

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer****Educational Services Committee: 9th June 2021**

Subject: West Dunbartonshire Council's Integrated Children's Services Plan 2021-23

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- update members on the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2021-2023.

2. Recommendations

Members of the Educational Services Committee are asked to:

- note the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2021-2023 and
- note the Strategic Priorities (Appendix1 Integrated Children's Services Plan 2021-23)

3. Background

3.1 Through multi-agency planning, the Integrated Children's Services Plan aims to reflect the Local Outcomes ambitions by ensuring:

- 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
- improved life chances for all children, young people and families.

3.2 The joint plan will be reported through the Nurtured Delivery and Improvement Group to the Community Planning West Dunbartonshire Board. Nurtured Group membership consists of partners from Educational Services, HSCP, Housing and Employability, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), third sector partners, Youth Alliance, Champions Board, Community Voluntary Service (CVS), Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and The Scottish Children's Reporter.

3.3 The plan embeds the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) and ensures the United Nations Conventions of Children's Rights (UNCRC) is central to the development of supports, services and engagement with all stakeholders.

3.4 The plan was delayed as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to allow time to evaluate its impact on our communities and to re-align our focus reflecting identified needs.

3.5 Consultation with children, young people and their families has been reflected in the plan; ensuring that their voice, views, experiences and contributions are clearly reflected. Members of the Youth Alliance and Champions Board are integral to our Nurtured DIG and central to the review and evaluation processes of our plans as we progress.

4. Main Issues

4.1 Partners have reflected upon the impact of COVID on our children and families and agree our priorities should be aligned to needs identified and reflect local and national expectations on supporting children and young people. These are: addressing the challenges of poverty, mental health and providing early family help, whilst ensuring the voices of those we serve are integral to the processes.

4.2 National priorities reflected in the plan include:

- the integration of the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Supports and Services Framework;
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/children-young-peoples-mental-health-task-force-recommendations/>.
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/united-nations-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child-incorporation-scotland-bill>;
- The findings of the National Care Review as detailed in The Promise
<https://thepromise.scot/> ;
- The Additional Support for Learning Review;
<https://www.gov.scot/news/improving-additional-support-for-learning/> and
- the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) review
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/getting-right-child-practice-development-panel-report/>.

4.3 The national objectives of the Scottish Attainment Challenge, the Early Years Expansion Programme and the Scottish Government's Youth Employment Strategy are reflected in the plans; ensuring joint working to support those most vulnerable and at risk of missing out.

4.4 The plan consists of seven key outcomes, under which partners have identified priorities and focussed supports and interventions. These align with the GIRFEC wellbeing indicators and demonstrate clear articulation with the UNCRC:

- We will ensure the wellbeing and safe care of all children and young people
- We will ensure all children and young people have equitable access to appropriate health provision, and advice;
- We will improve achievement and attainment for all children and young people;

- We will ensure that all children and young people have a safe and stable home environment;
- We will respect the voices of all children and young people in their life choices;
- We will develop the engagement and participation of children and young people in all aspects of their lives and
- We will ensure all children and young people are empowered to overcome barriers to inclusion and have equitable access to opportunities.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no people implications 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 and Procurement Implications

- 6.1** All activities related to the implementation of these interventions are contained within service Budgets. (App 2) Budget overviews WDC Educational Services and HSCP

7. Risk Analysis

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

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** The supports and guidance enhance the quality of the service provided to all children and young people and therefore 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.
- 9.2** The plan reflects the views of children, young people, their parents and partners.

10. Strategic Assessment

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

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – West Dunbartonshire Council’s Integrated
Children’s Services Plan 2021-23
Appendix 2- Budget overviews WDC Educational
Services and HSCP

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All Wards