by another professional or that they did not fit the criteria
- There has been a 46% increase in the number of referrals received in the 2019/20 school year compared to the 2018/19 school year.

Priority 6. - We will raise attainment and be ambitious for all children and young people

The focus of our sixth priority was on improving attainment; continuing to improve our delivery of services to children and young people with additional support needs; ensuring we have a suitably skilled workforce to deliver increased early learning and childcare; improving curricular choice; raising aspirations; support for positive destinations, and effective partnerships between schools and employers.

Improving our delivery of services to children with additional support needs.

The Supporting Learners Service is committed to shifting the balance of support across the continuum of Additional Support Needs, so that resources are better targeted to those in most need and more children are readily supported within the mainstream classroom setting

In November 2019, 9.4% of children and young people attending schools in Dumfries & Galloway were identified as having an additional support need. Of this number 0.6% have a coordinated support plan; 6.9% had an individual education plan; 2.6% were assessed as disabled; 5.7% had a Childs plan; 13.4% were registered for free school meals and 1.7% were looked after children and young people. In comparing this data with previous census returns and national values, Dumfries & Galloway data reflects national trends.

Following restructuring, the delivery of services is now through a focused team, and specific groups including:

- Educational Psychology Service
- Primary Inclusion Service
- Secondary Inclusion Service
- Autism Outreach Team
- Attendance Team
- Education Visitors Service
- Specialist Services (HI & VI)
- LAC Raising Attainment Team
- Exclusion Monitoring Group
- Additional Support for Learning Teachers
- Learning Assistants

Planning for children and identification of need is achieved using a staged intervention framework. While the focus is on mainstream classrooms and the devolution of budgets and supports to schools, there remains Resourced Provision which includes – Learning Centres, Behaviour Support Bases, Special School and Day Education Placement.

In 2019/20 there was a mapping of the ASN Learner journey, which revealed an inequity of SCN (Severe and Complex Needs) provision and differing levels of effectiveness across the authority. In response to this finding, an SCN Strategic Lead Officer role has been appointed on a seconded basis to progress both multi-agency and Principal Teacher SCN Learning Centre forums to establish strategic planning and improvement processes for children and young people with SCN.

Improvements in Primary Inclusion Service include:

- The development of curriculum offer through a strategy for use of STEM activities within curriculum, to widen pupils' knowledge and provide skills for Learning, Life and Work, and to provide outdoor education as a regular, progressive curriculum-led experience for pupils.
- Improving parental engagement in order to improve outcomes for pupils.
- Building and sustaining a professional staff team.
- Developing a new Inclusion Base.
- Providing support on an outreach basis remains a core function of the Inclusion Team.
- The management of the Service has progressed plans to ensure consistency of practice and equity across the Authority.

Improvements in Secondary Inclusion Service:

- Following the closure of Elmbank School in June 2019, the Secondary Inclusion Service was formed with the support of secondary schools.
- The service has offered specialist provision in Inclusion Bases across the region for 62 secondary aged young people during 2019/2020.
- The bases focused on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing, with other curricular areas normally covered within mainstream school.
- Furthermore, the service received 107 referrals for outreach work, supporting young people to remain included within their mainstream school.

Dumfries and Galloway were the first local authority in Scotland to set up a Time for Inclusive Education (TIE) Steering Group. There are some encouraging statistics in the 2020 D&G schools survey (Life in D&G for LGBT Young People) which involves around 400 pupils in S3-5 across the region. This year, of those who identified as LGBT (which is around 12% of those surveyed), 86% were out in school. This figure has doubled since the 2018 survey, indicating that pupils are comfortable to be out in our region's schools.

The Educational Psychology Service (EPS) refocused its priorities for session 19/20. This has seen an increase in care experienced cases known to EPS from 16% to

26%. Of the 244 requests to Educational Psychology in the past year, 10% have been in relation to literacy and have been taken forward through literacy forum. Educational Psychology Service continued to deliver training on Numeracy with Nurture. A research cohort was formed to provide a more significant evidence base. Staff were also trained in Closing the numeracy gap strategies. There has been a continued Educational Psychology role in providing joint training with Supporting Learners Team for *Talking, Listening, Questioning* 3 sessions delivered across the region Winter 2019/2020. This is an intervention aimed at Closing the Gap.

Targeted provision by Supporting Learners, of specific individualised planning with associated assessments has allowed pupils to attain at a faster rate than previously. Interventions which have been most successful include Sound Reading System, Closing Numeracy Gap, Catch Up Literacy and Catch Up Numeracy.

A Better Relationships, Better Learning conference in May 2019 led to the formation of a working group of Headteachers and Supporting Learners Officers who are developing a D&G Relationships framework which focuses on the key strategies of nurture, restorative and solution focussed approaches. The framework will be completed by December 2020.

Raising Attainment

In improving attainment for all, we continue to make progress. Across our schools in Dumfries and Galloway 2019, data shows an increase over time in achievement in almost all stages and measures for literacy and numeracy. This set of results is encouraging as it shows that the range of interventions being used in our schools to support children and young people are leading to improved outcomes.

- There is a good focus on attainment across all SIMD levels which is leading to improvements
- Partnership working is a key strength in the senior school – for example when preparing young people to leave school – this is evidenced in a number of ways including the closer links with Dumfries and Galloway College , Barony College , DYW, Skills Development Scotland and Employability Coordination Groups. This work is being supported by the developments linked to our senior phase strategy.
- In almost all national measures reported on in Insight 2018/19 data for Dumfries and Galloway shows an improved performance.

- In 2019 , Literacy and Numeracy SCQF Level 4 attainment is just above the virtual comparator data. Literacy and Numeracy SCQF Level 5 attainment is just below the virtual comparator data.
- In 2019 , the national measure of improving attainment for all shows the average tariff points for the lowest 20%, middle 60% and highest 20% values for Dumfries and Galloway is above the virtual comparator in all three categories and the national values for the lowest and the highest 20%.
- The 'Improving attainment for all' data for our leavers in 2018/19 shows a 3-year increasing trend for the highest 20% of our leavers, resulting in Dumfries and Galloway overtaking the National and virtual comparator average. More work requires to be done in this area around our lowest attaining 20% of pupils and the performance of the middle 60% which although above our virtual comparator is showing a downward trend. A refocus on curriculum offer, school's presentation policy and a move across our secondary schools to a more aligned timetable will it is hoped improve outcomes in this area. This is work being supported by our senior phase strategy
- The 'attainment versus deprivation' data for S4/5/6 leavers is overall showing a positive and is in line with the virtual comparator. Overall, it is showing improved outcomes over a period of time. A significant gap however does still exist between overall attainment in SIMD deciles 10 and 1 despite it having narrowed over time. Attainment discussions in school are particularly focusing on improved outcomes for young people in SIMD deciles 1 and 2, this work is again being supported by the expectations of the senior phase strategy.

In reducing the attainment gap, we have made some progress. Data shows that although there is a gap in achievement for those pupils living in SIMD most deprived data zones compared to those living in the least deprived data zones there has been some improvement although variations are noted with different year groups.

- Literacy 63% - Combined P1, P4, P7 is below the stretch aim of 68% for 20% most disadvantaged. S3 Literacy 66% is below the stretch aim of 84% for 20% most disadvantaged.
- Numeracy 70%- Combined P1, P4, P7 is below the stretch aim of measure 75% for 20% most disadvantaged. S3 Numeracy 84% is above the stretch aim of 80.7% for 20% most disadvantaged
- Insight national measures for Attainment vs Deprivation In lower deciles, 20% most deprived data zones show an improving performance over time. Average tariff points in decile 1- 3 are on average almost half the average tariff points of the 20% least deprived data zones. This value has increased overtime demonstrating on going improvement
- CfE data collected for the last 3 years by the SIMD deciles shows that although there is a gap in achievement for those pupils living in SIMD most deprived data zones compared to those living in the least deprived data zones there has been some improvement across the deciles. However further improvement and closer scrutiny of the impact of targeted

Raising Aspirations

All 16 secondary schools have engaged with The REACH programme (Glasgow University Widening Participation project) supporting young people considering Higher Education

The Dumfries and Galloway Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (DG STEM) education team continue the excellent work started through the RAISE programme (raising aspirations through primary science programme). The DG STEM Team have worked with 358 primary children who have engaged in a range of challenges to apply their learning across key STEM themes.

Dumfries and Galloway's Excellence and Excellence agenda focus on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing is ensuring accessible learning opportunities and appropriate interventions are in place to improve outcomes.

- Four primary schools and five secondary schools participated in the Young STEM Leader pilot. Primary schools piloted this award at SCQF level 2, with Secondary schools at SCQF level 6.
- S6 STEM Ambassador programme continues to be popular with training organised in 8 of our secondary schools supporting 69 young people to become S6 STEM Ambassadors.
- Across Dumfries & Galloway 7 primary schools, 3 secondary schools and 1 ELC setting engaged in the pilot of the new STEM Nation Award.
- In conjunction with Skills development Scotland , a 5-18 profiling approach using MyWOW is being developed to support children and young people.

Improving Curricular Choice

The majority of schools now offer more flexible qualifications e.g. national progression awards and skills for work qualifications and there are ambitious plans for this to continue next session. Dumfries and Galloway College has also been accredited as an SCQF Ambassador college and a review of the future offer from the College is underway.

All secondary schools and both local colleges agreed and adopted a partial alignment of timetables. This means that there is more flexibility in the range of options open to children and young people. It helps to ensure that there is a more equitable senior phase offer – including college courses and foundation apprenticeships, in all the region's schools irrespective of geography or size of school.

A key success in extending the curricular offer has been in the increased uptake of Foundation Apprenticeships. The local authority successfully introduced two new frameworks aligning with future needs of the local economy. These were Food and Drink Technologies and Creative and Digital Media. This enhanced existing offers from Dumfries and Galloway College for Engineering, Children and Young People and Health Care.

Support for Positive Destinations

The national benchmarking measure of leaver initial destinations shows a slight increase in the percentage of school leavers in a positive destination approximately 3 months after leaving school (i.e. initial destination). The senior phase strategy is ensuring schools are providing a range of flexible pathways for young people. Young people across our schools have access to a wide range of opportunities and the necessary support required to help them participate and progress to their next stage of learning whether that be further or higher education or to training and employment.

- The Opportunities for All (OfA) Annual Participation Measure identifies the participation status of the wider 16-19 cohort. The latest participation measure shows that 91.2% of our 16-19 year-olds are participating in training, education employment, or personal development, compared to 91.6% nationally.
- In 2019, 94.7% of leavers in Dumfries and Galloway achieved a positive destination up on the previous year at 93.9% and the same value as the virtual comparator. Dumfries and Galloway is very slightly better than the South West collaborative (94.4%) but below the national average (95.1%).

Effective partnerships between schools and employers

The Senior Phase Strategy has given fresh impetus for ensuring effective partnership working with key strategic groups including Dumfries and Galloway College; Scottish Rural Colleges Barony; Developing Young Workforce Dumfries and Galloway; Skills Development Scotland; Employability and Skills and across the South West Education Improvement Collaborative.

The Dumfries and Galloway STEM education team continues to work with the national STEM Ambassador programme, to further develop the opportunities and numbers of STEM Ambassadors across Dumfries & Galloway. The number of ambassadors now stands at 193.

The DG STEM Team worked with Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) to produce the new online portal which provides resources and links to enhance all

areas of STEM through a food and farming context. The team also worked with the SRUC to help shape the Data Set provision for use in schools.

- Working with University of Glasgow, and local STEM Ambassadors, the DG STEM Team supported the Creating Engineers Challenge, with an increasing number of D&G schools represented in this project. During the 2019/20 session, 35 primary schools, and 1182 learners participated in this challenge.
- Working with Young Enterprise Scotland, and local STEM Ambassadors, 11 of our primary schools, representing 7 clusters, had the opportunity to engage in a national circular economy project.

Measuring success

The performance indicators in the following section are part of a wider suite of indicators that considered together, give a global picture of the wellbeing of children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway.

Some of the indicators from the original suite have been omitted for the following reasons:

- Some indicators have changed and have been replaced by updated versions.
- Some do not have up-to-date information because they are published every 2 years (for example the child dental health indicator which will next be published in 2021) or the teenage pregnancy indicator (a rolling 3-year rate where the most recent published data is for 2016/17).
- Some data has not yet been published due to delays resulting from the Covid-19 situation.

Many of the indicators are published nationally, especially those for Health and Social Work. These tend to be published in the year following the reporting period. This means that the following indicator report runs up to 2018/19. However, we do have local data available in 2020 that allows us to see progression over the last year.

The indicators are used to help prioritise actions in our 2020-23 Children's Services Plan.

Publication of some figures has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Of the 33 indicators where we do have the most recent figures, 26 are either showing either positive or stable trends. Where figures remain stable it may indicate a degree of success in being able to maintain existing activity despite a challenging financial environment.

Positive trends

- We have lower numbers of children on the Child Protection Register and our re-registration rates are low.
- Parent/carer attendance at initial case conference and subsequent core groups is 100%.
- We continue to maintain a positive balance of care, with 94% of our children and young people looked-after in a community setting rather than a residential setting.
- We are improving the rate at which we complete health assessments, thereby ensuring that the health needs of our most vulnerable children and young people are identified as quickly as possible. Our most recent figures show that 80% of assessments are carried out in the target timeframe.
- Exclusions of looked-after children and young people have reduced following our introduction of a policy aimed at addressing this.

- More care-experienced children and young people are taking part in free leisure and cultural activities.
- Referrals to the Children's Reporter have reduced.
- We have fewer applications to the Homeless Service from young people who have been looked-after within the last 5 years.
- We are consistently achieving a high percentage of pregnant women – across all deciles of deprivation - booking for ante-natal care by the 12th week of gestation.
- We have had increasing attendance at our swimming pools and sport and leisure facilities.
- The percentage of pupils gaining 5+ awards at level 6 has increased.
- The proportion of School Leavers entering positive destinations has increased.
- The proportion of school Leavers gaining Literacy and Numeracy at National 4 has increased.

Areas for Improvement

Where data tells us that we need to improve, we have prioritised improvement activity in our 2020-23 Children's Services Plan. Work is already in progress to improve:

- Educational attainment for looked-after children and young people.
- Positive destinations for looked-after children and young people.
- The range of accommodation options, in particular for those young people who require the most support and guidance.
- A continued focus on early intervention and prevention particularly around mental health and well-being. In particular, we need to focus on the mental health of girls.
- Ensuring streamlined and effective services and supports for children with disabilities from diagnosis to transition.
- Our response to children affected by domestic abuse and parental substance misuse.
- Our multi-agency approach to the increasing challenges presented by poverty and its impact on children and young people.
- The way that we support parents/carers through parenting programmes and other supports, in the critical role that they play in the lives of their children.

Monitoring and Reporting

The Children's Services Executive Group has met regularly during the lifetime of the Plan and given particular consideration to the areas not on target.

The Annual Reports on the Plan have been submitted on time and approved by the Council and NHS Board.

Updates have been provided to the Community Planning Partnership Board on a quarterly basis, so that a wide range of public, private and third sector partners have awareness and engagement in this work.

In Conclusion

Over the last three years, the Community Planning Partnership has delivered an ambitious plan of improvement with many key successes, particularly with regard to child protection. The GIRFEC framework continues to be embedded across partner agencies. A wide range of anti-poverty measures has been resourced, developed and delivered. Significant investment in staff has supported new and creative ways of working more effectively with children and families. Challenges remain, 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 2020-23 Children's Services Plan will continue to deliver improvement across these areas of challenge, and we remain resolute in our focus on improving outcomes for children, young people and families.

It is acknowledged that the 2017-20 Children's Services Plan concluded just at the point at which the scale and the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic were becoming apparent. This will have implications for children's services planning in the future; but has highlighted the importance and necessity of working together to identify and address shared priorities.

Childrens Services Plan Scorecard Report

Generated on: 22 July 2020



Priority 1: We will ensure that children and young people are safe and free from harm															
Code	Key Performance Indicators	Value	Target	Last Update	Short Trend	2016/17			2017/18			2018/19			Status
						Value	Target	Long Trend	Value	Target	Long Trend	Value	Target	Long Trend	
CSEG01	Emergency hospital admissions as a result of an unintentional injury, children aged under 15. (Standardised Discharge Ratio)	114.9		2018/19	↓	99.7		↓	98.8		↑	114.9		↓	
CSE G28	Number of Initial Child Protection Case Conferences.	284		2017/18	?	225		?	284		?				Not yet published
CSEG 29	No. of children on the Child Protection Register as rate per 1000 population aged 0-15 years	4		2017/18	?	3.3		?	4		?				Not yet published
CSEG3 0	No. of registrations following an initial case conference, pre-birth or transfer-in (per 1000 population aged 0-15 years)	8.1		2017/18	?	6.5		?	8.1		?				Not yet published
CSEG3 1	Percentage of children on the Child Protection Register for more than 12 months at the point of de-registration	8%		2017/18	?	9%		?	8%		?				Not yet published
CSEG32	Percentage of IRD Decisions and Actions recorded within 24 hours	88%		2017/18	↓	91.5%	100%	↑	88%		↓	91%			

CSEGG33	Number of children re-registered on the Child Protection Register in the last 12 months.	27		2017/18		32			27			22			
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Priority 2: We will ensure children and young people get support at the earliest appropriate time through prevention and early intervention

Code	Key Performance Indicators	Value	Target	Last Update	Short Trend	2016/17			2017/18			2018/19			Status
						Value	Target	Long Trend	Value	Target	Long Trend	Value	Target	Long Trend	
CSEG12a	Number of children referred to the Reporter on Section 67 Grounds. (All grounds - offending and non-offending)	588		2018/19		520			611			588			
CSEG17	Children & young people referred to SCRA: percentage of referrals that are on offence grounds.	25.17%		2018/19		25.96%			26.02%			25.17%			
oP1C1-CYPLL01	Number of young people and adults who report an improvement in their confidence and in their individual, family, community or working life [regional]	14,026	13,350	2018/19		7,097	6,965		14,014	6,513		14,026	13,350		

Priority 3: We will improve the Wellbeing and life chances of our most vulnerable children and young people															
Code	Key Performance Indicators	Value	Target	Last Update	Short Trend	2016/17			2017/18			2018/19			Status
						Value	Target	Long Trend	Value	Target	Long Trend	Value	Target	Long Trend	
CSEG24	Percentage of looked-after children with 3 or more placements in the last year.	6%		2018/19		7%			6%			6%			
CSEG25	Percentage of Health and wellbeing assessments carried out in compliance with CEL16 requirement - ie within 4 weeks of notification. Target is 90% within 4 weeks.	76 %		2018/19		37 %	90 %		63 %	90 %		76 %	90%		
P2C1M8 SW_PI03	Balance of care for Looked After Children: % of children being looked after in the community	94.2%	95.55%	2018/19		94.2%	95.55%		93.86%	95.55%		94.2%	95.55%		
P2C3CY PLL22	Looked after Children Attendance Rate, Primary School, Dumfries and Galloway	93.58%	94.1%	2019/20		95.72%	94.1%		95.46%	94.1%		95.69%	94.1%		
P2C3CY PLL23	Looked after Children Attendance Rate, Secondary School, Dumfries and Galloway	83.22%	85.4%	2019/20		87.36%	85.4%		86.82%	85.4%		84.87%	85.4%		
P2C3M05 Q&C_PI0 3	Proportion of Looked after Children School Leavers entering positive destinations	66.67%	86.67%	2018/19		72.41%	87.24%		82.86%	87.14%		66.67%	86.67%		

P3C1M1N S_PI01	No of homeless applications received where someone has been a looked after child by the Local Authority less than 5 years ago	7	20	2020/21		36						20	20		
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Priority 4: We will work to remove barriers so that all children and young people have equality of opportunity

Code	Key Performance Indicators	Value	Target	Last Update	Short Trend	2016/17			2017/18			2018/19			Status
						Value	Target	Long Trend	Value	Target	Long Trend	Value	Target	Long Trend	
CSEG20	Number of young people presenting as homeless. (aged 16-17)	38		2018/19					38			38			
CSEG27	Number of households with dependent children / pregnant women in temporary homeless accommodation (end of year snapshot)	23		2018/19					25			23			
P2C1CC S01	Number of Looked After Children and young people and care leavers participating in Leisure and Sport activities.	378		2018/19		239	200		310	250		378			

Priority 5: We will deliver the best possible health and Wellbeing for all children and young people

Code	Key Performance Indicators	Value	Target	Last Update	Short Trend	2016/17			2017/18			2018/19			Status
						Value	Target	Long Trend	Value	Target	Long Trend	Value	Target	Long Trend	
CSEG04.0	CSEG04.0 The lowest percentage of pregnant women in any of the SIMD quintiles that booked for antenatal care by the 12th week of gestation	85.8%	80%	2018/19		85.9%	80%		85.3%	80%		85.8%	80%		
CSEG06	Percentage of babies of healthy birth weight (appropriate weight for gestational age) by year of birth.	82.5%		2018/19		88.1%			80%			82.5%			
CSEG08	Percentage of children in Primary 1 in D&G categorised as Healthy Weight (epidemiological categories)	73.6		2018/19		70.2			74.9			73.6			
CSEG09	Percentage of mothers in the Community Health Partnership who are exclusively breastfeeding at the 6-8 week review.	25.4%		2018/19		26%			28%			25.4%			
KF3S&H C_PI03	The number of attendances at swimming pools (Regional) (AREA)	535,235	429,000	2019/20		383,138	351,185		419,900	365,337		418,969	380,758		
KF3S&H C_PI04	The number of attendances for indoor sports and leisure facilities (Regional) (AREA)	980,387	875,000	2019/20		762,538	659,740		845,776	672,936		864,448	745,627		

Priority 6: We will raise attainment and be ambitious for all children and young people

Code	Key Performance Indicators	Value	Target	Last Update	Short Trend	2016/17			2017/18			2018/19			Status
						Value	Target	Long Trend	Value	Target	Long Trend	Value	Target	Long Trend	
P2C3CY PLL20	Attendance Rate, Primary School, Dumfries and Galloway	94.61%	94.9%	2019/20	↓	95.72%	95.1%	↓	95.28%	95.1%	↓	95.46%	94.9%	↓	✓
P2C3M01 Q&C_PIO 2	Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ awards at level 6	33%	34%	2018/19	↑	33%	34%	↑	29%	34%	↓	33%	34%	↑	⚠
P2C3M01 Q&C_PIO 6	Proportion of School Leavers entering positive destinations	94.7%	95%	2018/19	↑	94.6%	95%	↑	93.9%	95%	↓	94.7%	95%	↑	✓
P2C3M01 Q&C_PIO 7	Literacy and Numeracy @ National 4 for school leavers	89.3%	88.87%	2018/19	↑	90.19%	88.73%	↑	88.71%	87.59%	↑	89.3%	88.87%	↑	✓
P2C3M01 Q&C_PIO 8	Literacy and Numeracy @ National 5 for school leavers	59.9%	64.56%	2018/19	↓	66.71%	65.92%	↑	62.57%	63.41%	↑	59.9%	64.56%	↑	⚠
P2C3M01 Q&C_PIO 9	Improving Attainment for All - The complimentary tariff score of school leavers (lowest 20%)	140	128	2018/19	↓	153	145	↑	143	127	↓	140	128	↓	✓

P2C3M01 Q&C_P11 0	Improving Attainment for All - The complimentary tariff score of school leavers (middle 60%)	592	586	2018/19		623	622		592	598		592	586		
P2C3M01 Q&C_P11 1	Improving Attainment for All - The complimentary tariff score of school leavers (highest 20%)	1,295	1,241	2018/19		1,264	1,248		1,251	1,242		1,295	1,241		
P2C3M05 Q&C_P10 3	Proportion of Looked after Children School Leavers entering positive destinations	66.67%	86.67%	2018/19		72.41%	87.24%		82.86%	87.14%		66.67%	86.67%		
P2C3M07 Q&C_P10 2	Percentage of pupils in lowest 20% SIMD achieving 5 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or higher	15%	18%	2018/19		15%	15%		10%	16%		15%	18%		
P2C3M07 Q&C_P10 9	Percentage of P1, P4 and P7 children (combined) achieving the CfE Level relevant to their stage in Literacy – (lowest 20% SIMD)	61%	68%	2018/19		67%	68%		61%	68%		61%	68%		
P2C3M07 Q&C_P11 1	Percentage of S3 children achieving CfE 3rd Level or better in Literacy – (lowest 20% SIMD)	64%	84%	2018/19		56%	84%		74%	84%		64%	84%		
P2C3M07 Q&C_P11 3	Percentage of P1, P4 and P7 children (combined) achieving the CfE Level relevant to their stage in Numeracy – (lowest 20% SIMD)	67%	75%	2018/19		72%	75%		71%	75%		67%	75%		

P2C3M07 Q&C_PI1 5	Percentage of S3 children achieving CfE 3rd Level or better in Numeracy – (lowest 20% SIMD)	80%	84%	2018/19		73%	84%		79%	84%		80%	84%			

PI Status	
	Alert
	Warning
	OK
	Unknown
	Data Only