



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 7 JUNE 2023**

SUBJECT: INFORMATION REPORT: CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2023-26

BY: CHIEF OFFICER, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE MORAY

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the Children's Services Plan 2023-26 which was signed off by the Community Planning Board on 17 May 2023.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Committee in terms of sections III (D) (1 and 2) of the Council's Scheme of Administration in relation to the functions of the Council as an Education and Social Work Authority.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Part 3 of the Children Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a statutory duty on the local authority and its relevant health board to prepare a Children's Services Plan for the area of the local authority, in respect of each three-year period. It is expected that they will work collaboratively with other members of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), as well as with children, young people and their families at various stages of the plan's development and review.
- 2.2 Part 3 of the Act seeks to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Scotland by ensuring that local planning and delivery of services is integrated, focused on securing quality and value through preventative approaches, and dedicated to safeguarding, supporting and promoting child wellbeing. It aims to ensure that any action to meet need is taken at the earliest appropriate time and that, where appropriate, this is taken to prevent need arising.
- 2.3 The Scottish Government reviews all Children's Services Plans within 6 months of submission in line with statutory criteria detailed below.

1.	Does the Children's Services Plan: Have a clear, ambitious compelling shared vision of what will be achieved by the end of the plan?
2.	Reflect relevant National Performance Framework Outcomes?
3.	Incorporate a robust evidence-based joint strategic needs assessment

	of the current population of the children and young people in its area?
4.	Include analysis of quantitative and qualitative evidence and data relating to both service performance and child wellbeing?
5.	Identify a manageable number of measureable priorities clearly linked to the joint needs assessment to ensure that the rationale behind the priorities is explicit?
6.	Cover local services which fall into the categories of both 'children's services' and 'related services' in its scope?
7.	Recognise and describe services which can fulfil both 'primary prevention' and 'early intervention' across all aspects of wellbeing?
8.	Describe how the Community Planning Partnership is creating and maintaining effective Getting it Right for Every Child practice for individual children, young people and their families?
9.	Describe how the Community Planning Partnership is using children's rights to inform the structural, procedural and outcome framework of the plan?
10.	Convey a shared sense of ongoing engagement and ownership with staff, children, young people, families and the wider community, evidencing that the Community Planning Partnership has made a full use of stakeholder's ideas and suggestions?
11.	Set out a comprehensive strategy for supporting families through a broad range of preventative and early intervention approaches from universal services to targeted intensive support and describe the rationale for how and where the family support services are provided?
12.	Describe what services are going to be developed in the future and specifying which areas will see disinvestment in order to facilitate the shift of resources towards preventative and early intervention options?
13.	Set clear indicators for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of children's services in terms of their success in responding to and addressing children's wellbeing needs?
14.	Present all the information in an easily accessible format which is SMART?
15.	Illustrate links to other statutory plans and reports?

2.4 In June 2022, GLG agreed to incorporate the following statutory plans within CSP:-

- Child Poverty Plan
- Corporate Parenting Plan
- Children's Rights and Participation Plan

2.5 In addition, it was agreed to incorporate the Promise Plan and the Child Protection Improvement Plan. The Scottish Government has endorsed this approach.

2.6 The action plans within the CSP detail the steps we will take to both meet our statutory duties and address the key areas of concern, as highlighted through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Development Process

- 2.7 GLG members devolved responsibility to produce the CSP to a multiagency development group made up of representatives identified from their own organisations. In addition, there was representation from Adult Services.
- 2.8 The development process is detailed in P10 of the Children's Services Plan and meets all requirements, as set out in the statutory guidance.
- 2.9 The plan is based on a robust Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), which was produced on a partnership basis, led by Public Health. [JSNA Presentation 2023](#)

Key Points to Highlight

- 2.10 All efforts have been made to simplify the planning landscape within Children's Services.
- 2.11 By incorporating the key partnership plans that have an exclusive focus on improving outcomes for children and families into the CSP, the number of separate and often disconnected planning forums is reduced. The added benefits of this approach are:-
- Less staff time is spent on producing and reporting against plans. The Children's Services Plan Annual Reports will meet out statutory reporting responsibilities in relation to Child Poverty, Children's Rights and Corporate Parenting.
 - More coordinated engagement activities with children, young people and families, which minimises the risk over consultation.
- 2.12 The action plans are more detailed, based on feedback from the members of the strategic groups with responsibility for overseeing the delivery of the previous plan. This approach ensures there is greater clarity on the steps that need to be taken to achieve the agreed outcomes.
- 2.13 Throughout the development of the plan, there has been a clear focus on ensuring the plan comprises of a manageable set of actions. This includes the specific actions we are required to take to meet our statutory responsibilities. The Tackling Child Poverty and Improving Outcomes for Care Experienced and Looked After Children are lengthier, to reflect statutory responsibilities, as well as the requirement to deliver the Promise Change Plan 2021-24.
- The majority of the short-term actions are already underway as we transition from CSP 2020-23 to the new plan.
- 2.14 The CSP incorporates the national wellbeing dataset
Baseline data is included in the 'Wellbeing of Moray's Children' section of the plan (see P7).
- 2.15 The CSP has been reviewed through a Children's Services inspection lens, given the impending inspection of Children's Services, which has a clear focus on how the partnership is improving outcomes for children and young people in need of care and protection.

- 2.16 This plan has been written with and for children, young people and their families. The language throughout reflects this and meets our requirement to Keep the Promise.
- 2.17 Children 1st have kindly agreed to support children, families and frontline practitioners to produce a 'plan on a page'. It will be distributed across the partnership and publically displayed.
- 2.18 The Community Planning Board have requested a mid-point progress report and interactive session to explore how they can best support the delivery of the plan.

3. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

The Children's Services Plan 2023-26 supports the delivery of key priorities within the Corporate Plan and the LOIP

'Provide opportunities for people to be the best they can be throughout their lives with a strong sustained focus on those individuals and groups in our society who experience the most disadvantage and discrimination'
Corporate Plan 2024

'Building a better future for our children and young people in Moray' from the LOIP.

(b) Policy and Legal

Part 3 of the Children Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a statutory duty on the local authority and its relevant health board to prepare a Children's Services Plan for the area of the local authority, in respect of each three-year

A progress report must be submitted to the Scottish Government on an annual basis.

(c) Financial implications

The CSP outlines the partnership commitment to pool their finite resources to meet their shared responsibility to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. It will be reviewed and revised as required on an annual basis.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no known risk implications.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications arising from the production of the annual report.

(f) Property

There are no property issues.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

An Equalities/Socio Economic Impact Assessment is not required as this report is to inform Committee of the Children's Services Plan (2023-26).

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

Not applicable.

(i) Consultations

GIRFEC Leadership Group and Community Planning Officers Group have reviewed and endorsed the plan.

Extensive consultation undertaken with children, young people, their families and the front line practitioners who know them best informed the priorities and action plans within the CSP. See details on Page 10.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The CSP (2023-26) is for noting so all organisations are fully cognisant of the multi-agency commitment to improve the lives of the children, young people and families of Moray.

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Background Papers:

Ref: SPMAN-305227695-91 / SPMAN-305227695-90