



# Children's Services Plan 2017-2020

Getting it Right for West Lothian's Children & Families





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## Foreword

In West Lothian we recognise that investment in our children and young people is one of the most valuable long-term investments that we can make. By investing our shared resources in the delivery and development of services that focus on prevention and early intervention we can ensure that children's needs are met at the earliest opportunity and are supported to achieve their potential.



### Planning Services for Children, Young People and Families

Our aim is to tackle inequalities and give children and young people in West Lothian the best possible start in life. We want all children to be safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. Children and young people are the future of West Lothian. We need to listen to the voices of children, ensure their views are valued and respected and include them in the planning process.

This joint Children's Services Plan outlines the work of the West Lothian Children and Families Strategic Planning Group and follows an outcome based approach to planning as led by the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership.

### Participating in the planning process

During Spring 2017, we are holding a public consultation about the plans. We would like to hear the views of children, young people, families and staff about the approach that we are taking and about the priorities we have identified so far.

The consultation will be published on the West Lothian Council website and publicised widely across West Lothian.

As well as taking part in an online survey, there will be a number of focus groups for children and families, and roadshows for staff during May and June 2017. You can also make your views known at any time by emailing:

**Childrensplan.Consultation@westlothian.gov.uk**

The plan is a continuation of the previous Integrated Children's Services Plan 2012- 18, revised to take account of new requirements under parts 1 and 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. We have also developed a separate joint West Lothian Corporate Parenting Plan in accordance with part 9 of the Act.

The publication of these two plans marks the start of a comprehensive review of partnership service planning and delivery for children's services which will result in further refinement to the plan and the development of a strategic commissioning plan for children's services.

Summer and Autumn 2017 will see the production of a Strategic Needs Assessment for children and families, including a focus on the needs of Looked After Children, Early Intervention and Prevention, and Community Justice.

During the process, we will engage with children, young people and their families, and with staff and service providers from across the Community Planning Partnership.

**We look forward to hearing your views!**

*Jane Kellock  
Head of Social Policy,  
Chair of the Children and Families Strategic  
Planning Group*

## Introduction

### Our Vision for Children and Young People in West Lothian

In West Lothian we believe that every child should have the best start in life to enable them to: have high aspirations, build the foundations for living well in the future and realise their potential. This underpins the national programmes of Curriculum for Excellence and Getting It Right For Every Child with desired outcomes that all children become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens through being safe, nurtured, healthy, active, included, achieving, respected and responsible.



**We are committed to providing services that are child-centred, and developed with families themselves and partner agencies; that tackle inequalities, and focus on improved outcomes for children. To ensure that children and young people in need have a head start in life, we are now re-focusing on the importance of preventative work with families to help them cope with the pressures of parenting, as well as providing statutory early intervention and child protection services.**

### Principles

The underpinning principles of how we plan and deliver services for children revolve around how we target support to children and their families at an early enough point whilst recognising that there will always be a need to provide services for the ongoing problems that families may experience.

In order to achieve the best outcomes for our children, we are committed to working in partnership across the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership (CPP), aligning our collective resources to support children and families with a range of needs.

**The Children's Services Plan has been developed to encompass the following principles:**

- Getting the right balance between universal and targeted services
- Re-distributing resources towards targeted activities with individuals, groups and communities
- Improved integrated working
- Improving outcomes for the individual child and their family
- Focusing on early intervention by shifting resources from managing crisis to building resilience.



### The West Lothian Children's Services Plan:

- highlights partners' commitment to delivering outcomes for children and young people in West Lothian through active participation in joint planning and delivery structures.
- defines the approaches and mechanisms which partners use in West Lothian to plan and deliver those joint services, initiatives and activities geared towards the delivery of outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- defines the key outcomes which have been agreed by partners as priorities for multi-agency action.
- explains the way in which activity relating to each of these themes will be linked to key outcomes, will be monitored through the use of meaningful performance indicators and will be driven by challenging targets.

### Children's Rights

Partners in West Lothian are committed to upholding and embedding the Articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at every level of our services. The UNCRC has 54 articles in all, each outlining in detail the basic rights of every child. These can be summarised into four core principles:

- Non-discrimination
- Devotion to the best interests of the child
- The right to life, survival and development
- Respect for the views of the child.

In compliance with Part 1 (section 2) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, partners in West Lothian will report in 2020 on the steps that we have taken to further children's rights in West Lothian.

**Advocacy is key to enabling children to exercise their rights. We are committed to providing advocacy services and promoting self-advocacy.**

### It confirms the commitment of partners to:

- actively participate in well-established joint service planning in West Lothian, through the Children and Families Strategic Planning Group, Safer Communities Strategic Planning Group, Integration Strategic Planning Group and the Public Protection Committee.
- investigate best practice in early intervention and preventative approaches, and implement such approaches across West Lothian.
- build on previous successes and further demonstrate the added value from cooperative approaches to planning and delivering services and activity.



### Engagement and Participation

To ensure that all of our stakeholders have the opportunity to have a meaningful input into the way that our services are developed and delivered, a Children's Services Participation and Engagement Strategy will be developed. We will build on the existing good practice in engagement and participation approaches across West Lothian to develop structures that provide opportunities for our children, young people, families and other stakeholder to get involved at the level they want. This strategy will be based on the National Standards for Community Engagement. The ten National Standards are:

1. We will identify and involve the people and organisations with an interest in the focus of the engagement.
2. We will identify and overcome any barriers to involvement.
3. We will gather evidence of the needs and available resources and use this to agree the purpose, scope and timescale of the engagement and the actions to be taken.
4. We will agree and use the methods of engagement that are fit for purpose.
5. We will agree and use clear procedures to enable the participants to work with one another efficiently and effectively.
6. We will ensure necessary information is communicated between the participants.
7. We will work effectively with others with an interest in the engagement.
8. We will develop actively the skills, knowledge and confidence of all the participants.
9. We will feedback the results of the engagement to the wider community and agencies affected.
10. We will monitor and evaluate whether the engagement meets its purposes and the national standards for community engagement.

The strategy will outline the approach that will be implemented to ensure that all stakeholders are kept up-to-date on service developments and, crucially, are able to influence changes to services.



## West Lothian Overview

**Each Local Authority has developed a Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) with the Scottish Government. The purpose of the Single Outcome Agreement is to identify priority outcomes for the people of West Lothian and set out targets to maintain and improve those outcomes directed by West Lothian's Community Planning Partners.**



There is a general recognition that those agencies involved in the delivery of Children's Services have a role to play in the delivery of many of the National Outcomes. Within the Children's Services Plan the relevant outcomes are:

- **Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed**

For our children to have the best start in life we need to focus on key outcomes i.e. healthy pregnancies, nurturing and consistent parenting and be able to offer a suite of early intervention approaches. Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) is founded on the principles of early intervention, which are appropriate, proportionate and timely. The practice development model puts these



principles into action for all children and young people at the individual level. Early years (including pre-birth) is a national priority as laid out in Early Years Framework (2008); Early Years Collaborative (now part of the Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative); The Best Start: A Five Year Forward Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Care in Scotland (2017); Universal Pathway Pre-Birth to Preschool (2016). All of these national policies are driving transformational change towards prevention and early intervention in the early years.

In West Lothian, prevention and early intervention is supported through multi-agency working. Early access to maternity care, positive pregnancy outcomes, increased home visiting support to all families through the new universal pre-birth to preschool pathway, early learning and childcare and a range of support for parenting and early intervention programmes are all part of West Lothian's approach to ensuring our children have the best start in life.

- **We are better educated and have access to increased and better quality learning and employment opportunities**

Good educational qualifications are essential for improving young people's employment prospects and life chances and for the economy in general. In 1996 West Lothian was below the national average for educational

attainment and was the lowest performer among the former Lothian councils. In recent years, West Lothian has consistently outperformed or equaled the attainment of comparator authorities. The challenge remains to maintain high performance where it exists and to continue to raise performance in areas where deprivation is a major factor.

- **People most at risk are protected and supported to achieve improved life chances**

This outcome focusses on those in our society who are most at risk e.g. looked after young people, vulnerable adults, children, and women and children experiencing domestic

violence. Various partnership arrangements are in place to ensure that we protect these vulnerable groups through child protection, adult protection and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

- **We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities**

Partners have come together to address crime, disorder and danger using the Joint Tasking and Co-ordination model utilised by the Police. This new way of working has led to greater co-ordination and better use of resources.

### West Lothian's Children

In planning for the development and delivery of services for children, young people and their families, the profile of West Lothian's children and families has been considered.

West Lothian has a population of about 178,550 (2015), accounting for 3.3% of Scotland's total population, and is one of the fastest growing and youngest in the country, with an average age of 39 compared with 41 across Scotland.

Of particular significance is the projected increase in West Lothian's population, by 2039 it is projected to rise to 192,523, an increase of 8.6% compared to 2014. Based on 2015 mid-year population estimates 19.6% of West Lothian's population is aged 0-15 years.

The impact of the demographic increase is significant as it will bring an increase in demand for services which is likely to exceed available resources if services are not fundamentally redesigned.

#### Key Facts about West Lothian's Population:

- 1865 babies were born from West Lothian families in 2016 (the average per annum over the last 6 years is 1,964).
- 7.3% of these babies were low birth weight compared with 6.4% for Lothian as a whole.
- In 2016, 2.8% of West Lothian pregnancies resulted in midwifery maternity alerts for high levels of vulnerability, with drug issues being an issue in 30.6% of these cases .
- West Lothian had the lowest rate of under 16 and under 18 teenage pregnancies in local authority statistics for 2012-14 ; and second lowest rate of under 20's pregnancies.
- Almost 9,000 people in West Lothian (5% of the county's population) live within some of the most deprived areas in Scotland.
- The most recent child poverty statistics (Oct-Dec 2015) show that 22.8% of West Lothian children are living in poverty.
- Youth unemployment in West Lothian stands at 3.6%, which is greater than the Scotland rate of 3.5% and the Great Britain rate of 2.8% .
- 1.1 % of the total 0-17 years population in West Lothian were Looked After as at 31 July 2016. The Scottish average for the same period was 1.5%.



There are also challenges to providing services for children and families at particular stages of their lives:

#### Early Years

- 14.3% of pregnant women in 2016 in West Lothian smoked and this continues to be an area for improvement for health and financial outcomes
- Breast feeding trends in West Lothian have not improved in the last decade
- Only 77.6% of eligible 27-30 month old children have their developmental and wellbeing assessment carried out by their Health Visiting team (compared to 86.7% in Scotland)
- 41.5% of children aged 0-2 years are registered with a dentist. The Scottish average is 48.1%.

#### School Age

- 21.9% of primary 1 children are at risk of being overweight or obese.
- The gap between the Annual P1 End of Year Performance in Primary Schools (PIPS) Scores of the lowest 20% and the highest 20% based on their Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation is 7.5 compared to a target of 6.
- The attendance rate for Looked After Children and Young People is lower than for children and young people who are not care experienced.

#### Young People in Transition

- 64% of care experienced school leavers in 2014-15 were in positive destinations nine months after leaving school compared to the Scottish Average of 69%.
- At the end of January 2017, 83 children and young people were waiting over 18 week from referral for treatment by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

The demographic profile of West Lothian coupled with the life-stage specific challenges indicates that there will be an increase in the demand for services for children and families with additional needs. This means that we need to ensure that services are appropriately targeted, delivered and planned in partnership and focused on improved outcomes for children and their families.



## Strategic context: Scotland

### National overview

**All services and activities identified within this Children's Services Plan have been planned and developed with regard to the following pieces of legislation, strategic policies and approaches:**

- Getting it Right for Every Child
- Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended
- Higher Aspirations, Brighter Futures Report compiled by the National Residential Child Care Initiative (2009)
- Christie Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services (2011)
- Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- Guidance on Health Assessments for Looked After Children in Scotland
- Getting it Right for Our Looked After Children
- Universal Health Visiting Pathway in Scotland - Pre Birth to Pre School
- Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
- Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016
- Welfare Reform
- Scottish Attainment Challenge
- Pupil Equity Funding
- Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry
- Child Protection Improvement Programme
- Children in Care Review
- The Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC)
- Education Governance Review
- The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016
- The Best Start – A Five-Year Forward Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Care in Scotland

### Getting it Right for Every Child

The Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach is founded on the principles of early intervention, that is, appropriate, proportionate and timely intervention and provides a framework for putting them into action for all children and young people at an individual level.

Getting it Right for Every Child underpins the Early Years Framework, Curriculum for Excellence and the Developing the Young Workforce agenda. It is central to the delivery of the activities detailed within the Children's Services Plan with the aim of improving outcomes for all children and young people.

As part of the Community Planning Process in West Lothian we will work together to improve outcomes for children and young people by embedding the GIRFEC approach throughout our partnership.

### The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended

Whilst most of our children and young people respond well to the opportunities for learning provided by our schools, some will not benefit fully from education without extra help. The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, as amended, aims to create a stronger, better system for supporting children's learning, ensuring that all children and young people receive additional support required to meet their individual needs and help them to become successful learners.

The Act requires local authorities and NHS Boards to establish clear arrangements for joint working so that they can work together effectively in order to benefit from their shared knowledge to improve outcomes for children and young people.



## Higher Aspirations, Brighter Futures Report compiled by the National Residential Child Care Initiative (2009)

The National Residential Child Care Initiative (NRCCI) was established to deliver on the Government's commitment to work with partners to make residential care the first and best placement of choice for those children whose needs it serves.

## Christie Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services (2011)

The Commission was established to develop recommendations of the future delivery of public services in Scotland. The resulting report identified the need for public sector reform requiring a clear shift in service provision to a more preventative, collaborative and outcome-based approach, and demanded firmer strategies to tackle inequality.

## Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013

Self-directed Support (SDS) is an approach to assessing, designing and delivering social care services based on the principles of choice and control. It is a way of empowering people who need care and support to have more control in their lives.

In West Lothian, the SDS approach has been implemented with disabled children and their families. This approach is supporting a positive shift in the relationships and conversations with families and young people, enabling us to be more creative and innovative about how support is provided, balancing our need to protect children whilst ensuring support provided makes sense to them.

The SDS approach will continue to be reviewed within disabled children's services and the lessons learned will inform how the approach can be implemented across other areas of children's services.

## The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

The Act aims to put children and young people at the heart of service planning and encourages a shift towards early intervention and prevention rather than crisis response. The Act strengthens children's rights and ensures that public services work together to design, plan and deliver services for children and families in Scotland.

## Guidance on Health Assessments for Looked After Children in Scotland

The guidance was produced on behalf of the national Looked After Children Strategic Implementation Group to assist those involved in carrying out health assessments of our looked after children and young people. The document sets out the minimum standardised elements of a health care pathway that Health Boards are expected to implement in collaboration with local authorities and other organisations.

## Getting it Right for Our Looked After Children

The strategy identifies three priority areas for work to improve outcomes for Looked After Children and Young People, these are:

- Early engagement
- Early permanence and
- Improving the quality of care.

### These priority areas focus on:

- Building on the assets within families and communities to prevent children from becoming looked after where possible
- High quality support and assessment for families
- Delivering permanence without drift and delay - while taking account of the needs, rights and views of the child
- High quality care and support for those children who need to be looked after, including those who are looked after at home

- A planned and supported transition to interdependent living which meets the needs of each child and young person.

## Universal Health Visiting Pathway in Scotland - Pre Birth to Pre School

The Universal Pre-Birth to Preschool Pathway sets out the minimum core home visiting programme to be offered to all families by Health Visitors and Family Nurses. The Pathway commences for babies being born from May 2017 onwards. A new national development and wellbeing assessment at 13 – 15 months of age will be introduced from May 2017 onwards. A new 4-5 year developmental and wellbeing assessment will be also introduced further into the implementation plan. In the interim, all vulnerable children will be reviewed in the preschool period from transfer from health visiting services to education services.

## Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

The Community Empowerment Act aims to empower community bodies through the ownership of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in the decisions that matter to them.

## Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016

The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 provides the legislative framework for the establishment of the new Community Justice model in Scotland. From 2017/18 Community Planning Partnerships will have the responsibility for taking forward Community Justice activities. In West Lothian Community Justice governance is provided by the Safer Communities Strategic Partnership, the Partnership is underpinned by four sub-groups – Youth Justice, Reducing Re-offending, Joint Tasking and Serious Organised Crime.

## Welfare Reform

The last few years have seen profound changes to the welfare system in the UK. To a large extent, the changes are aimed at making expenditure savings, but the Government has also set in train radical reforms which change the whole landscape of welfare provision.

### The changes that impact most significantly on children and families are:

- Child Benefit freeze for four years
- Housing Benefit cap
- the replacement of means tested benefits and tax credits by Universal credit
- localisation of the Social Fund
- abolition of the Child Trust Fund
- the household benefit cap.

Families with children are undoubtedly one of the key groups significantly affected by the changes in welfare provision.

The West Lothian Anti-Poverty Strategy has the overall purpose of helping to minimise the impact of poverty on the people of West Lothian. Its object is to ensure that people are equipped to cope with the challenges they currently face; those of the current economic situation and welfare reforms.

## Scottish Attainment Challenge

The Scottish Attainment Challenge is about achieving greater equity in educational outcomes. Equity can be achieved by ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed, with a particular focus on closing the poverty-related attainment gap. The Challenge is focused on accelerating targeted improvement activity in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in specific areas of Scotland. It is expected that the Challenge will support and complement the broader range of initiatives and programmes to ensure that all of Scotland's children and young people reach their full potential.

### Pupil Equity Funding

The Pupil Equity Funding is additional funding allocated directly to schools and targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap. The Scottish Government has committed to this funding as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge programme from 2017-18. The Pupil Equity Funding forms part of the £750m Attainment Scotland Fund. Of this funding, £5,052,000 has been allocated to West Lothian schools, this has been based on Free Meal entitlement in primary and S1 – S3 in secondary.

### Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry was set up on 1 October 2015. The overall aim of this Inquiry is to raise public awareness of the abuse of children in care. The Inquiry is expected to report within four years of its start date.

### Child Protection Improvement Programme

The core objective of the programme was to identify where recommendations for sustainable improvement could be made, in practice. The Child Protection Improvement Programme Report was published in March 2017 and makes 12 recommendations, covering Initial and Significant Case Reviews, Child Protection Committees, the Child Protection Register, and matters of leadership, governance and accountability.

### Children in Care Review

The review will look at the underpinning legislation, practices, culture and ethos of the care system. It will be driven and shaped by the evidence of care experienced young people and propose changes to the care system that will

improve both the quality of life and outcomes of young people in care.

### The Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC)

The Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative (CYPIC) brings together the Early Years Collaborative (EYC) and the Raising Attainment for All programme to deliver quality improvement throughout the child's journey. The purpose of the CYPIC is to support schools and services for children, young people and families to be as good as they can be, based on evidence of what works in improving outcomes and life chances. The CYPIC is closely aligned with the Maternity and Children Quality Improvement Collaborative where the focus is on maternity, neonatal and paediatric healthcare settings.

### Education Governance Review

This governance review was launched in September 2016 and seeks views on how education in Scotland is run including, who should take decisions in relation to the education of children and young people and how funding can be made fairer. It also asks about the support teachers and practitioners need to do their jobs well and how this can be improved.

### The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016

The Act places a duty on local authorities to prepare a Young Carers Statement (YCS) setting out a young carer's personal outcomes, identified needs and the support to be provided to meet these needs. Young carers are identified

as being under 18 years old and still pupils at school.

Young carers do not need to have a Child's Plan to have a YCS but, where one exists, their YCS can be appended to the plan. The local authority responsible for carrying out the YCS will be the local authority where the young carer lives. (note: the Act will be implemented from 1st April 2018).

The Act also places a duty on every local authority and relevant health board to jointly prepare a local carers strategy which must contain information relating to the particular needs and circumstances of young carers.

### The Best Start – A Five-Year Forward Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Care in Scotland

The Best Start – A Five-Year Forward Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Care in Scotland was launched in January 2017 and sets out a vision for the future planning, design and safe delivery of high quality maternity and neonatal services in Scotland. It puts the family at the centre of decisions so that all women, babies and their families get the highest quality of care according to their needs. The model is built around a continuity of carer model to ensure families are supported through the maternity and neonatal period.





## Strategic context: West Lothian

### Local overview

This Plan is intended to align with existing plans and strategies across the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership (CPP) area, in particular:

- Community Planning Partnership's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan
- West Lothian Prevention Plan
- West Lothian Corporate Parenting Plan
- NHS Lothian's Strategy for Children and Young People
- West Lothian Play Strategy
- West Lothian Raising Attainment Strategy
- Reducing Re-offending Strategic Plan
- Youth Justice Development Plan
- Universal Pathway for Pre-Birth to Preschool children

### Community Planning Partnership's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The West Lothian CPP's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan is a converged Single Outcome Agreement and Community Plan. It sets out the CPP's long term vision for West Lothian, details the local outcomes that the CPP will prioritise and how the partnership will deliver on these.

### West Lothian Prevention Plan

The Prevention Plan brings together a number of strategies and projects, outlining the collective approach across the CPP to early intervention and prevention. It outlines how progress will be monitored, outcomes measured, and how the evidence generated will be used to inform future funding decisions and prioritisation of resources.



### The West Lothian Play Strategy

The West Lothian Play Strategy aims to improve and widen quality play opportunities for all our children and young people and establish links between local and national policies relating to play and take action within each service, responsible for children young people and their families.

The strategy identifies West Lothian as a place where play is valued as an essential, life enhancing daily experience for all our children and young people. The strategy demonstrates a commitment, across all areas in the Community Planning Partnership, to deliver the best play opportunities for all children and young people. It prioritises children's needs to play freely, in a variety of ways and settings, to achieve their full potential, valuing the benefits that play brings to individuals and communities.



### Raising Attainment Strategy

The Raising Attainment Strategy is designed to:

- increase attainment across all West Lothian Schools and for all West Lothian learners, and
- increase equity, based on socio-economic factors, in educational outcomes across all West Lothian schools and for all West Lothian learners.

Raised educational attainment increases personal, social, cultural and economic opportunities, ensuring that young people are in a position to fulfil their potential and contributes to the improved social and economic well-being of the community.

The Raising Attainment Strategy has two outcomes: raising attainment and closing the attainment gap.

### Reducing Re-offending Strategic Plan

The West Lothian Reducing Re-offending Strategic Plan set out the ways in which we will plan our activities and work collectively to reduce re-offending. The plan has a clear focus

### West Lothian Corporate Parenting Plan

The Plan outlines the vision that Corporate Parents in West Lothian have for Looked After Children and Young People. It identifies the key priorities that the Corporate Parenting Strategic Group will take forward collectively to make a difference and deliver improvements to our looked after children's wellbeing and outcomes.

### NHS Lothian's Strategy for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020

The vision of the Strategy is that every child should have the best start in life and grow up being healthy, confident and resilient. This strategy sets out a clear vision, principles and approach for how NHS Lothian will work with children and young people, their families, the public, the voluntary sector and local authorities to improve the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people across Lothians.





on earlier intervention to reduce the risk of young people engaging in crime. The Reducing Re-offending Strategic Plan has been developed to:

- improve outcomes for people who offend, helping them to take on fuller responsibility as members of our communities
- increase the confidence of victims and the community in the services provided
- make our communities safer and better places to live.

### Youth Justice Development Plan

The Youth Justice Development Plan incorporates the main priorities of the Scottish Government's Preventing Offending Getting it Right for Children and Young People strategy and builds on recent progress made in the Youth Justice. The key priorities are:

- Advancing the Whole System approach
- Improving life chances for young people and
- Developing capacity and improvement in the youth justice sector.

### Universal Pathway for Pre-Birth to Preschool children

Babies born from May 2017 onwards will move onto the new universal pathway which introduces an increased home visiting programme from the health visiting service and further national developmental and wellbeing assessment across the 0-5 years. Health visiting numbers have been based on historical budgets and are now being planned on a new weighting tool based on SIMD spread.

For West Lothian this means that there will be an increase in health visiting number between 2017-2020, an increase of 15.32 whole time equivalents. This is a significant redesign for health visiting services and performance measures for the implementation of the pathway will be carried out within this plan.

## Our Priorities

### Early Intervention and Prevention

**Evidence strongly indicates that early intervention measures are critical to preventing negative social outcomes in later life. Key to this transformation is prevention, early intervention and providing better outcomes for people and communities. This approach is consistent with the transformative change agenda promoted by Getting It Right For Every Child.**



In West Lothian, we continue to build on our strong record of a preventative and early intervention approach. In 2008 the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership (CPP) pioneered the development of a preventative outcomes based approach to service delivery through the Life Stages model, and this holistic approach continues to underpin our planning. A Strategic Needs Assessment will be undertaken in summer 2017 to further inform our planning and development of early intervention and prevention services going forward.

We recognise that children growing up in secure, safe and loving environments will have better long-term outcomes and have invested in a wide range of early years services and parenting supports to ensure that our children have the best possible start in life.

These initiatives are wide ranging and varied; they include child/parent attachment, family learning, rebalancing how children and parents access and are supported to play, intensive Parenting Programmes and Sure Start services.

In West Lothian, we have embedded a model of whole family support which engages with families with very complex needs and with the most entrenched social issues using asset-based, co-production ways of working. This has the benefit of working with families on their own terms, addressing issues that are live and important for the family by building strong and persistent relationships between professionals and families, supporting them to navigate and negotiate services and release the strengths already present within the family.





Improving the mental health of children and young people has a proven impact on their ability to form positive relationships with peers and adults, their success at school and a whole range of outcomes as adults. We have a range of approaches to meeting the mental wellbeing needs of children including:

### Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

The national waiting times standard for CAMHS is that 90% of all children and young people accepted for treatment, commence treatment within 18 weeks of referral. At present the CAMHS service in Lothian is not meeting this target. In September 2016 the CAMHS Recovery Plan was put in place. In West Lothian the overall number of children and young people waiting for treatment over 18 weeks decreased from 123 in September to 83 at end of January 2017.

### Mental Health and Wellbeing Screening Group

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Screening Group is a multi-agency group which provides a triage function to ensure that the needs of children and young people are met, that resources are allocated effectively, that duplication is avoided and that services gaps are identified. The screening group provides single referral route and facilitates creative multi-agency responses to need. In 2016 the screening group received 493 referrals for support.

### School Nurses

The role of school nurses will change from 2018 onwards, with an increased role in nine priority areas of support to school age children. One key area mental health and wellbeing. School nurses will take referrals for early mental health support. We will introduce this service and measure the impact and demand.

### West Lothian CEDAR Project

The West Lothian CEDAR Project provides a therapeutic 12 week group-work programme for children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse.

This runs alongside a concurrent group work programme for their mothers. The programmes are designed to encourage both mothers and children to work together towards recovery from their experiences. In 2016, the programme supported 31 children who had experienced domestic abuse.

### Anti-Poverty Approaches

There will be a continued focus on reducing the impact of poverty on families, children and young people. Partnership approaches to maximizing income through welfare benefits uptake are already helping locally, but will continue to be a focus linked to initiatives such as Prevention and Intervention Money Advice (PIMAP) accessed from West Lothian Citizens Advice Bureau.

#### We will work together to:

- ensure that there is an effective portfolio of group and 1-1 interventions for early years designed to reach all vulnerable parents (including teenage parents, parents that are or have been looked-after, substance misusing parents, parents with additional support needs)
- support children to reach their developmental milestones
- extend early years capacity building to additional vulnerable communities and ensuring access for all
- continue to promote and support attendance at nursery and school across vulnerable groups
- build capacity to support the mental and emotional wellbeing of parents, children and young people
- address healthy weight
- provide a menu of services to support children and young people with a disability
- continue to promote healthy relationships
- tackle child poverty
- ensure that children and families have access to appropriate accommodation.

## Our Priorities

### Corporate Parenting

**Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 Act puts Corporate Parenting onto a statutory basis in Scotland and establishes a framework of duties and responsibilities for public bodies, requiring them to be more proactive in their efforts to meet the needs of looked after children and care leavers.**

The Act defines Corporate Parenting as:

*"An organisation's performance of actions necessary to promote and support the wellbeing of a looked after child or care leaver, including their physical, emotional, spiritual, social and cognitive development."*

Part 9 of the Act aims to improve the availability of opportunities, services and support for looked after children and care leavers and it is the duty of every Corporate Parent to:

- a) be alert to matters which affect their wellbeing,
- b) assess their needs for services and support,
- c) promote their interests,
- d) seek to provide them with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing,
- e) help them to:
  - (i) access opportunities to improve their wellbeing,
  - (ii) make use of services, and access support.

As of 31 July 2016 there were 449 looked after children and young people in West Lothian. These children and young people represent one of the most vulnerable groups in our society and that we have a responsibility, in conjunction with our partners, to act in the best interests of these children or young person to ensure their wellbeing.

The Multi-Agency Corporate Parenting Strategic Group has undertaken a range of activities to inform the development of the West Lothian Corporate Parenting Report and Plan 2017 – 2018 to facilitate positive practice and ensure that looked after children and care leavers are supported to achieve the best possible outcomes.

A Strategic Needs Assessment will be undertaken in summer 2017 which will focus on looked after children and young people. It will consider the nature of our looked after population, consider demographic projections, look at current service activity and demand. This exercise will provide the basis for future service planning.

#### The key priorities identified in West Lothian Corporate Parenting Report and Plan 2017-2018 are:

- Improving the quality of our care and care planning
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Supporting learning and raising attainment
- Supporting employment, training and positive destinations
- Providing high quality through, continuing and after-care.



## Our Priorities

### Child Protection

**Safeguarding children and protecting them from harm is everyone's responsibility. All agencies, professional and public bodies and services that deliver adult and/or child services and work with children and their families have a responsibility to recognise and actively consider potential risks to a child, irrespective of whether the child is the main focus of their involvement.**

Child protection is the responsibility of all who work with children, families and adults, regardless of whether that work brings them into direct contact with children.

Child protection must be seen within the wider context of supporting families and meeting children's needs through the principles of Getting It Right for Every Child by:

- putting children's needs first,
- ensuring that they are listened to,
- supporting them to understand decisions that affect them.
- ensuring that they get the appropriate co-ordinated support needed to promoted support and safeguard their wellbeing.

Partnership working is at the heart of everything we do and plays a vital role in ensuring the protection of West Lothian's children and young people.

The West Lothian Public Protection Committee (WLPPC) was established in April 2016 and encompasses the pre-existing governance arrangements for Child Protection, Adult Support & Protection and Offender Management (MAPPA).

The Public Protection Committee is underpinned by six sub-committees, one of which is the Child Protection/Corporate Parenting Quality Assurance and Self Evaluation sub-committee.

The Quality Assurance and Self-Evaluation sub-committee ensure that there is an ongoing process of multi-agency self-evaluation and quality assurance in place to support continuous improvement.

#### Key child protection priorities are:

- improving responses to neglect.
- acting in partnership to prevent and address Child Sexual Exploitation.
- ensuring that Visually Recorded Interviews (VRI) are of a high and consistent standard.
- considering practice in light of lessons learned from Initial Case Reviews and Significant Case Reviews.
- reflecting on practice and reviewing progress where children's names have been on the Child Protection Register (CPR) for over 2 years or pre-birth registrations have continued for over 1 year.
- exploring cases where children's names have been re-registered on the CPR.
- reviewing the quality of information provided to Looked After Children Reviews and Plans.
- checking connections and patterns where young people are frequently missing and act to keep young people safe.
- improving working in cases where mental health is a significant factor.
- reviewing whether the introduction of Safe and Together has made a difference to practice.
- ensuring that there is a confident and competent workforce that understands its role and responsibility in the area of child protection.
- childhood disability and child protection.

## Our Priorities

### Violence Against Women and Girls

**In West Lothian we recognise that violence against women and girls damages health and wellbeing, limits freedom and potential, and is a violation of the most fundamental human rights.**

West Lothian Violence against Women and Girls Sub-committee was established to promote a strategic multi-agency response to violence against women and girls in West Lothian. In line with the Scottish Government's Equally Safe Strategy prevention is a key focus of the sub-committee's work. There are four priorities that underpin the West Lothian approach:

1. Scottish Society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls
2. Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically
3. Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people.
4. Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response

The West Lothian approach focusses primarily on priorities 3 and 4 and aims to meet the needs of individuals earlier, providing long-term support and achieving sustainable positive outcomes for women and children. Our approach aims to achieve a 'whole system approach' to domestic abuse involving the three strands of women, children and perpetrator. The focus on prevention and early intervention is reflected in our local framework of services.

#### In 2015/16:

- **2,435 referral were made to the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Service and**
- **1,621 children were referred to the Domestic Abuse Screening Group.**

The co-location of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Team, Police Scotland, the Criminal and Youth Justice Service, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, the Courts, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), and Council services in the West Lothian Civic Centre

has greatly contributed to breaking sector barriers, allowing us to join up services whilst increasing flexibility, efficient communication and effective working practices.

#### We will work together to:

- identify gaps and progress priorities which encompass the wider violence against women agenda and take account of national priorities and initiatives;
- collect violence against women data and statistics and develop information, knowledge and evidence base;
- ensure appropriate training on all forms of violence against women is mainstreamed across key services;
- ensure policy, service provision/development takes account of the views of women, children and young people.
- ensure accommodation outcomes for women and families are improved
- further develop close working between the Criminal and Youth Justice Service and the Domestic and Sexual Assault Team
- strengthen the response to women and children who have been subjected to sexual violence and abuse
- introduce a structured individual programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse that are subject to Community Payback Orders
- continue to embed the Safe and Together Model to ensure robust and safe outcomes for women and children
- with West Lothian Women's Aid to ensure a strong model of support is in place for women and their families.
- ensure the earliest possible intervention is provided in schools by providing consistent programmes of intervention around healthier relationships.



## Our Priorities

### Youth Justice

**Preventing offending is integral to West Lothian's vision to help make Scotland the best place to grow up. No one agency has sole responsibility for supporting young people to make positive lifestyle choices. For those young people who do become involved in offending each must be adequately supported by a range of agencies working effectively together with the ultimate aim to reduce the level of offending and antisocial behaviour in West Lothian.**

The introduction of the Whole System Approach (WSA) in West Lothian in 2011 has developed to ensure that partners work together to put in place a streamlined and consistent planning, assessment and decision-making process for all young people under 21 who offend, ensuring they receive the right help at the right time. The ambition to have a WSA up to 21 and not be restricted to 18 has placed West Lothian at the forefront of good practice in Scotland.

The WSA covers six core areas:

- Early and Effective Intervention (EEI)
- Opportunities to divert young people from prosecution
- Court Support
- Community Alternatives to residential school, secure care and custody
- Managing high risk including changing behaviour of those in residential school, secure care and custody
- Improving reintegration back into the community

The main ethos of the Whole System Approach is that many young people could and should be diverted from statutory measures, prosecution and custody through early intervention and robust community alternatives.

The Youth Justice Development Plan is aligned to the key priority themes detailed within the National Youth Justice Strategy for Scotland – Preventing Offending - Getting it Right for Children and Young People.

These themes are:

- Advancing the Whole System Approach
- Improving life chances for young people
- Developing capacity and improvement in the youth justice sector.

#### We will work together to:

- advance Early and Effective Intervention
- divert young people from prosecution
- develop alternatives to residential school, secure care and custody
- assist young people in court
- manage Risk of Serious Harm including young people who are sexual offenders
- ensure that robust processes for reintegration and transitions are in place
- divert children and young people from Serious Organised Crime
- equip practitioners with appropriate skills to recognise and work with those at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation
- ensure timely and effective services to respond to mental health and well-being needs
- minimise risk in relation to the impact of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) on children and young people
- improve victims and community confidence
- support vulnerable girls and young women
- plan and improve performance.

## Our Priorities

### Transition

**In West Lothian we want to ensure that all of our young people are supported to make the best possible transition to adulthood. For many young people growing up, moving out, getting a job and becoming more independent happens naturally, while other young people, including young people with additional needs and Care Leavers, may need some additional support.**



To ensure that our young people are supported to achieve their potential we recognise that:

- planning and decision making should be carried out in a person-centred way
- support should be co-ordinated across all services
- planning should start early and continue up to age 25.

We have high aspirations for all of our young people and are working closely with our partners to ensure young people develop ambitious life goals. We recognise that across Scotland, outcomes for young people with additional need and care leavers are worse than the general populations and in West Lothian we want to close the gap through effective transition planning and the development of local opportunities.

To reduce the opportunity gap we have:

- Invested in the Youth Inclusion Project which provide a holistic pre-employability service to address the barriers that prevent care leavers from moving into employment, education and or training.

- Employed a graduate trainee to map the current transition arrangements to identify gaps and will revise transition pathways for young people with additional needs
- Worked with West Lothian College to develop learning programmes ensure opportunities for progression are maximised.

In going forward we will continue to work together and build on our approaches to ensure that all of our young people have the opportunity to reach their potential.

#### We will work together to:

- improve access to services to support the health and wellbeing of our most vulnerable young people
- ensure provision of appropriate housing and supported accommodation
- post-school education and training
- support all young people into sustained employment.



## Our Priorities

### Alcohol and Drugs

**In West Lothian we recognise that substance misuse damages lives, families and communities, and can contribute to violence and crime. Many of those affected will have experienced difficult life circumstances, and are among the most vulnerable and marginalised in society.**

Improving outcomes for children affected by parental substance misuse (CAPSM), is a priority for us in West Lothian. Children who live with substance-misusing parents are among the most vulnerable in society and require particular care and support. Support to these families is provided in range of ways through services identified in the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Commissioning Plan and delivered by Circle and the Social Work Addictions Team.

We recognise that some young people are at high risk of developing addiction issues in adulthood if not supported, these young people are generally already known to services and engaging in other risk taking behaviours.

In West Lothian in 2015/16 there was an increase in the number of alcohol related hospital admissions for young people to 27 compared with 17 for the period 2014/15.

Evidence shows that young people at risk of addiction do not engage well with intervention models currently used for adults. They do however engage in services which offer them a persistent key working relationship, meaningful activities and assistance to improve their employability.

In West Lothian we have therefore invested in a range of holistic interventions including:

- The Young Almond Project which offers support to young women who are engaged in risk taking behaviour including substance misuse.
- The Youth Inclusion Project which offers a consistent resource and support for vulnerable young people aged 16-25 and aims to break down and overcome barriers which can prevent them moving on.

#### We will work together to:

- ensure that young people referred to Early and Effective Interventions Screening Group, who affected by substance misuse have access to appropriate services.
- continue to take forward a whole family approach to supporting and reducing the number of children affected by substance misuse (CAPSM).
- continue to raise awareness of the issues associated with substance misuse.

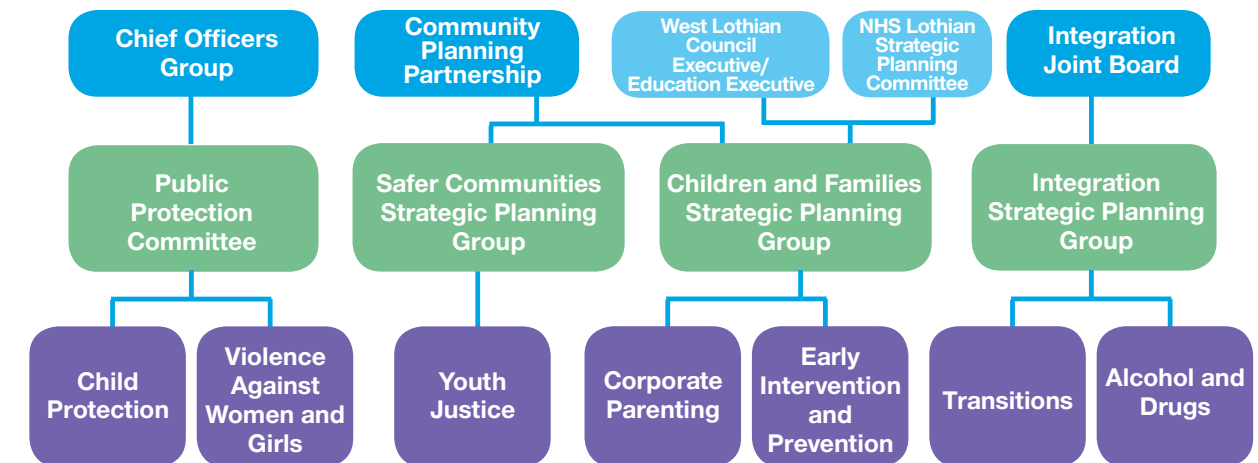


## How we work together

The governance arrangements for the planning and delivery of services for children, young people and their families were reviewed in 2015 in light of the implementation of The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 and The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Services for children, young people and families are planned and monitored at a West Lothian wide level by the Children and Families Strategic Planning Group (CFSPG) along with other partnership groups. We recognised that the planning landscape is complicated however our arrangements provide

clear linkages to:

- Community Planning Partnership
- West Lothian Council Executive/Education Executive
- NHS Lothian Strategic Planning Committee
- Public Protection Committee for Child Protection and Violence Against Women and Girls
- IJB for transition to adult services and the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
- Safer Communities for Youth Justice.



### Children and Families Strategic Planning Group

The Children and Families Strategic Planning Group is responsible for integrated children's service planning in West Lothian and reports to the Community Planning Partnership.

Members are senior officers from each of the key community planning partners (Social Policy, Education, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, Children's Reporter, Housing, Third Sector) with collective responsibility for:

- Monitoring key plans to take forward the vision and priorities of the Children and Families Strategic Planning Group
- Overseeing the progress of the Corporate Parenting Plan
- Developing Strategic Commissioning for children and families services
- Ensuring that progress towards achieving key outcomes is monitored and reported through

the Community Planning process

- Identifying cross cutting issues and develop integrated multi-agency solutions
- Identifying process improvements
- Promoting joint staff training and development and engaging with staff groups across the partnership.

#### Our Workforce

We recognise that the quality and effectiveness of our services rely on the commitment, dedication and ability of staff across West Lothian. On a daily basis they make a difference to the lives of children, young people and their families. As a partnership we are committed to ensuring that our collective workforce has the necessary skills and knowledge to provide high quality services in this challenging environment.



## Strategic Commissioning

**Strategic Commissioning** is the term used for all of the activities involved in assessing and forecasting needs, linking investment to agreed outcomes, considering options, planning the nature, range and quality of future services and working in partnership to put these in place.

### Children's Services Strategic Commissioning Plan

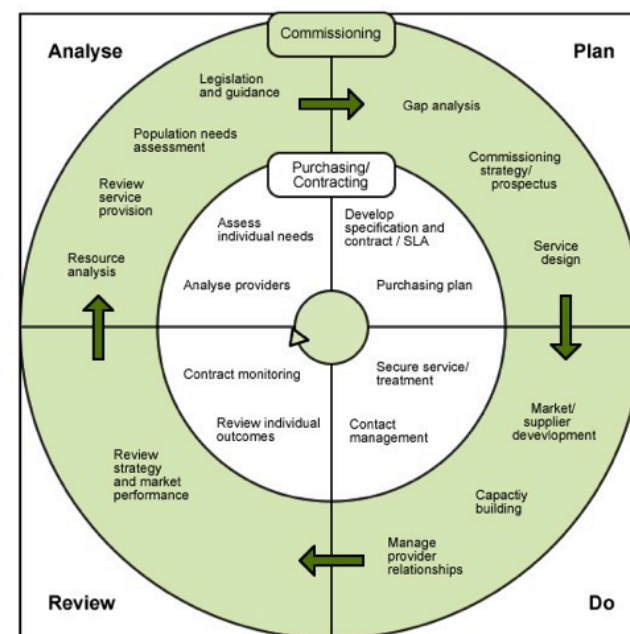
A Strategic Commissioning Plan is being developed to ensure that partners plan services which meet the needs of and improve the quality of life for children and families in West Lothian by:

- having the vision and commitment to improve services
- connecting with the needs and aspirations of users and carers
- making the best use of all available resources understanding demand and supply
- linking financial planning and service planning making relationships and working in partnership
- ensuring Best Value
- placing the equalities agenda at the centre of our service planning and delivery.

Our aim is to deliver high quality, appropriate and accessible services to meet current demand and to anticipate and identify future needs and expectations.

This is achieved through the completion of comprehensive Strategic Needs Assessments being undertaken for the whole population of children, for Looked After Children, for Youth Justice and for Early Intervention and Prevention.

Commissioning is an ongoing and evolving process and our approach in developing the Children's Services Commissioning plans is based on an annual Analyse, Plan, Do and Review cycle.



## Performance management

The Children and Families Strategic Planning Group has identified its specific contribution to the delivery of the outcomes detailed within the Single Outcome Agreement.

A robust suite of indicators, aligned to the wellbeing indicators – safe, nurtured, active, responsible and respected, healthy, achieving and included, is being developed to build on those detailed below.

To ensure that we make a positive difference in the lives of children and young people across West Lothian these indicators will be tracked through partner's performance information systems e.g. Covalent, Tableau. Performance reports on the suite of indicators will be submitted to the Children and Families Strategic Planning Group on a quarterly basis.

	Improving Trends through prevention and early intervention	Improvements in outcomes for children and young people	Improvements in the life chances of vulnerable children and young people
<b>Safe</b>	Percentage of children re-referred to the Domestic and Sexual Assault team  Number of staff attending Child sexual exploitation briefings	Percentage of young people missing from Local Authority care who have been offered a return interview within agreed timescales.	Percentage of children looked after at home who have been subject to a compulsory supervision order for 12 months or less  Percentage of cases that have progressed to a Child Protection Case Conference (CPCC) where there has been a reduction in risk to the child at the point of each review.
<b>Healthy and Active</b>	Percentage of women attending for antenatal booking by 12th week of pregnancy will continue to rise above the national target across the SIMD quintiles  Percentage of pregnant women who are smokers  Percentage of eligible children receiving a 13-15 month assessment  Percentage of 27-30 month children receiving a developmental and wellbeing assessment  Percentage of Looked After Children offered a comprehensive health assessment and mental health screen  Percentage of Dental registrations 0-2 year olds and 3-5 year olds	Percentage of overweight and obese children in Primary 1  Percentage of infants exclusively breastfed at 11 days and 6-8 weeks	Percentage of young mothers referred to Sure Start who engage antenatally.  Percentage of children and young people waiting over 18 weeks for treatment (CAMHS)  Percentage uptake of Looked After child health assessments and mental health screening



	Improving Trends through prevention and early intervention	Improvements in outcomes for children and young people	Improvements in the life chances of vulnerable children and young people
<b>Nurtured</b>	Sure start, parenting programmes, PoPP programme will continue to measure impact to ensure that children are nurtured by strong attachment and positive parenting in the early years.	Percentage of children feeling better as a result of intervention by the DASAT children's service  Balance of Care for Looked After Children: Percentage of Children being Looked After in the Community	Average length of time taken from becoming looked after to a decision on permanency being made.  Percentage of looked after children with 3 or more placement moves
<b>Achieving</b>	Percentage of children and young people referred to AIMS due to school attendance issues who have been diverted from statutory measures.	Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ awards at level 5 or higher  Percentage of school leavers entering a positive destination	Percentage of school leavers (Looked After Children) entering a positive destination
<b>Included</b>	Percentage of parents involved with Positive Steps programme who demonstrate an improvement in mental health.  Percentage of children in Family Centres achieving progress in areas of development identified by the schedule of growing skills questionnaire.  Percentage of families living in poverty (post housing costs)  Welfare benefit uptake for those eligible will be maximized	Number of 2 year old children utilising early learning and childcare"  Gap between the Annual P1 End of Year Performance in Primary Schools (PIPS) Scores of the Lowest 20% and the Highest 20% by SIMD Rank  Percentage of Pupils Living in the 20% most Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5	Percentage of eligible Looked After Children 2 year olds attending family centres.  Percentage of looked after children in full time education  Percentage of homeless presentations that are aged 16-25 years  Percentage of young people receiving an Aftercare service with one or more episodes of homelessness
<b>Respected and Responsible</b>	Percentage of Early and Effective Intervention cases 8 to 15 years who do not reoffend within 12 months of initial referral	Percentage of school aged children reporting that they are treated fairly by school staff and pupils	Percentage of young people under the age of 22 who were previously looked after who go on to receive a custodial sentence





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