

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee

26 August 2015

Children, Young People and Families Partnership Update Briefing Paper

Report by Depute Director (Education and Children's Services)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on the activities of the Children, Young People and Families Partnership (CYPFP) - formerly the Children and Young People's Strategic Group.

1. BACKGROUND**Development Session**

- 1.1 On Friday 22 May 2015, members of the CYPFP, and Senior Managers from across partner agencies, took part in a development session to explore the impact of inequality on children, young people and their families in Perth and Kinross. Participants explored the achievements of the Partnership to date, the challenges faced both currently and in the immediate future, and, identified the priority actions required to secure a positive future for children and young people.
- 1.2 Discussion was informed by presentations on "Closing the Gap" in educational attainment, health inequalities, and a case study portraying the perspective of striving families in Eastern Perthshire. A wide range of data, such as the number of children who were Looked After, children on the Child Protection Register and educational attainment by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation was displayed to provide a visual context for how well we are improving the lives of children and young people in Perth and Kinross. This stimulated meaningful discussion about what we know about the impact we are making, and those areas in which we need to be doing more. The partnership has identified the complexity of legislative and policy changes and, along with the implementation of GIRFEC, this was identified as a key challenge.
- 1.3 The impact of the steady increase in the number of children and young people with Additional Support Needs, and the increasing complexity of needs, is a key challenge. Similarly, there is a challenge reflected in the increasing number of children becoming looked after and identified at risk of abuse and neglect within the child protection system. The current level of provision and timely access to mental health services for children and young people is an area of significant challenge for all partners.

1.4 The group identified the need to improve our engagement with children, young people, families and the communities they live in. The potential to improve engagement with the Third Sector, and to maximise their contribution, was also identified.

1.5 The following priority areas of work were agreed.

- Continue the commitment to deeper partnership working;
- Development of joint strategic commissioning for services for children;
- Continue to support a whole system approach to GIRFEC (see adult – think child);
- Maximise the role of the third sector;
- Further develop our commitment to meaningful community engagement; and
- Refine our approaches to the review and analysis of intelligent data.

2 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

2.1 The CYPFP have also been continuing to consider and scrutinise the key developments across Children’s Services including:

Perth & Kinross CSE Work Plan - since publication of this plan in April 2015, the following work has been progressed:

- working definition of CSE: warning signs; risk indicators; vulnerability factors identified;
- website for CSE being developed as part of the child protection website;
- ongoing joint work with the NSPCC - including the continued roll-out of the schools programme across primary schools;
- bespoke information and advice publications for specific stakeholders being drafted for design and publication;
- engagement with the minority ethnic access development project (MEAD) to ensure wider engagement with minority ethnic communities;
- screening toolkit and guidance being developed to strengthen existing screening and information sharing arrangements for child concern reports;
- mapping of existing recovery services into a single directory of services showing contact numbers, referral pathways, types of support services and identifying gaps;
- key members of staff (including CSE Working Group) provided with highly evaluated CSE training by Barnardos (2), NHS (2) and by Just Whistle/Safe and Sound (16);
- bespoke CSE training developed for specific stakeholders and being piloted on 19 August 2015 in Perth;
- participation as one of 4 pilot areas (Glasgow, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and Perth and Kinross) for the Children 1st-led “Stop To Listen Project” - aimed at providing a rights-based, child-centred

- approach to supporting children and young people who have been sexually abused and exploited;
- annual Keeping Yourself Safe Surveys undertaken in Perth and Kinross Independent Schools and Local Authority Schools - 923 children and young people in independent schools and 1,740 children and young people in the local authority schools completed an online survey about keeping themselves safe at home, school, in their communities and online. Overall, the results were very positive, showing a high level of awareness and understanding of how to keep themselves safe from harm and abuse (April to June 2015); and
 - annual multi-agency self-evaluation of child protection undertaken - this year the focus was on children and young people considered to be at risk of sexual abuse. Following explicit and informed consent from the children and families themselves, a team of multi-agency managers read a selection of children's core records; met with the team of staff working with the child and family (practitioner focus groups) and met with the children and families (home visits) to evaluate our practices against relevant Care Inspectorate and HMIE quality indicators. Overall the findings were very positive; with key strengths and areas for improvement being identified (May - June 2015).

2.2 Corporate Parenting Sub Group

- 2.2.1 Nominees have been put forward for a new sub-group to lead on corporate parenting, and the inaugural meeting will take place after the Summer recess. The terms of reference have been agreed, and the new group will assume responsibility for ensuring that the duties of Corporate Parents are discharged appropriately, and, lead, monitor and report on progress in relation to the Corporate Parenting theme within the Integrated Children's Services Plan 2013-2018. This group will also work closely with the Care Experienced Young People's group and several groups such as the Executive Officer Team (EOT).

2.3 Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)

- 2.3.1 The local self-assessment survey, part of the National Third Sector GIRFEC Project, has been concluded and analysis of the completed surveys is underway. This Public Social Partnership-led project aims to improve the understanding amongst public sector partners of the contribution of the third sector, and should help to target improvement activities within the Community Planning Partnership through third sector organisations.
- 2.3.2 We await the final guidance from the Scottish Government to support the implementation of the Child's Plan, Named Person service and Wellbeing Assessment. This will inform the work to date to develop local guidance and support the implementation of GIRFEC.
- 2.3.3 A further self-assessment survey for named person, lead professional and managers was undertaken in June, led by the Strategic GIRFEC Group. Analysis of responses is currently underway. This survey will enable

identification of training needs and understanding of the roles in preparation for the introduction of the relevant legislation in 2016.

2.4 Integrated Youth Services

2.4.1 The integration of Youth Services and Youth Justice was completed in April of this year. The new Integrated Manager has taken up post and is beginning to scope out the work to complete the integration. There has already been improvements in staff availability to work with complex young people and thus sustain these young people in their community.

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