

Argyll and Bute Family Pathway – Scaling up to Cowal

1.0	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
	1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Cowal Area Committee with details of the Argyll and Bute Family Pathway and the intention to scale this model up to the Cowal area of Argyll and Bute. The Argyll and Bute Family Pathway makes the link between local and national policy to real life for children and families in Argyll and Bute. It breaks down the barriers of agencies ‘working in silos’ to support families, and encourages everyone to work together using a shared vision, language and processes. At the heart of the Pathway are children and families who are included and involved at every step along the pathway – from a parent’s first antenatal appointment to a child starting Primary One. Through collaborative working, a clear vision and a shared language, the Argyll and Bute Family Pathway is building firm foundations for the health and wellbeing of children and families in Argyll and Bute. Due to a very successful period of testing in the Kintyre area of Argyll and Bute, it is the intention of the CPP’s Early Years Collaborative group to scale up the Family Pathway model to Cowal.</p>
	1.2	<p>The Report recommends that the Argyll and Bute Family Pathway model should be implemented within the Cowal area of Argyll and Bute.</p>

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1.0	INTRODUCTION	
	1.1	The Scottish Government has an ambition to: ‘...reduce inequalities and make Scotland the best place to grow up in’. The Government has developed an Early Years Collaborative (EYC) to action this ambition through 3 Early Years National Stretch Aims for CPPs across Scotland. Argyll and Bute’s EYC Team has representation from a range of agencies working with children and families to address the stretch aims within a local context. The Team began by looking at what we do well and worked out how we could use this to take forward the national stretch aims.
	1.2	The EYC group decided to use the shared vision, language and systems within GIRFEC to create a Family Pathway for all families – from prebirth to starting primary school. The Pathway begins at the antenatal appointment at 16-18 weeks, when a new mother engages with her midwife to talk about what help she needs (if any) and to discuss her family’s exciting journey ahead, with the family interacting with the Pathway at key stages all the way through until their child starts Primary One. The Pathway provides a clear vision for everyone around expectations and aspirations for families within each area of Argyll and Bute – every family is treated equally and offered help when they need it.
	1.3	The Pathway also ensures that agencies are working together and not duplicating effort – a much more efficient way of working. When families need support, the named person is the key person to ensure agencies are working cohesively to meet the needs of the family promptly. The Pathway also offers value for money – it maximises the effectiveness of existing structures by ‘doing things differently’ and also will reduce potential longer term spend and pressures on other agencies through effective early intervention. Through addressing the EYC national stretch aims, the Argyll and Bute Family Pathway also addresses our own CPP’s Single Outcome 3: ‘Education, skills and training maximises opportunities for all’, and Single Outcome 4: ‘Children and young people have the best possible start’.
2.0	RECOMMENDATIONS	
	It is recommended that:	
	a	The Argyll and Bute Family Pathway model is ‘scaled up’ to Cowal.
3.0	DETAIL	

	3.1	It was decided to ‘scale up’ the Family Pathway to Cowal as a result of taking into consideration : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical area • Enthusiastic practitioners • Significant inequalities – as indicated in national data sources
	3.2	Following consultation of parents and practitioners, the EYC Group developed two aims for the Pathway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the quality of care and support for all children within the Family Pathway through testing systems and processes at each key stage; and • To improve communication within and across agencies through testing how we communicate and how we share information.
	3.3	The Family Pathway helps practitioners to work with parents and children to identify needs, which actions early intervention and support through a range of strategies – from healthy start vouchers and infant massage to weaning checklists and physical play activities. The Cowal Champions (local practitioners) will meet with core EYC team members every 6 weeks to analyse data collected and to identify next steps. These meetings will give the champions access to advice from a range of agencies – from Childsmile and nutrition to Early Learning and Childcare. This will give the Champions the help and support they need to develop the Pathway in the Cowal area – building a framework of support which can be scaled up across Argyll and Bute, but be adaptable enough to meet local needs.
4.0	CONCLUSION	
	4.1	We know that ‘one size does not fit all’ in our CPP – our communities are varied and diverse – they come with a whole range of opportunities and challenges. The Argyll and Bute Family Pathway provides a structure for early intervention within each locality - it can be adapted and modified to build on each locality’s strengths. From there each group of local Family Pathway Champions is in a stronger place to meet the needs of their children and families through agencies and families working together and sharing a common vision, system and language.
	4.2	The Argyll and Bute Family Pathway is innovative in its approach because it is making best use of existing resources and structures to deliver a highly effective early intervention strategy for Argyll and Bute. There will be short term wins as the Pathway is implemented – such as improved communications and children having their needs met timeously. These short term wins will lead to more significant longer term wins, as there will be less requirements for intervention from other agencies later in a child’s life, and as a result of getting things right from the very start, our families will go on to have better outcomes across Argyll and Bute.
5.0	IMPLICATIONS	
	5.1	Policy
	5.2	Financial

	5.3	Legal	
	5.4	HR	
	5.5	Equalities	
	5.6	Risk	Risk of sustainability of the Family Pathway as a result of Service Choices
	5.7	Customer Service	

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Date Report Written: 9th November 2015

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APPENDICES

Katie's Journey on the Argyll and Bute Family Pathway