



North Lanarkshire Children's Services Plan 2017-2020

Annual Report 2018-19

October 2019

Introduction

Our North Lanarkshire Children's Services Plan summarises the purpose and intentions of North Lanarkshire Children's Services Partnership (CSP) on behalf of North Lanarkshire Partnership (NLP) for the period 2017-2020.

The actions to realise the outcomes are in a suite of action plans that are reported on quarterly and evidenced through the various task groups and working groups that, together, are North Lanarkshire Children's Service Partnership.

This is our second annual report on North Lanarkshire Children's Services Plan 2017-2020 and covers the period from June 2018- June 2019. The report includes:

- How changes in our partnership have progressed.
- A summary of our improvement programmes.
- An update of the work of our task groups.
- Achievements, challenges, learning and future actions that will inform, our next planning cycle.

North Lanarkshire Children's Services Plan and previous Annual Report can be accessed at

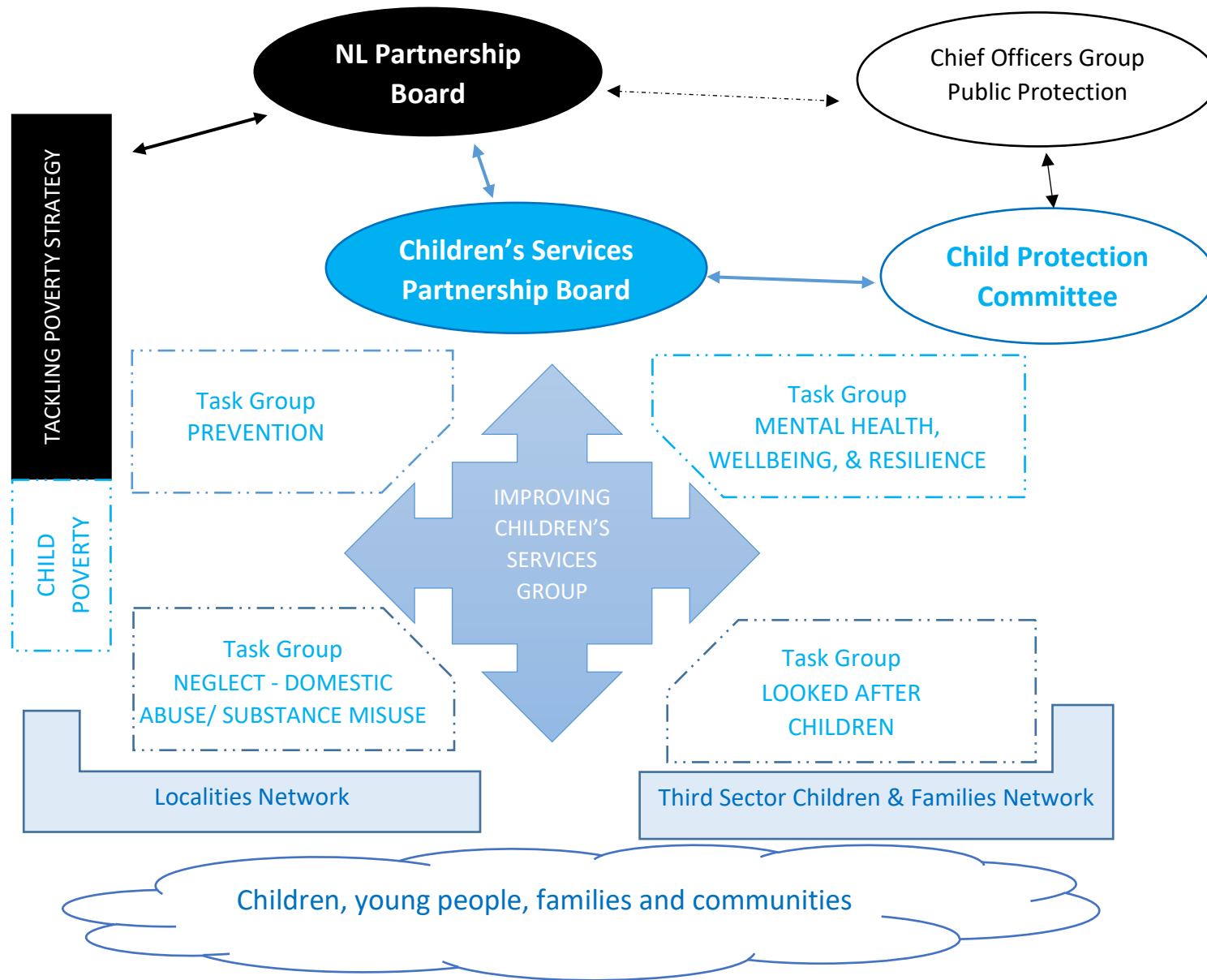
<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=30406>

Our governance and structure

During the 2018/19 period CSP implemented the revised governance and structure that supports the multi- agency communication, co-ordination and delivery of children's services. This was in response to significant changes in the landscape, information from improvement programmes and a focus on our priorities. From November 2018 further changes in the wider partnership arrangements included social work children and families moving from Health and Social Care (H&SCNL) to North Lanarkshire Council (NLC), Education and Families. Children's health services such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Paediatrics and Health Visiting remain part of H&SCNL.

The structure and membership has developed to increase awareness, coherence and co-ordination in the planning of children's services across partners.

NLCSP Structure 2019



During 2018-19 we

- Extended the membership of the CSPB to include two elected members, a non-executive member of the Integrated Joint Board for H&SCNL and an elected member to champion care experienced children and young people.
- Delivered a CSPB development session.
- Revised and agreed terms of reference and membership across the structure.
- Identified and progressed priorities for each of the task groups.
 - Prevention
 - Neglect
 - Looked after children
 - Mental health, wellbeing and resilience
- Progressed improvement programmes.

During 2019-20 we plan to

- Co-ordinate a hands on introduction to the work of the partnership.
- Develop a communication plan.
- Agree resourcing of the CSP.
- Undertake a joint strategic needs assessment and develop our Children's Services Plan for 2020-2023.

Engaging and involving children, young people and families

In June 2018, after a series of co-production workshops with young people and children's services staff to develop a structure and methodology for ongoing engagement, we launched our Partnership Agreement. This has been promoted across the partnership and in implementing the recommendations, the CSP has fully incorporated participation and engagement into our planning and reporting framework.

In 2018-19 we

- Promoted our partnership agreement.
- Fully incorporated engagement and involvement and children's rights into our meeting agendas, planning and reporting framework.
- Participated in NL Youth Summit.
- Involved children and young people in the work of the Looked After and the Mental Health, Wellbeing and Resilience task groups.
- Partners have worked with children, young people and families in a range of engagement activities and events.
- Continued to support development relating to Life Changes Trust funding for the Champions Board and Today Not Tomorrow Group.

In 2019-20

- Further engage with NL Youth Forum and Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament to consider their participation in NLCSP Board and strengthen the links and communications.
- Gather information to report to Scottish Government on what we have done to further and better children's rights.

Continuous Improvement

The Continuous Improvement Group (CIG), is a shared sub group of CSP and the Child Protection Committee. As well as co-ordinating self evaluation activity the CIG has oversight of our multi agency local and national improvement programmes:

- Realigning Children's Services
- Scottish Attainment Challenge
- Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative
- Permanence and Care Excellence – PACE
- Transforming Pathways
- Psychology of Parenting Project, POPP
- Child Protection Improvement Programme

In 2018-19 the CIG

- Progressed the work of the Improvement Practicum, our locally tailored practice and learning using the Improvement Methodology and linking to the Children and Young People Collaborative.
- Developed task and finish groups to develop the use of chronologies, review Initial Referral Discussion process and review the early years multi agency support teams.
- Re-established the self evaluation group and reviewed the 2014 self evaluation.
- Undertook an audit of Notifications of Child Protection Concerns that did not proceed to Initial Referral Discussion.
- Progressed the work of our national and local improvement programmes.

In 2019-20 we plan to

- Conclude the update of our self evaluation in line with the revised model for Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People by December 2019.
- Conclude the work of task and finish groups, identify and implement improvements.
- Provide ongoing support for practicums applying the improvement methodology; Early Years Eligible 2s Uptake practicum, Language Meets Literacy.
- Develop our performance framework to further the identified need to support scrutiny, measures of success and impact on children, young people and families.
- Progress the work and involvement in national and local improvement programmes.

Improvement Programmes

Realigning Children's Services

Realigning Children's Services is a programme supported by the Scottish Government to support joint strategic commissioning.

In 2017-18 we gathered information to better understand the strengths, needs and possible concerns of children and young people of school age in North Lanarkshire.

In 2018-19, prior to concluding the planned programme, inputs from national programme were paused, impacting on our local analysis and links and planning at a national level. The task and finish group driving this work presented the findings in a Community Planning Partnership Report and school cluster reports.

The data set comprised of

- 502 parents of children aged 0-8
- 11,577 S1-S4 pupils (78% of the eligible population)
- 9,601 P5-7 pupils (82% of the eligible population)

Headlines told us that

- Most children in North Lanarkshire appear happy, consider themselves healthy, like the areas they live in and have good relationships with family, peers and teachers.
- However, there are always children who do less well and there are some specific areas of concern, including substance misuse, diet and physical activity and mental wellbeing.
- There are persistent and pronounced inequalities in some health and wellbeing outcomes among children and young people in North Lanarkshire.
- Poor outcomes in one area of wellbeing are often accompanied – and potentially compounded – by poor outcomes in another.

The reports informed

- Improvement planning across NL schools.
- Single and multi agency planning processes such as Mental Health, Wellbeing and Resilience Plan, Lanarkshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The partnership recognised a gap in information from children and young people with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and a version of the survey was distributed across ASN (Additional Support Needs) establishments. Responses were comparatively low and further actions are required.

In 2019-20 we plan to

- Access training and application of RCS data visualisation tool.
- Continue to apply the information to single and multi agency planning and development of services and supports.
- Further analyse the information to inform the next CSP planning cycle.
- Further analyse and reach agreement on how we use the information to support joint shared commissioning.
- Conclude the work to include views and information from children and young people with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.
- Apply the community and service mapping information to the next CSPlan and consider the value of refreshing this information.
- Identify future development and support for the programme in collaboration with Scottish Government RCS team.
- Engage in national network and developments to generate whole population health and well being data.

Scottish Attainment Challenge

'Whole school reforms, particularly those that are informed by research evidence and focus on improving attainment by using effective pedagogies, have a shared strategic plan that encompasses academic, social and emotional learning; are supported by significant staff development and are data driven, multi-faceted and consistently monitor impact on attainment.... provide the best strategy for closing the poverty related attainment gap.'

Joseph Rowntree Foundation Report: Closing the Gap in Scottish Education, May 2014

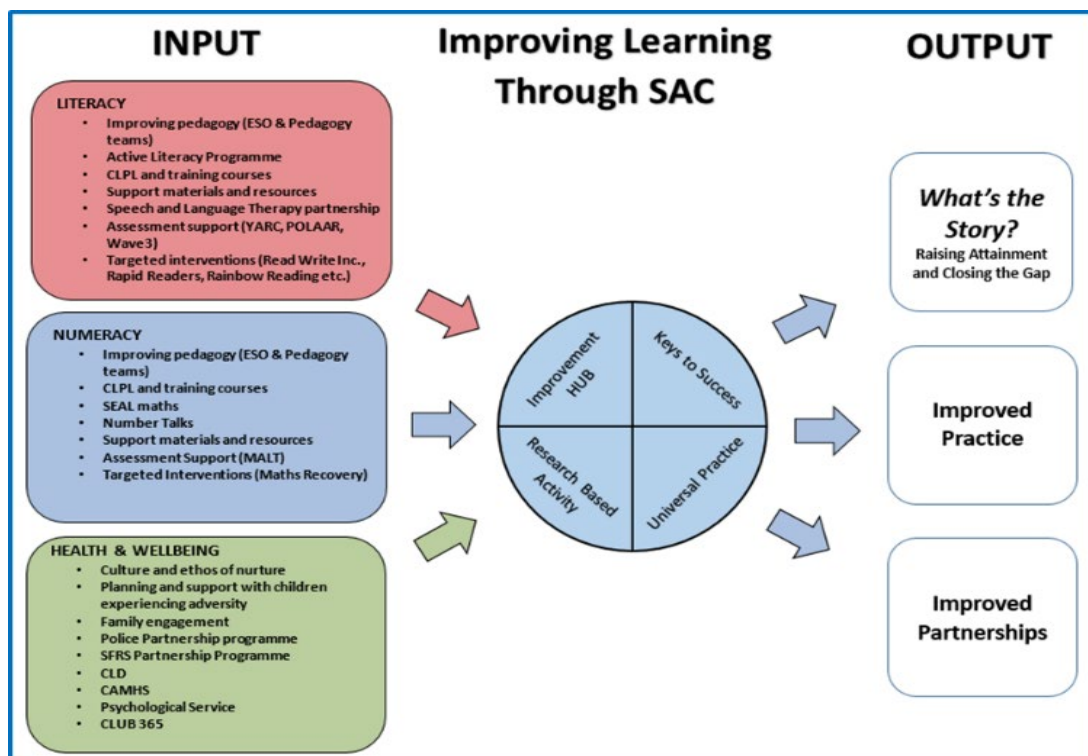
Drawing on wide ranging evidence from research and the conclusions of the Joseph Rowntree Report and other research, the Scottish Attainment Challenge in North Lanarkshire will continue to drive improvement through its focus on high quality learning and teaching. This encompasses relational skills and interventions to effectively improve the life chances of our most disadvantaged children and young people. The approach is underpinned by a continuing use of data and an improving culture of professional collaboration which is becoming embedded across the organisation. Approaches and interventions are subject to ongoing evaluation by a dedicated team of researchers and data analysts. Support staff facilitate more effective support for schools, helping schools and services to develop bespoke approaches in conjunction with other colleagues e.g. Psychological Service and CIS, and will build on the greater connectivity and integrated working between partners within Education and Families and Health and Social Care. An example is the initiative with Police Scotland to have a joint funded officer working in schools.

Attainment Challenge Highlights 2018/19

- The introduction of the Self-Improving School system continues to evolve and develop with a recent shift to a greater level of autonomy for family groups. This has resulted in family groups having more valuable and productive discussions regarding their identified priority and a clearly defined role in supporting 'Empowering Clusters Agenda'.
- Last session there was a shift to a greater level of autonomy for family groups in relation to the working of the Self Improving Schools programme. Family groups set shared priorities, and in these shared priorities, there was a clear increase in family group's confidence ratings after having a meeting which focused on them.
- Joint work with South Lanarkshire Council schools continued, as did the input from the Robert Owen Centre and the University of Glasgow. Schools reported that this cross-authority collaboration positively impacted their practice and that of the practitioners involved. Last session, some family groups involved teachers in the programme, thus promoting universal engagement in collaboration to ensure best outcomes for children and young people.
- A key aspect of our learning was the potential for developing stronger connections to all areas within Education & Families. This included increased partnership working and planning leading to improvement not only within the 35 Keys to Success schools but across all schools and establishments in North Lanarkshire.

- Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels (ACEL) data shows that the gap within Literacy and Numeracy has narrowed across the authority for P1, P4, and P7. This gap has narrowed significantly in our 35 Key to Success schools for P1 and P7. Data highlighted that the picture was not as positive in P4 writing and S3 numeracy and further investigation and support will be required in these areas.
- The ongoing development of the Learning Hub continues to contribute to professional learning in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing with positive impact on staff knowledge, skill and confidence.
- A range of system/technical changes has resulted in cultural change, in particular a stronger focus on partnership working and building internal capacity to reduce the dependency on outsourcing training and support but instead tap in to the skills and talents of our existing workforce.
- We are continuing to enhance our approach to leadership development and to further integrate the work of SAC across all of Education and Families including creating opportunities for more tailored development through a blend of resources which are aligned to the improvement priorities outlined in the National Improvement Framework. This will support leaders across our Education and Families Service to develop leadership skills, enhance professional learning and lead improvement.
- A more robust approach to evaluation and reporting, with support from Educational Psychologists and Researchers, is having a significant impact on improving outcomes for targeted groups of children and young people.

A clear plan of activities provided by the SAC team gives clarity of where the interventions sit within the process of improvement and the following table gives an indication of some of the areas of work initiated and supported by the Attainment Challenge team.



Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC)

The CYPIC is supporting the government's drive to make Scotland the best place to grow up by putting the needs of children and families at the centre in line with GIRFEC and the Early Years Framework. The approach uses the Improvement Methodology to test, measure, implement and spread new and better ways of working to make services more effective and responsive to the needs of children and families. The funding from the Scottish Government to support improvement programmes concluded in March 2018. A sustainability plan has identified how the work and learning from the programmes will be sustained. The capacity developed amongst staff through a range of learning opportunities and practical application of the improvement methodology continue to apply this to both single and multi agency improvement planning and programmes.

The challenge to maintain an overview of the work linked to CYPIC has been raised and in 2019-20 our Improving Children's Services Group (ICSG) will consider identifying a task group or network to review CYPIC activity and make recommendations in relation to co-ordination and oversight.

Permanence and Care Excellence (PACE)

Evidence shows that children and young people want and benefit from permanent, loving and nurturing relationships. In 2018-19, as part of the Permanence and Care Excellence Programme (PACE), work has been undertaken to look at children in kinship care placements and ensure that there is robust assessment and planning which takes into account their long term needs, including consideration of permanence. This work will continue over the next year and will be concurrent to the work being undertaken to update North Lanarkshire's Kinship Care Procedures and further development of the assessment format for assessing kinship carers.

The work will support the CSP to better understand the growth in kinship care placements and to continue to develop appropriate responses to not only children in kinships care placements but also their kinship carers.

As part of our participation in the PACE Programme we have also identified the need to engage more effectively at an earlier stage to support some children, particularly those of primary age, and their families to prevent escalation into formal care. Having scoped the project and undertaken some initial tests of change the work has been extended across all 6 localities.

In 2018-19

The role of Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland as an hands on partner concluded however, they will continue to support the work at a national level. Following the scoping work and prior to their withdrawal, analysis of information gathered refocused the programme around four specific areas.

1. Children looked after at home
2. Time intervals between accommodation and permanence recommendation
3. Time intervals between permanence recommendation and panel or agency decision maker
4. Time intervals between panel or agency decision maker to lodging an application in court

In 2019-20 -

In applying the improvement methodology each of the areas has identified their aim and have a sub groups and responsible officer to develop and drive forward change ideas, gather the findings and evidence from identified tests of change.

The CSP have a role to ensure that there is collaboration between PACE and Transforming Pathways (see below).

Transforming Pathways (previously Edges of Care)

This programme began, in partnership with Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland (CELCIS) and the Robertson Trust, to support the redesign of local services and make changes so that children and families get the right support at the right time. Initial research shows the key age group to be P4-S1 and assessment based on analysis of referrals to the Cumbernauld social work team indicated that service priorities meant that many families and young people with clear support needs did not receive a targeted social work service and that interventions were more likely to be based on specific incidents rather than needs of children and/or their families. The focus is on early intervention to reduce the potential for escalation of problems later on in children's lives and to prevent a greater or higher level of involvement in young people's lives. This work will, over the coming year, consider how we might reconfigure our services to support better outcomes for this group.

In 2018-19

- The involvement and financial support from the Robertson Trust and CELSIS for the preliminary scoping concluded.
- The task and finish group reviewed the scoping work undertaken in 2017-18, analysed the information gathered, identified the learning, gaps and possibilities for delivering effective support to families on the edges of care, capacity considerations and potential next steps.
- The implementation group was established and includes representation from all relevant partners.
- Identified a local high school to engage in the programme.

In 2019-20

- The implementation group will develop the options and business case to re design services and supports in this area.
- Following discussion within Education & Families, a High School and feeder Primary Schools (school cluster) will be confirmed as the site where pilot work will take place.
- The Project Group will be established to take forward the pilot and assess the impact of changes.
- Interim proposals for the pilot will be completed by October 2019.

Psychology of Parenting Programme

In partnership with Scottish Government, North Lanarkshire committed to deliver the Incredible Years parenting programme targeting 10% of the population of 3-6 year olds. Practitioners from a range of disciplines have been trained and as at July 2019, 10 practitioners were continuing to deliver the course. From

January 2018-July 2019, 17 groups were delivered in North Lanarkshire involving 151 families (175 caregivers). There are two outcome reports that present the data gathered in areas such as reach, participation, targeting, referrals and impact on the families involved through strength and difficulty questionnaires.

In 2019-20, future resources for this programme will be discussed and agreed in the context of the work undertaken by the Prevention Task Group to review the parenting strategy and gather evidence on the impact of parenting programmes. There is recognition of a broad range of family support programmes and initiatives that can demonstrate a positive impact on children, young people and families.

Child Protection Improvement Programme

The Child Protection Improvement Programme was launched in February 2016. Following a review of child protection in Scotland, nine interconnected work strands have been identified that help deliver the national vision for child protection system, one *that keeps children safer from abuse and neglect by placing the wellbeing of Scotland's children at the heart of everything it does*. The 9 interconnected work strands are; Neglect; Child Sexual Exploitation; Child Trafficking; Child Internet Safety; Children's Hearings; Inspections; Leadership; and, Data and Evidence.

Progress is being made to take forward the 12 recommendations both locally and nationally. North Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee will work with this programme, detailing the actions in the annual Business Plan.

National Third Sector GIRFEC Project

This National programme aims to support the Third Sector in playing a full role in the development of children's services planning and the delivery of the GIRFEC provisions within the Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The project outcomes are summarised as

- **Promote** to public sector partners and each other the contribution the Third Sector can make.
- **Support** to ensure the Third Sector have the information, tools and resources they need and utilise this to make a positive contribution.
- **Collaborate** with each other and with statutory colleagues to strengthen the delivery of Children's Services Planning and GIRFEC provisions within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

The initial programme in 2017-18 identified recommendations and the strategic ambition:

Through a co-ordinated approach, the Third Sector in North Lanarkshire is a key provider of early intervention and preventative supports to address issues facing children and families in NL and to make North Lanarkshire the best place in Scotland to grow up. Additionally, many specialist Third Sector organisations continue to be well placed to support those children and families who are most in need or are in crisis. As a Sector trusted by communities and partners, with in-depth knowledge of the needs and issues facing local communities, the sector are able to be highly responsive and to quickly and effectively address gaps as they emerge.

To realise this ambition the Children and Families Network, which brings together community and voluntary sector groups and organisations, will identify and take forward actions with the support of partners. In 2019-20 a development session with the Children and Families Network is scheduled to prioritise and plan the work.

Wider planning

Child Poverty Delivery Plan

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 requires local authorities and health boards to produce a Child Poverty Delivery Plan by June 2019 and an annual Child Poverty Action Report. The NL Child Poverty Delivery Plan was published in June 2019

In North Lanarkshire the delivery plan will be incorporated into the Tackling Poverty Strategy, led by the Tackling Poverty Team and Officers Action Group. The CSP will link to this group and have incorporated child poverty into the planning and reporting framework and tasks groups will consider actions that contribute to a reduction child poverty.

Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan

The Council and multi-agency partners have developed a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) as per requirements of the Scottish Government. The RRTP is to provide homeless people and their families with a safe and secure base to enable them to build and live their lives. The intention is to reduce the time families and their children live in temporary accommodation and reduce damage to health and wellbeing that homelessness causes. A number of actions to improve services for families and children will be developed over the lifetime of the 5 year plan.

The steering group will drive forward the action plan with multi agency partners, linking with the CSP both strategically, through task groups and relevant priorities, and operationally in delivering on identified actions.

Task Groups

The ICSG task groups were established in 2018 and during the initial 6 months worked to establish terms of reference, membership and the focus of the work to progress. The task groups are

- Prevention
- Neglect
- Looked after children
- Mental health, wellbeing and resilience

Annual plans and updates from our task groups follow.

North Lanarkshire Children's Partnership / North Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee

Neglect Task Group

Report July 2018-June 2019

Context of Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or failure to respond to, a child's basic emotional needs.

As part of the Scottish Government's Child Protection Improvement Programme neglect has been identified as 'the primary maltreatment issue faced by Scotland's children with known weaknesses in the current assessment of, and response to, the problem'.

The Centre for Child Wellbeing and Protection at Stirling University were commissioned by the Scottish Government to undertake a rapid review of the literature on intervention and described neglect as 'one of the most damaging childhood experiences and is associated with some of the poorest behavioral, emotional and cognitive outcomes'

Child Protection Register Statistics for North Lanarkshire show that during the year 2016/17 there were 268 new child protection registrations of which 118 children (44%) were registered under the category of physical neglect. This varied for 35% of new registrations in Wishaw to 61% of new registrations in Bellshill. Registrations for neglect were more common in younger children with 55% of new registrations for children aged 0-4 being for neglect while 37% of new registrations for 5-10 year olds and 37% of new registrations for 11-15 year olds were for neglect.

As at 31st July 2019, of the 95 children on the child protection register 42 (44%) were registered under the category of physical neglect.

In the year between August 2017 and July 2018 there were 987 referrals to SCRA for non-offence grounds. Of these referrals 248 (25%) included a ground of 'Lack of Parental Care'. This is the second most frequently recorded ground for referral after 'Child's conduct harmful to self and others' where there were 281 referrals (28%)*

* Some children may be referred for more than one ground

Task group priorities

The priorities of the group are

- Assessing neglect to ensure appropriate action is taken to protect the child from harm
- Knowledge skills and competence of the multiagency child protection workforce
- Pathways and interventions

Links to GIRFEC

Experiencing neglect can impact on all wellbeing indicators with different children within a family often experiencing different impacts. A multiagency approach to effective assessment of individual children and an suit of intervention options with clear guidance on which interventions are appropriate in which circumstances supports the GIRFEC principle of ensuring the child receives the right help from the right people at the right time.

Links to Children's Rights

Neglect harms children. Children have the right to be safe and protected from harm. Children who experience neglect are not having their rights respected. Children have the right to participate in decisions that affect them. This includes having their opinions, experiences and behaviours reflected in assessment and planning processes.

Links to Child Poverty

Child poverty can undermine the health, wellbeing and educational attainment of the children who experience it. It also has a wider cost for society. Within North Lanarkshire it is estimated that 25% of our children live in relative poverty after housing costs. This equates to an estimated 17,922 children across the authority. When a family lives in poverty it is harder for parents and carers to meet their child's needs and the challenges that impact on parents and carers ability to meet their children's needs can be more serious and the risk to children can be higher. Action to address poverty and inequality supports families and helps protect children from neglect.

Action Plan

No	Priorities Tasks and timescale	Quality Indicators	Expected Outcomes	Update on Progress / Evidence
1	<p>2018-19</p> <p>Identify and review tools and approaches to assessing neglect and parental capacity currently in use in North Lanarkshire. <i>August 2019</i></p> <p>Planned activity 2019-20</p> <p>Develop an interim toolkit and pathway for assessment of neglect and parenting capacity – to be revised following the outcome of 3 below <i>November 2019</i></p> <p>Evaluate impact of toolkit <i>April 2020 onwards</i></p>	1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 5.2	Improved use of assessment tools when working with families where children are at risk of or experiencing neglect resulting in better informed planning and interventions to meet needs	<p>2018-19</p> <p>Scoping of tools undertaken Tools reviewed Identified need for toolkit and pathway for assessment of neglect</p> <p>Evidence Completed templates from scoping exercise and analysis within meeting note.</p>
2	<p>2018-19</p> <p>Develop, pilot, 'Understanding Neglect' training course, evaluate and review <i>June 2019</i></p> <p>Planned activity 2019-20</p> <p>Roll out training as core course within the CPC Multiagency training programme with annual evaluation and review <i>June 2020</i></p>	7.2	Improved understanding and knowledge of neglect amongst the children's workforce and those who work with vulnerable parents.	<p>The Understanding Neglect training course has been developed and pilot session delivered with evaluation undertaken. The course has been and the training team expanded. Further courses scheduled.</p> <p>Evidence Course content and materials. Attendance and evaluation information from the pilot course including self reported impact on practice.</p>

No	Priorities Tasks and timescale	Quality Indicators	Expected Outcomes	Update on Progress / Evidence
3	<p>2018-19</p> <p>Scope the potential for a small scale test of change based on the use of the Graded Care Profile / Glasgow Neglect Tool or another identified assessment tool <i>August 2019</i></p> <p>Planned activity 2019-20</p> <p>Plan test of change and commence <i>November 2019</i></p> <p>Review revise and re test <i>May 2020</i></p>	1.1, 5.2	Improved assessment of level of care provided by parents where there is a risk of neglect leading to better care planning and reduced risk of harm for children.	<p>Following review of options agreement secured from key partners to proceed with a small scale test of change based on the use of the Glasgow Neglect Tool. Support secured from improvement methodology mentor.</p> <p>Evidence Minute of meetings and initial review paperwork. Completion of NLC project plan and application of improvement tools will be available as the work progresses.</p>
4	<p>Link to Prevention Task Group to ensure the parenting support provision identified within the parenting strategy reflects the needs of children at risk of or experiencing neglect At each stage of development, implementation and review</p> <p>Planned activity 2019-20</p>	1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 5.3, 5.4, 6.2,	<p>Access to intensive parenting support for those parents most at risk of neglecting their children.</p> <p>Improved quality of parenting experienced by vulnerable children</p>	<p>The Neglect Task group are aware that the Prevention Task group are considering parenting support and have offered to contribute to any developments to ensure the support needs of families where there is a risk of neglect are addressed. A lead link from the Neglect task group has been identified.</p> <p>Evidence Updates in Neglect Task Group meeting notes.</p>

No	Priorities Tasks and timescale	Quality Indicators	Expected Outcomes	Update on Progress / Evidence
	Activity will be led by Prevention Task Group. Neglect task group in a supportive role.			
5	<p>Planned activity 2019-20</p> <p>Explore the potential to adopt the use of a published tool identified in scoping exercise (C-Change) for the assessment of parenting capacity / parental capacity to change.</p>	1.1, 5.2	Improved assessment of parenting capacity / parental capacity to change where there is a risk of neglect leading to better care planning and reduced risk of harm for children.	
<p>Actions to engage and involve children, young people and families</p> <p>Work to pilot any new assessment tools will be done in partnership with parents (and young people if appropriate)</p>				
<p>Links with community and voluntary sector</p> <p>3rd sector are represented on the task group through a representative from Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire although do not currently have the capacity to attend</p>				
<p>Implications for workforce development</p> <p>See 2 above. Depending on the tools agreed there is likely to be the need for bespoke staff training on using any new tools identified.</p>				

North Lanarkshire Children’s Partnership Prevention Task Group Annual Report - July 2018 - June 2019

Purpose of the group and priorities

The importance of intervening early throughout a child’s life is well documented in research. A shift to prevention will allow Services to respond timeously minimising the impact of chronic adversity. The practice of working alongside families building on their strengths in order to promote resilience is the aspiration of North Lanarkshire’s prevention work. This will be done through the use of evidence informed resources.

1. *In session 2018/19 the prevention task group will review the Parenting Strategy to establish the impact on child and families.*
2. *This data will be used, in addition to current research evidence, to produce recommendations and next steps which will inform North Lanarkshire’s on-going self-evaluation cycle.*

	Priorities Tasks and timescale	Quality Indicators	Expected Outcomes	Update on Progress / Evidence
1.	Conduct a review of parenting literature identifying effective interventions and Key principles. <i>Jan 2019</i>	6.1 Policies, procedures and legal measures. 6.2 Planning and improving services	Information/evidence will be used inform the categorisation, analysis and development of next steps in relation to engagement with parents/carers (<i>see action 2-4</i>).	Review of parenting literature has been conducted, presented and discussed with the Parenting task group (14.1.19 – see note of meeting and presentation) and to the Scottish Government and ICSG representatives (14.8.19 see presentation from session).
2.	Gather impact of parenting interventions cited in ‘North Lanarkshire Partnership Priority – Parenting Programme’. <i>May 2019</i>	2.1 Impact on children and young people. 2.2 Impact on families. 6.5 Securing	Collation of the parenting approaches, (cited in the strategy document) which are currently being delivered. Collation of the impact of current parent approaches on children and families.	Majority of impact measures have been submitted by partners (August 2019). These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 universal approaches • 18 targeted approaches Impact table continues to be up-dated as new data is submitted.

		improvement through self-evaluation		
3.	Review contents of parenting strategy to assess for suitability and impact. <i>May/June 2019</i>	6.1 Policies, procedures and legal measures.	Partnership analysis of current strategy document.	Initial partnership review of parenting strategy completed. Key questions discussed at ICSG on the 15.5.19. Initial recommendations discussed taking into account GIRFEC Principles/UNCRC/NL Child Poverty Action Plan
4.	Make recommendations of next steps in relation to the parenting strategy. <i>July 2019- November 2019</i>	6.1 Policies, procedures and legal measures. 6.2 Planning and improving services.	Partnership recommendations offer covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengths of current parenting approaches • Areas for development / gaps • Possible next steps both in terms of the suite of approaches and the future strategic direction. 	Initial recommendations shared at Improving Children’s Service Group 10.7.19 (see minute) and during the Scottish Government visit (see presentation).
5.	Consultation with stakeholders (parents and children) November 2019	2.1 Impact on children and young people. 2.2 Impact on families. 6.5 Securing improvement through self-evaluation	Adjustment / refinement of recommendations following stakeholder feedback.	Still to be completed

Actions to engage and involve children, young people and families

Consultation with young people in May 2019 at pupil conferences (completed). Stakeholder feedback forms much of the evidence reviewed in relation to the parenting approaches. It is proposed that carers will be consulted on the draft recommendations.

Links with community and voluntary sector

A representative from VANL is a key member of the task group and provides linkage with the community and voluntary sector.

Implications for workforce development

Recommendations will provide guidance around workforce development.

North Lanarkshire Children's Partnership

Mental Health, Wellbeing and Resilience Task Group Action Plan and Update -September 2019

Purpose of the group and priorities

Mental Health, wellbeing and resilience is a priority for the North Lanarkshire Children's Services Partnership, demonstrating the importance of mental health and building resilience as the means to help children and young people withstand the emotional pressures that they may face as they grow up.

Our vision is to maximise the mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people in North Lanarkshire, putting them at the centre of planning and delivery and building on the principles of GIRFEC.

A multi-agency Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy for Lanarkshire is being developed which recognises the challenges that our children and young people face and embeds the delivery of actions to address this within the Children's Services Plan and, specifically, the work of this task group. The recommendations of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Task Force will also be a key driver for our priorities. Supporting this important area of work is the NLC Mental Health, Wellbeing and Resilience strategy and delivery plan that was launched in October 2019 by Education and Families targeting children and young people in education settings.

Therefore the aim of this work stream is to work with all partners to create the conditions that maximise children and young people's mental health, wellbeing and resilience and to provide the right support at the right time where this is required. Where possible, we want to take a preventative and early intervention approach that recognises the role of universal services, communities, families, and crucially, children and young people themselves to build good mental health and wellbeing. By doing so, we aim to enable specialist services to focus on those most in need due to complex trauma and emerging severe and enduring mental health problems.

Our objectives

- Ensure an integrated a whole-systems approach to the planning and delivery of support and services across the NHS, social work, education, the voluntary sector and other community planning partners, underpinned by GIRFEC principles, and including children and young people.
- Invest in prevention and early intervention and to develop a menu of support that will improve communication, help providers understand where they fit in the continuum of mental wellbeing; and ensure that there is consistent support for the whole family across ages and stages of a young person's life.
- To reconfigure Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to allow for the development of a neurodevelopmental service and provide improved economy of scale for existing clinical and admin staff.

- Improve our ability to evidence the impact of support and services on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.
- Develop a workforce strategy that will ensure a confident and competent workforce that will make best use of the ability and resources across all sectors.

GIRFEC

As outlined above, GIRFEC principles are at the core of any developments.

Children’s Rights

The work of this group contributes to furthering UNCRC children’s rights, in particular

Article 6 – children have a right to be healthy and develop their full potential

Article 17 – children have a right to reliable information, including health information

Article 24 – children have a right to the best possible health and good quality health care

Child poverty

Child poverty can undermine the health, wellbeing and educational attainment of the children who experience it. It also has a wider cost for society. Within North Lanarkshire it is estimated that 25% of our children live in relative poverty after housing costs. This equates to an estimated 17,922 children across the authority. Outline how the priority will impact on child poverty and link with the NL Child Poverty Action plan

The Audit Scotland Report (Children and young People’s Mental Health, 2018) highlighted that children and young people living in low income households are 3 times more likely to experience mental health problems than their more affluent peers. In North Lanarkshire, nearly 19% of children live in low income households which is above the national average of 16%. Additionally there is wide variation across North Lanarkshire and in each locality (e.g. over 40% in Craigneuk Wishaw) which requires to be taken into account when planning services and support.

No	Priorities Tasks and timescale	Quality Indicators	Expected Outcomes	Update on Progress / Evidence
Mental health and wellbeing improvement and promotion of resilience				
1.	Scoping of current provision of mental health improvement work across North Lanarkshire to understand areas of good practice and areas for development (by	6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 8.1, 8.2	Mapping of support provided by universal, third sector and specialist services. Areas of good practice identified.	Evidence being collated at Task Group meetings and wider stakeholder groups.

	31 March 2020). Requires task group to link with Education and Families Mental Health, Wellbeing and Resilience strategy sub groups.		Gaps/areas for development identified.	Mapping across third sector providers underway
2.	Review evidence base and consultation work undertaken locally to understand what children and young people want in terms of support to promote their mental health and wellbeing (by 31 March 2020). Consult with children and young people as well as wider stakeholders as required (ongoing).	5.4	Overview of literature and local consultation to support prioritisation.	Literature review on social prescribing for young people completed. In process of collating evidence re young people's opinions on what services should look like. Stakeholder feedback also being gathered via Task Group meetings.
3.	Link with Education and Families colleagues to influence the implementation of the resource to support counselling in schools and other developments that affect the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people (by end March 2020).	6.2, 8.1	Appropriate support and services in place for children and young people	
4.	Deliver a series of locality events to promote existing community mental health and wellbeing supports (by end March 2020).	7.2, 8.1	Locality staff and providers improve their awareness of the range of community supports already available to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.	Raised at task group leads meeting and July meeting of ICSG, asking to theme a round of Children's Service LPGs for this purpose.
5.	Link with Corporate Parenting Strategy/LACYP Task Group to establish the mental health and wellbeing needs of care experienced children and young people and agree action plan to prioritise	6.2	Action plan to support and improve the mental health and wellbeing of care experienced young people finalised.	Initial meeting arranged with members of each sub group to scope the requirement.

	the needs of this group (by 31 March 2020).			
6.	In partnership with the Lanarkshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Education and Families HWB Strategy, develop a workforce strategy that supports all children's services partners to feel confident and competent to promote the mental health, wellbeing and resilience of children and young people (end June 2020).	7.1, 7.2	Multi-agency workforce development plan developed.	
Specialist CAMHS (leads Jim Murray/Duncan Clark)				
7.	Implement the action plan to deliver the recommendations made in the CAMHS Deep Dive report by end March 2020	6.2, 6.4, 8.1	Reduction in waiting times for CAMHS.	Action plan developed and reviewed quarterly by Chief Executives
Neurodevelopmental Pathway (leads Jim Murray/Duncan Clark)				
8.	Develop and implement action plan to introduce a neurodevelopmental pathway	6.2, 6.4, 7.1, 8.1	Neurodevelopmental pathway tested and scaled up across North Lanarkshire.	Initial test to take place in November 2019.
	Improvement Programmes Tasks and timescale			
Actions to engage and involve children, young people and families A number of consultation and engagement sessions have already taken place with children and young people in North Lanarkshire and these will be reviewed as an initial action to determine knowledge gaps and influence further engagement work.				

Links with community and voluntary sector

Third sector are represented on the Task Group and provide a key link into the sector.

Implications for workforce development

As described above, a workforce plan will be developed in partnership with the Lanarkshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

North Lanarkshire Children's Partnership

Looked After Children and Young People Task Group Action Plan and Update

Purpose of the group/network and priorities

The group was formally known as the Corporate Parenting Group and has widened its remit for all looked after children to include children looked after at home.

- Review and update the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2015 – 2018 – the timescale for this is tight but the aim is to have a draft strategy available for agreement by the next ICSG which will then be tabled to be agreed/ratified by the next meeting of the CSP
- The strategy will take account of progress to date and develop a three year action plan to support the delivery of the strategy
- The group will not work in isolation but will link as necessary with the other ICSG task groups and other strategic groups including the Child Protection Committee and the Tackling Poverty Action Group as well as informing and influencing initiatives that will include the Family Firm approach and the additional Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) monies for looked after children

GIRFEC

The GIRFEC approach provides the overarching principles and practice model for children's services and is reflected in policy, strategy, practice and legislation affecting children, young people and their families.

GIRFEC is the National approach to promoting, supporting and safeguarding the wellbeing of our children and young people and using this approach enables practitioners to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities.

The wellbeing of children and young people is at the heart of Getting it right for every child. To achieve our aspirations for all of North Lanarkshire's children and young people to develop into confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens, every child and young person needs to be Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included.

The Improving Children's Services Group and the Task Groups work within the overarching GIRFEC framework to ensure provision of more effective outcomes based services to children, young people and their families to improve wellbeing.

Children's Rights

All 52 articles of UNCRC are relevant to the work of the CSP. The priorities in this annual plan will help to give effect to children's rights under the following summarised UNCRC articles

All actions

- Article 3-Anyone making decisions that affect children and young people should prioritise their interests.
- Article 42- All children, young people and adults should know about the UNCRC

Corporate Parenting Plan and duties

- Article 9- Children and young people should be able to stay with their parents unless separation is necessary for the best interests of the child.
- Articles 20-21 – Children who cannot be with family should be looked after properly
- Article 25-The corporate parent periodically reviews the placement of children and young people.

Engagement and Participation

- Article 12 – Children and young people should be recognised as responsible and their view taken into account and have a say in decisions that affect them.

Child poverty

Child poverty can undermine the health, wellbeing and educational attainment of the children who experience it. It also has a wider cost for society. Within North Lanarkshire it is estimated that 25% of our children live in relative poverty after housing costs. This equates to an estimated 17,922 children across the authority. When a family lives in poverty it is harder for parents and carers to meet their child’s needs and the challenges that impact on parents and carers ability to meet their children’s needs can be more serious and the risk to children can be higher. Action to address poverty and inequality supports families and helps protect children from neglect.

	Priorities Tasks and timescale	Quality Indicators	Expected Outcomes	Update on Progress / Evidence
1	The corporate parenting strategy and improvement plan for 2019-2022 is agreed and published by July 2019	1.1 2.1 2.2 6.2 6.3 6.4 6.5 9.4	A SMART plan is in place with actions that will improve the lives and provide opportunities for looked after at home and away from home children &YP	The Looked After Children and YP Task Group (Task Group) will monitor the outcomes of the improvement plan to ensure progress with evidence that outcomes have been met Quarterly reporting to the ICSG/CSP/CPC on the improvement plan

2	Children and young people who need additional support get it, including bespoke packages which help them achieve their potential.	1.1 2.1 2.2	Virtual School Leader in post As part of the Virtual school model a proposal is developed and agreed for a 'Wrap around' support service to sustain looked after children in their educational and care 'placements'	Quarterly reporting to the ICSG/CSP on progress of the virtual school model, measurements having been agreed in line with SAC improvement aims. The Virtual school will provide individual support from July 19. A MySWIS and SEEMIS data exercise has been carried out to ensure information to identify young people to be supported is robust. The head is in post and recruitment of the support team is underway, expecting to be concluded by October 19.
3	Support from all agencies and services to further develop an NL Champions' Board in collaboration with the Today not Tomorrow Group (TNT)	1.1 2.1 2.2 6.2 6.3 9.2 9.4	The Champions' Board is established and is working in collaboration with TNT to provide strategic direction which is informing policy and practice Services and agencies are aware of their Corporate Parenting responsibilities and their senior managers provide strong leadership in taking actions forward to fulfil these responsibilities	The Task Group will be updated at each meeting (8wkly cycle of meetings) on progress and quarterly reporting to the ICSG/CSP/CPC Services and agencies will use existing management reporting arrangements to update on progress and agree reviewed actions as necessary A Development Worker has been in post since May 19 and is working with TNT to develop and progress an action plan.
	Improvement Programmes Tasks and timescale			

	PACE: Permanence and Care Excellence. Review and further develop the action plan and ensure actions are taken forward	1.1 5.3 6.1 6.2 6.4 6.5	Children's 'forever family destination' is identified and progressed without unnecessary delay	Regular reporting to the Task Group by the PACE Working Group and six monthly reporting to the ICSG/CSP
	Transforming Pathways (Edges of Care), contribute to this preventative programme to help reduce the number of children being accommodated	5.1 5.2 5.3 6.2 8.1 8.2	Revised Working Group in place and agreed action plan with timescales	Quarterly reporting to the ICSG/CSP on progress of the action plan

<p>Actions to engage and involve children, young people and families</p> <p>TNT have been engaged in the production of the Corporate Parenting Plan. The developing Champion's Board is a key aspect of ongoing engagement and participation of care experienced young people and young people experiencing care.</p> <p>TNT has been included in the North Lanarkshire Youth Forum as a themed group, alongside the Youth Forums for each locality. The virtual school plan to gather views of parents, carers and young people to contribute to shaping the development of the Virtual School. Police Scotland have committed to guarantee 10% of spaces on their Youth Volunteer Scheme, for looked after and accommodated children and young people.</p>
<p>Links with community and voluntary sector</p> <p>There is representation on the task group and Transforming Pathways implementation group. Who Cares? have a lead role in supporting TNT. The Third Sector GIRFEC programme recognised the role of community and voluntary sector groups and organisations in preventative work and supports in communities.</p>
<p>Implications for workforce development</p>

There is ongoing work to raise awareness of the corporate parenting role of each agency and employee.

Next Steps

Our Children's Services Partnership has been working in a period where there have been significant changes in the landscape and context in which we deliver services and supports that make a difference for children, young people and families. Throughout this time there has been unwavering commitment to the shared vision and delivery of the outcomes in our Children's Services Plan 2017-2020.

In approaching the next planning cycle and beginning preparations for the North Lanarkshire Children's Services Plan we will undertake a joint strategic needs assessment that will include work to

- Gather the data, evidence, information and learning from the work that has been undertaken
- Analyse the information we have about our children, young people, families and communities, nationally and in North Lanarkshire
- Review and refresh our self-evaluation
- Seek the views of stakeholders

This will support us to review our current priorities, agree the activities of our Children's Services Partnership and identify outcomes for children, young people and families for the period 2020-23.

