

Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership

Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay Area Community Planning Group

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Public/Private: Public



**Outcome 4 –
Children and young people have the best possible start**

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update members of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group on the progress made in relation to Outcome 4 of the Single Outcome Agreement – *Children and young people have the best possible start.*

2.0 Recommendations

The Community Planning Group is asked to:

- i. review performance in relation to Outcome 4 of the Single Outcome Agreement and note the progress that has been made in the delivery of this outcome over the past year, and
- ii. note the planned review of the performance indicator set within Outcome 4 to develop increasingly meaningful performance indicators to measure performance for the year ahead.

3.0 Background

3.1 The Argyll and Bute vision commits partners across Argyll and Bute to ‘*Work together to achieve the best for children, young people and families.*’ In order to achieve this vision the Integrated Children and Young People’s Service Plan for 2014-17 sits within the ‘*Getting It Right For Every Child*’ (GIRFEC) framework and is the principle document underpinning the work of partners within Outcome 4. This ensures that the outcomes we wish to achieve are linked with the relevant National Performance Framework (NPF) outcomes, which are:

- Our children have the best start in life to enable them to become:

- Successful learners
- Confident individuals
- Effective contributors
- Responsible citizens; and
- We continue to improve the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.

3.2 The Integrated Children's Services plan for 2014-17 is integral to the achievement of Outcome 4 and focuses on the key activity undertaken by partners working together to improve outcomes for children and young people. The plan supports partners to use resources more efficiently to ensure that children and families will benefit from a more streamlined and coherent approach to meeting their needs.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 Performance Measures

There are 20 performance measures within Outcome 4 of the Single Outcome Agreement and at the end of FQ4 of 2014/15 we reported the following position:

- 8 measures 'on track',
- 6 measures 'off track', and
- 6 measures currently being developed.

A number of key successes have been achieved during the course of the last year. These include:

- 97% of nurseries participating in the Childsmile Core Programme promoting and assisting children and young people to have good oral health,
- 100% of schools are providing 2 hours of physical education each week within the school curriculum, ensuring that all children and young people have access to a range of sports activities both in and outwith school,
- 3 young people represent Argyll and Bute at the Scottish Youth Parliament, actively promoting good citizenship amongst our young people, and
- 517 young people from across Argyll and Bute gained accredited certificates and saltire awards; this contributes to ensuring our young people are supported to be the best they can.

The following section will provide more detail around each of the short term outcomes which contribute to the achievement of outcome 4 to ensure *our children and young people have the best possible start*.

4.2 Successes and Key Achievements

Outcome 4.1 – All children / young people should be protected from abuse, neglect and harm

Across the partnership there continues to be a very good response to initial Child Protection Referrals. Identified difficulties in accessing appropriate health staff outwith office hours is being addressed by the Child Protection Committee.

Domestic abuse continues to be a key priority. The Early and Effective Intervention Screening Group ensures a multi-agency response to all domestic abuse referrals within 24 hours. 100% of children on the Child Protection register affected by domestic abuse have an appropriate assessment and plan in place. The Child Protection national returns are published in September 2015. Figures within the pyramid system will not reflect this until such times as these figures are published and verified.

Home safety continues to be a priority for Community Planning Partners, with a slight reduction over the last year in the number of home safety checks, however this links to the introduction of the new Universal Child Assessment and the associated administration. We anticipate that this figure will improve as these processes strengthen.

Outcome 4.2 – Children and young people should enjoy the highest standards of physical and mental health

A very positive example of the achievement of our young people includes Kilcreggan Primary School who have been recognised at a national level as an example of best practice in the field of PE Disability Inclusion Training. We continue to move in the right direction towards the achievement of this outcome, and in doing so to ensure all our children and young people enjoy the highest standards of physical and mental health.

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) heat target requires 90% of children and young people to be seen within 18 weeks of referral. In Argyll and Bute we have had issues with the data collection of this measure. However indications are that we are achieving 84%. We will continue to focus our efforts to improve these figures and identify an appropriate resolution to support the improvement of data collection in relation to this measure.

Outcome 4.3 – Children and young people should have access to positive learning environments and opportunities to develop their skills

The involvement of young people in Independence debates surrounding the Scottish Referendum in September of last year was just one example of the positive learning environments provided for the children and young people of

Argyll and Bute. These debates helped support and encourage young people to consider a range of topics, to develop their knowledge and skills and to contribute effectively. Young people took part in debates locally, acting as panel members, requiring them to express their views and respond to questions from the audience, alongside MSP's and Elected Members. This was a good opportunity for the young people involved and those young people who took part felt it positively contributed to their personal growth and development. This also contributes to outcome 4.7.

Secondary schools across the authority continued to make good progress in implementing the New National Qualification for pupils within the Senior Phase, with the presentation of pupils for a range of National Qualifications across all levels. This included presentations across a range of subjects in the New Highers.

In addition to this, the number of young people achieving sustained positive, post school destinations remains positive with 91% of our young people moving onto a positive sustained destination. A very positive start has been made in taking forward the recommendations contained within Developing Scotland's Young Workforce. This includes a comprehensive review of each of the 39 recommendations, the formation of a Strategic Leadership Development Programme Group, preparation of a clear action plan, routine discussion with all Secondary Head Teachers at planned meetings and focused discussions at individual school levels.

Outcome 4.4 – Children and young people are valued and supported to be the best they can

The increase in the number of young people completing personal development and confidence building courses delivered by the Third Sector partnership is a key success in the achievement of this outcome . A number of children from families affected by domestic abuse have taken part and the feedback from these participants has been excellent, with 94% stating that they 'feel better about themselves' impacting positively on their self-esteem. More crucially, following participation young people are developing their understanding that they had no fault or contribution to the domestic abuse which took place in their family, a key factor in ensuring our children and young people feel supported and valued.

Outcome 4.5 – Children and young people feel secure and cared for

We continued to ensure 100% of children on the Child Protection Register have a current risk assessment in place. Children and families are working with Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS) to improve permanency planning in Argyll and Bute. The number of children with

a plan has improved over the last year, however a more sophisticated tracking tool has been developed to monitor performance across 2015/16.

Children and families continue to use Children 1st and WhoCares Scotland to provide advocacy support for children on the Child Protection Register and who are looked after. Qualitative and quantitative information from recent case file audits indicates that there is improved engagement with children and young people across social work processes.

Outcome 4.6 – Children have increased opportunities / participate in play, recreation and sport

The Active Schools programme continued to ensure the number of extra-curricular sports opportunities made available for school pupils exceeded the planned target for the year. Four schools from across the area were amongst the first 15 schools in Scotland to be recognised with a Gold SportScotland School Sport Award, recognising the innovation and achievement of our Active Schools team in the delivery of physical education and extra-curricular sport to pupils across Argyll and Bute.

The announcement of a further four year investment from SportsScotland of £50m into the Active Schools network across Scotland will further support our achievement of this outcome by allowing us to continue to develop opportunities for children and young people to participate in sport and physical activity before school, during lunch and after school.

Outcome 4.7 – Children and young people have their voices heard and are encouraged to play an active and responsible role in their communities

Supporting children and young people to have their voices heard, 108 young people were involved in service planning and redesign activities with Community Planning partners, providing the opportunity for young people to have their voices heard and to play an active and responsible role in the future design of services across Argyll and Bute. In addition, the Young People's Thematic Group of Argyll and Bute's Children is reviewing involvement of young people within the work of all thematic and locality groups.

Throughout the past year, the Youth Service has supported all 3 of our Members of Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP) to participate in a wide range of campaigns and initiatives including;

- Care, Fair, Share – better deals for young carers;
- See it Change it;
- One Fair Wage and Poverty, and

- One of our MSYPs presented a motion to the SYP recommending that lifejackets should be compulsory for all young people taking part in watersports.

The increase in the number of young people gaining Saltire Awards is a direct reflection of the growing number of young people across Argyll and Bute who are volunteering supported through the work of the Community Planning Partners. Across the area we have a group of young people who have been using their skills and passion for IT to upskill people in their communities. Recognising the good work that has been carried out, three young people from Argyll and Bute have been offered a learning journey to deliver digital skills roadshows across Highland region during 2015-16. This is a unique opportunity which will support these young people develop and expand their horizons as well as to gain a wider range of interpersonal and presentation skills.

4.3 Key Issues

Quarterly review of these measures has brought to light concerns that not all performance measures monitored within the Outcome 4 scorecard are suitable. The Community Planning Group are asked to note the proposal to review the indicator set to ensure all measures are appropriate to the achievement of this outcome. The data for each of these measures is available as required and the owners of these measures are confident in their ability to manage and monitor performance.

5.0 Conclusions

In conclusion, significant progress has been made over the past year in the achievement of Outcome 4 – *Children and young people have the best possible start*. Community Planning Partners continue to work together to ensure all children within Argyll and Bute have the best possible start in life and in the achievement of this the Area Community Planning Group is asked to agree recommendations as set out in section 2 of this report.

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Chair: Argyll and Bute's Children

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