



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

Healthy Achieving Nurtured Partnerships Respected Responsible Included Active



getting
it right
for every child
in South Lanarkshire



SLC
Print Proof
f



Contents

Part one

1. Foreword – Liam Purdie, Head of Children and Justice Services	2
2. Our targets and priorities	3
3. Progress	4
4. Children’s Rights	25
5. Self-Evaluation and Quality Assurance	29
6. Our partnership	30
7. Workforce development	32

Part two

Final year priorities 2019-2020	33
--	-----------

1. Foreword

Welcome to the second annual report for our current children's services plan 2017-2020 – Working Together: Making a Difference. I hope you enjoy reading the report which reflects the progress we are making towards our shared vision of ensuring that.



South Lanarkshire's children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.

This report highlights key achievements and identifies what we still need to do to further improve the life chances of our children, young people and families.

Throughout the last 12 months we have maintained our focus on the three themes of:

- Prevention and early support
- Health and wellbeing and
- Supporting vulnerable groups and keeping children safe

These have been the key drivers for our work and are the organisers for our annual report and in working across these themes we have maximised the strength of our partnership and ensured our continued commitment to get it right for every child, young person and family in South Lanarkshire.

Our plan and the supporting actions contribute towards the Community Planning Partnership shared objective of tackling deprivation, poverty and inequality and in particular the challenge of reducing child poverty. We have embedded much of the work of the Children's Services Partnership in South Lanarkshire's Local Outcome Improvement Plan through updating our Partnership Improvement Plan (PIP).

The work of the Children's Services Partnership is informed by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and outcomes from key participation activity including engagement work with care experienced young people and work embedded in all our activity to ensure that the voices of our children, young people and families are heard as part of our shared planning processes.

Through striving for Continuous Improvement I am confident that effective governance structures are in place that facilitate our commitment to self-evaluation and improvement and enable multi-agency reflection on practice, delivery of services and best value.

As we move into the final year of our three year plan we will continue to put improvement at the centre of our partnership working and maintain a clear focus on those aspects of our work that we need to improve to ensure best possible outcomes for our children, young people and families.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liam Purdie".

Liam Purdie

Head of Children and Justice Services



2. Our targets and priorities

The table below illustrates how the various areas of activity are organised within our plan and are linked to key priorities and high level outcomes.

Children have the best start in life and are supported to realise their potential.	The health and wellbeing of children, young people and families is improved.	The life chances of our most vulnerable children and young people are improved.
Children's exposure to second hand smoke in pregnancy and early childhood is reduced	Emotional and behavioural concerns in early years is reduced	Employability of care experienced young people is improved
The number of children living in low income households is reduced	More children and young people are a healthy weight	Attainment for care experienced children and young people is improved
Speech, language and communication in early years is improved	Health and wellbeing of care experienced children and young people is improved	Attendance at school for care experienced children and young people is improved
School attendance of children and young people in the most deprived communities is improved	Emotional wellbeing of children and young people is improved	The rate of repeat referrals to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) is reduced
Attainment of children and young people in the most deprived communities is improved	Substance misuse by young people is reduced	Support to children and families affected by homelessness is improved
Employability of young people within the most deprived communities is improved	Teenage pregnancies in under 16's is reduced	Support to children and families affected by domestic abuse is improved
		Support to children and young people affected by parental substance misuse is improved
		Support to young carers is improved
		Support to children and young people with additional support needs is improved

3. Our plan and its progress

Our second annual report sets out details of how we have worked together to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in South Lanarkshire. It builds a picture of the information we have gathered as we monitor and report on the progress towards our stated outcomes. For a second year we have produced a dashboard mapping our key data which indicates the difference we are making to the lives of children and families in South Lanarkshire. We have used the dashboard to inform our collective analysis of the important trends that help us understand progress towards our desired outcomes. *A copy of the dashboard is available on request.

We have embraced the additional scrutiny and duty that comes with the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and we welcome the revised focus for future children’s services inspections. We are working with the Child Protection Committee and Corporate Parenting leads to ensure that the Child Protection and Corporate Parenting agendas are explicit within our children’s service plan activity.

The various areas of Children’s Services Plan activity are embedded in the work of strategic sub groups and other supporting groups and regular monitoring and review is led by partners who are closest to the work.

In recording of Children’s Services Plan progress we have made use of established governance processes and systems to enable formal reporting to the partnership to enable challenge and reflection in relation to achievements and areas for improvement.



The following section details the work undertaken in relation to each of our priority themes:



Prevention and early support

Vision

Children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.

Outcome 1

Children have the best start in life and are supported to realise their potential



Indicator 1.1

Exposure to second hand smoke evidenced during the **27-30 month Child Health Review** has reduced from **8.8% in 2018 to 6.6% this year.**



Health Visitors have been providing a brief intervention support on smoking and exposure to second hand smoke to parents/carers at the earliest possible time in a child's life. Staff have benefitted from training to implement a newly developed referral pathway that has meant improved signposting to support services. This activity has led to a 21% reduction in exposure to second hand smoke for children with parents recorded as smokers, making these homes healthier for babies and young children to grow up in.

Indicator 1.2

Percentage of children living in low income households has **reduced from our baseline figure in 2014 (18.4%) to the latest figure available 16.1% (2017).**



A range of activity to address child poverty is helping to increase income into households with children. The following areas of work highlight those explicit in our plan.

Free School Meals

Current work around Free School Meals has led to an automatic award for those pupils in P4 to S6 who are entitled to this benefit, an approach built upon ensuring those who had previously claimed Free School Meals continue to access the award. The uptake rate currently sits at 6302 children and includes approximately 4,500 pupils who were previous applicants and circumstances were unchanged from one academic year to the next so they have benefited from the automatic award. The current uptake is 97% up from 82% on last year.

We have provided information for parents to raise the awareness of Free School Meals and School Clothing Grants entitlements as well as an increased focus on the concept of the cost of the school day. All school establishments are working on a position statement around the cost of the school day, which will include actions to encourage pupils to stay in school for lunch.

Financial Inclusion support by Midwives, Health Visitors and Social Work Family Support

Our routine enquiry approach by Health Visitors, Midwives and Family Support Workers to raise the issue of financial wellbeing with parents as an integral part of universal pathways supports effective signposting to money advice services. As a result of this there has been substantial financial improvement for many families. In a random sample of 20 families we have evidenced a financial outcome gain of £95,995, similar to the successes of last year.

In the reporting period April 18-February 19 there were 845 referrals from Midwives and Health Visitors into the Telephone Advice Line, a 37% increase from the previous year.

In addition to the specific referrals to Money Matters Telephone Advice Line from statutory providers, our third sector partners have been working with service users to offer a range of supports to parents/carers and families, including:

- The provision of eight select Hubs offering support regarding Universal Credit
- Support to parent/carers on low income supporting them to access Citizen Advice services and to make informed choices about their spending
- 1-1 mentoring support which includes referrals to appropriate financial services e.g. Money Matters
- Support to parents through group work sessions on financial wellbeing and budgeting
- The provision of food bank vouchers and assisting families to access food parcels
- Support to community cafés and a food crisis café where families in food poverty/low incomes are encouraged to attend and get free healthy meals and support.



Roll out the use of the Lanarkshire Money Worries app

Partners are working to support the use of the Money Worries app and promote the tool with all professionals and members of the public.

In the period April 2018-Feb 2019, 30 South Lanarkshire users were recorded as having taken up Healthy Start Vouchers an increase of 3% on the previous year.

Indicator 1.3

Improvement activity in 2017 aimed to reduce inequalities at the 27/30 month child health review indicated the need to focus improvements on SIMD Quintiles 1, 2, 3 and 4. The latest figures evidence that three out of four SIMD areas have achieved and some exceeded the national goal of 85% of children meeting their expected developmental milestones. We have seen upward trend in SIMD 1, 3 including an **impressive improvement of 6.6% in SIMD 1. From 73% in 2017 to 79.6% shown in the latest available data in March 2018.**



Speech and Language Therapy staff have been collaborating with Early Learning and Childcare practitioners to deliver language development training, which has helped develop confidence and skills in the early year's workforce and improved support for early language development. This complements the established early year's literacy training delivered collaboratively with educational psychology which contributes to the development of vocabulary and phonological awareness skills.

Our improvement work continues to focus on an early intervention tool used by Health Visitors to address early identification and intervention for speech and language concerns at 27-30 months and reduces the need/demand for specialist intervention at a later stage.

The Speech and Language service continue to develop services to ensure concerns are addressed early, including offering early language workshops for parents, drop – in advice clinics and the development of a social media platform to ensure that parents understand key messages around early language.

Early Years partners have developed an approach that encourages positive, non-stigmatising language in the promotion of free early learning and childcare places and highlights the learning and developmental benefits for 2 year olds accessing places. A "Starting Nursery Booklet" is widely available and provides information about how to access a nursery place.

There has been an increase in the number of eligible children attending nursery and self-evaluation indicates improving outcomes for families e.g. for parents there are increased employability skills and confidence, for children there is better planning for individual children's learning needs.

Our Parenting Support Pathway continues to help staff offer the best possible support programmes to increase parenting capacity and ensure that our children get the best possible support. Support to parents includes Mellow Parenting, Early Years Framework for Assessment and Intervention in Attachment and Resilience, You and Your Child and Incredible Years.

Indicator 1.4

School attendance

2018 School Attendance rates -
primary, (92.3%) secondary (86.9%) and ASN (88.9%)
data demonstrating a total figure of 90.1%.
This is down slightly on 2017 figures of primary
(93.1%), secondary (87.1%) and ASN (90%)
total attendance – (90.6%)



We have been reviewing attendance procedures and we are developing a revised set of guidelines on how to use staged intervention methodology in schools when dealing with attendance issues. Revised guidance is due in the Autumn of 2019.

As a result of extra support for the attendance of care experienced pupils who are looked after at home, there has been improved attendance rates. 2018 figures are 82.2% compared to 79.8% in 2017. This improvement in attendance enables pupils to engage better in school and achieve better attainment outcomes.

In addition to support provided by Education Resources staff, our third sector partners offer targeted activity across South Lanarkshire e.g. COVEY Befriending provides one to one support, befriending and groups for socially isolated young people and some who have a difficulty attending school. Other projects e.g. Machan Trust provide activities to encourage improved attendance via breakfast and lunch clubs in schools in the Larkhall area.





Indicator 1.5

Percentage of children successfully achieving relevant levels of literacy

Primary 4 – First Level:

The current figure is 60%, a 6% increase from our baseline. The gap has reduced from 24% to 17% between SIMD 1 and 5.

Primary 7 – Second Level:

The current figure is 58.6%, a 9.6% increase, with the gap reducing 1% from 25 to 24% between SIMD 1 and 5.

S3 - Third Level:

Our current figure is 88.5%, up 12.5% on the previous year's figures. The gap has reduced from 19% to 9.1% between SIMD 1 and 5.



In our schools, Literacy Co-ordinators continue to have the opportunity to meet twice a session at the Literacy Co-ordinators Meeting and at the Literacy Conference to share, learn and collaborate about best practice. Additionally a literacy briefing paper was re-launched in September 2018 to highlight key messages and share good practice in the use and impact of literacy interventions.

We have offered specialised activity such as Book Bug and 'Read, Write Count bags' which have been distributed to all establishments to support family engagement and encourage parental support in school and at home for literacy development.

Training for our staff has been a priority and we have provided Active Literacy Training Programmes for staff in primary schools as well as Catch Up Literacy training. 82 schools now have at least one trained Catch Up Literacy staff member. A block of Fresh Start Phonics training has been arranged for Secondary Support for Learning teachers and English teachers and we have extended awareness raising for all schools on the Dyslexia Toolkit.

A Framework for identifying, understanding and addressing the additional support needs of children and young people with weak literacy skills and dyslexia within South Lanarkshire has been launched and will be supported by a series of awareness raising events for our staff.

Our third sector organisations add value to this agenda through a range of targeted activity and examples include storytelling sessions, support for vulnerable families in need of extra support to attend Book Bug sessions and dedicated Book Bug, Play@home and Health and Wellbeing courses for families.

Indicator 1.6

School Leaver Destinations

Percentage of young people within each SIMD quintile participating in employment, education or training.

In 2017-2018, the South Lanarkshire figure of positive destinations achieved by young people in the **20% most deprived areas was 93.2%.**



This is the highest figure recorded since figures became available and it is above the national average of **90.4%, for the 20% most deprived areas.**



Through the continued delivery of the Aspire Youth Employability programme we have supported young people from the 20% most deprived areas over the last three years and we are starting to see some strong progress. The Aspire Youth Employability Service ensures young people who are most vulnerable are supported to achieve and sustain a positive destination by developing an individualised package of support to meet the specific needs of the young person. This includes home contact, aftercare support and ongoing tracking and monitoring.

Our school leaver destinations were the best they have ever been in 2018 especially for those school leavers in our most deprived communities.

In addition to school leavers, Aspire staff support young people who are six months from their official school leaving date up to age 19. This year Aspire has supported 742 young people, each one via a bespoke programme which includes work experience, vocational tasters, employability skills, volunteering or health and wellbeing interventions. (84% of these young people moved onto a positive destination and those who didn't were given ongoing support from the service). We are also offering an increased number of innovate opportunities throughout the Senior Phase in schools including Gradu8 and Foundation Apprenticeships delivered in partnership with the Further Education colleges.

Third sector organisations add value to the Youth Employability landscape in a number of ways: e.g. through employability events and training and support for young adult volunteers aged 14 years and above as well as school/work placement opportunities. Our third sector partners often provide valuable support by assisting young people to apply for college places and employment, helping with application forms, CV's and provision of references.



The GradU8 programme supported a Carluke High School pupil to undertake a National 4 in Hairdressing at New College Lanarkshire. Despite having no experience of hairdressing, the student was enthusiastic to engage in the college experience and it was an ideal opportunity to gain practical work based learning skills.

The student very quickly demonstrated a natural creative talent for Hairdressing and was selected to represent the college at a prestigious regional and national UK competition where they won GOLD.

Carluke High School commented "We are delighted with the progress that all of our Gradu8 students have made this year as they develop the skills and confidence to enable them to succeed in their chosen career. This is a great example of a student who has worked hard and has taken the opportunity to go and excel at national level. We are very proud of everything they have achieved and wish every success for their future career."



Health and wellbeing

Vision

Children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.

Outcome 2

The health and wellbeing of children, young people and families is improved



Indicator 2.1

Percentage of children with no emotional and behavioural developmental concerns at 27-30 months

The latest figure evidences **93.3% of children with no emotional/behavioural concern at 27-30 months a 3.3% increase.**



Over the last year we have focused on building the workforce capacity to deliver the range of core Parenting Support Pathway programmes across our four localities that support the attachment and resilience of children. We have delivered Incredible Years and Mellow Parenting programmes and continue to use the Early Years Framework for Assessment and Intervention and Resilience (EYFAIAR). This has supported parents to build their skills and confidence to manage their children's behaviour in the early years.



Investment in the Incredible Years programme has been substantial and 11 groups were delivered with 135 referrals received and 80 families (91 parents and carers) participating in the programme. This represents a doubling of the number of parents and carers engaged, with 48% of parents participating in Incredible Years living within SIMD 1 postcode areas. Most families (58%) were able to evidence an improvement through the use of the Strengths Difficulties Questionnaire tool used to show a positive change in the behaviours of children

Since the last update in January, the Education Attachment Strategy Implementation Group has met and a dissemination plan for the strategy is being developed as well as a training plan to support workforce development opportunities. Attachment training was delivered to 281 practitioners from Education and Social work, with 105 parents also benefiting.

Third sector partners also make a valuable contribution to developing attachment and resilience in our families e.g. through parent support and support to children affected by substance misuse. Liber8's new Talk2Us Parent Counselling service is aimed at parents with mental health issues and counsellors are trained in Attachment Theory and some are trained in the Solihull Approach. The Haven provides a Children and Family Service to those affected by Bereavement, Grief and Loss and those affected by life limiting illness. Healthy Valleys provides various courses for families in need of extra support which provides opportunities to improve attachment, bonding and parenting skills. Healthy and Happy provide Early Years Parent Cafés, baby massage courses and supported referrals into a range of services for vulnerable parents.

Indicator 2.2

Percentage of P1 children with a healthy weight

The current figure is
**77% and remains
below the target of 88%.**
(Last year's figure was 77.7%)



Realigning Children's Services programme data has been reviewed by the Healthy Schools team and is part of on-going work which will see a website redeveloped with a new section included under the heading of "Health Enhancing School Environment" that will support the development of Healthy Schools and Healthy Schools Plus programmes. This piece of work is on-going and is included within the 2019/20 Child Healthy Weight Action Plan for completion by March 2020

Third sector partners provide added value to this agenda in a number of important ways, such as providing activities designed to increase physical activity e.g. cycling, walking, sports and games and cookery sessions, growing food locally and workshops aimed at improving nutrition and informing healthy eating choices.

Health Visiting teams are leading on projects to encourage breastfeeding and supporting vulnerable young mums. Two successful 'Programme for Government' bids were achieved aimed at increasing the capacity of staff to encourage breastfeeding and an additional midwife post to support practice around 'skin to skin' bonding in the neonatal unit was created.

Third sector organisations support the breastfeeding agenda in a range of ways, including the provision of early years parent cafés, baby massage courses the delivery of health and wellbeing courses and brief interventions which promote the benefits of breastfeeding.

The Active Schools programme provides a positive and increasing range of sport and leisure opportunities. In 2017/18, 21,407 pupils participated **(48.6% of the school roll) - a 2.6% increase on the previous year and exceeding our goal.**



The Active Schools programme has increased the number of young people accessing sport and physical activity and leadership opportunities within their own communities. Figures show an increase of 1277 young people accessing our programme compared to last year.

The preschool membership 'Tiny ACE Membership' was launched in October 2018 across the 4 localities of South Lanarkshire with Tiny ACE class provision from Birth to P1. 444 Tiny Ace memberships have been purchased to date with support from Health Visiting Teams and the offer of free vouchers designed to encourage sign up.

The third sector also contribute effectively to this agenda through physical activities programmes some of which are delivered in partnership with Active Schools, while others are delivered independently e.g. Liber8's StreetBase diversionary project provides evening and weekend access to assorted sport and physical activities identified by young people and Healthy Valleys provide a programme of supported outdoor play, health walks and exercise opportunities for children and families in a range of community settings.

Indicator 2.3

Percentage of all looked after children and young people health needs assessments completed within 4 weeks.

We have achieved **79% completion** of children in both age groups having a health needs assessment carried out by 4 weeks. **Lower percentages of completions are evident during key staff holiday periods.**



Social Work and Health staff have been working closely to ensure that there is a robust process in place for prompt notification when a child or young person becomes looked after. This triggers wellbeing assessments and wellbeing plans being developed for children and young people that are responsive to individual needs with efficient pathways of support. A key feature of the model is a mechanism in place to monitor the numbers of notifications sent to Health from Social Work within five days when a child or young person is taken into care. This figure currently sits at 72%.

Partners involved in the Corporate Parenting Sub Group have been working together to scope out the Health and Wellbeing Key Indicators in the Care Leavers Covenant that will form a framework for support offered to care experienced children and young people going forward.

A new Corporate Parenting Strategy is in place with a reduced number of core commitments enabling a more effective approach to targeting resources to care experienced children and young people.



Indicator 2.4

Percentage of young people accessing school counselling service presenting with anxiety.

The current figure is 60%
a slight reduction (2.1%) on the
2017 baseline of 62.1%, but above our
target rate of 56% by 2020.



As a partnership we are working on new activity to improve engagement of young people with early support to improve mental wellbeing and reduce presentations of anxiety and stress. Once we identify appropriate interventions evidencing improvement we expect to see a reduction in the need for young people requiring escalation to tier two service - counselling in schools.

Partners are contributing to a social prescribing Well-connected Programme for young people across Lanarkshire which should be available soon. Poster resources have been circulated to all secondary schools and there are plans for consultation with young people to seek their views. A suggested programme so far includes:

- Healthy Reading Programme (possibly through School library service)
- Stress Control (for over 16's)
- Volunteering
- Physical Activity access
- Arts and Culture
- Greenspace
- Youth Work

We have worked with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Schools and the Youth Family and Community Learning Service to implement the Low Intensity Anxiety Management (LIAM) Approach. LIAM provides one to one and small group support to young people suffering from anxiety. The LIAM programme is now in its initial delivery phase and two rounds of training has resulted in 56 staff being trained in total so far in South Lanarkshire (28 participated in the two day training with the intent of delivering support to young people and 28 participated in the awareness one day session.)

A new Lanarkshire wide Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy is being developed at a fast pace and led by NHS Lanarkshire with recent input from Children's Services partners from South Lanarkshire including Educational Psychology and Education Inclusion.

A short life Children and Young People's Mental Health Working Group includes staff from Social Work, CAMHS and Educational Psychology and is informed by previous consultation with staff. The group is currently considering current training needs in relation to the children's services workforce and has just delivered four successful practitioner events involving around 200 staff.

We have developed and launched a Mental Health Guidance Pathway for staff that has been well received and a reprint is being considered.

We are working with five secondary schools St John Ogilvie, Uddingston Grammar, Cathkin HS, Calderglen HS and Lesmahagow HS to develop an improvement focussed approach to supporting the emotional wellbeing of girls and young women and has been successful in being accepted onto a National Health and Wellbeing Improvement Practicum led by the Scottish Government.

An Education Mental Health Group has been established with the main aim of quality assuring services offered to schools from external providers. The group is led by Educational Psychology and includes representatives from CAMHS, Youth Family and Community Learning (YFCL), Social Work and the third sector.

A range of Nurture support is offered to pupils in our secondary establishments to support their engagement in school and in particular transition from primary to secondary schools which provide strong, supportive nurturing support for our pupils often through a Whole School Nurturing Approach. Nurturing is one of Education Resources core values and providing a nurturing approach is a key focus on our school environments and emphasises the balance between care and challenges.

Nurture approaches in our schools is supplemented by provision from a number of third sector organisations that add value to the core establishment offer, e.g. weekly befriending groups provide a nurturing environment for children and young people with additional needs in Hamilton, Clydesdale and East Kilbride and also nurture groups for additional support needs pupils within the Larkhall Learning Community are run in partnership with a number of Primary Schools by The Machan Trust. The Haven Project takes a nurture-based approach to delivering group work and one to one support to children and young people affected by Bereavement, Grief and Loss and life limiting illness.

Indicator 2.5a

Percentage of 15 year olds drinking alcohol at least once a week

Indicator 2.5b

Percentage of 15 year olds reporting using drugs in the last month

The latest figures (provided via the RCS Wellbeing Survey in 2016) indicate **23% of S4 pupils said they had drunk alcohol at least once a week, 16% of South Lanarkshire pupils in S4 indicated they had taken drugs in the last month.**



One of the key areas of our work to address the use of drugs and alcohol by young people is to provide drugs and alcohol education to young people and the staff who support them. Over the last year we have offered the following training:

- 235 staff have received substance misuse training
- 302 young people have benefited from awareness raising sessions
- 262 young people have engaged in issue based workshops
- 40 young people have increased their understanding of drugs and alcohol issues by participating in peer education training and programmes



Addaction has worked to improve access to services for young people. This has led to an increase in the number of young people accessing support. In the last year the project has supported 125 young people including the delivery of Alcohol Brief Intervention sessions as a core part of the project offer and dedicated support to young people (and families). The support provided includes one to one and group support, advocacy and care coordination with a focus on taking an assertive outreach support approach. The service targets young people who struggle to engage with, access or be accepted by key services.

The strengths based approach used by Addaction focusses on the 'whole person', identifying and building on their strengths to enable the young people to build up their confidence, resilience and self-esteem. 100% of young people have improved in at least one domain (Outcome Star).

The Link project has supported 35 service users from Jan-April 2019. Staff meet all South Lanarkshire young people in prison and are involved in planning risk management and preparing discharge plans. Substance misuse is often an area that requires support as well as accommodation, finance and family breakdown. Support can be offered on a daily basis including evenings/weekends which has proved crucial for some young people who had self-harm issues/poor mental health with limited or no family support. Although the service is small the staff respond flexibly to meet the needs of the user group. The service has also supported vulnerable young people in secure care when there is an established rehabilitation plan back to the community. Evidence shows that this support helps young people secure employment, gain training opportunities and budget more effectively. Other young people have reduced their offending significantly and decreased their substance use.

The Landed project are working with a group of young people delivering training in Cognitive Behavioural Approaches (CBA).

Liber8's StreetBase project, provides a proactive and reactive service to young people either directly or indirectly affected by alcohol and substance misuse. This includes prevention, education and intervention and awareness raising sessions.

The Police Safer Communities team have supported work in schools with young people around substance misuse delivering specific inputs to pupils within Cathkin, Stonelaw, Trinity, Uddingston and Lanark secondary schools. 999 pupils in total participated in a survey to better inform understanding of the issue. This work will continue in August in a further 5 schools. Additionally the School Community Police Officers (Campus Cops), deliver direct support to pupils in some schools including Calderside Academy, Hamilton Grammar, Stonelaw High and Trinity High.

Indicator 2.6

Rates of teenage pregnancy in South Lanarkshire have followed the national trend and have reduced over time.

The teenage pregnancy rate for those **under 16 is currently 3.7 per 1000 (2016)** a reduction of 1.3 per 1000 in the rate from previous figures of 5.0 per 1000 (2014).



The Teenage Pregnancy Pathway has been included in the recently launched Education Resources - 'Framework for Inclusion and Equality' and implementation has been supported through briefing sessions for staff.

A Teenage Pregnancy and Young People Action Plan has been developed by NHS Lanarkshire and Education Resources staff that will map out a range of improvement actions for implementation later in 2019.

Supporting vulnerable groups and keeping children safe

Vision

Children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.

Outcome 3

The life chances of our most vulnerable children with additional support needs and our most vulnerable young people are improved



Indicator 3.1 and 3.2

Percentage of care experienced young people achieving a positive destination after leaving school **Goal 85%** and Percentage of care experienced young people obtaining 5 or more awards at level 5

Positive destinations of care experienced young people in **2016 – 78.1%**

Positive destinations of care experienced young people in **2017 – 89.2%**

Positive destinations of care experienced young people in **2018 – 90%**





A multi-agency care experienced tracking and monitoring group works to ensure that every care experienced young person has an individualised employability support package with regular monitoring and alterations to support as and when required.

We have worked closely to develop a format that provides the required assessment and individualised support to care experienced young people as well putting in place a streamlined process that matches them to employment opportunities within South Lanarkshire Council. This has entailed creative thinking and development of additional supports to ensure the young person is ready for work and has a crucial mentoring support element in place.

One young person (aged 18) who resides in one of the Council's children's houses received targeted employability support to secure employment within the council. This was supported by a key worker and bespoke package of experience. She wanted to work with older people's care services, through partnership work she engaged on a training placement with a day care unit and completed a 14 week placement with a training allowance. She progressed well and received great support from the staff in the placement. In January 2019 she started a full Modern Apprenticeship, Social Care with the Council and receives the living wage.

She still has ongoing support from Social Work and the Youth Employability Service such as driving lessons, clothes for work and general support to help sustain this job.

We have put revised operating procedures in place and taken account of the Scottish Government guidelines 'Included, Engaged and Involved Part 2' which are designed to prevent and manage exclusions of care experienced pupils. The initial information was shared with Head Teachers during 2018 Learning Community meetings. All 17 Learning Communities received this briefing.

Training has been provided from 2018-2019 and will continue into 2019-2020 for Designated Senior Managers to clarify their role and highlight key priorities to support care experienced children and young people. The training now includes an extensive information pack which has been uploaded to the Inclusion section on GLOW. Around 140 staff have already benefited from the training.

In addition to establishment based support, third sector organisations such as COVEY Befriending work with looked after at home young people with a view to increasing confidence and helping towards their attainment goals.

It should be noted that while there has been a reduction in the percentage of care experienced learners attaining 5 qualifications at SCQF level 5, we have prioritised developing bespoke packages of learning and qualifications to meet the needs of individual young people. This includes a wider range of appropriate awards out with the scope of traditional National qualifications. Although the 5 qualifications and SCQF level 5 indicator has gone down, the indicator for positive destinations has improved significantly. This is a more appropriate measure of success for this very diverse group of young people.

Indicator 3.3

Percentage attendance of care experienced children and young people

Our current data for all care experienced children and young people is **89.9% attendance**. This shows Improvements across all (primary, secondary and ASN) sectors.

This compares well when the whole school population is considered - **92.8%**. However a noticeable gap remains for pupils who are looked after at home, currently - **82%**.



We have put in place new operating procedures which take account of the Scottish Government guidelines 'Included, Engaged and Involved Part 2' which are designed to prevent and manage exclusions. The initial information was shared with Head Teachers during 2017 Learning Community meetings. This was followed by a Head Teachers conference in 2018 which gathered feedback.

From November 18 – May 19 the Designated Senior Manager training has included briefings on reducing exclusions for looked after pupils

The latest figures for exclusions for care experienced young people continue to be very low and have improved slightly on the previous 12 month figure. 2017/18 0.23% (0.31% 2016/17)

Our Corporate Parenting Sub Group has developed procedures to review children and young people looked after at home. The focus has been to monitor adherence to the process to review children Looked After at Home. Social Work staff via the Lead Professional function liaise with the Designated Senior Manager in each establishment.

A new tracking system was established in January 2019 which shows that 17 school age children were made subject to a Compulsory Supervision Order at home between January and the end of March 2019. All but one had a child's plan in the Integrated Assessment Report presented to the Children's Panel. Since January 2019 the percentage of pupils looked after at home with a Child's Plan in place is – 94%.



Indicator 3.4a

Percentage of repeat referrals to Reporter on offence grounds (Source SCRA)

***Children with >1 offence referral in year**

The percentage of children and young people with **> 1 offence referral is 58.7% in 17/18.** An increase of 8% from 50.7% last year.



We have continued to operate our early support approach to youth offending through the locality-based model of Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) delivery. The volume of referrals to EEI has reduced from 276 in April 2018 to 83 in 2019. The highest volume of referrals continues to be in the Hamilton area followed by Lanark and then Rutherglen.

There has been an increase in interventions delivered to young people involved in offending behaviours. Specifically, Action for Children have been working for the past year in South Lanarkshire with young people involved in offending behaviour.

A further initiative "Inclusion as Prevention" is funded by the Big Lottery and has been introduced to prevent offending through an early action system change. The project is a partnership between South Lanarkshire Council, the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice, Dartington and Action for Children. The project is for a 5-year period and aims to initially pilot an evidence based preventative intervention in the Rutherglen/Cambuslang area and evaluate the effectiveness of this change in both the immediate and longer term. Over the course of this project the pilots will be rolled out to all locality areas.

A range of training has taken place on specialist youth justice risk assessment methods including the Scottish Government funded START risk assessment course, Structured Assessment of Violence, Risk and Youth (SAVRY) and the National Risk Assessment Framework. The training provided and additional tools made available have helped to focus risk assessment and management planning on criminogenic factors directly linked to reoffending.

Care and Risk Management procedures have been developed and introduced by the Whole System Approach Strategy Group and dedicated Care and Risk Management training has been delivered to children and families' social workers, team leaders and fieldwork managers over the past year. A multi-agency roadshow took place in October last year for 30 staff from Social Work, SCRA and Education.

Indicator 3.4b

Percentage of referrals to reporter for failure to attend school without reasonable excuse (Source SCRA)

The latest figures (2018) show 8% of all referrals to the Children's Reporter were on the grounds of failure to attend school without reasonable excuse, **a decrease from the previous year (2017 10.3%)**.



The new Education Resources operating procedures now in place are based on the Scottish Government guidelines 'Included, Engaged and Involved Part 2' which are designed to prevent and manage exclusions and help to address attendance issues amongst care experienced pupils. Key paperwork has been amended accordingly and is now operational for all schools, which helps Designated Senior Manager's provide more effective targeted support to care experienced pupils.

From November 2018 the Designated Senior Manager training has included briefings on improving attendance and reducing exclusions for care experienced pupils and almost all designated staff have accessed this training.

Indicator 3.5

Number of incidents of domestic abuse where children were affected that were referred to social work

Over the last few years domestic abuse incidents have increased, however **This year (2018) 1237 incidents were recorded compared to 2253 in the previous year (2017)**.



Within the last year the incidences of domestic abuse where children were present/affected has decreased. Partners are working together to better understand the story behind the data, including support provided for children and the proportion of repeat referrals.

As part of South Lanarkshire's Gender-Based Violence Strategy, we work hard to maintain a competent and confident workforce and it remains a priority to support staff working with families experiencing domestic violence. This takes a range of forms including specific training events and one-off events. E.g. in November we held the 'Inside Outside' Event at the University of the West of Scotland which was delivered in partnership with Glasgow Women's Support Project. The partnership also delivered Safe and Together Training for staff from our agencies.



The number of staff participating in relevant training opportunities 2018/19 was 579 (356 in 2017/18).

South Lanarkshire Women's Aid continue to work directly with women and children experiencing domestic abuse. Over the past year the number of children and young people supported by Women's Aid was 148 (278 in 2017/18).

Every police officer in South Lanarkshire has received training in the new Domestic Abuse Act, (which includes making child involvement an aggravating factor for the first time). The training is intended to support staff recognise the harm that domestic violence causes to children and young people.

Indicator 3.6a

Number of pre-birth registrations for babies affected by substance misuse.

The annual figure has increased from **34 last year (2017)** to **44 this year (2018)**.



Indicator 3.6b

Percentage of children affected by parental substance misuse on the child protection register.

Over the last reporting period **May 17 – April 18** there has been a decrease on the children registered on the child protection register affected by substance misuse, with a **year on year reduction of 4%**, this trend will be monitored to see if this becomes a sustained improvement. **Although the annual figure has decreased by 13, the decrease in relation to the categorisation of issue requires further scrutiny.**



All children affected by parental alcohol and/or drug use are now seen by the CAREs service as potentially "in need" and possibly "at risk". To support parents and children, the service works with all midwives in the community to improve screening and with Health Visiting teams to establish if there are or have been any childcare concerns. There are 357 parents who are in receipt of substitute prescribing medication who attend CAREs., 75 of their children are on the Child Protection Register, 55 (73%) of these children have had a wellbeing assessment completed by CAREs in 19/20.

Social Work are leading on the development of a 'Woman's Plan' for new mums including those who are using alcohol or drugs. All referrals to the Early Years Multi-Agency Support (EYMAS) Groups will have a SMART action plan. We anticipate that only a few of these, following a risk assessment of those at risk of adoption and permanency, will have a Woman's Plan that will then go onto inform Parenting and Capacity Team (PACT) planning.

Indicator 3.7

Percentage of pupils with ASN recorded within primary and secondary establishments The rate of pupils identified with ASN in mainstream establishments appears to have increased substantially since the 2013 baseline.

The current figures illustrate **26.2% in primary school** and **25.1% of pupils in secondary school**. This is most likely to be a result of more successful identification of ASN needs and a better understanding of support required.



The expected rate is circa **20%** **1:5 across South Lanarkshire.**



The Inclusive Education Team have used the Framework for Inclusion and Equality and the description of staged intervention through a series of workforce development sessions with management and school staff, Youth, Family and Community Learning Workers and School Support Assistants.

Senior Managers Pupil Support work with Head Teachers to support workforce development sessions on the staged intervention to ensure the guidance and the related materials are well used. There are regular audits to monitor the use of staged intervention recording to maintain the high quality of analysis and provision of targeted support based on identified need.

All our schools have access to the framework for the Education of Pupils who have Autistic Spectrum Disorder and follow advice and support through such available resources e.g. the Autism Consultation for schools, Autism Resource Coordination Hub (ARCH) for parents and Early Bird training/referrals.

In addition to in-school support other partners provide support to children and young people with ASD including COVEY befriending who work with at least 20 young people who are affected by Autism. There is an increasing number of referrals to this service from our schools.



4. Children's Rights

Progress in South Lanarkshire

Recognising, respecting and promoting the rights of children and young people is essential to improving outcomes for all children and young people. This section sets out examples of child rights-based practice taken by children's services partners in South Lanarkshire.

It highlights practice from across the partnership that illustrates how a rights-based approach can make a significant difference to children and young people's lives and improve the quality and impact of services. These examples act as an encouraging picture to draw from when exploring how to embed children and young people's rights further into our collective and single agency policy and practice.

We set out to understand local perceptions of children's rights by our stakeholders and undertook key activities;

We sought out the views of our children and young people through a series of focus groups, which helped provide a picture of what they thought about their rights in South Lanarkshire. One element that came from this engagement is that children and young people want **the right to be themselves**.

Implementation of an online questionnaire enabled 203 staff from across the partnership to provide important feedback in relation to our shared understanding of children's rights, how we are working to respect those rights and what we still have to do to make things better.

Staff reported being most aware of Articles 12 (Respect for the views of the child), 19 (Protection from violence, abuse and neglect), 28 (Right to education) and 34 (Protection from sexual abuse and exploitation).

Staff reported being less aware of Articles 10 (Family reunification), 21 (Right to adoption), 22 (Protection and assistance for Refugee Children), 40 (Juvenile Justice) and 42 (Knowledge of Rights).

Increased investment into supporting young people moving to a positive post school destination (96.4% all young people) (93.2% young people in the most deprived communities SIMD 1) (90% care experienced young people)



Increase in investment to support the mental health of our children and young people



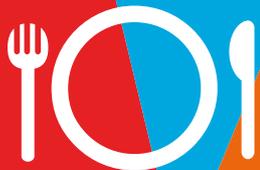
PEF/Attainment Challenge Funding to support inclusion of the most economically disadvantaged pupils
Approximately £10m



Increase in early learning and child care entitlement from 660 – 1140 hours



Automated **Free School Meal enrolment**
6302 awards



Financial inclusion work with the most vulnerable families
(average increase in household income £5000)



The following examples provide an insight into our commitment to the children's rights agenda and how we plan to further embed this important area of work into our shared practice:

Clusters	UNCRC Articles	What we have done (Examples)	What we will do now
(i) General measures of Implementation	Article 42 (knowledge of rights)	<p>Our (Lanarkshire's) Children and Young People's Health Plan promotes the rights of the child</p> <p>We have implemented the Rights Respecting Schools programme available to all our education establishments</p> <p>We organise Children's Rights assemblies in our schools</p>	<p>We will ensure awareness of the UNCRC embedded into workforce development opportunities</p> <p>We will produce and publish a Children's Rights Report by April 2020</p>
(ii) General principles of the UNCRC	Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)	<p>Realigning Children's Services Wellbeing Survey (17000 children and young people) has informed planning decisions on a multi-agency and single agency basis</p> <p>Biennial Youth Survey provides an opportunity for young people to identify priorities for service design</p> <p>We have provided focus groups for children and young people to inform children's services planning and the forthcoming Lanarkshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy</p>	<p>We will co-produce our forthcoming Children's Services Plan 2020-23 with children and young people</p> <p>We will ensure children and young people inform the implementation and development of our Local Child Poverty Action Planning</p>
(iii) Civil rights and freedoms	Article 2 (non-discrimination)	<p>We have developed the Framework for Inclusion and Equality for our schools which respects the protected characteristics</p> <p>All world religions are taught in schools, respecting and celebrating the beliefs of others</p>	<p>We will ensure that all key staff are briefed in the use of the Framework for Inclusion and Equality</p>
(iv) Violence against children	Article 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect)	<p>We have a clear Child Protection Policy and Guidance for staff</p> <p>We provide regular Child Protection training for staff either on a single agency basis or by the Child Protection Committee</p>	<p>We will ensure that children's rights is explicit in our Child Protection Business Plan</p>



Clusters	UNCRC Articles	What we have done (Examples)	What we will do now
(v) Family environment and alternative care	Article 9 (separation from parents)	<p>We have produced a Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan articulating clear core commitments to our care experienced children</p> <p>We have implemented the Mind of My Own tool to help care experienced children give their views</p> <p>Who Cares Scotland? advocate for and support care experienced children in terms of their rights</p>	<p>We will ensure we deliver on our four core commitments of the Corporate Parenting Strategy</p> <p>We will further roll out the Mind of My Own tool</p>
(vi) Basic health and welfare	Article 24 (health and health services)	<p>We have supported the Counselling in Schools programme in all our secondary schools</p> <p>We have implemented the national Low Intensity Anxiety Management (LIAM) Programme</p>	<p>We will further develop the LIAM initiative</p> <p>We will develop improvement in support offered to improve the emotional wellbeing of children and young people</p>
(vii) Education, leisure and culture	Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)	<p>We have increased numbers participating in the Active School Programme to 21,407</p> <p>We have launched the Tiny Ace Membership to encourage play and physical activity in the early years</p>	<p>We will further develop opportunities for young people from disadvantaged groups (ASN, care experienced, SIMD 1) to become sports leaders</p>
(viii) Special protection measures	Article 40 (juvenile justice)	<p>We have secured funding to develop the early intervention Inclusion as Prevention project to divert children and young people from potential offending</p> <p>We have implemented the Care and Risk Management (CARM) initiative to support young people most at risk of causing harm to others</p> <p>We have provided training for staff involved in youth justice to improve risk assessment and in turn support offered to young people</p>	<p>We will further redevelop the Whole Systems Approach to Youth Justice and put children and young people at the centre of this process</p>



Next steps for children's rights in South Lanarkshire

A fully developed rights based approach can be used to help improve practice and to further improve outcomes for children and young people, particularly those who are most disenfranchised.

As a partnership we are committed to embracing a comprehensive rights based approach to our work, however we know that even more requires to be done to increase awareness and understanding of the rights of children across South Lanarkshire in order to effect this change.

In progressing the children's rights agenda, the Partnership will:

- Ensure the co-production with children and young people of the forthcoming Children's Services Plan 2020-23
- Support the use of the Children's Rights Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) approach in developing South Lanarkshire's Children's Services Plan 2020-23, the Local Child Poverty Action Report and other key areas of policy and strategy affecting children and young people
- Ensure that papers presented to all relevant groups in our governance structure demonstrate links to those articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) that are relevant to the matter
- Ensure that all agreed strategic priorities and associated themes are mapped to relevant UNCRC articles
- Embed awareness of Children's Rights training into the workforce development opportunities provided to the children's services workforce
- Develop the concept of the **Right to be Myself** as an overarching right for children in South Lanarkshire



5. Self-evaluation and quality assurance

Self-evaluation and quality assurance processes are central to the work of the Children's Services Partnership. This activity is led by the Continuous Improvement Group, which reports to the Children's Services Strategy Group and Getting It Right for South Lanarkshire's Children Partnership Board on the progress and impact of service delivery for children, young people and families. Frameworks that support self-evaluation and quality assurance activities are: 'How well are we improving the lives of children and young people?' (Care Inspectorate 2014) and 'How well do we protect children and meet their needs?' (HMIE, 2009).

Key features of these activities are to identify where quality needs to be maintained, where improvement is needed and where services should be working towards excellence.

The Continuous Improvement Group directs, maintains and manages the delivery of multi-agency self-evaluation activity at strategic and locality level. It reviews and updates the Continuous Improvement Framework and Programme of single and multi-agency self-evaluation activity on an annual basis.

The work of the Continuous Improvement Group is further complemented and strengthened by quality assurance activity led by the Child Protection Committee including activities that measure child protection in the multi-agency context alongside a range of training opportunities that support services across South Lanarkshire. We can see steady improvements through routine audit and evaluation activity that support child protection services across the partnership.

Another function of the group is to inform the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership in order to contribute to the setting, monitoring and evaluation of challenging targets for improving outcomes for children, young people and their families.

We are committed to ensuring a focus on gathering evidence of impact, practice reflection and identifying areas for improvement. Promoting and extending good practice is a feature of our shared improvement agenda and is embedded across the partnership. Regular partnership events such as Senior Manager's Seminars and Locality Practitioner Events allow us to involve as many staff as possible in improvement activity.



6. Our partnership

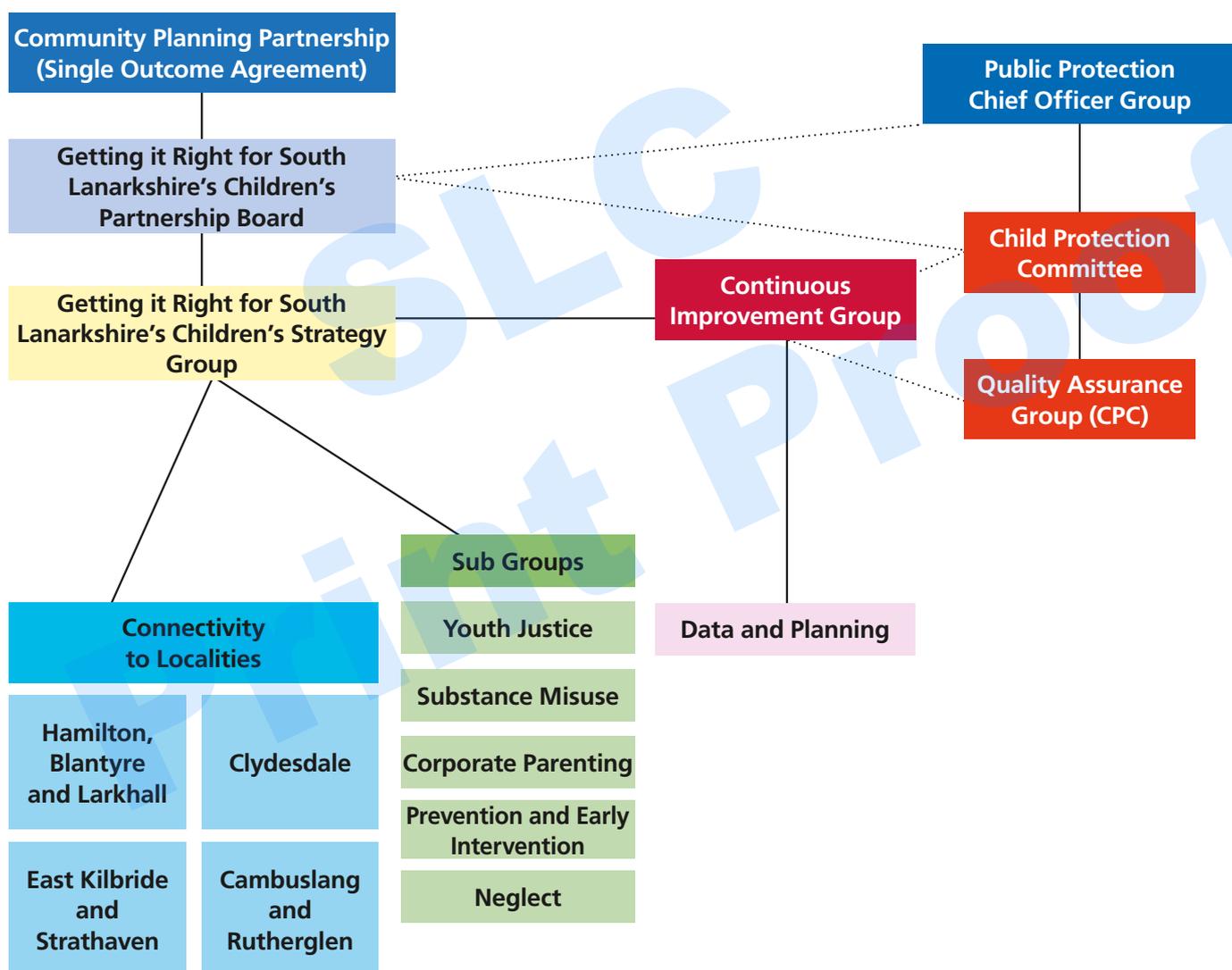
The Getting It Right for South Lanarkshire’s Children’s Services Strategy Group and Partnership Board set a clear and shared vision for the work of the partnership.

South Lanarkshire’s children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.

A recent review of the partnership structure was carried out as part of our approach to good governance and work to ensure that structures and systems across the partnership reflect priorities for improvement as identified from robust audit activity.

The structure clearly illustrates the linkages across South Lanarkshire’s Community Planning Partnership and Child Protection structures.

The latest governance diagram is below:





Child Protection Committee

There are close links in place with the Child Protection Committee and its supporting Quality Assurance sub group. The close working relationship is founded on mutual responsibility for shared improvement work and joint audits of practice have taken place across a number of themes including substance misuse, domestic violence and children's plans. The activity is driven by both the Child Protection Business Plan and the Children's Services Partnership's Joint Self-Evaluation and Continuous Improvement Activity Plan.

This joint activity serves to illustrate the shared vision that all children and young people have a right to be cared for and protected from abuse and harm.

Engagement with children and families

We are committed to enabling the involvement of children, young people and families in the development of activities and services. Article 12 of the UNCRC states that children and young people should have their say when adults are making decisions that affect them and their opinions are taken seriously. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 ensures that children's rights are realised and that they properly influence the design and delivery of policies and services.

The participation and engagement of our children and young people has been central to the planning process and continues to be a key influence on our joint planning.

This will become more important as we plan our shared priorities for 2020 and beyond in our new Children's Services Plan and maximise our commitment to the UNCRC Rights of the Child agenda.

Engagement with staff

The participation and engagement of staff is a highly valued aspect of our work. The regular Senior Managers Events and Locality Seminars consult with staff and report progress against key targets and are a feature of our commitment to governance and accountability.

Over the last 12 months around 450 staff from across the multi-agency workforce attended at least one of these events.

We have produced a Staff handbook to help staff understand fully how the work that they do contributes towards improving outcomes for our children, young people and families.



7. Workforce development

We are committed to the delivery of high quality workforce development activity and the following activity reflects our investment into ensuring that staff are supported to deliver high quality, well informed services to children, young people and families.

- Locality events take place every six months to provide opportunities for staff on a multi-agency basis to work together to inform children's services strategic developments through self-evaluation activities, the sharing of good practice and thematic staff development elements. The events are well attended by staff from across the children's service workforce and approximately 400 staff have participated over the last 12 months.
- Training in the assessment of wellbeing has been delivered to Social Work Staff (Substance Misuse)
- We are participating in the National Health and Wellbeing Improvement Practicum aiming to drive forward improvements in support offered to secondary age pupils with a focus on girls and young women
- We have delivered attachment training in line with the South Lanarkshire Attachment Strategy to 281 staff from across Education and Social Work
- As part of the Healthy Schools and Healthy Schools Plus programmes we have provided training to approximately 100 staff
- We have supported delivery of the Low Intensity Anxiety Management (LIAM) training across the multi-agency workforce which aims to enable support to be delivered to young people experiencing anxiety issues
- The Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) has delivered alcohol and drugs education to 235 staff who work with young people who either are ether misusing drug and alcohol, or are suffering from parental substance misuse of drugs and alcohol provided with training and support by Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) commissioned services
- Training for Designated Senior Managers in schools has been offered in relation to the Corporate Parenting Action Plan and Care Covenant to support their delivery of services for care experienced young people
- Training for Youth Justice staff on risk assessment tools including the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk and Youth (SAVRY), has supported staff working with young people impacted by offending behaviour
- Training in Care and Risk Management (CARM) has been delivered to around 30 Social Work staff to support the roll out of the CARM initiative
- Numbers of staff engaged in gender based violence training has more than doubled since last year with 579 staff trained
- There has been a roll out of training for groups of staff including midwives and Community Addiction and Recovery Service staff that has improved assessment of need and increased understanding of parental substance misuse
- Training for Education staff in relation to planning staged intervention and Autism Spectrum Disorder has helped support our most vulnerable pupils
- South Lanarkshire Leisure have delivered further Sports Coach Academy training for young volunteers





Action Plan 2019-20 (Final Year)

In looking forward to the final year of our Children’s Services Plan, we continue our aspiration to support our children, young people and families and make the most effective and efficient use of available resources.

We will continue to respond in a proactive and solution focussed way to challenges and opportunities that impact on the work of the Partnership at a local and national level.

Our collective activity will continue to be focused on the areas that need to be improved on the journey to achieving our three high level outcomes and providing best possible outcomes for our children, young people and families.

The changes are as follows:

Prevention and early support

Outcome 1. Children have the best start in life and are supported to realise their potential

There are no key changes for the planned actions for this priority area.

Health and wellbeing

Outcome 2. The health and wellbeing of children and families is improved

We know that there are Lower percentages of Health Needs Assessments being carried out with children who become looked after during staff holiday periods. Partners will work together to identify an improvement action to improve this area of work.

A new Lanarkshire wide Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be developed with input from Children’s Services partners from South Lanarkshire and from Children and Young People.

We will ensure that the work to support the emotional wellbeing of girls and young women as part of the National Health and Wellbeing Improvement Practicum is shared with all key partners.

Supporting vulnerable groups and keeping children safe

Outcome 3. The life chances of our most vulnerable children with additional support needs and our most vulnerable young people are improved

There are no key changes for the planned actions for this priority area.

Further areas of challenge for our Children’s Services Partnership

Children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.

The following areas of joint working will be central to our work as a partnership moving forward into the final year of the children’s services plan:

- Supporting the requirements to deliver on the step change commitments made in our Child Poverty Action Report
- Work towards producing a Children’s Rights Report that reflects our commitment to fully implementing the UNCRC
- The production of a new Children’s Services Plan for 2020-23 (including joint strategic needs assessment) that we will build with all partners and children, young people and families
- Improve our workforce development around Mental Health and Wellbeing to ensure we meet locally identified needs and meet the demands from the National Mental Health Strategy and the forthcoming Lanarkshire’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- The implementation of the National Performance Framework will require a read across to the current and future Children’s Services Plan

Key contacts

Partnership Planning Manager

Education Resources, South Lanarkshire Council

Floor 6, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AE

Phone: 01698 452238

Email: education.inclusion@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Planning and Performance Manager

South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership

Floor 9, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AA

Phone: 01698 453749

Email: strategic_services@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



Children, young people and families will be safeguarded and supported to reach their full potential and thrive within their communities.



If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

Phone: 0303 123 1015 Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk



Printed on eco-friendly paper – please recycle