

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The CPP Management Committee are asked to consider adopting the Early Years Collaborative approach to improve outcomes for children in Argyll and Bute. The report outlines a number of recommendations for the CPP Management Committee to consider.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Early Years Framework was published in December 2008. It signified an important milestone in encouraging partnership working to deliver a shared commitment to giving children the best start in life and improving the life chances of children, young people and families at risk.
- 2.2** The Scottish Government recognise a fundamental shift is needed to deliver on improved outcomes. The evidence on early intervention in early years show clearly the need for partners to act now to improve outcome children in the long term. The Early Years Collaborative is a joint early years change programme being used to deliver on the Early Years Framework.
- 2.3** The ambition is to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up, by improving outcomes and reducing inequalities for all babies, children, mothers, fathers and families across Scotland to ensure that all children have the best start in live and are ready to succeed. (Eileen Campbell, Minister for Children & Young People (24/01/13))
- 2.4** The idea of the “collaborative” is that all areas in Scotland share good practice and experiences in achieving improvements and help accelerate the pace of change across the country.
- 2.5** The Early Years Collaborative will make improvement through working through ambitious outcomes across three workstreams: -
- Pre-birth to 1 month
 - 1 month to 3 years
 - 3 to 5 years

- 2.6** There are 3 areas of improvement defined as “stretch aims” set covering pre-birth to primary school entrance
- Reduce by 15% the rate of stillbirth and infant mortality by 2015 (workstream 1)
 - 85% of children to reach all of the expected developmental milestones by the time of the child’s 27-30 month health review by December 2016 (workstream 2)
 - 90% of children to reach all of the expected developmental milestones by the time the child starts primary school, by December 2017. (workstream 3)
- 2.7** The Early Years Collaborative is a methodology, where services use teaching improvement science to make small scale changes which can be replicated on a larger scale to improve outcomes across early years.
- 2.8** The Scottish Government expect the CPP to deliver on the Early Years Framework through the development of the Single Outcome Agreement. All CPP were asked to nominate an Early Years Champion and identify staff across the partnership to constitute a team to attend 6 day training. The first event in 24/25 January, will be followed up by events in May and October. At the event it became clear that the Early Years Collaborative requires a Programme Manager and staff to analyse data across the partnership. To embrace the Early Years Collaborative approach it will take an investment of time, training and support across the partnership. Co-ordination of activities, test and learning will be required.
- 2.9** Early Years Collaborative would help the CPP to consider how they invest the Early Years Change Fund to ensure positive sustain change.

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1** During 2013-14 each workstream will focus on improving outcomes by
- Identifying where change is needed to bring about improvements
 - Carry out small tests of change
 - Analysing the impact / evidence
 - Where the evidence shows positive outcomes imbed the change
 - Regular monitoring and reporting and feedback at National collaborative events
- 3.2** Recommended that the CPP Management Committee consider appointing a Programme Manager to lead on the Early Years Collaborative.

- 3.3** The Programme Manager should be funded through early years funding allocated to health and Argyll & Bute Council.
- 3.4** Agree the need to develop an Early Years Collaborative working group through the Early Years Group of Argyll & Bute's Children.
- 3.5** The Early Years Group should provide regular updates on progress of the Early Years Collaborative through Argyll and Bute's Children and the Community Planning Management Committee.
- 3.6** Agree that partners from each agency will confirm staff across each agency who support the Early Years Collaborative and attend the Scottish Government event in May and October.

For further information, please contact:

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