

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## Report by the Director of Social Work Services

Children's Services Committee: 18 April, 2007

---

**Subject: West Dunbartonshire's Integrated Children's Services Plan 2005-2008**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of West Dunbartonshire's Integrated Children's Services Plan 2005-2008.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 gave local authorities the duty to prepare and publish a Children's Services Plan detailing their planning intentions for services for children, young people and their families. The Act required that Plans must be the product of multi-agency working, should cover a three year period and be reviewed annually.
- 2.2 West Dunbartonshire published its first Children's Services Plan in 1998-2001, followed by annual reviews and its second plan in 2002-2004. Members will recall previous reports to committee.
- 2.3 New Guidance issued in 2004 required. Local authorities and NHS Boards to draw together their existing planning requirements for children and young people into a single Integrated Children's Services Plan. The Guidance stated that the Integrated Children's Services Plans should be overarching documents that describe local objectives and strategies across agency boundaries, for improving universal and targeted service and outcomes for children and young people.

### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1 The content of the Plan reflects objectives in the development of excellent universal services for all children and in targeted services for children and young people who need more support.

- 3.2 The Plan is in 3 parts:

- **Part One:**

Outlines the Policy Context; Achievements since 2002; Planning and Financial Frameworks; Social and Demographic Profile of West Dunbartonshire; Information Sharing, Engagement with children, young people and families.

- **Part Two:**

This section focuses on Universal Services for all children. It includes Service Profiles and Joint Objectives, and local improvement objectives to meet the Scottish Executive seven vision statements which are *"for a Scotland where all our children and young people are safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, included, respected and responsible."*

- **Part Three:**

This section details aims, objectives and actions to meet the needs of children, young people and families who need more support.

Priority Groups include:

- Children in Need/Vulnerable Families
- Children with or affected by Disability
- Children and Young People Where Safety and Wellbeing is an issue
- Children and Domestic Abuse
- Children and Young People who are Looked After and Accommodated
- Young People Leaving Care
- Young People who Offend
- Young Carers

- 3.3. West Dunbartonshire received very positive feedback from the Scottish Executive on our Plan. The Plan also received favourable comments from the Inspectors in the recent Child Protection Inspection.

#### **4. Personnel Issues**

- 4.1 There are no personnel issues

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications in the implementation of the plan. Financial implications for improving integrated children's services are addressed through the Joint Strategy Group for Children's Services.

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

- 6.1 Risk assessment and risk analysis is included in the work undertaken on Joint Resourcing in Children's Services.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 Guidance required drawing together previously separate plans, such as education, social work, child health and youth justice into the new Integrated Children's Services Plan. The Plan reflects the significant partnership working undertaken in its development. The actions and objectives set out in the plan demonstrate the commitment of all partners to developing an integrated approach to improving outcomes for children, young people and families in West Dunbartonshire.

## **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1 Committee is asked to:

To note the contents of the Integrated Children's Services Plan and the development of better integration of children's Services in West Dunbartonshire.

William W Clark  
Director Social Work Services

**Person to Contact:** Anne Ritchie, Head of Social Work Operations, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU  
Telephone no 01389 737709  
[anne.ritchie@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:anne.ritchie@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

**Appendices:** None

**Background Papers:** Integrated Children's Services Plan 2005-2008

**Wards Affected:** All Wards