



**Report by the Chief Education Officer Community  
Planning West Dunbartonshire: 18 November 2021**

---

**Subject: Nurtured DIG**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to:
- update members on the work of the Nurtured Delivery and Improvement Group (DIG).

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 CPWD is asked to:
- note progress and focus of work responding to and reflecting challenges of COVID19 by the Nurtured DIG.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 Through multi-agency planning, the Nurtured DIG aims to ensure:
- all WDC children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed;
  - families are supported in accessing education, learning and attainment opportunities and
  - ensure improved life chances for all children, young people and families.
- 3.2 The Nurtured DIG aims are articulated in plans which reflect WDC's Integrated Children's Services Plan 2021-23. (App.1)
- 3.3 In response to COVID19 partners have re-aligned priorities and support addressing challenges faced by children and young people at this time.

**4. Main Issues**

- 4.1 Specialist Children's Services are continuing to provide services for the Children and young people and each team prioritises according to the individuals clinical risk and need. A blended approach of face to face and virtual appointments are offered based on clinical judgement. Due to physical distancing policy in hospital sites, foot fall for face to face appointments continues to be limited.

Demand has increased since pre-covid with all teams seeing more complexity in presentations.

CAMHS has seen urgent referrals increase from 10% to 30% with an increase in complex eating disorders. The Scottish Government has committed additional funding for the CAMHS workforce which is currently being recruited. There are issues with recruiting to certain disciplines due to workforce shortage, for example psychology and psychiatry.

- 4.2** WD Health Visiting Service universal Health Visiting provision was maintained in line with SG guidance throughout the pandemic with some use of technology and virtual appointments. Key child health reviews continued face to face through-out the pandemic as did visits to vulnerable children and work was coordinated across partner agencies to ensure needs and risk managed appropriately.

Lack of dental services for registration and treatments, reduced activity with nursery tooth brushing programme and no fluoride varnishing during pandemic has resulted in Children & Families Team offering an 18 month additional contact to promote oral health and to re-inforce key oral health messages and dietary advice.

There is an increased demand on HV teams as families present with additional issues related to Covid Pandemic. These include a decline in mental health, financial issues and general parenting difficulties. There is an increase in telephone calls to HVs for help and advice as well as many last minute cancelled appointments due to reported family isolation/ illness.

- 4.3** A key priority of the planning group for children and young people's mental health is to establish a new service for young people experiencing emotional distress. The service aim of 'ask once get help fast' will be for young people aged 16yrs to 24yrs (26yrs for care experienced young people) specifically to support young people who are experiencing 'emotional distress' and not requiring clinical interventions.

This work is moving at pace and Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) is now the commissioned third sector provider. The service will be overseen by a delivery group with members from the National Programme, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue, HSCP Mental Health Services, Specialist Children's Service, LAAC Services, Health Improvement, Primary Care and Education Services. The group will be co-chaired by West Dunbartonshire HSCP and Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH).

The completion of phase 1 of Planet Youth in Scotland (previously known as the Icelandic Prevention Model) is progressing well. West Dunbartonshire is one of four pilot sites aiming to gain a greater understanding of the emotional and social elements of substance use among young people. Additionally, participation in the pilot provides valuable local data that would be comparable across Scotland.

Consultation with parents took place in September 2021, followed by national and local press articles highlighting Clydebank High School's participation in the national pilot.

The survey was administered (phase 1) at the end of October with approximately 200 S3 pupils participating within Clydebank High School.

The analysis of the survey findings are expected to be shared early in the New Year. The interventions (phase 2) will be determined through action planning with local stakeholders, designed to address any areas highlighted by the findings.

## **5. People Implications**

- 5.1** There are no people implications arising as a result of this report. However, it is essential that partners re-align resource allocation and priorities to meet the needs of children, young people and families at this time.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1** There are no direct financial implications for Community Planning West Dunbartonshire resulting from this report. All activities related to the implementation of these interventions are contained within service Budgets.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

- 7.1** If the Council is unable to ensure positive outcomes for children, we will not be meeting their needs (Children and Young People Act 2014) (Equalities Act 2010).
- 7.2** If the Council is unable to meet the needs of children, young people and families this could result in reputational damage.

## **8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 8.1** The revised supports and guidance enhance the quality of the service provided to all children, young people and families, therefore it can be seen to have a positive impact in terms of the equalities

## **9. Consultation**

- 9.1** Legal Services and the Section 95 Officer have been consulted in relation to the content of this report.

## **10. Strategic Assessment**

- 10.1** This report reflects the Council's aspiration to reduce inequalities for the people of West Dunbartonshire.

**Person to Contact:** Claire Cusick, Senior Education Officer

**Appendix** None

**Background Papers:** None

**Wards Affected:** All