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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PLAN 2020 - 2023**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 introduces the requirement for Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland to prepare a Children and Young People's Services Plan to cover the period 2020 to 2023.
- 1.2 The Children and Young People's Services Plan has been prepared to share the local priorities for achieving Argyll and Bute's vision for all children and young people and makes clear what services and partners need to do together to achieve them. The plan provides a framework for professionals, parents, carers and volunteers working with children and young people helping to shape and improve the services provided in Argyll and Bute.
- 1.3 The Children and Young People's Services Plan 2020 – 23 will replace the 2017-20 Children and Young People's Services Plan and is the key strategic plans with the aim of delivering the priorities and local outcomes for children and young people articulated in the Argyll and Bute Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

- I. Note that both NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Council are jointly and equally responsible for children's services planning.
- II. Note the Argyll and Bute's Children and Young People's Services Plan 2020-23 was considered, and approved at the Full Council meeting on the 26th November 2020, subject to further scrutiny by the Community Services Committee.
- III. Undertake further scrutiny of the Argyll and Bute's Children and Young People's Services Plan 2020-23.
- IV. Note that the Full Council agreed to delegate any amendments that are required to the Executive Director with responsibility for Education in consultation with the Leader, Leader of the largest Opposition Group and the Chair of the Community Services Committee.
- V. Note that the Council and the Integration Joint Board approved Children and Young People's Services Plan will be submitted to the Scottish Government.

- VI. Note that Argyll and Bute's Children's Strategic Group will oversee the delivery of the outcomes and actions identified in the plan with annual performance and progress reports to be presented to future meetings of the Community Services Committee and the Integration Joint Board.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES PLAN 2020 - 23**

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This report introduces member to our new Children and Young People's Services Plan. The requirement to produce the plan is laid out in Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 2.2 The responsibility for preparing children service's planning rests with the local authority and its relevant health board who are considered jointly and equally responsible, with other members of the Community Planning Partnership and some national public bodies either consulted with, or obliged to participate at various stages of the plan's development and review.
- 2.3 The preparation of Argyll and Bute's Children and Young People's Services Plan has been overseen by Argyll and Bute's Children's Strategic Group, chaired by Joanna MacDonald, Chief Officer, Argyll and Bute HSCP. The plan will cover the time period 2020 - 2023 replacing the 2017 – 2020 Plan.
- 2.4 The plan reflects our strategic priorities for children and young people having taken time to consider Scottish Government's expectations and aspirations in relation to the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:
- I. Note that both NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Council are jointly and equally responsible for children's services planning.
  - II. Note the Argyll and Bute's Children and Young People's Services Plan 2020-23 was considered, and approved at the Full Council meeting on the 26th November 2020, subject to further scrutiny by the Community Services Committee.
  - III. Undertake further scrutiny of the Argyll and Bute's Children and Young People's Services Plan 2020-23.
  - IV. Note that the Full Council agreed to delegate any amendments that are required to the Executive Director with responsibility for Education in consultation with the Leader, Leader of the largest Opposition Group and the Chair of the Community Services Committee.

- V. Note that the Council and the Integration Joint Board approved Children and Young People's Services Plan will be submitted to the Scottish Government.
- VI. Note that Argyll and Bute's Children's Strategic Group will oversee the delivery of the outcomes and actions identified in the plan with annual performance and progress reports to be presented to future meetings of the Community Services Committee and the Integration Joint Board.

## **4.0 DETAIL**

- 4.1 Argyll and Bute's Children and Young People's Services Plan has been prepared in in partnership with our children and young people and the range of agencies and services who support them. The plan sets out the shared local priorities for achieving Argyll and Bute's vision for all children and young people and makes clear what services and partners need to do together to achieve them. The plan provides a framework for professionals, parents, carers and volunteers working with our children and young people helping to shape and improve the services we offer.
- 4.2 This Children and Young People's Services Plan, while acknowledging the provision of universal services, focuses on services that target the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children who require care and support from a number of agencies, including education, social work, health, Police, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Third Sector children's services and other partners.
- 4.3 This plan builds on the work described in the previous 2017 – 20 Plan and has been informed by what children, young people and families have told us about their needs and experiences. As a consequence of what we have learned, we have committed ourselves to work in partnership to continuously improve how we coordinate and deliver our universal and targeted services to ensure children and families get the help they need when they need it.
- 4.4 The outcomes and actions included within the plan were identified after thorough engagement and consultation with practitioners, young people and their parents who attended a programme of focus groups held across Argyll and Bute.
- 4.5 The Children and Young People's Services Plan is the core plan for the multi-agency delivery of children's services in Argyll and Bute. It is one of the key strategic plans developed and implemented on behalf of NHS Highland, Argyll and Bute Council and the Community Planning Partnership, with the aim of delivering those priorities and local outcomes articulated in the Argyll and Bute Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).
- 4.6 The Children and Young People's Services Plan is underpinned by the Getting It Right for Every Child framework. This ensures that we link the outcomes set out in the plan with both the Argyll and Bute Local Outcome

Improvement Plan (LOIP) and the relevant National Performance Framework.

- 4.7 The implementation of the plan will be overseen by Argyll and Bute's Children's Strategic Group. Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland have a duty to report annually on the performance and progress in delivering the plan. The review must: (a) establish if services are being delivered in line with the plan's aims and objectives; (b) ascertain what impact, if any, the services covered by the plan are effectively safeguarding, supporting and promoting the wellbeing of children; and (c) identify ways in which either delivery and/or the plan may be improved (to better meet current aims and requirements). The review must be published and shared with the Scottish Government.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Children and Young People's Services Plan presented to Community Services Committee has been prepared in compliance with the requirements set out in the Statutory Guidance accompanying the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 5.2 The purpose of the Children and Young People's Services Plan is to:
- Provide a clear statement of direction and vision for children's services over the life of the Plan.
  - Produce a statement of purpose and intent that provides a basis for meaningful engagement with partner agencies over the co-ordination of work and appropriate allocation of resources.
  - Provide a planning framework agreed by all partner agencies that will be used to develop, monitor, review and improve how we deliver services to children and families in Argyll and Bute.
  - Provide leadership and support to operational staff by delivering a coherent and rational framework that clarifies the structure, direction, purpose and priorities to be taken forward.
  - Show how children's services in Argyll and Bute are working to meet national and local legislation and policy.
- 5.3 The plan is the overarching strategic planning document for integrated children services in Argyll and Bute with a range of existing plans feeding into it.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 **Policy:** The Children and Young People's Services Plan is underpinned by the Getting It Right for Every Child framework.
- 6.2 **Financial:** None known at this time.
- 6.3 **Legal:** The Council and NHS Highland are required to prepare and publish 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 (second edition) published in January 2020.

- 6.4 **HR:** None
- 6.5 **Equalities:** The Children and Young People's Services Plan identifies how health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities.
- 6.6 **Risk:** There are potential reputational risks for the Council should they fail to deliver the legislative requirements as set out within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Statutory Guidance (second edition) January 2020.
- 6.7 **Customer Service:** The publication of the Children and Young People's Services Plan will inform 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.

**Joanna MacDonald**  
**Chief Officer Argyll and Bute HSCP**

7<sup>th</sup> October 2020

For further information contact:

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