



South Lanarkshire  
**Partnership**  
Stronger together

**Safe Healthy Achieving Nurtured Active**  
**Respected Responsible Included**



**getting  
it right**  
*for every child*  
**in South Lanarkshire**

**Children's Services Plan 2017 – 2020**  
Working together: making a difference



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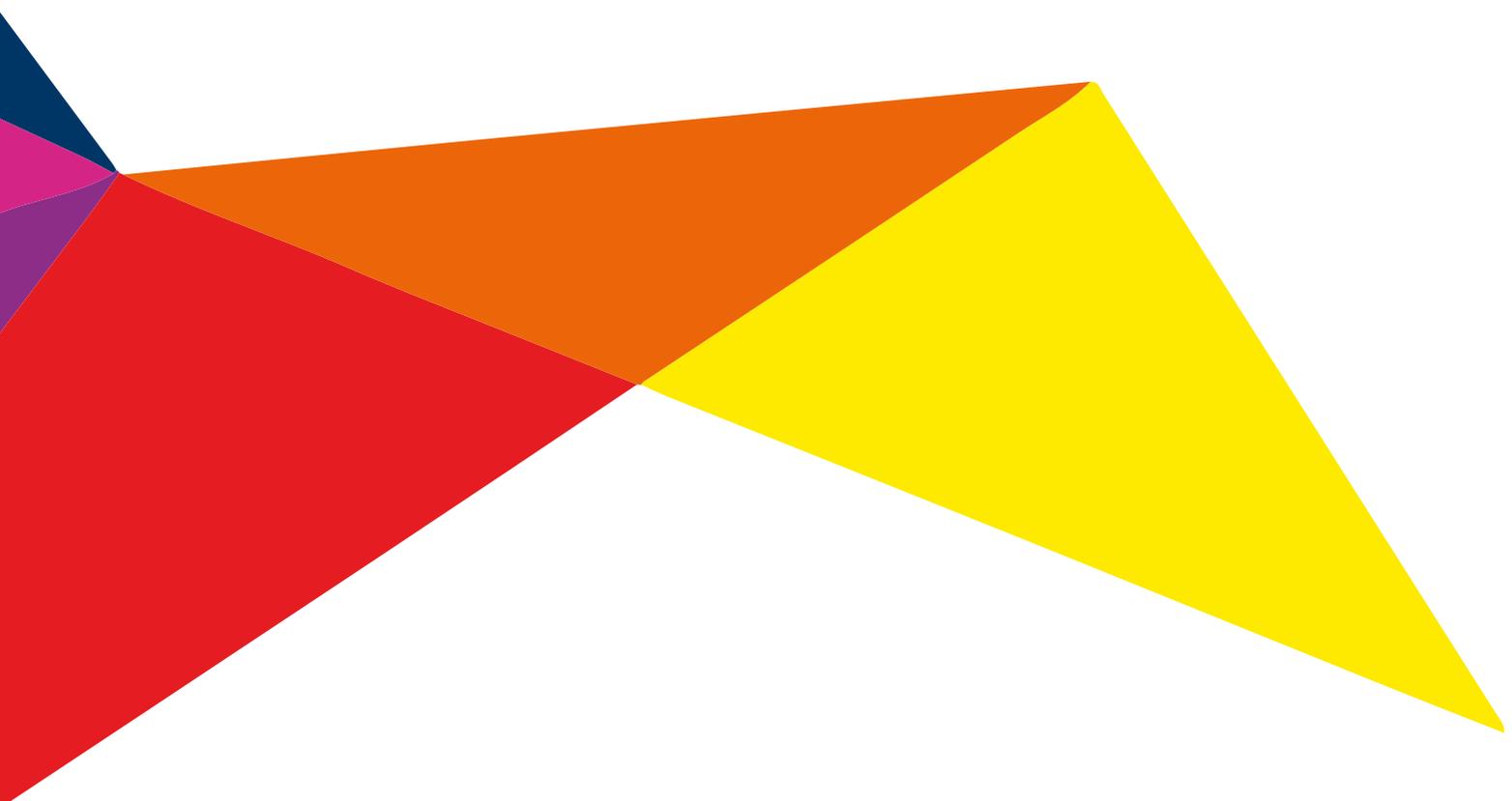
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# Section 1 – Introduction

## Welcome to Getting it Right for South Lanarkshire's Children, Young People and Families 2017 – 2020, our integrated children's services plan.



This plan builds on our achievements from previous children's services plans to ensure that our commitment to providing the best outcomes possible remains central to all we do. This plan complies with the statutory responsibilities of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, which introduced new duties on a range of public bodies in relation to the planning and reporting of children's services.

### Central to our plan is our commitment to three high level outcomes:

- **Prevention and early support:** Children have the best start in life and are supported to realise their potential.
- **Health and wellbeing:** The health and wellbeing of children, young people and families is improved.
- **Supporting vulnerable groups and keeping children safe:** The life chances of our most vulnerable children with additional support needs and our most vulnerable young people are improved.

In working towards these outcomes we will maximise the strong partnership arrangements already in place. Our children's services partners are committed to working together to get it right for every child, young person and family in South Lanarkshire and the wellbeing indicators are key drivers for our planning processes.

To support our vision, the plan will focus exclusively on activity carried out by partners working together. We believe that in doing so we will use our resources more efficiently and provide a more focussed approach to meeting families' needs.

As a partnership we will work together to strengthen our planning and investment in services to ensure effective targeting for our most vulnerable children and families. This provides the opportunity for effective planning and also our commitments to inform the forthcoming Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and to the crosscutting theme of tackling poverty and inequalities.

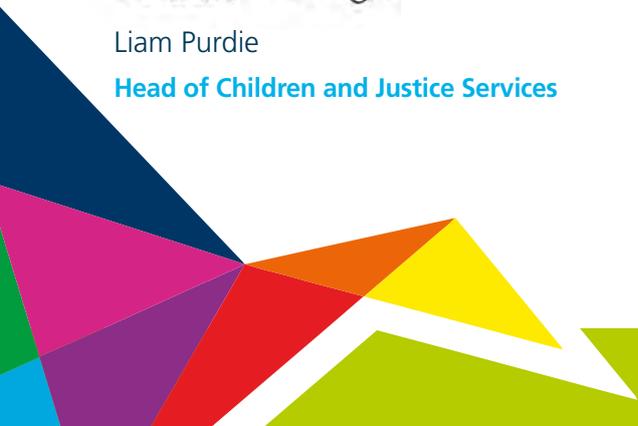
This Integrated Children Services plan has been developed in partnership and consultation with all relevant public bodies in relation to planning and reporting of children's services and it is important to recognise the contribution from all partners in the development and preparation of the plan.

While the plan has been developed by a small writing team all our stakeholders have been involved in a series of consultation events across South Lanarkshire in the run up to writing the plan. This includes a Senior Manager's Event, locality based multi-agency events and a range of inputs to existing multi-agency groups with a responsibility for children, young people and families.

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

Liam Purdie

Head of Children and Justice Services





## Section 2 – Our Vision

In South Lanarkshire we have a clear partnership vision that:

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

**This vision is underpinned by a commitment to:**

- Tackle inequality, discrimination and poverty
- Promote early support and prevention across all age groups
- Focus on those areas where working together will make the biggest impact on children, young people and families
- Ensure a multi-agency approach to continuous improvement
- Implement a workforce development strategy that builds the competence and confidence of our staff and
- Ensure meaningful participation and engagement of children, young people and families



# Section 3 – Key Achievements

The following section details a selection of the many achievements of the children's services partnership throughout the period of our previous children's services plan. Further information is contained within our annual reports produced for each period.

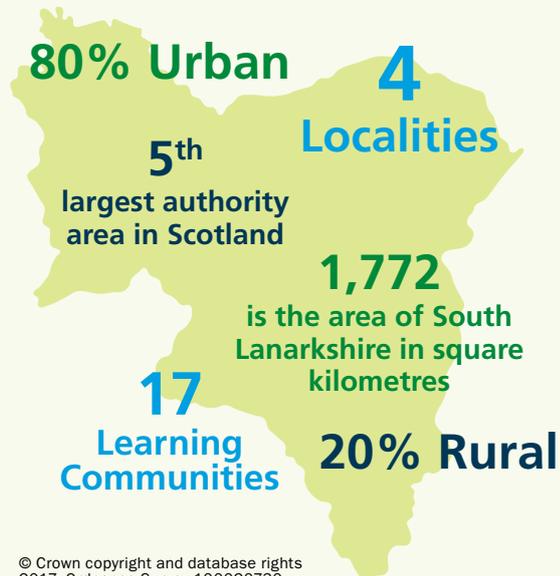
- The work of initiatives like the Family Nurse Partnership and Early Years Home Link Workers provide parents (especially first time mothers) with the support required to enable their children to get the best possible start in life.
- The implementation of the 27/30 month Child Health Review and the use of improvement methodology to ensure best practice
- An increase in approaches to the implementing of early support and prevention activity such as early identification of vulnerable pregnancies, Parenting Support Pathway, Early and Effective Intervention, diversionary programmes, school attendance tracking and support and the ASPIRE programme aimed at increasing youth employability
- The implementation of our Corporate Parenting Strategy and supporting Action Plan which aims to improve support to care experienced children and young people to enable them to achieve best possible outcomes.
- A consistently high number of young people volunteering, both in schools and throughout our communities with increasing numbers of young people participating in nationally accredited awards programmes e.g. Dynamic Youth and Duke of Edinburgh
- Evidence to demonstrate the needs of children with Additional Support Needs(ASN) are being effectively met through local multiagency partnership
- Reduction in waiting times for CAMHS provision for children and young people to receive support and increased access through services such as counselling in schools, nurture approaches, Give Us a Break and Mindfulness
- High numbers of young people participating in smoking prevention and alcohol brief intervention programmes
- An increasing number of looked after young people achieving and sustaining positive post school destinations
- Successful improvement work to maximise the numbers of pregnant mums receiving financial wellbeing support, to help tackle child poverty was selected as a finalist in last year's Scottish Government Improvement Awards programme. The work is now being scaled up to broaden the partnership with Money Matters and Midwifery to include Health Visiting (with an initial focus on the Early Years).





# Section 4 – Overview

## What we know about children in South Lanarkshire



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## South Lanarkshire Population Total – 316.375

It is currently estimated that there are **69,457** people aged under 20 in South Lanarkshire

Under 5	17,197	down 1.3% by 2024
5 – 9	17,404	down 1.0%
10 – 14	16,757	up 4.4%
15 – 19	18,099	down 4.3%

## Deprivation

South Lanarkshire has **312** data zones

**22%** of children in South Lanarkshire live in poverty

**38,000** People live in the **20%** most deprived communities (12% of the population)

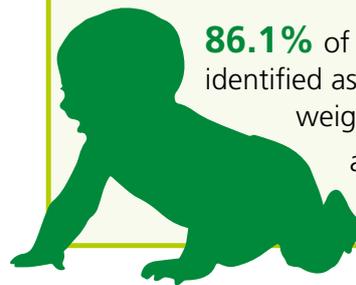


**Healthy start** uptake nationally and locally is decreasing with the latest figure at **7.4%**

## Early Development

**19.3%** of babies were exclusively breastfed at 6 – 8 weeks compared to the Scottish average of **27.3%**

**12.2%** of children at their 27 – 30 month check were exposed to second hand smoke



**86.1%** of P1 pupils were identified as having a healthy weight above the Scottish average of **84.7%**

## Learning and Education

In 2015/16 **61.1%** of all South Lanarkshire children obtained 5 or more awards at level 5 compared to **17.2%** of all looked after children

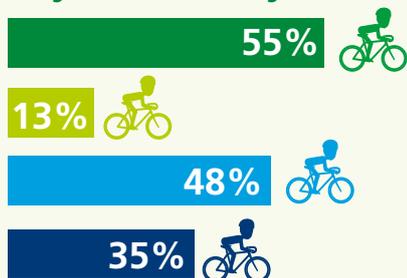


In terms of positive destinations, the proportion of South Lanarkshire pupils entering further education, training or employment has increased and is line with the Scottish average



## Personal Wellbeing and Healthy Living

### Physical activity



**55%** of S1 to S4 pupils in South Lanarkshire are physically active on less than 5 days a week

1 in 8 (**13%**) say they are active on just one day or less

Around half the pupils in P5 to P7 (**48%**) were physically active every day, with a further third (**35%**) active on most days

### Safeguarding

**187** children and young people (**3.4% per 1,000**) aged under 15 were on the child protection register above Scotland at **3% per 1,000**. The highest category being NEGLECT

**0.86%** of the child population (0 – 18) are looked after. Of the **563** children and young people **28.4%** are looked after at home, **18.8%** with friends and relatives. **34.1%** with foster carers, **2.8%** with prospective adopters, **7.1%** in local authority home, **2.8%** in voluntary home, **2.3%** in residential school and **0.36%** in secure accommodation



### Emotional Wellbeing

Nationally **1 in 10** children aged 5 – 16 have a mental health issue and **2032** children and young people in Lanarkshire were referred to CAMHS



In South Lanarkshire between **64%** and **78%** of pupils in S1 to S4 were categorised as being close to average in the Strengths and Difficulties score. Girls were more likely than boys to have a raised score on total difficulties (**36%** raised including **15%** very high, compared with **30%** raised, including **12%** very high for boys)

A higher proportion of those eligible for **free school meals** had a raised score on the total difficulties scale (**39%** compared with **35%** of non-eligible pupils)





# Section 5 – Strategic Context

## Key drivers that inform our plan

The Getting it Right for South Lanarkshire's Children's Partnership Board is an integral part of South Lanarkshire's Community Planning Partnership (CPP) which supports the process of integrated planning and delivery of public services.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 introduces a requirement for Community Planning Partnerships to develop a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) which will be the strategic layer of planning that sets out the overall direction of travel and provides the overall context within which the Children's Services Plan sits. The LOIP provides the overarching objective to tackle deprivation, poverty and inequality which is embedded throughout the indicators, actions and measures contained within this children's services plan.

The other key legislative driver that provides important direction and guidance is the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 which set out guidance for developing and reporting this plan. Part three of the act sets out clear guidance that has informed the production of this plan.

Part one of the act supports the requirement to produce a Children's Rights Report at the end of each statutory three year planning period starting in April 2017 and while the requirement to produce a Children's Rights Report is not a statutory part of the act, it is something that South Lanarkshire will comply with. In doing so we will consider the United Nation Convention of Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Assessment Framework and Children's Rights Impact Assessment Tool (CRWIA) in the production of future rights reports. We will seek to meaningfully involve children and young people in the process of preparing future children's rights reports and in year one of our plan we will focus our attention in gathering key baseline data.

### **The UNCRC has four main guiding principles which will inform our Children's Rights Reporting activity. These are:**

- Being non discriminative
- Having the right to life, survival and development
- Doing what is in the best interest of the child, and
- Meaningfully engaging children and young people

In particular, Article 12 from UNCRC: 'whereby children have the right to a say in all matters affecting them' is central to our planning.

Part 18 of the act establishes a holistic understanding of child wellbeing and provides a useful guide for the purposes of informing planning of support to children and young people.

Scotland's National Performance Framework – which provides key priorities in improvement in attainment particularly in literacy and numeracy, improvement in children and young people's wellbeing, closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged and improvement in employability skills and sustained positive leaver destinations.

The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland was published in 2010 and refreshed in 2014 and provides a framework for agencies and practitioners at local level to understand and agree processes for working together to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children. It sets out expectations for strategic planning of services to protect children and young people and highlights key responsibilities for services and organisations, both individual and shared. It also includes guidance for practitioners on specific areas of practice and key issues in child protection including Child Sexual Exploitation and Internet Safety.

South Lanarkshire's Child Protection Business Plan provides the shared vision that all children and young people have a right to be cared for and protected from abuse and harm. It also sets out a framework to ensure children are protected and practice is as effective as it can be.

Statutory guidance on part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 provides information and advice for corporate parents about how they should fulfil the duties set out in act.

This guidance sets out the parameters within which corporate parents should develop their own approaches to supporting looked after children and care leavers. Within South Lanarkshire, those approaches are also shaped by the needs, views and experiences of our looked after children and care leavers.

South Lanarkshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy and action plan 2016 – 2018 sets out six core commitments that give clear strategic direction to all partners to ensure that corporate parents aspire to the same outcomes as they would for their own children.

South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Commissioning Plan 2016 – 19 is at the heart of integration and sets out how social care services will be delivered in a more integrated way to improve the quality of support for people who need them and how services will be delivered in communities against agreed priorities.

The Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC) brings together the Early Years Collaborative (EYC) and the Raising Attainment for All programme to support quality improvement throughout the child's journey. The purpose of the CYPIC is to support schools and services for children, young people and families to be as good as they can be, based on evidence of what works in improving outcomes and life chances. The CYPIC is closely aligned with the Maternity and Children Quality Improvement Collaborative where the focus is on maternity, neonatal and paediatric healthcare settings. The CYPIC methodology complements South Lanarkshire's approach to Continuous Improvement highlighted further in section 9 of this plan.

In addition to the strategic drivers mentioned above, the plan is also informed by a wide range of national legislation and local policy and strategy. **See appendix i.**



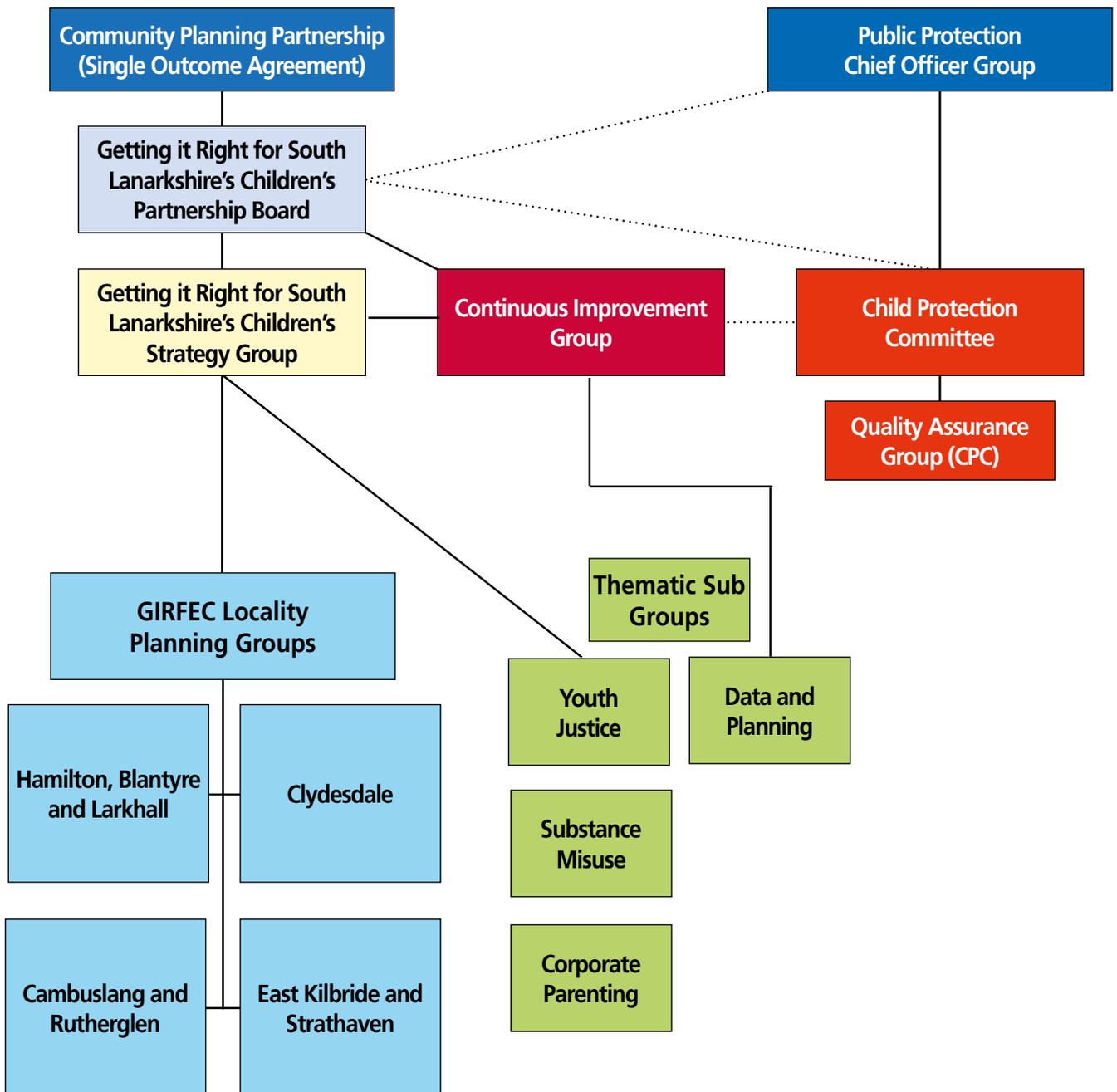


# Section 6 – Working in Partnership

The children's services partners in South Lanarkshire are: South Lanarkshire Council, South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), Police Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture and Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLAN) on behalf of voluntary sector organisations working with children and families.

The governance structure detailed below illustrates how the partnership works together:

## Governance Structure for Children's Services



Each of our strategic sub groups (Corporate Parenting, Substance Misuse and Youth Justice) have a supporting action plan in place informed by available data, our continuous improvement activity and the views of children, young people and families. These plans are closely linked to our children's services partnership in terms of governance and reporting and key areas of action are highlighted in section eight of this document.

The children's services partnership is committed to working together to safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of children and young people in South Lanarkshire. We are also working with the Scottish Government to deliver a Realigning Children's Services (RCS) programme that will support our joint planning, our gathering of evidence and understanding of how we can use our available resources to achieve the best possible outcomes. The programme's overarching aim is to make a reality of joint strategic commissioning and the need to work in a more cohesive manner. To support this, the partnership has undertaken a detailed joint assessment of need and current service provision which will inform our future planning.

In South Lanarkshire we believe that by working together as a partnership and sharing information appropriately, we can better support children and families. We recognise that every child is entitled to be appropriately supported throughout their childhood into adulthood, getting the help they need, when they need it.

Prevention and the provision of early support is the key to successful outcomes. By providing services which are well organised and equipped to deliver high-quality, joined-up, responsive support to children and their families, we aim for the best possible outcomes.

Whilst this Plan is for all children and young people, providing services against a backdrop of tightening budgets means there is a need to target our services to where there is greatest need. For approximately 80% of our children, universal services offer the support necessary to ensure positive outcomes are achieved. However some children and young people need extra help. Inequalities in health and attainment exist between children and young people from our more deprived communities when compared to those from our least deprived. These inequalities also exist in specific vulnerable groups e.g. care experienced children and young people, and young carers.

## Resources

Social Work, Education, Health, Police, Housing, Leisure and the Third Sector and other partners offer a range of services to support children and families. These are delivered by a number of different professional groups.

In 2015/16, over £396m was provided to services for children and families. Most of this spend was for Education Services (£287m), followed by Health Services (£63m) and Social Work Services (£33m). The resource provided was for services available to all children (universal) and for services provided to children who needed them most (targeted).





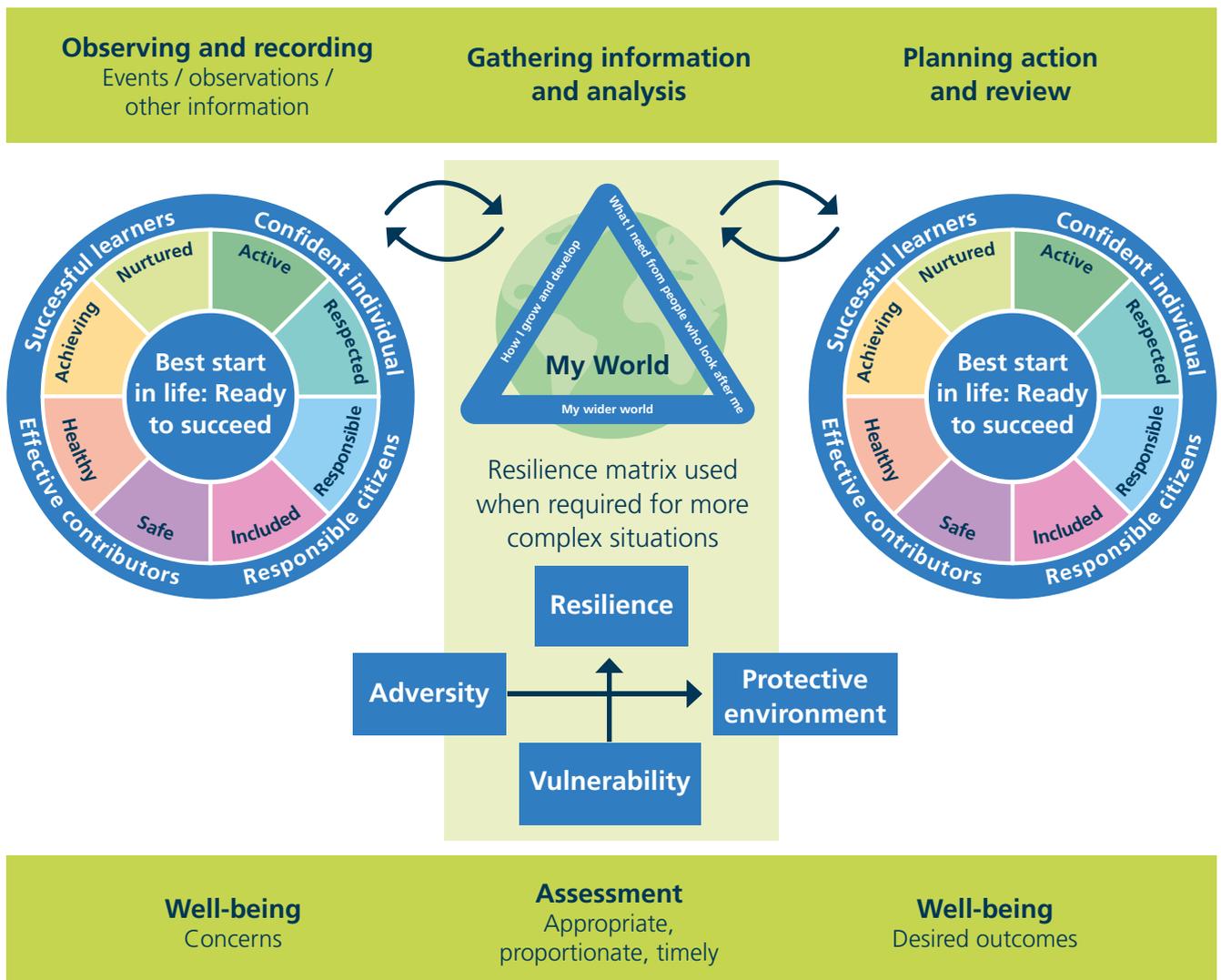
A large proportion of the children's services budget was provided to primary and secondary school-aged children (32% and 37% respectively). Fifteen percent of the budget was spent on the early years and 4% on preschool-aged children. Post school-aged young people received 2% of the total budget.

Approximately 76% of spending was for provision of universal services (£299m). Primary intervention (to stop new issues occurring) received 7% of the total resource available. Targeted secondary intervention (to reduce the effect of current issues) received 10% of the total resource available. Tertiary intervention (to reduce complications, intensity or severity of current issues) received 8% of the total resource available.

Although receiving 8% (£31m) of the total resource available, tertiary interventions are delivered to a small number of children only. These interventions are intensive and expensive.

Primary interventions received only 7% (£26m) of the total resource available. Our aim would be to shift resources from secondary and tertiary intervention (where possible) to increase primary intervention. This would help to prevent issues occurring in the first place or prevent issues requiring more intensive, crisis intervention.

## National practice model



We aim to use our combined resources effectively to ensure we deliver services which promote wellbeing, prevent adversity and provide the right help at the right time to those who need it.

The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) National Practice Model provides the necessary guidance to make sure we keep the child at the centre of our planning processes.

GIRFEC is based on shared values and principles. It recognises the fundamental rights of children and families to be involved in decisions which affect them and for everyone to be accountable for their actions, ensuring that each child achieves the four capacities above by being safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible and included. At the heart of our approach in South Lanarkshire is a commitment to engage children, young people and their families in having a say about the services and support that are made available.

## **Workforce Development**

It is important in an ever changing world that staff are appropriately trained and supported to offer a high quality, well-informed service to children, young people and families. Whilst we attempt to ensure our services are responsive, we are working towards having a suitably qualified workforce recognising that the knowledge and skills of staff can make a big difference to how they offer support.

### **In the coming three years of this plan our workforce development priorities will be;**

- GIRFEC
- Child Protection
- Corporate Parenting
- Family Support and Parenting
- Mental Health
- Youth Justice

The workforce development strategy will develop a competent and confident workforce to make best use of their ability and resources to enable wider improvement. It promotes better relationships between staff and agencies and helps develop better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of other professionals and in particular in the delivery of joint processes that can be evidenced through improved outcomes for children and families.

### **Our approach will include provision of:**

- A calendar of training opportunities
- Trainers identified on a multi-agency basis
- Single and multi-agency training opportunities
- Evaluation of the impact of training on interventions and outcomes





## Section 7 – Developing our Priorities

Effective, collaborative self-evaluation and improvement activity are at the heart of our planning approaches. Stakeholders share a wealth of data and information about provision, need and impact and through joint analysis of a wide range of data and intelligence, we have identified those groups of children and young people who require targeted support.

The South Lanarkshire CPP is a pathfinder with the Scottish Government's Realigning Children's Services (RCS) programme. This programme supports local areas with strategic needs assessment and effective joint commissioning plans. South Lanarkshire Children's Services Partnership is working with the national Realigning Children's Services team to improve the joint strategic commissioning processes nationally and have completed a large-scale health and wellbeing survey with 510 parents of 0 – 8 year olds and 16,133 primary school pupils 9 – 11 years and secondary school pupils 12 – 16 years. The key findings of this consultation will be used with partners to guide and inform years two, three and beyond of our children's services plan.

Existing services and resources have been mapped. Analysis and interpretation of this forthcoming dataset will inform Years two and three of the Children's Services Plan and support planning decisions going forward.

We are keen to hear the experiences of those children and young people we work with and we have done this through a variety of ways in advance of developing this plan, for example asking looked after children and young people to complete a 'viewpoint' questionnaire before their review. Viewpoint allows for views and opinions to be shared about things that are going well, but also highlights those areas where extra support might be required. Children and young people can decide to complete a 'have your say' form instead, allowing them a choice in how their voice is heard.

For those children who are looked after away from home. Who Cares? Scotland has been commissioned to provide an independent advocacy service recognising the importance of impartial advice and support for some of our most vulnerable children.

Young carers are a distinct group of young people who have specific needs and we listen to their experiences through the supported Young Carers Forum. This helps develop sensitive approaches and supports to help them as individuals and in their caring role.

In addition our bi-annual Youth Survey provides an ideal opportunity to hear the views of young people from across South Lanarkshire. The most recent survey involved around 2000 young people and the results of which will inform South Lanarkshire's Youth Strategy 2017 – 20. Young people in the recent survey indicated that they were most concerned about.

- Feeling safe and the impact of bullying and cyber bullying were identified as the main things that impact on health and wellbeing.
- The cost of activities, public transport and receiving good service, are the main concerns for young people being active in their communities.
- Employment opportunities, training and further education are what most young people said concerned them and is what they would like help with when planning to leave school.
- Having their say, youth rights and being involved in decision making are particularly important to young people.

As part of the strategy to develop the NHS Lanarkshire Children and Young People's Health Plan, young people from across Lanarkshire participated in an event to inform what health service improvements were required. They told us about their experiences of using health services (both positive and negative) and gave their suggestions on how they could be more involved in planning and advising on future health services.

Our broader approach to participation emphasised in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 makes it clear that consultation in itself is not enough and that partners must act to ensure the participation of communities and service users in the development, design and delivery of services. In doing so we will use South Lanarkshire's Partnership Engagement Framework (which is based on the National Community Engagement Standards) to ensure meaningful engagement activity.

In addition to this wide ranging participation and engagement activity, we set out to analyse available data to inform a joint strategic assessment of need. Data collection and analysis were undertaken across a range of wellbeing outcomes; this included population and locality level data, data across deprivation quintiles and time trends. In addition, data were scrutinised for particular groups of children and young people e.g. those looked after at home.

The data working group recorded improving, static or worsening trends over time, the scale of inequality and areas where early support could reduce the likelihood of further problems in the future. A prioritisation tool was used to support this process and data gaps were noted.

The group then undertook an extensive consultation with stakeholders at all levels to quality check this work. This took the form of three large multi-agency events involving over 220 staff across all of our children's services partners. The table below shows the outcome of this process.

The following priorities set out within the Children's Services Plan were informed by our consultation and analysis processes.





# Section 8 – Our Plan

## **Our plan is set out with a view to achieving the following aims;**

- (a) That “children’s services” in South Lanarkshire are provided in the way which –
  - (i) best safeguards, supports and promotes the wellbeing of children in South Lanarkshire,
  - (ii) ensures that any action to meet needs is taken at the earliest appropriate time and that, where appropriate, action is taken to prevent needs arising,
  - (iii) is most integrated from the point of view of recipients, and
  - (iv) constitutes the best use of available resources, and
- (b) That “related services” in the area are provided in the way which, so far is consistent with the objects and proper delivery of the service concerned, safeguards, supports and promotes the wellbeing of children in South Lanarkshire.

The above aims are about supporting effective GIRFEC practice for individual children and young people. While we will seek to get it right for every child and young person in South Lanarkshire and to work towards the best possible outcomes for all our children, we acknowledge that we require to target our resources at those in greatest need.

The plan also takes account of the cross cutting themes of tackling poverty and inequalities endorsed by the LOIP and meaningful participation and engagement of children, young people and families as an integral part our neighbourhood planning processes.



**Our plan has three priority themes:**

<b>Prevention and early support</b>	<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	<b>Supporting vulnerable groups and keeping children safe</b>
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 children with additional support needs and 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 within 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 within 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 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





# Prevention and Early Support

## Why is it important?

The early years of a child's life are critical in shaping future outcomes. The Early Years Framework identifies the need for change from a reactive to a preventative approach and provides a guide for early identification of need and early support through a universal approach. Universal services, such as maternity, health visiting and pre-school education, support a healthy start in life, positive parenting, nurturing home environments and quality pre-school provision. The Early Years Framework highlights the importance of wider predictors of future outcomes for children and families, including poverty, employment and living environments. Focusing on prevention and early support reduces future demand on services, resulting in better outcomes and more effective use of resources.

A shift towards prevention and early support offers the best opportunity for preventing future inequalities, at an economic, environmental, community and individual level. A focus on early child development is a key component of reducing inequalities, targeting those at risk and providing tailored support for those with the greatest need. It is estimated that around 40% of current spending is on interventions that could have been avoided by prioritising a preventative approach.

The implementation of the national Universal Health Visiting Pathway across Lanarkshire will further strengthen our work in the area of prevention, early identification and intervention throughout the early years of life consistently to all children under 5 and their families. This will involve using refocused approaches to Health Visiting practice and an emphasis on reducing health inequalities.

We have invested in making South Lanarkshire the best place in Scotland to learn through our schools modernisation programme and Raising Attainment and Improvement Collaborative approaches. There is still a need to prioritise support to some pupils and work is underway to close the outcome gaps in school attendance, attainment and post school destinations for children and young people in the most deprived data zones. These interventions will impact on long term outcomes in relation to attainment, poverty and sustaining employment.



## Drivers

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 aims to strengthen children's rights, and improve and expand the services that support children and families, including looked after children. It is the most significant legislation for children and families in Scotland since the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. The 18 parts of the Act are being introduced in stages and there is a wide range of consultations and amendments as required to achieve the Scottish Government's ambitions.

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places the Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) approach on a statutory footing by putting children and young people at the centre of planning and service delivery. The Act ensures children's rights are respected and a holistic and partnership approach is taken to supporting, safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children and families.

GIRFEC is about keeping the child and family at the centre and ensuring that supports are put in place at the earliest opportunity. Along with the eight wellbeing indicators this provides a framework to promote and achieve wellbeing and best possible outcomes for all our children, young people and families.

The Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC) focuses on a quality improvement approach to improve outcomes for children and families. CYPIC supports services to be more effective in supporting children and young people to achieve early key developmental milestones, literacy and numeracy and health and wellbeing outcomes, as well as sustained positive post school destinations. The Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) provides an opportunity for targeted innovative solutions to address the attainment gap.

South Lanarkshire Children's Services Partnership has developed a Parenting Support Pathway (PSP) which prioritises selected evidence-based programmes and approaches to parenting support which focuses on developing parenting skills, fostering secure attachment in children and building strong relationships with families. Implementation of the PSP will initially focus on parents and carers of children 0 – 8 years, across all four South Lanarkshire localities, at universal, additional and intensive levels of support.

Our Opportunities for All Partnership has prioritised a targeted model of support called Aspire which provides early support to school leavers who are at risk of not finding a positive destination after they leave school.

The work of the partnership in implementing the priorities contained within the plan will be informed by the Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill.





## Where are we now?

Within South Lanarkshire increasing numbers of children are living in low income households. This has a negative impact on child and family wellbeing, as well as future opportunities and aspirations. It is important that household incomes are maximised and families experiencing financial hardship are supported to find sustainable solutions. We will support parents towards and within employment and support young people to achieve positive post school destinations.

Children from more deprived backgrounds are less likely to achieve key developmental, literacy and numeracy milestones. For example 24% of children from the most deprived areas of South Lanarkshire were not reaching all of their developmental milestones at 27 – 30 months; this is compared to 12% of children from the least deprived areas. The majority of concerns were related to speech, language and communication. Planning for two national child health review contacts at 13 – 15 months and 4 – 5 years is now underway in addition to the current 27 – 30 month child health review. National developments will be kept under close review to ensure any local implementation difficulties or barriers are overcome.

Raising attainment for all is important, however reducing the attainment gap between different groups of children and young people will remain a priority and in particular pupils reflecting particular characteristics such as those who live within the most deprived communities and pupils entitled to Free School meals. An important factor in raising attainment is providing the support for key target groups to maximise attendance at school where possible. Our focus will be on improving the numbers of children and young people within our most deprived communities achieving the relevant level of literacy, currently P4 – 54%, P7 – 49% and S3 - 76%.

Children's exposure to second hand smoke is associated with deprivation and can lead to a range of health problems in children, such as asthma and increased risk of cot death. Children and young people are more likely to smoke if their parents do. The proportion of children exposed to second hand smoke has remained static over time despite various strategies aimed at reducing this number.

Youth employment is crucial to the agenda and the transition from school to the world of work is a critical time to intervene and ensure young people achieve but more importantly sustain a positive destination post school. The current figures for SLDR follow up in 2016 show that positive destinations in South Lanarkshire as 92.7% which is 1.3% better than the national average. While this is a significant outcome and reflects continuous improvement over the last five years we will work together to sustain this and also focus on closing the gap between young people in the most and deprived datazones.

## THEME 1: Prevention and early support

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

**We will measure progress towards this priority outcome with reference to the following indicators and targets**

Issue	Crosscutting Links	Indicator(s) and Source	Baseline	Latest figures reported	Short Term Target (1 year)	Medium Term Target (3yr)
1.1 Children's exposure to second hand smoke in pregnancy and early childhood	Healthy (LOIP 1, 5) Tobacco Control Strategy	Percentage of children exposed to second hand smoke at 27 – 30 months (Source: Health ISD)	10.9% (Jan 2017)	10.9% (2017)	9.9%	8.0%
1.2 The number of children living in low income households	Included (LOIP 1, 5)	Percentage of all children living in low income households (Source: DWP/HMRC)	18.1% (2014)	18.1% (2014)	17.6%	17.1%
1.3 Speech, language and communication in early years	Healthy, Achieving (LOIP 4) NHSL Child and Young People Health Plan	Percentage of children within each SIMD quintile will have reached their language developmental milestones at the time of their 27 – 30 month child health review (Source: Discovery)	73% SIMD 1 77.5% SIMD 2 76.4% SIMD 3 81.5% SIMD 4 85.7% SIMD 5 (2016)	73% 77.5% 76.4% 81.5% 85.7%	75% 79% 79% 83% 86%	77% 81% 81% 85% 87%
1.4 School attendance of children and young people in the most deprived communities	Achieving, Included (LOIP 4)	Percentage school attendance for children and young people in SIMD 1 (Source: SIMD 2016 Data)	71% (2016)	71%	72%	73%

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

**We will measure progress towards this priority outcome with reference to the following indicators and targets**

Issue	Crosscutting Links	Indicator(s) and Source	Baseline	Latest figures reported	Short Term Target (1 year)	Medium Term Target (3yr)
1.5 Literacy of children and young people within the most deprived communities	Achieving Healthy (LOIP 4)	Percentage of children, within SIMD 1 will have successfully achieved CfE first level literacy by P4 (Source: SEEMIS)	54%	54%	55%	77%
		Percentage of children, within SIMD 1 will have successfully achieved CfE second level literacy by P7 (Source: SEEMIS)	49%	49%	50%	52%
		Percentage of children, within SIMD 1 will have successfully achieved CfE Third level literacy by S3 (Source: SEEMIS)	76%	76%	77%	79%
1.6 Employability of Young people within most deprived communities	Achieving, Included (LOIP 2, 4)	Percentage of young people within each SIMD quintile participating in employment, education or training (Source: Education/Insight)	Lowest 30% (Outcome 90.5%) 2016	L 30% (90.5%)	L 30% (target 91.5%)	L 30% (target 93%)
			Middle 40% (Outcome 94.7%) 2016	Middle 40% (94.7%)	Middle 40% (target 95%)	Middle 40% (target 95.5%)



**We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above**

<b>Change Required</b>	<b>Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Poverty focus/LOIP/ GIRFEC theme</b>
1.1a Reduce exposure to second hand smoke in early childhood in SIMD 1 and 2	Deliver brief interventions in early childhood and monitor numbers delivered	Percentage of brief interventions delivered in early childhood	March 2020	Val De Souza	LOIP 1,2 Healthy
1.2a Increase uptake of free school meals	Continue with initiatives to increase uptake of Free School Meals	Percentage of Free School Meals uptake by P4 – S6	March 2020	Tony McDaid	Yes LOIP 1,5 Included
1.2b Maximise income for families	Work in partnership with the financial inclusion sector to roll out successful work to support the financial wellbeing of pregnant women and low income families  Roll out use of the Lanarkshire money worries App	Percentage of families engaging with money matters	March 2020	Val De Souza	Yes LOIP 1, 5 Included
		Percentage of eligible families taking up healthy start vouchers	March 2020	Val De Souza	Yes LOIP 1, 5 Included

**We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above**

<b>Change Required</b>	<b>Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Poverty focus/LOIP/ GIRFEC theme</b>
1.3a Reduce the number of children with speech and language concerns at 27 – 30 months child health review	At 12 – 15 months all children with concern have a support package / outcome plan in place	Percentage of children with no speech and language concern at 27 – 30 months (Source: Discovery)	March 2020	Val De Souza	LOIP 4 Included
	Workers in contact with families in early childhood and highlight the opportunity of 2 year old nursery places	Percentage uptake of 2 year old places by those eligible	March 2020	Val DeSousa	LOIP 1, 4 Included Achieving
1.3b Increase parental understanding of age and stage of development	Provide a range of publicity material including leaflets and websites to raise awareness of the Parenting Support Pathway to parents	Number of parents participating in planned programmes	March 2020	Val DeSousa	Healthy, Achieving Nurtured (LOIP 1,4)
	Deliver You and Your child programme as an integral part of the Parenting Support Pathway	Number of parents completing the You and Your Child programme	March 2020	Val DeSousa	Healthy, Achieving Nurtured (LOIP 1,4)



**We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above**

<b>Change Required</b>	<b>Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Poverty focus/LOIP/ GIRFEC theme</b>
1.4a Attendance of children and young people in the most deprived data zones	Track, monitor and take appropriate action in relation to school attendance of pupils in the 20% most deprived communities	Percentage attendance of pupils in the 20% most deprived communities	March 2020	Tony McDaid	TP LOIP 4 Achieving, Included
	Identify primary school to work on a change package to target attendance (Raising Attainment Challenge/PEF)	Percentage attendance of pupils in targeted schools	March 2020	Tony McDaid	TP LOIP 4 Achieving, Included
1.5a Literacy of the pupils in the most deprived areas	Produce a change package supported by PEF for literacy in primary schools and test in school establishments	Number of pupils in each SIMD quintile attaining level 1 by end of P4	March 2020	Tony McDaid	TP LOIP 4 Achieving
		Number of pupils in each SIMD quintile attaining level 2 by end of P7	March 2020	Tony McDaid	TP LOIP 4 Achieving
		Number of pupils in each SIMD quintile attaining level 3 by end of S3	March 2020	Tony McDaid	TP LOIP 4 Achieving
	Support vulnerable children to participate in targeted transition programmes	Number of pupils participating in targeted transition programmes	March 2020	Tony McDaid	LOIP 4 Achieving

**We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above**

Change Required	Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)	Measure	Timescale	Responsibility	Poverty focus/LOIP/ GIRFEC theme
1.6a Positive destinations for young people in the most deprived areas	Deliver a range of supports and tracking systems to identify those who require additional help early and offer the required multi-agency support to young people and their families	Percentage reduction in the gap of positive destination outcomes for young people in the 30% most deprived data zones	March 2020	Tony McDaid	TP LOIP 4 Achieving Included



# Health and Wellbeing

## Why is it important?

The health and wellbeing of children and families is vital for populations to live longer, healthier lives and make the most of life's opportunities. Health and wellbeing is affected by a range of wider factors such as income, where we live and the services we have access to.

Children's emotional wellbeing and mental health is nurtured primarily in the home, but services can and do make a difference. Universal services supporting parents and carers are a key way of promoting children's emotional wellbeing during the perinatal stage and in the early years. A secure parent/child relationship is a key building block for the development of secure attachment and helps to build emotional resilience in children.

For older children and young people, support for parents and carers remains important. There is also evidence that schools and other agencies can enhance children and young people's emotional wellbeing for example by reducing risk taking behaviour, building self esteem and resilience and supporting the development of social and emotional skills.

## Drivers

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a definition of wellbeing in statute. Wellbeing is defined by a set of eight indicators to provide a common language for children, families and practitioners and to ensure a holistic view of wellbeing is considered i.e. that children and young people are safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. It is recognised that these indicators are all connected and overlapping. Services are required to ensure that the wellbeing of children is safeguarded, supported and promoted so that they can achieve their full potential.

Curriculum for Excellence aims to foster four capacities in children and young people so that they are successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. Health and wellbeing is central to achieving this aim, from early years through to secondary education and beyond.

More recently, the National Mental Health Strategy 2017 – 2027 sets out how it aims to improve the mental health of children and young people, increasing access to services and supporting earlier intervention. In addition, a range of other strategies provide a framework for improvement of child and family health and wellbeing in areas such as weight management, tobacco control and alcohol use.

The Scottish Health Survey published in 2016 indicated that 63% of adults and 73% of children met guidelines for moderate or vigorous physical activity. A lack of physical activity contributes towards around 2,500 deaths each year in Scotland and costs the NHS around £91m per year. The Active Scotland Outcomes Framework provides a guide to supporting wellbeing in communities through physical activity.

The South Lanarkshire Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport Strategy provides a framework that supports the improvement of health, increased physical activity of children and young people in our schools and throughout our communities.





The National Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People strategy sets out what actions are needed to tackle the cycle of deprivation associated with many pregnancies in young people and provides extra support for young parents. The Strategy focuses on increasing the opportunities available to young people, to support their wellbeing and prosperity across the life course.

The Chief Executive's Letter (CEL) 16 2009 provides a directive to NHS boards to ensure all children who become looked after have their health and wellbeing needs assessed receive timely interventions to improve outcomes.

## **Where are we now?**

Within South Lanarkshire we have improved access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and most recent figures show that 95% of children and young people are seen within 18 weeks (Scottish average is 79%). Lanarkshire's Parenting Support Strategy commits to supporting parents to be confident and competent in their efforts to build strong attachments with babies and young children and build resilience with children and young people. This aims to prevent the need for more intensive mental health intervention at a later date.

Data from the national SALSUS survey shows a decreasing trend in young people reporting smoking, drinking alcohol and using illegal drugs. Whilst this figure has shown some improvement recently in comparison to the national average, work will continue to sustain continued progress. Teenage pregnancy rates are also reducing in South Lanarkshire, although in under 16 year olds there has been no recent improvement and this requires some focus.

Overweight and obesity levels in P1 children are increasing, impacting on health and wellbeing now and in future years by increasing risk of chronic conditions such as Type 2 diabetes and mental health problems such as low self-esteem. While South Lanarkshire meets its Physical Education (PE) in schools targets (two hours/periods per week), around a fifth (20.3%) of children in South Lanarkshire are overweight or obese. Obesity increases with age, so earlier intervention to support weight management is key including promoting breastfeeding. Our breastfeeding rates in South Lanarkshire are declining. The latest figure is 19.6%, compared the national average of 26.1% at six weeks.

The recent RCS survey report told us that children and young people are less likely to participate in regular exercise as they get older and this is especially relevant in girls. This will be an area that we will seek to develop and will use the RCS data to highlight areas of concern and identify areas for action that address obesity figures.

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

**We will measure progress towards this priority outcome with reference to the following indicators and targets**

Issue	Ref	Indicator(s) and Source	Baseline	Latest figures reported	Short Term Target (1 year)	Medium Term Target (3yr)
2.1 Emotional and behavioural concerns impacting on early years development	Nurtured (LOIP 1,4)	Percentage of children with no emotional and behavioural developmental concerns at 27/30 months (Source: NHS/ISD)	Emotional 95.1% (2016) Behavioural 92% (2016)	95.1% (2016) 92% (2016)	96% 93%	97% 94%
2.2 Children and young people with a healthy weight	Healthy Active (LOIP 5) NHSL Child Health Plan	Percentage of P1 children within a healthy weight (Source: NHS/ISD)	86.1% (2016)	86.1% (2016)	86.5% %	88%
		Percentage of school roll participating in Active Schools programme (Source: South Lanarkshire Leisure-Annual Report)	46% (2016)	46% (2016)	47%	48%
2.3 Health and wellbeing of Care Experienced children and young people	Healthy (LOIP 5)	Percentage of all Looked After children and young people Health Needs Assessments completed within 4 weeks (Source: NHS)	59% (2016)	59%	65%	85%
2.4 Mental health and emotional wellbeing of young people	Healthy (LOIP 4)	Percentage of Young People accessing school counselling service reporting reduced anxiety and stress (Source NHS/CAMHS)	62.1% (2016)	62.1%	65%	70%

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

**We will measure progress towards this priority outcome with reference to the following indicators and targets**

Issue	Ref	Indicator(s) and Source	Baseline	Latest figures reported	Short Term Target (1 year)	Medium Term Target (3yr)
2.5 Alcohol and drug use amongst young people	Responsible (LOIP 4) South Lanarkshire ADP Plan	Percentage of 15 year olds drinking alcohol at least once a week (Source: SALSUS)	16.2% (2014)	16.2%	16%	15%
		Percentage of 15 year olds reporting using drugs in the last month (Source SALSUS)	12% (2014)	12%	11%	10%
2.6 Teenage Pregnancy	Responsible, Healthy (LOIP 4)	Pregnancy rate in under 16 per 1,000 (Source: NHS/ISD)	5 per 1,000 (2014)	5 per 1,000	4.5 per 1,000	4 per 1000



**We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above**

Change Required	Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)	Measure	Timescale	Responsibility	Poverty focus/LOIP/ GIRFEC theme
2.1a Decrease emotional, behaviour and social concerns impacting on early years development	Deliver attachment based programmes (Early Years Framework of Assessment and Intervention for Attachment and Resilience, Solihull and Mellow Parenting) to parents with an intensive level of need including children affected by substance misuse, domestic abuse and those at risk of child protection registration	Percentage of parents achieving outcomes following one to one or group work intervention	March 2020	Val De Souza	Nurtured, Included (LOIP 1, 4)
	Children aged 3 – 6 with a behavioural issue receiving one to one support or group work Incredible Years intervention	Percentage of children whose parents recorded an improvement in behavioural difficulties (SDQ scores) following Incredible Years programme.	March 2020	Val De Souza	Nurtured, Included (LOIP 1, 4)
	Develop an attachment strategy to inform the implementation of training on attachment informed practice across children's services	Number of practitioners receiving training on attachment theory	March 2020	Tony McDaid	Nurtured, Included (LOIP 1, 4)

**We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above**

<b>Change Required</b>	<b>Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Poverty focus/LOIP/ GIRFEC theme</b>
2.2a Increasing children and young people with a healthy weight	Scope out partnership strategies to improve the rate of breastfeeding at birth and 6 – 8 weeks	Percentage of babies exclusively breastfed at birth and 6 – 8 weeks	March 2020	Val De Souza	Healthy (LOIP 5)
	Interrogate RCS data and identify relevant interventions to address improved nutrition and reduce obesity	Report provided to Strategy Group	March 2018	Val De Souza	Healthy (LOIP 5)
	Work together to increase participation in South Lanarkshire Leisure Early Years activities	Percentage of parents participating in early years activities	March 2020	Gerry Campbell	Healthy (LOIP 5)
	South Lanarkshire Leisure will increase the quality and range of opportunities offered before, and after school and during lunchtime across sport and physical activity	Percentage of school roll participating in Active Schools programme	March 2020	Gerry Campbell	Healthy (LOIP 5)



**We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above**

<b>Change Required</b>	<b>Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Poverty focus/LOIP/ GIRFEC theme</b>
2.3a Improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for care experienced children and young people	Processes in place for prompt notification when a child or young person becomes looked after for wellbeing assessments and wellbeing plans responsive to individual needs with efficient pathways of support	Percentage of LAAC notifications to Health within 5 days	March 2020	Val De Souza	Healthy Included (LOIP 4)
2.4a Improve early identification and support for young people at risk of and/ or experiencing poor emotional health and wellbeing	Continue to provide and deliver nurture based approaches in establishments	Number of pupils benefiting from nurture support in secondary schools	March 2020	Tony McDaid	TP Healthy Nurtured (LOIP 4)
	Scope the range of mental health and wellbeing resources for young people in Lanarkshire with a view to bringing together for ease of access and referral. E.g. Well Connected for young people	Scoping exercise complete	March 2018	Val De Souza	Healthy Nurtured (LOIP 4)

**We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above**

<b>Change Required</b>	<b>Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Poverty focus/LOIP/ GIRFEC theme</b>
2.5a Reduced risk taking behaviours around alcohol and drugs by young people	Improve access to services for young people with Substance Misuse problems	Percentage of young people receiving support with reduced levels of alcohol and substance misuse	March 2020	Val De Souza	Responsible (LOIP 4)
	Raise the awareness of NPS amongst targeted staff	Number of staff participating in the NPS awareness raising sessions	March 2020	Val De Souza	Responsible (LOIP 4)
	Implement alcohol brief interventions with young people identified as having a difficulty as a way of addressing and reducing alcohol use	Number of brief interventions delivered to young people	March 2020	Val De Souza	Responsible (LOIP 4)
2.6a Reduce teenage pregnancies in under 16s	Develop education guidelines in line with the Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy	Pregnancy rate in under 16 per 1,000	March 2019	Val De Souza	Responsible (LOIP 4)



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



## Why is it important?

Children and young people can be vulnerable for a variety of reasons and need additional support, protection and on occasion care from different agencies. We recognise the importance of single and multi-agency assessment and planning as a starting point for all our children with support needs. Through our GIRFEC implementation we will continue to drive forward improvements in the quality of our assessment and planning to ensure risks and needs are identified and responded to as timely and effectively as possible.

Children with or affected by disability as well as those with ASN often experience inequality and discrimination causing both short and long term difficulties. The number of children and young people with ASN and disabilities is increasing and we recognise the need to put in place a long term strategy that will provide the best possible support in the future. Over the last few years we have engaged with families affected by disability to ensure they inform the planning and delivery of services.

Support to Young Carers is an integral part of our improvement strategy in tackling inequality. Many young carers are not always visible to our schools and communities and we acknowledge there is a need to improve how we identify and support young carers. This will be a feature of the forthcoming Young Carers Policy.



Children who experience homelessness are at an increased risk of physical and mental health problems, lower educational attainment and are often less likely to receive access to appropriate support.

Where there continue to be serious concerns, some children may become 'looked after'. Children can be looked after at home, in kinship care, with foster carers, in residential homes or external residential establishments like schools or secure units. For those children unable to return home, permanent alternative arrangements are considered to promote wellbeing.

Those children and young people deemed to be most at risk will be subject to Child Protection procedures to help safeguard their wellbeing. The partnership works to: The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014; this provides a national framework for agencies and practitioners to understand and agree processes for working together to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children. I.e. children exposed to parental substance misuse or emotional abuse linked to domestic abuse

## Drivers

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 provides the legal framework for the provision of additional support for learning. The legislation was amended by the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009. The Act is structured around the concept of support being needed for any reason, and for short or long term periods determined by the individual learning needs of the child or young person.

The Getting it Right for Looked After Children and Young People strategy launched in 2015 by the Scottish Government, recognises looked after children often have poorer outcomes in respect to health (including mental health) and education.

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places duties and responsibilities on Corporate Parents for all looked after children from birth and potentially up to their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday. In South Lanarkshire there is commitment to improve outcomes for looked after children and care leavers. Over the last three years South Lanarkshire has had an average of 660 children and young people who are looked after at any one time. Our Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan 2016 – 2018 was launched on 19 May 2016. The strategy sets out six core commitments and an action plan which provides a framework showing our aspiration to improve the lifelong outcomes of looked after children and young people.

For those children who are most vulnerable in our communities, the South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee maintains an oversight of how well partners are working together to address issues of safeguarding. The Child Protection Committee is a multi-agency strategic partnership responsible for the design, development, publication, distribution, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of child protection policy and practice across the public, private and wider third sectors. This work is informed by the West of Scotland Interagency Child Protection Procedures. We clearly recognise in order to address all wellbeing concerns, all partners must work together to increase the life chances of the most vulnerable children.

South Lanarkshire's Local Housing Strategy sets out how we aim to make housing more suitable and sustainable to meet current and future resident needs.

## Where are we now?

South Lanarkshire Council has developed a continuum of provision for children and young people with Additional Support Needs which includes standalone special schools, units and bases co-located with mainstream schools, support classes integrated within mainstream schools and packages of support for individual children within mainstream classes which match support to need. This provision supports children who are on the autism spectrum and takes into account the Scottish Government's overarching policy to presume that all children should attend their local mainstream school unless circumstances rule this out.

Our school attendance rate for looked after at home children is 84.3% compared to 94.5% for those looked after away from home. Attainment levels for our looked after at home are poorer than their looked after away from home peers with an average tariff score of 57 for the middle 60% of all looked after at home compared with average tariff score of 327 for the middle 60% in those looked after away from home. Looked after at home young people also compare unfavourably with their looked after away from home peers in terms of positive post school destinations with a 2016 rate of 65.5% compared with 88.6%.

Within South Lanarkshire 716 families with children have experienced homelessness. While there are a range of supports in place to ensure the impact is minimised we want to ensure we provide the best possible support to identified families.

While South Lanarkshire has a positive youth offending trend it still sits above the national average, especially for repeat offences, as does referrals to the reporter on school attendance grounds which are currently more than twice the national average.

Children and young people referred to the Reporter has remained steady over recent years. In the year ending 31 March 2016 there were 1,260 referrals that involved 724 children. The number of children referred has remained around the same since 2010 following a significant drop in referrals. This was due to early screening through GIRFEC processes, domestic abuse processes, Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) for young people who offended.

The percentage of referrals for failure to attend school without reasonable excuse was 9.3% for South Lanarkshire as compared to the national average of 4.2%. School attendance is a priority area for the GIRFEC Partnership and a range of interventions are being put in place to improve school attendance of the most vulnerable groups.

The percentage of referrals for lack of parental care was 15.5% for South Lanarkshire as compared to national average of 23.7%. This reflects the work undertaken across the GIRFEC Partnership to intervene early and work to support children and their families on a voluntary basis where possible reducing the needs for statutory measures of care.





Substance misuse can have a profound impact on children and young people of all ages. We recognise the need for early awareness raising during pregnancy and identification of women who are misusing substances whilst pregnant, to ensure the appropriate support and safeguarding arrangements are put in place. The impact of parental substance misuse is well researched and shows children are more likely to be at risk of abuse, neglect and maltreatment and at increased risk of developing substance misuse, behavioural and/or mental health issues themselves. Reducing the impact of substance misuse on children is a key priority for the Children's Services Partnership.

On average in South Lanarkshire, we have 660 children and young people who are looked after at any point in time. Educational attainment is an important factor for all children, but more so for our most vulnerable children for whom it offers opportunities to improve their life chances by securing employment, a college placement, work based apprenticeship or training. We know that while outcomes for children and young people who are looked after are worse than the broader population, outcomes for those looked after at home is a particular concern and will be a priority over the three years of this plan.

Over the past three years there was on average 262 children registered on the child protection register each year. The main categories of registration relate to neglect, emotional abuse (this includes exposure to domestic abuse in the household) and parental substance misuse. The partnership will work together to identify and provide appropriate supports to these children, young people and families to help reduce any impact on their life chances.

Young Carers are an additional group who require support, and we know that there are around 160 children and young carers currently receiving support in South Lanarkshire. As we move forward a task and finish group will be established to further understand their needs and consider what areas for improvement there may be.

## THEME: Vulnerable groups and keeping children safe

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

**We will measure progress towards this priority outcome with reference to the following indicators and targets**

Issue	Ref	Indicator(s) and Source	Baseline	Latest figures reported	Short Term Target (1 year)	Medium Term Target (3yr)
3.1 Employability of care experienced young people	Achieving (LOIP 2,4) Corporate Parenting Plan	Percentage of care experienced young people achieving a positive destination 9 months after leaving school. (Follow up survey) (Source: SDS/ Insight)	SLC 80% (National Average 69%)	80% (National Average 69%)	80%	85%
3.2 Attainment for Care Experienced children and young people	Achieving, Included (LOIP 4)  Corporate Parenting Action Plan	Attainment for care experienced children and young people in line with national average and virtual comparator  Care Experienced young people obtaining 5 or more awards at level 5	57.9% (2012/13)	55.4% (2014.15)	57.9%	60%
3.3 Attendance at school for Care Experienced children and young people	Responsible Included (LOIP 4,6)	Percentage attendance of care experienced children and young people (Source: SEEMIS)	85.1% (2016)	85.1% (2016)	86%	87%

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

**We will measure progress towards this priority outcome with reference to the following indicators and targets**

Issue	Ref	Indicator(s) and Source	Baseline	Latest figures reported	Short Term Target (1 year)	Medium Term Target (3yr)
3.4 Repeat referrals to SCRA	Responsible (LOIP 1,4) Youth Justice Action Plan	Number of repeat referrals to Reporter on offence grounds (Source: SCRA)	SLC 26.5% 2016  (SLC Repeat referrals tbc)	26%	25.5%	25%
		Percentage referrals to the Reporter for failure to attend school without reasonable excuse (Source: SCRA)	SLC 9.3% 2016	9.3%	8.5%	7.5%
3.5 Impact of domestic abuse in children and young people	Safe (LOIP 1,6)	Number of incidents of domestic abuse where children were affected that were referred to Social Work (Source: SW/Police)	1,984 (2016)	1,984 (2016)	1,900	1,820



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

**We will measure progress towards this priority outcome with reference to the following indicators and targets**

Issue	Ref	Indicator(s) and Source	Baseline	Latest figures reported	Short Term Target (1 year)	Medium Term Target (3yr)
3.6 Impact of parental substance misuse on children and young people	Healthy, Safe Nurtured (LOIP 1,6)	Number of pre-birth registrations for babies affected by substance misuse (Source: SW Database)	35 (2016)	35 (2016)	34	32
		Percentage of children affected by parental substance misuse on the Child Protection Register (Source: SWiS)	34% (2017)	34% (2017)	33%	31%
3.7 Support to children and young people with Additional Support Needs	Included Respected (LOIP 4)	Percentage of pupils with an ASN within primary and secondary establishments (Source: Education/Insight)	Primary 13.7% (2013)	Primary 13.7% (2013)	Primary 13.7% (2013)	Primary 13.7% (2013)
			Secondary 14% (2013)	Secondary 14% (2013)	Secondary 14% (2013)	Secondary 14% (2013)

**We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above**

<b>Change Required</b>	<b>Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Poverty focus</b>
3.1a Improved employability tracking and monitoring of care experienced young people	Refresh the multi-agency tracking group to include NHS Lanarkshire	Percentage reduction in the gap for destination outcomes for care experienced young people (linked to national average)	March 2018	Tony McDaid	TP LOIP 4 Achieving Included
	Widen the tracking group remit to include all care experienced young people and those in the youth justice system	Percentage reduction in the gap for destination outcomes for care experienced young people (linked to national average)	March 2019	Tony McDaid	TP LOIP 4 Achieving Included
	Provide annual reports on the progress and needs of care experienced young people and employment outcomes	Percentage reduction in the gap for destination outcomes for care experienced young people (linked to national average)	March 2020	Tony McDaid	TP LOIP 4 Achieving Included
3.2a Improved attainment of care experienced children and young people	As an integral part of the Corporate Parenting Action Plan implement the duties of the designated managers/named persons role in all establishments with a focus on attendance	Percentage of exclusions in additional support needs provision for looked after pupils	March 2020	Tony McDaid	TP LOIP 4 Achieving Included
	All Education establishments offer support to improve care experienced pupils progress	Percentage attaining 5 or more awards at level 5	March 2020	Tony McDaid	TP LOIP 4 Achieving Included



**We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above**

<b>Change Required</b>	<b>Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Poverty focus</b>
3.3a Attendance at school for care experienced children and young people	All education establishments prioritise attendance tracking of pupils who are looked after at home	Percentage attendance of pupils who are looked after at home	March 2020	Tony Mcdaid	TP LOIP 4 Achieving Included
	Establish a care plan for those pupils looked after at home who require support to improve attendance	Percentage of pupils who are looked after at home with a care plan in place	March 2020	Tony Mcdaid Val De Souza	TP LOIP 4 Achieving Included
3.4a A reduction in the number of children and young people being referred to SCRA on offence grounds	Deliver Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) model (Getting it Right for Young People who Offend) in all localities	Number of referrals into EEI system	March 2020	Rob Hay	LOIP 4 Responsible
3.4b A reduction in the number of children and young people being referred to the Reporter on school attendance grounds	All establishments implement attendance policy/procedures	Percentage attendance of pupils	March 2020	Tony McDaid	LOIP 4 Responsible

**We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above**

<b>Change Required</b>	<b>Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Poverty focus</b>
3.5a Increased support offered to children and families experiencing domestic abuse	Implement the actions contained within South Lanarkshire's Gender Based Violence Partnership Strategy 2016 – 19	Number of staff participating in relevant training opportunities	March 2020	Val De Souza	LOIP 1,6 Safe
		Number of events delivered to support local, national and international campaigns	March 2020	Val De Souza	LOIP 1,6 Safe
		Number of children and young people supported by Women's Aid	March 2020	Val De Souza	LOIP 1,6 Safe
3.6a / 3.6b Reduce the Impact of parental substance misuse on children and young people	All pregnant substance misusing women are supported by the locality Early Years Multi-Agency Forums (EYMAF)	Number of pre-birth registrations for babies affected by substance misuse	March 2020	Val De Souza	LOIP 1, 4,5 Healthy Nurtured
	Put in place women's support plans	Percentage of women with a plan in place by 20 weeks	March 2020	Val De Souza	LOIP 1, 4,5 Healthy Nurtured
	Improve the collaborative approach across the partnership to tackle substance misuse issues for those at risk of child protection registration	Number of children on the Child Protection Register due to parental substance misuse	March 2020	Val De Souza	Safe (LOIP 1,6)
		Number of Wellbeing Assessments for parents/ carers affected by alcohol or substance misuse	March 2020	Val De Souza	Safe (LOIP 1,6)



**We will take the following actions to achieve the outcome above**

<b>Change Required</b>	<b>Action to achieve change (including outcome measures and targets)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Poverty focus</b>
3.7a / 3.7b Pupils with ASN are better supported	Put in place guidance for schools and establishments on how best to support all children with ASN through staged intervention, assessment and planning with parents, children and partners	Guidance for schools and establishments is in place and being used	March 2020	Tony McDaid	Included Respected (LOIP 4)
	Develop in collaboration with partner agencies effective interventions to promote better outcomes for children who are autistic and their families	Guidance for schools are in place on how best to engage autistic children with a demand avoidant profile	March 2020	Tony McDaid	Included Respected (LOIP 4)



# Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Themes

- 1. Family focused inclusion strategy**
- 2. Supporting employment / childcare**
- 3. Improving housing quality**
- 4. Supporting education, skills, development – young people**
- 5. Tackling Health inequalities**
- 6. Supporting safeguarding measures**
- 7. Improving local environment**

# Section 9 – Performance Management

We will produce an annual report to report on progress against our targets and ensure efficient governance and accountability and also maintain clear relationships between different planning and reporting processes and ensure efficient governance and accountability. The annual report will be informed by half yearly reporting (mid-year and end year) returns against all aspects of our plan and also by the work of the Data Planning Group, which will monitor and analyse trends in agreed data and help inform the planning of future priority areas.

In addition we have identified where the key areas of this plan contribute towards the seven priority themes of the LOIP and the agreed crosscutting theme of tackling deprivation, poverty and inequality and reporting activity will incorporate governance requirements for reporting on LOIP priorities.

Continuous improvement is an integral part of our governance structure and our approach has been informed by national legislation and policy. Our commitment to continuous improvement includes carrying out a range of activity designed to improve standards, some of which includes:

- Using the '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) frameworks to assess the impact of our services.
- Enabling the Children's Services Partnership to inform stakeholders about the quality of services being delivered to improve the lives of children, young people and their families
- Directing, maintaining and managing delivery of multiagency self-evaluation
- Auditing agreed joint processes and using information appropriately to promote consistency in best practice within and across agencies
- External inspection of children's services by the Care Inspectorate and development of a multi-agency improvement plan

The Continuous Improvement Group has developed a Continuous Improvement Framework and Practitioner Guidance to inform the above work and to support the implementation of a range of quality assurance activity on a multi-agency basis and includes the Scottish Government's 'Three Step Improvement Framework'. This Group will oversee and report on a number of continuous improvement activities with the development of a Quality Assurance Framework on behalf of the partnership throughout the term of the plan.





# Section 10 – Appendices

## Appendix i – Children’s Service Plan drivers

### Child Protection

- The National Guidance for Child Protection Committees for Conducting a Significant Case Review March 2015
- National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (Scottish Government, May 2014).
- National Framework for Child Protection Learning and Development in Scotland 2012
- National Risk Framework to support the Assessment of Children and Young People (2012)
- Child Protection Guidance for Health Professionals: Protecting Children and Young People: The responsibilities of all Doctors
- Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2004 – Information Guide
- Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005
- Responding to Forced Marriage: Multiagency Practice Guidelines (Scottish Government) 2011
- Forced Marriage (Protection and Jurisdiction) Scotland Act 2011
- Forced Marriage Scotland
- Sudden Unexplained Death in Infants - SUDI Scotland Toolkit – for Professionals
- Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005
- Under-age Sexual Activity: Meeting the needs of Children and Young People and Identifying Child Protection Concerns (Scottish Government)
- South Lanarkshire’s Child Protection Committee Business Plan

### Children’s Rights

- UN Convention on Rights of the Child 1989
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Statutory Guidance for Part 1 (Children’s Rights) 2016.
- 7 Golden Rules for Participation – Children and Young People’s Commissioner Scotland (2013).

### Community Learning and Development

- Community Learning and Development Standards Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development (2012)
- Community Learning and Development Regulations (2013)
- Community Empowerment Act (2015)
- Curriculum for Excellence (2010)
- Equalities Act (2010)
- Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) 2004 as amended 2009
- For Scotland’s Children (2001)
- South Lanarkshire’s Community Learning and Development Strategy and supporting Action Plan

## Corporate Parenting and Looked After Children

- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (the Act) Parts 9 (Corporate Parenting) 10 (Aftercare) 11 (Continuing Care) 12 (children at risk of becoming looked after)
- Section 17(6) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007
- We are the Bairns' –A guide to corporate parenting by looked after children for their corporate parents YPOC Group (March 2014)
- Guide to Meetings – Be Happy, Know Your Rights (YPOC Group 2011)
- These are Our Bairns" (Scottish Government 2007)
- Our Family Firm (2011) Scottish Government
- Supporting young People Leaving Care in Scotland: Regulations and Guidance on Services for Young People Ceasing to be Looked After by Local Authorities (2004).
- Staying Put Scotland 2013
- Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011
- Support and Assistance of Young People Leaving Care (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2015
- Getting It Right For Children in Residential Care (Audit Scotland) 2010
- South Lanarkshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy and supporting action plan
- South Lanarkshire Social Work Resources Plan

## Disabilities

- Child protection and the needs and rights of disabled children and young people; a scoping study
- Scottish Good Practice Guidelines for supporting Parents with Learning Disabilities
- Equalities Act (2010)
- Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) 2004 as amended 2009
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995

## Domestic and Gender based abuse

- National Strategy to Address Domestic Abuse (2000)
- Safer Lives, Changed Lives: A Shared Approach to Tackling Violence against Women in Scotland (2009)
- With Scotland (2012) Checklist for Violence Against Women Partnerships and Child Protection Committees
- National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People
- Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (relevant to the offence of stalking)
- Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scotland Act (2007)



## Early Years

- Building the Ambition, National Practice Guidance on Early Learning and Childcare
- Play Strategy for Scotland
- Early Years Framework (2008) Scottish Government
- Early Years Taskforce Shared Vision and Priorities (2012)
- National Care Standards framework
- Pre-Birth to Three: Positive Outcomes for Scotland's Children and Families
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative
- Review of the Scottish Early learning and Childcare Workforce and Out of School Care Workforce
- A Blueprint for 2020 - The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland (Consultation)
- Raising Attainment for All
- Growing up in Scotland
- Maternity and Children Quality Improvement Collaborative (MCQIC) 2013
- Universal Health Visiting Pathway
- South Lanarkshire's Parenting Support Strategy and Parenting Support Pathway

## Education

- Better relationships, better learning, better behaviour
- Education Scotland How good is our school? 4
- Delivering Excellence and Equity in Scottish Education - A Delivery Plan for Scotland
- Curriculum for Excellence (2010)
- Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) 2004 as amended 2009
- The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act (2000)
- Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006
- For Scotland's Children (2001)
- Education (Scotland) Act 2016
- South Lanarkshire Education Resources Plan

## Health

- Child Health 2020, A Strategic Framework for Children and Young People's Health
- Universal Health Visiting Pathway in Scotland, Pre-birth to Pre-School, October 2015
- Equally Well (2008)
- The Healthcare Quality Strategy for Scotland (The Scottish Government, 2010)
- A New Look at Hall 4 (2011)
- NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (QIS) framework
- Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)
- NHS Lanarkshire Children and Young Person's Health Plan
- NHS Lanarkshire Healthcare Strategy – Achieving Excellence

## Mental Health

- Suicide Prevention Strategy
- Suicide Prevention for Looked After Children and Young People SCSWIS (2011)
- The Mental Health of Children and Young People: A framework for promotion, prevention and care
- Working with Children and Adults who may be at risk of self-harm: Practice Guidance on information sharing, protection and confidentiality
- The National Patient Safety Agency Rapid Response report
- Cyberbullying – Safe to Learn: Embedding anti-bullying work in schools
- Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003

## Substance Misuse

- A New Framework for Local Partnerships on Alcohol and Drugs (2009)
- Changing Scotland's relationship with Alcohol: Getting our Priorities Right (2012)
- Supporting the development of Scotland's alcohol and drug workforce (2010)
- National Drug Strategy: The Road to recovery
- Getting Our Priorities Right (2012)
- Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) - Alcohol and Drugs Strategy 2015 – 2018



## Young Carers

- Caring Together and Getting It Right for Young Carers: The Young Carers Strategy for Scotland 2010 – 2015
- The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 – due for implementation 1 April 2018
- Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 – 2009
- The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- The Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013

## Other

- Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland (2011)
- Scottish Government's Guidance on the Best Interests Children Affected by Homelessness (2011)
- Shifting the curve (2016)
- The National Performance Framework (Scottish Government)
- Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
- Getting it Right for Every Child (Scottish Government)
- Children and Young People Act (Scotland) 2014
- National Missing Person's Framework for Scotland
- South Lanarkshire Council Plan – 'Connect'
- South Lanarkshire's Local Housing Strategy 2017 – 2022



If you need this information in another language or format,  
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