

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health and the Executive Director of Educational Services

Education and Life-Long Learning Committee: 10 March 2010

Subject: Integrated Children's Services Plan 2009-2012

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This report presents the Integrated Children's Services Plan for 2009-2012 to committee for consideration and approval.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Integrated Children's Services Plan is the overarching strategic mechanism for ensuring proper collaboration between agencies in the planning, delivery and monitoring of services to children. It encompasses all agencies involved with children and young people including all Council Departments, all Health Sectors, the Police, Further Education, Careers, Violence Against Women Partnership, Children's Panel and the Voluntary Sector.

- 2.2** The previous plan, 2005-08 was reviewed and an Interim Plan for 2008-09 was produced whilst awaiting new guidance from the Scottish Government.

3. Main Points:

- 3.1** The Integrated Children's Services Plan has to address the Seven Point Vision as laid out in the guidance to ensure that Scotland is a place where children are safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, included, respected and responsible.

- 3.2** The Scottish Executive Document "For Scotland's Children" published in 2001 put great emphasis on the importance of supporting all children, including those with significant additional needs, through mainstream Universal Services as far as possible. This principle has informed for our strategic planning and the delivery of services in West Dunbartonshire and is also the basis of our marked success in embedding this way of working into our Children's Services across a wide range of agencies.

- 3.3** There are, of course, children and young people whose difficulties require more input than is possible through Universal Services and the plans for supporting these children are covered in the section on Targeted Services. These are:

- Children in Need and Vulnerable Families
- Children with or affected by Disability
- Children where Safety and Wellbeing are issues
- Children affected by Domestic Abuse

- Children, Young People and Families affected by Addiction
- Children, Young People and Families affected by Mental Ill Health
- Children and Young People who are Looked After and Accommodated
- Young People Leaving Care
- Young People who Offend
- Young Carers

3.4 As far as possible, the Integrated Children's Services Plan works through existing planning mechanisms in a two way process. For example, the Child Protection Committee Annual Report and Business Plan informs the Section on Children where Safety is an issue; the Anti-Social Behaviour Sub-Group of the Community Safety Partnership feeds into the Section on Young People who Offend and the Annual Report on the Fostering and Adoption Service informs the Section on Children who are Looked After. Almost every report coming to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee should be reflected in the Integrated Children's Services Plan, either as a piece of work being taken forward as a result of a priority set by the Plan or as part of the monitoring of outcomes which will form part of a future review of the Plan.

3.5 The Plan is a dynamic working document and items are added to it over the course of the time span it covers as new legislation or National Guidance or identified local needs are addressed. This new three year Plan incorporates, for example, the principles of "Getting It Right for Every Child"; the guidance on Corporate Parenting "We Can and Must Do Better"; and the development of Kinship Care.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel implications attached to this review.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications in relation to this review. Funding decisions about specific aspects of Children's Services are reported to this Committee as required.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 The Integrated Children's Services Plan is the formal strategic mechanism for ensuring collaborative practice and joined up services for children in West Dunbartonshire. Failure to have such agreement and joint planning would put at risk the continuum of child centred, high quality services we are committed to providing. Failure to review the Plan would mean that there was inadequate monitoring of our work.

7. Equalities Impact.

7.1 An impact assessment has been completed on the ICSP. This has focussed mainly on Children With Disability although the services delivered through this plan impact on the lives of all vulnerable children and young people. It was concluded that the impact would be positive rather than detrimental but that the impact of any service developments within the plan would be monitored

and that further assessment would take place when the plan is reviewed. In particular this will focus on any emerging issues in relation to race and gender.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 The Integrated Children's Services Plan details the progress made in putting into action the priorities agreed by Partner Agencies for our work with Children, Young People and their families over the past 3 years and provides the starting point for our next three year Plan.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) note the progress made by West Dunbartonshire Council and our partners in addressing the work identified in the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2005-2008; and the Interim Plan 2008-09.
- (ii) Agree the priorities identified within the Integrated Children's Services Plan for 2009-12.

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Appendix : Integrated Children's Services Plan 2009-2012

Background : Report to Education and Lifelong Learning Committee 11 February 2009 and Review of ICSP 2005-08 and Interim Plan 2008-09

Wards Affected : All