

NHS Ayrshire & Arran



Meeting:	Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board
Meeting date:	Monday 4 December 2023
Title:	South Ayrshire Children's Services Plan 2023-2026
Responsible Director:	Tim Eltringham, Director, South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
Report Author:	Mark Inglis, Head of Service, Children's Health Care and Justice

1. Purpose

This is presented to the Board for:

- Decision

This paper relates to:

- Annual Operational Plan

This aligns to the following NHS Scotland quality ambition(s):

- Safe
- Effective
- Person Centred

2. Report summary

2.1 Situation

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 states a requirement for every Local Authority and relevant Health Board in Scotland to jointly prepare a Children's Services Plan detailing plans over a three-year period. Part 3 sets out a legal framework for Children's Services planning with aims to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Scotland by ensuring delivery of local services that are integrated, focusing on promotion of child wellbeing and quality preventative approaches.

South Ayrshire's Children's Services Planning Partnership (CSPP) is responsible for devising and executing this integrated Children's Services Plan on a three-year cycle. Currently the group is chaired by the Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services and comprises of a wide range of agencies both statutory and third sector. The cross-sector and multi-agency representation within the CSPP aids the design of an integrated plan, reflective of the breadth of children's service provision and collaborative working in South Ayrshire. The plan is underpinned by Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and The Promise.

2.2 Background

Children's Services Planning takes place within the wider context of Community Planning in South Ayrshire. As such, the production of this Plan has over the last twelve months involved a process of collaborative working between Children's Services partners and related services as well as the important wider engagement that has taken place with children, young people, families/carers, practitioners and communities. This process has been guided through the context of a learning partnership of self-evaluation alongside Horizon's Research.

Building on the progress of the 2020-2023 Plan, partners within the Children's Services Planning Partnership agreed the below shared Vision underpinning the aims of the Plan:

"We want to go on a journey to ensure families in South Ayrshire are at the heart of everything we do and where their wellbeing is our top priority. With a focus on prevention and early intervention, we will work to empower families living in South Ayrshire. We will work with families in a way that values the unique needs and perspectives of each family member.

*We will ensure those working in our services have access to the resources, training, and the support they need to achieve our shared goal, and where they can overcome any challenges that come their way. We will help build strong and resilient communities where families are supported to thrive, and where every member is valued and included. **This is our whole family approach**".*

The Vision above is supported by six high level priorities:

1. **The Promise** - South Ayrshire's children and young people with care experience will have a good loving childhood, where their needs are met and outcomes are improved.
2. **Families** - Support is easily accessible through integrated, multi-agency teams who are based in local communities and know it well. Early help for whole families to overcome difficulties and stay together, where children feel loved and are safe.
3. **Included** - Children, young people and families who have diagnosed or undiagnosed additional support needs feel supported and reach their full potential.
4. **Voice** - Children and young people feel involved and listened to in decision-making around their wellbeing through continuous engagement. Compassionate, responsive decision-making for children is embedded into all our priorities.
5. **Healthy** - Reducing harm, promoting health and safety for our children, young people and families.

6. **People** - A training offer to staff in South Ayrshire, allowing them to come together to learn, collaborate and build relationships for the best outcome of the child.

Thematic Group Priority Chairs represent members of the Children's Services Planning Partnership. Each Priority Group is developing a specific action plan based on data and need.

An online version of the Plan will be developed, along with a version specifically for children and young people.

2.3 Assessment

Coordination, management and monitoring of the Children's Services Plan is undertaken by a range of partners through the Children's Services Planning Partnership (CSPP). The 2023 - 2026 Children's Services Plan commits to delivering on the stated Vision and the six key priority areas, which align with the Promise and Whole Family Wellbeing, the UNCRC, GIREC and ASN legislation.

The new Children's Services Plan 2023-2026 has come about through consultation with key stakeholders, including Children and Families. The final version was produced with the support and help of Horizons Research.

The Board is asked to:

Agree the publication of the Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-2026 which is provided at Appendix 1.

2.3.1 Quality/patient care

There are no implications on quality/patient care as the paper is about seeking approval for the Children Services Plan 2023 – 2026.

2.3.2 Workforce

There are no implications on the workforce as the paper is about seeking approval for the Children's Services Plan 2023 – 2026.

2.3.3 Financial

There are no direct implications for finances as the paper is about seeking approval for the Children Services Plan 2023 – 2026.

2.3.4 Risk assessment/management

A risk assessment has not been carried out at this stage.

2.3.5 Equality and diversity, including health inequalities

The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping process. There are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

2.3.6 Other impacts

- Best value

- Vision and Leadership

The Vision of the Children's Services Plan is that:

"We want to go on a journey to ensure families in South Ayrshire are at the heart of everything we do, and where their wellbeing is our top priority. With a focus on prevention and early intervention we will work to empower families living in South Ayrshire. We will work with families in a way that values the unique needs and perspectives of each family member.

*We will ensure those working in our services have access to the resources, training, and the support they need to achieve our shared goal, and where they can overcome any challenges that come their way. We will help build strong and resilient communities where families are supported to thrive, and where every member is valued and included. **This is our whole family approach**".*

- Effective Partnership

Partnership working across Community Planning Partners is critical to make progress on the priorities identified in the Plan.

- Governance and accountability

The Plan is monitored and governed by the Children's Services Planning Partnership which, in turn, is accountable to the Community Planning Partnership. Partners also adhere to their own organisation's governance arrangements.

- Use of resources

The Children's Services Planning Partnership is comprised of members from a number of Community Planning Partners who utilise their own resources to deliver services in their own services and will, at times, deliver services in partnership.

- Performance management

Performance of the Plan is monitored through Pentana on a regular basis.

- Compliance with Corporate Objectives

The Plan supports the following Corporate Objectives:

- deliver transformational change in the provision of health and social care through dramatic improvement and use of innovative, early intervention and preventative approaches
- protect and improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce inequalities;
- create compassionate partnerships between patients, their families and those delivering health and care services which respect individual needs and values; and result in the people using our services having a positive experience of care to get the outcome they expect;

- attract, develop, support and retain skilled, committed, adaptable and healthy staff and ensure our workforce is affordable and sustainable; and
- deliver better value through efficient and effective use of all resources.

Partnership working within the content of the CPP is at the heart of the Plan. Supporting care experienced children and young carers is identified as a LOIP priority and is also a priority of the Children's Services Plan.

2.3.7 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

The Board has carried out its duties to involve and engage external stakeholders where appropriate:

There has been stakeholder engagement and Children and Families contribution to the writing of this new Plan 2023 - 2026, the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

2.3.8 Route to the meeting

This has been previously considered by the following groups as part of its development. The groups have either supported the content, or their feedback has informed the development of the content presented in this report.

- South Ayrshire Council Cabinet – 26 September 2023
- South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership – 26 October 2023

2.4 Recommendation

For Decision. The Board is asked to agree to the new South Ayrshire Children's Services Plan 2023 - 2026.

3. List of appendices

The following appendices are provided with this report:

- Appendix 1 - Link to [Childrens Services Plan 2023 - 2026.pdf](#)