

**2019/20 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES
SERVICES PLAN 2017 – 20**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Children and Young People's Service Plan 2017-2020 was approved by Community Services Committee in September 2017 <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cyspsm.pdf>.
- 1.2 There is a requirement in Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 to review the report annually and report on the performance and progress to date in delivering the outcomes set out in the plan.
- 1.3 The review considers updates on 2019/20 progress, provides information on developments that have taken place since the plan was published and sets out key plans in the year ahead.
- 1.4 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee
- a) Note that both NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Council are jointly and equally responsible for children's services planning;
 - b) Approves Argyll and Bute's Children and Young People's Services Plan 2017-2020 Year 3 review for the period 2019/20;
 - c) Once approved by Community Services Committee and approved by Integration Joint Board approve the submission of the Children and Young People's Services Plan Year 3 review to Scottish Government as per the legislative requirement.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This is the third annual review of the Children and Young People's Service Plan 2017-2020 <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cyspsm.pdf>. In this review we will report on our performance and progress to date in delivering the outcomes we set out to achieve.

2.2 The review will consider:

- Updates on 2019/20 progress and areas for development
- Provide information on developments that have taken place since the plan was published
- Set out key plans in the year ahead

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee

- a) Note that both NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Council are jointly and equally responsible for children's services planning;
- b) Approves Argyll and Bute's Children and Young People's Services Plan 2017-2020 Year 3 review for the period 2019/20;
- c) Once approved by Community Services Committee and approved by Integration Joint Board approve the submission of the Children and Young People's Services Plan Year 3 review to Scottish Government as per the legislative requirement.

4.0 PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

4.1 The Children and Young People's Service Plan (CYPSP) approved in November 2017 by Council and the Integrated Joint Board is set within the context of seven strategic priorities of early intervention and support, mental health and well-being, child protection, corporate parenting, children and young people's voice, substance misuse and leadership and communication, the priorities are aligned to the eight well-being indicators (SHANARRI).

- 4.2 Overall we have made good progress in achieving a number of outcomes which have supported the delivery of the plan. The following successes are highlighted.

Early Intervention and Support

NHS Highland, including Argyll and Bute Maternity Services, were early adopters in the Best Start Programme. The Programme has the following aims; Continuity of Midwife and Obstetric Care, the development of maternity Hubs and keeping mum and baby together. The programme supports the continuity of care pathway, which sees women building strong relationships with their midwife and receiving care tailored to their individual needs and circumstances.

Reflecting the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) model, the Best Start Programme recognises that maternity and neonatal care services are the foundations of health and wellbeing. The health, development, social, and economic consequences of childbirth and the early weeks of life are profound, and the evidence shows that this is felt by individual families and communities, as well as across the whole of society.

In line with the principles of GIRFEC, Antenatal mothers in Argyll and Bute have a Named Midwife and Buddy Midwife which provides them with a continuity of planned antenatal care package.

This is supported by Consultant Obstetricians from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde who are now using Attend Anywhere to work with communities across the Argyll and Bute area by holding '*virtual clinics*'.

While all of Highland were early adopters, Argyll and Bute focused on continuity of care and the development of Hubs, with Attend Anywhere being made available on every site. This is particularly important as the most vulnerable women usually need to give birth in Glasgow and often have to travel out with Argyll and Bute for appointments.

Working to promote the benefits of breastfeeding across all agencies has been a particular focus and included working with primary schools and early years to promote breastfeeding. This builds on the success of obtaining the UNICEF Gold baby friendly award of Achieving Sustainability which recognises and celebrates excellent and sustained practice in the support of infant feeding and parent-infant relationships.

This is reflected in the increase in breastfeeding rates at 6-8 weeks which continue to improve year on year. The percentage of children exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks has increased to 37.3%, this surpasses the national target of 32%.

Implementation of the Universal Health Visiting pathway for all pre-school children has gone particularly well across Argyll and Bute. The pathway increases Health Visiting home visiting contacts, which is instrumental in building relationships with families. This is reflected in 90% of children at 13 – 15 months and 27 – 30 months having an Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ). ASQ provides reliable, accurate developmental and social-emotional screening for children. ASQ has been specifically designed to pinpoint developmental progress and catch delays in young children, paving the way for meaningful next steps in learning, intervention, or monitoring.

This links well with the Early Years developmental milestone data. Pre-COVID 19 estimates indicated the percentage of children reaching their developmental milestones on P1 entry would exceed the 85% target.

Mental health and well-being

The blending together of two programmes has resulted in a higher number of families attending Incredible Years Parenting Programmes.

The Psychology of Parenting Programme (POPP) involves delivery of two evidence-based parenting programmes for families with young children who have elevated levels of behaviour problems.

Argyll and Bute have been fortunate enough to be involved in the Changing Lives Initiative (CLI), a community-based research project creating a better understanding about ADHD and providing an intervention programme for families with children (age 3-7) experiencing behaviours consistent with ADHD.

CLI and POPP have provided an opportunity for staff across the partnership to be trained to deliver either the Incredible Years or Triple P parenting programmes.

CLI have also developed an Innovative App on ADHD to support families. The App helps families understand what ADHD is and provides practical strategies and tools for parents to use with their children. The App is particularly relevant for parents who have concerns about their child's behaviour but are not yet sure if their child has ADHD. The App is also extremely useful for those working with children in helping them understand

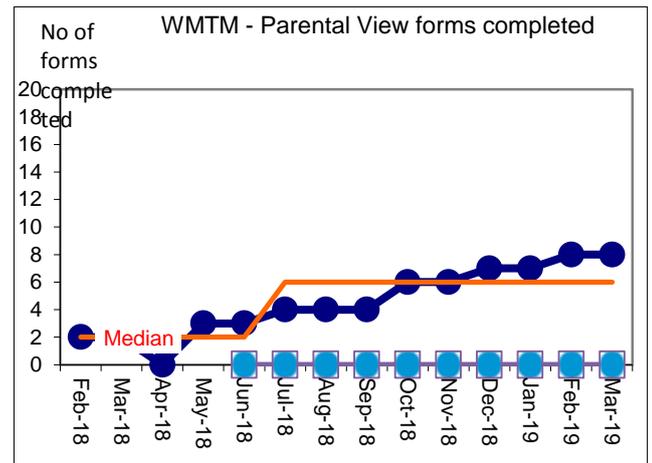
ADHD and how they might support children who have issues with inattention, hyperactivity or impulsivity.

Children and Young People’s Voice

Argyll and Bute were successful in obtaining the Top Team Award for Quality Improvement (QI) at the National QI Awards in November 2019. The award was obtained as a direct result of two tests of change:

1. Developing and testing a ‘What Matters to Me’ (WMTM) form in one locality, allowed staff to gather the views parents at Child’s Planning meetings.

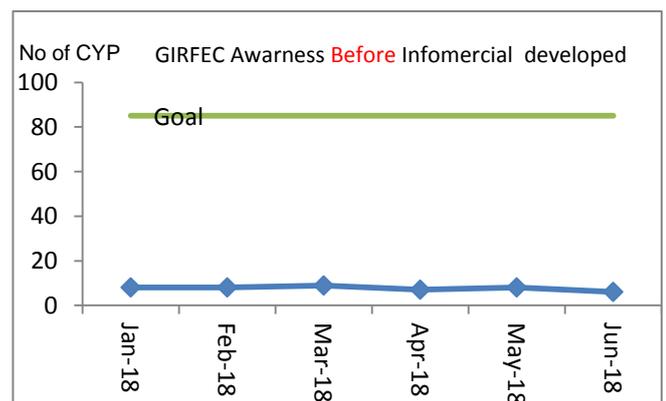
The run chart provides evidence that the use of the ‘What Matters to Me form’ was beneficial in gathering the views of parents which supports us in building strong, positive relationships. Gathering the views of children, young people, parents/families is fundamental and underpins the values and principles of GIRFEC.



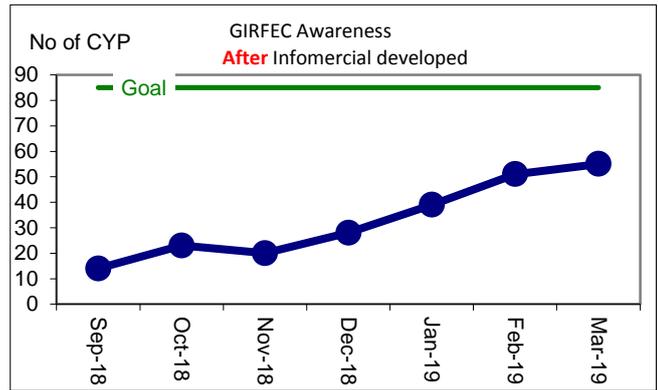
2. Working with school pupils to develop an ‘infomercial’ to provide information on GIRFEC, the Named Person role and the Child’s Planning process (the infomercial can be viewed on the GIRFEC website <https://argyll-bute-girfec.com/>)

GIRFEC Infomercial

Focus groups and the use of a Likart questionnaire with Children and young people (C&YP) across Argyll and Bute highlighted that although some of them had a Child’s Plan, they weren’t fully aware of what it was all about. This prompted us to develop a GIRFEC ‘infomercial’. C&YP were involved in the planning and development of the infomercial and several were also involved in making the voiceover.



To ascertain if the GIRFEC infomercial had led to an improvement a follow-up Likart questionnaire was carried out six months after it had been launched. The results provided overwhelming evidence of how this helped pupils understand GIRFEC and what it meant for them.



GIRFEC Infomercial Development Likart Questionnaire
 Survey of C&YPs awareness of GIRFEC **before** and **after** developing the GIRFEC Infomercial.

- How aware are you of Getting it Right for Every Child?
- How aware are you of the Named Person role?
- How aware are of what's involved in a Child's Plan meeting?

 Unaware
  Don't know
  Aware

Child Protection

The Social Work Practice Leads development programme is now complete and fully implemented across Argyll and Bute. It is anticipated the programme will improve staff confidence and support developments in the future.

The Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) process has been reviewed, resulting in the development of a Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway to the Named Person and also Named Person guidance which provides detail on the Impact of Domestic Abuse.

Corporate Parenting

To ensure young people leaving care are offered appropriate housing, care experienced young people who are ready to move to their own accommodation are given the maximum 200 points, recognising their vulnerability as a group and in line with our obligation as corporate parents.

The first step of a temporary tenancy allows housing departments to engage with the young person and encourage them to take up appropriate support to help them sustain their tenancy. This is beneficial in helping provide appropriate supports during this difficult transition.

Substance Misuse

Argyll and Bute have been successful in reaching the 90% target of secondary schools delivering drugs awareness programmes in partnership with the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP).

The annual S3 Health Drama was delivered for the third year running to all S3 pupils (755 pupils). The programme addresses a number of health topics relevant to young people. It includes 3 lesson plans, a resilience workbook, workshops, a touring drama production and a question and answer session with service providers.

90% of pupils said they found the drama informative, with 86% reporting they are more aware of young people's services across Argyll and Bute.

The results of the 2019/20 SALSUS survey indicate a positive 3% reduction of Argyll and Bute's 15 year olds who report they are regular smokers at least once a week.

Leadership and Communication

Chief Executives and senior leaders from across the partnership are committed to the Scottish Government GIRFEC Collective Leadership Programme which commenced in August 2019. The programme involves supported evaluation activities, including a staff survey and structured focus groups with young people, parents and professionals.

The results of the staff survey highlighted 88% said they felt part of a whole children's services system that works across different sectors and agencies in Argyll and Bute.

The Collective Leadership Programme has temporarily suspended due to COVID 19, however plans are in place to recommence this work in the Autumn.

Summary of areas requiring improvement

The Year 3 review highlighted some areas where performance results were not as anticipated and consequently areas where further testing and improvements are required.

Early Intervention and Support

One Community Maternity Unit (CMU) has been involved in testing the percentage of pregnant women whose Carbon Monoxide levels have reduced by 10 days post-natal. It was anticipated this work would be scaled up to

other CMUs across Argyll and Bute; however the introduction of a new electronic midwifery record keeping programme (Badgernet) prevented progress in this area. It is hoped Badgernet will provide opportunities for more efficient data collection around future tests of change.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The number of children registered with a dentist at 2 years of age has reduced slightly by 3% this year. It could be argued this is balanced by a 2% increase in the number of 3 – 5 year olds registered with a dentist. Oral health and Health Visiting staff continue to work together to highlight to parents the importance of registering their child with a dentist as early as possible.

Children and Young People's Voice

Percentage of children and young people waiting less than 18 weeks to access a Primary Mental Health Worker or the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is considerably lower (58% and 54%) than the 90% target figures for 2019/20.

This is a direct result of two specific sets of circumstances:

1. CAMHS team experiencing significant staffing issues
2. Inaccurate data collection due to recording programme changing mid way through the year

The CAMHS team are currently working with Scottish Government to try resolve the issues highlighted.

Child Protection

The percentage of Initial Referral Investigations (IRDs) evaluated as good or above has reduced to 60% this year. The audit group has identified a potential recording issue whilst auditing, i.e. the information recorded does not always reflect the quality of discussion, which in turn leads to a lower score. This is currently being rectified and a revised audit form is now being used. Early indication has identified that some improvement has been made since the form was put on Carefirst, however more time is required to see if this makes a difference.

Corporate Parenting

In 2018/19 the CELCIS PACE programme identified a significant improvement in the permanency planning timescales for care experienced children. In 2019/20 the focus of permanency work has been progressing cases with significant drift and has focusing on older children when a Permanence Order. We continue to have new cases that have progressed in the aspired timescales, 39% of cases are still sitting at the 12 – 24 months time period and 22% have taken from 24 - 48 months to secure permanence.

Leadership and Communication

Argyll and Bute's Children Strategic Group has carried out a self-evaluation exercise as part of the GIRFEC Collective Leadership Programme. The self evaluation exercise identified some key areas for improvement; these, along with the findings of the overall supported evaluation will be addressed as part of the GIRFEC leadership report and action plan.

5.0 WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE WE DEVELOPED THE 2017 – 20 CYPSP?

- 5.1 Children's Rights and Engagement are a specific focus of the Strategic Priority – 'Children and Young People's Voices' within the current Plan. Work is underway to ensure children and young people understand their rights as laid out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which is due to be incorporated into Scots Law in 2020.
- 5.2 We plan to ensure children and young people (CYP) will be at the heart of strategic planning and design in Argyll and Bute. To support us to achieve this ambition, a multi-agency group of professionals attended a Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC) Engagement Practicum on using Quality Improvement (QI) and the Model for Improvement approaches of Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) testing.

Our aim is to increase the involvement of Children and Young People in the co-design of engagement processes. It is anticipated the QI approach will benefit our aim of working towards long term sustainable change in this area.

The UNCRC Children's Rights and the Engagement Practicum work will shape and structure the Children and Young People's Voice strategic priority in the new CYPSP 2020 – 23.

- 5.3 The GIRFEC Collective Leadership Programme commenced in August 2019 with Chief Executive Officers and senior managers from across the

partnership. The Collective Leadership framework will build confidence for practitioners and managers to deliver a shared understanding on leadership and delivery of services for children and families.

A programme of supported evaluation included:

- A self evaluation exercise
- Staff survey
- Phase 1 – 24 structured focus groups involving children and young people, parents, carers and professionals involving all agencies across the partnership
- Child's Plan audit
- Phase 2 - targeted focus groups

A report will be generated from the supported evaluation activity and from this an improvement action plan will be developed. Unfortunately this work has currently been delayed due to COVID 19

6.0 Children and Young People Service Plan 2020 – 23

6.1 The Scottish Government have developed revised guidance for Children's Services Plans as a result of a public consultation which ran from 25 March 2019 to 17 June 2019, the revised guidance relates to Children's Services Plans from 1 April 2020 onwards.

Whilst overall responsibility for children's services planning rests with the local authority and relevant health board, it is expected that they will work collaboratively with other members of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), as well as with children, young people and their families at various stages of the plan's development and review.

The development of the new CYPSP 2020 – 23 is underway. The strategic priorities for the new plan have partially been identified from the information and data obtained in the well-being and SALSUS survey carried out in 2018-19, ensuring children and young people are consistently able to express their views regarding services across Argyll and Bute.

Feedback from the GIRFEC focus groups involving children and young people, parents and professionals will also inform the priorities for the new plan.

The CYPSP is firmly rooted in the Getting It Right for Every Child framework using well-being Indicators to ensure linkage to outcomes with the Argyll and Bute Improvement Plan and the National Performance Framework.

Argyll and Bute's Children Strategic group self evaluation and GIRFEC supported evaluation will form the basis of the leadership and communication section of the new CYPSP 2020 – 23. This also aligns with the identified actions for improvement from the Joint Inspection of Children's Services.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The year 3 review of the CYPSP has highlighted some good practice and areas where improvement is required.

The self evaluation and mapping exercise, along with the information gathered through the partnership Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, has helped shape the way forward for the new CYPSP.

It is anticipated the GIRFEC Collective Leadership Programme will also support the partnership by providing a means to progress the transformational change that is required in the future.

- 7.2 Appendices 1 and 2 detail performance against indicators and actions identified in the plan.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

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| 8.1 | Policy | The Children and Young People's Services Plan is framed within the Getting It Right for Every Child framework and the well-being indicators. |
| 8.2 | Financial | There are no additional resource implications with the delivery of the plan. |
| 8.3 | Legal | The Council and NHS Highland are required to report on the progress of the Children and Young People's Services plan as directed within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, set out within the supporting Statutory Guidance published in December 2016. |
| 8.4 | HR | None at this time. |

Fairer Scotland Duty:

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| 8.5 | Equalities | The Children and Young People's Services Plan identifies how health and social care services contribute to reducing inequalities, including health and education inequality. |
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- 8.6 Socio-economic Duty The Children and Young Peoples Service Plan 2017 – 2020 sits within this framework and seeks to address inequalities for children and young people.
- 8.7 Islands Delivery of services in more remote communities is being explored as part of the inspection improvement action plan and will inform the 2020 -23 Children and Young Peoples Service Plan.
- 8.8 Risk There are potential reputational risks for the Council should they fail to deliver the legislative requirements set out within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Statutory Guidance of December 2016.
- 8.9 Customer Service The Children and Young People's Services Plan informs our young people, parents, carers, volunteers and practitioners of the outcomes and actions that all partner agencies have committed to deliver in order to ensure that children and young people living in Argyll and Bute get the possible start in life.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Children and Young Peoples Services Plan Year 3 Performance Report



App 1 CYPSP
Performance Report \

Appendix 2: Children and Young Peoples Services Plan Year 3 Actions Progress Report



App 2 CYPSP
Actions Year 3.docx

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