



# Children's Services Plan

2023 - 2026



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# 1. Our Partnership Working for Children, Young People & Families in Fife

## Introduction

Our children and young people are our future. By investing in them we aim to ensure that they have the best start in life, with the chance to develop, to fulfil their potential and to thrive in all aspects of their lives. It will also give them the opportunity to help make lives better for everyone.

Our Children's Services Plan sets out how we will work together to achieve this aim over the next three years:

- Working more closely with children, young people and families – as we continue to redesign and review how we deliver our services;
- Building on the progress that we have already made towards improving outcomes and ensuring fairer life chances for all of our children and young people;
- And setting the highest ambitions to ensure that our children, young people and families can access the support they need where they need it, when they need it and for as long as they need it.

It's an ambitious plan, but it is no less than our children, young people and families need and deserve, if we are to 'Make Fife a place where every child and young person matters'.



**Carrie Lindsay**  
**Out-going Chair, Children in Fife**



**Lisa Cooper**  
**In-Coming Chair, Children in Fife**

## Our Vision

Fife Children's Services Partnership is committed to promoting, supporting and safeguarding the wellbeing of all children and young people in Fife.

We recognise that the children, young people and families of Fife have experiences, needs and aspirations that are many and varied.

Ours is a challenging goal to achieve. There are many ways in which we already do this well, but there are also significant areas where we can improve. This Plan sets out the work that we need to do to address the most significant of these areas for further improvement.

At the heart of this work is our Vision, our shared ambition as a Children's Services Partnership: **'Making Fife a place where every child and young person matters'**

Making Fife a place where every child and young person matters

# Our values

Working together to achieve our **vision** of ‘**Making Fife a place where every child and young person matters**’ is important to everyone. By ensuring we have a shared set of values, irrespective of which service or organisation we work for, we are confident that our priorities and plans will allow us to work together to achieve our ambitions.

Having a shared understanding of our values as partners is key to evaluating – not only the work that we do – but how we do it. Our values:

- Ensure that our work has a clear sense of purpose, underpinned by strong guiding principles.
- Supports our focus on collective leadership and empowerment, which are strong features of the work we carry out as a Partnership.
- Underpin self-assessment of our collaborative working. This is an integral part of the How Good is Our Family Support Work Framework and pivotal to identifying common priorities and shared goals.
- Influence the way we behave and work together.

Our shared **values** demonstrate our shared commitment to improving outcomes for our children, young people and families through: **Compassion, Ambition, Respect, Collaboration, and Integrity.**

Compassion

Ambition

Respect

Collaboration

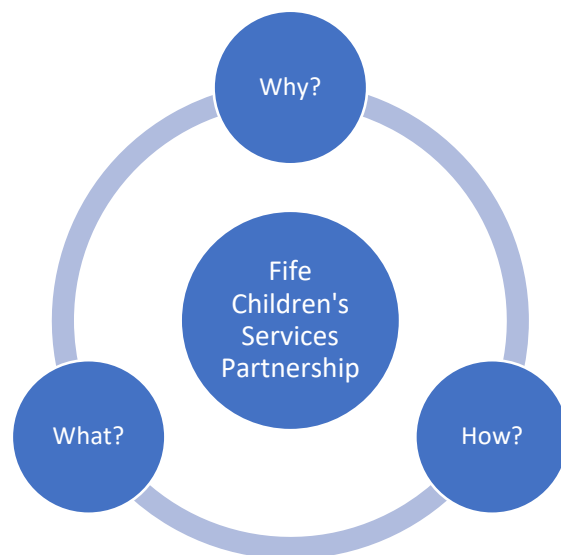
Integrity

# Our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

## Methodology

Our approach to developing our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is modelled on the EFQM model, a well-established and widely recognised framework for organisational improvement. The EFQM model is also the basis for the self-evaluation frameworks used by public sector services in Scotland and underpin the processes for inspection.

The JSNA addresses three key questions about the work of the Fife Children's Services Partnership:



- **“Why”** does the Fife Children's Services Partnership exist? What are our vision, values and strategic aims? How well do we deliver on national policy, statutory requirements and other governing stakeholder demands?
- **“How”** do we deliver on our strategic aims? How well do we work together – and with children, young people and families – to support their needs?
- **“What”** is the impact of our partnership working? What does the available evidence tell us about the experiences, outcomes and life chances of children and young people in Fife?

The partnership has achieved significant successes in improving outcomes and experiences for children, young people and families in recent years. However, there remain some significant areas for improvement. The following pages highlight some of the key challenges that have been identified through our JSNA and outlines how these have helped to inform our priorities for improvement for the period 2023-26.

## 2. Our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Key sources of evidence reviewed by our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

To address the three key questions posed in our JSNA a number of sources of evidence were used. These are summarised in the table below:

Key Question	Evidence Source	Nature of Evidence
<b>Why?</b> <i>How well do we meet our governing stakeholders' needs?</i>	ES1. Statutory guidance on children's services planning	Overview of legislative requirements relating to children's services planning
	ES2. Feedback on the Fife Children's Services Plan 2021-23	Feedback from the Scottish Government on the current children's services plan
<b>How?</b> <i>How well do we work together – and with children, young people and families – to support their needs?</i>	ES3. Feedback from Children's Services Partnership Leaders and Practitioners	Feedback gathered from discussions at Partnership development sessions, events and other meetings
	ES4. Feedback from children, young people and families	Feedback gathered from engagement with children, young people and families
	ES5. How Good Is Our Family Support (HGIOFS) self-evaluation framework	An assessment of the partnership's progress in developing a coherent framework for whole family wellbeing. Baseline feedback has been gathered from leaders, staff and families.
	ES6. Progress with current Children's Services Plan actions	Indicates whether ongoing improvement plan actions need to remain a focus for partnership improvement activity
<b>What?</b> <i>What does the available evidence tell us about the experiences, outcomes and life chances of children and young people in Fife?</i>	ES7. Fife Children's Services Plan 2021-23 Scorecard	Shows impact of current improvement actions in improving outcomes and highlights continuing challenges
	ES8. Fife Wellbeing Indicator Set current outcomes	Provides an overview across a range of key children's services outcomes and highlights key areas for improvement.
	ES9. Key service evidence	Key messages from additional evidence reported by individual partners
	ES10. Fife Local Strategic Assessments	Key messages from the draft local strategic assessments 2022 for refreshing the Plan 4 Fife

How well do we work together – and with children, young people and families – to support their needs?

The table below summarises key challenges highlighted by available evidence regarding how well we work together – and with children, young people and families – to support their needs. These have been arranged under themes relating to a self-evaluation framework for wider children’s services partnership working in Fife, which has been modelled on the HGIOFS framework.

The brackets after each key message records the corresponding evidence source(s) from which the key messages were identified.

Theme	Aspects of our approach	Key messages [Principal Evidence Source]
Effective engagement of children, young people and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voice</li> <li>• Service Design</li> <li>• Rights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to improve the meaningful participation of children and families in the evaluation and design of services [ES4, ES5]</li> <li>• Engagement with children and young people should inform development of our approach to the UNCRC [ES6]</li> <li>• We need to improve and make better use of qualitative evidence about the experiences of children and families e.g., case studies, Microsoft form feedback [ES6]</li> </ul>
Service delivery that enables early intervention and prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Support Services / Whole Family Wellbeing</li> <li>• The Promise / GIRFEC</li> <li>• Child wellbeing pathway / No Wrong Door</li> <li>• Our Minds Matter</li> <li>• Innovation (QI methodology)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need a clearer narrative about our approach to supporting families [ES2]</li> <li>• We need better evidence about ease of access to services – and service use satisfaction [ES6]</li> <li>• We need to improve measures of impact for short-term improvement activity [ES6]</li> <li>• We need greater clarity around timescales for delivery [ES2]</li> <li>• We need to improve the flexibility and adaptability of our services to better meet the needs of children, young people, and families [ES4, ES5]</li> </ul>
Whole System Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Planning Process</li> <li>• Performance Management / JSNA</li> <li>• Use of resources / commissioning</li> <li>• System coordination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to strengthen our shared accountability [ES5]</li> <li>• We need to better coordinate our working and use of resources [ES5]</li> <li>• We need to further strengthen our use of data – linking this more clearly to national outcomes [ES2, ES6].</li> <li>• We need to improve how we describe the impact of commissioned services [ES6]</li> </ul>
Leadership, workforce and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership &amp; culture</li> <li>• Workforce Planning</li> <li>• Workforce development</li> <li>• Working groups and reporting lines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to ensure staff feedback informs the development of our staff wellbeing strategy [ES3, ES6]</li> <li>• Staff should be confident about our values and approach to the UNCRC [ES3, ES6]</li> </ul>



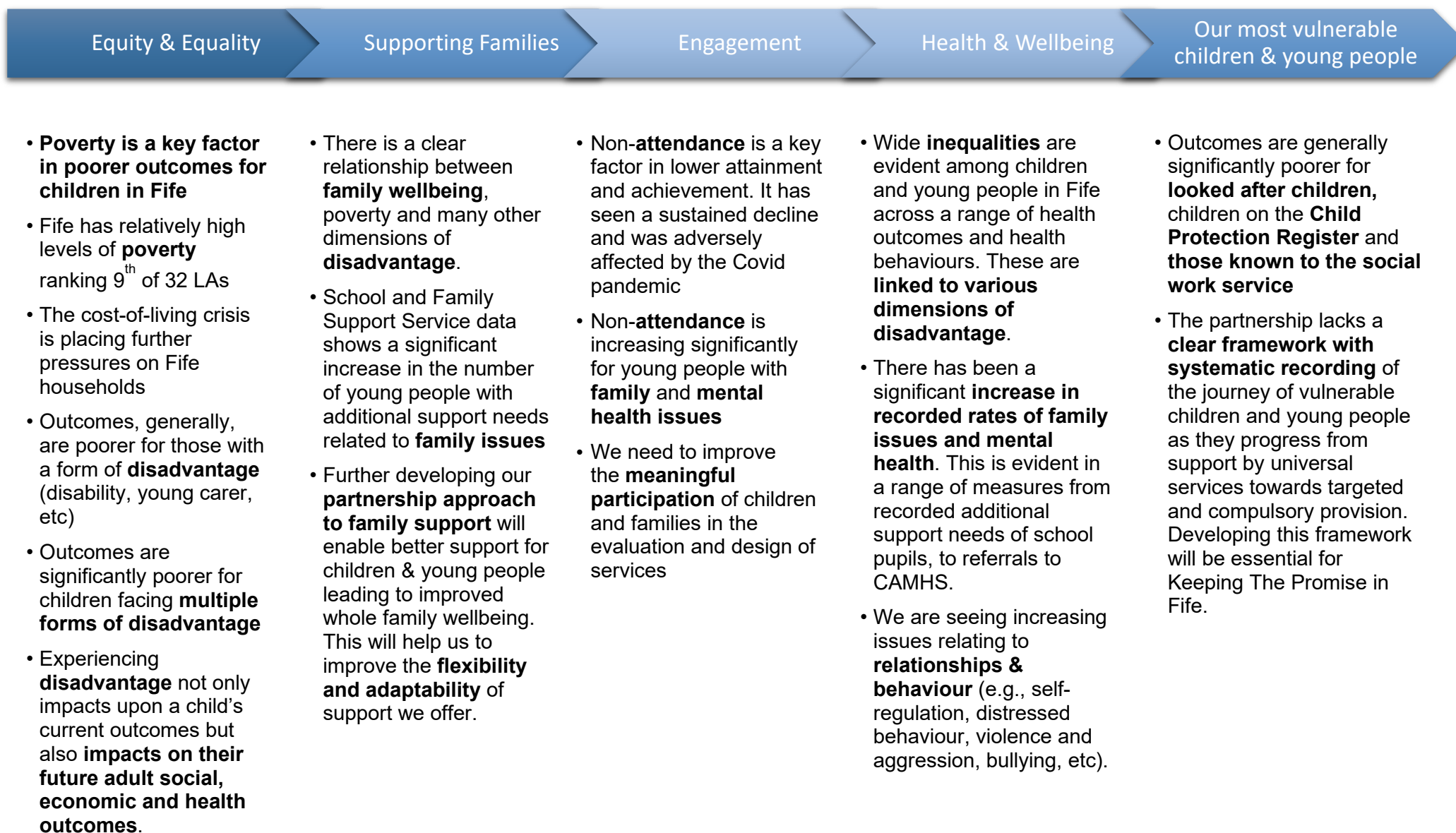
What does the available evidence tell us about the experiences, outcomes and life chances of children and young people in Fife?

The table below summarises key challenges relating to outcomes for children and young people in Fife, based on available data [evidence sources ES7 and ES8], other evidence from services [evidence source ES9] or local strategic assessments [evidence source ES10].

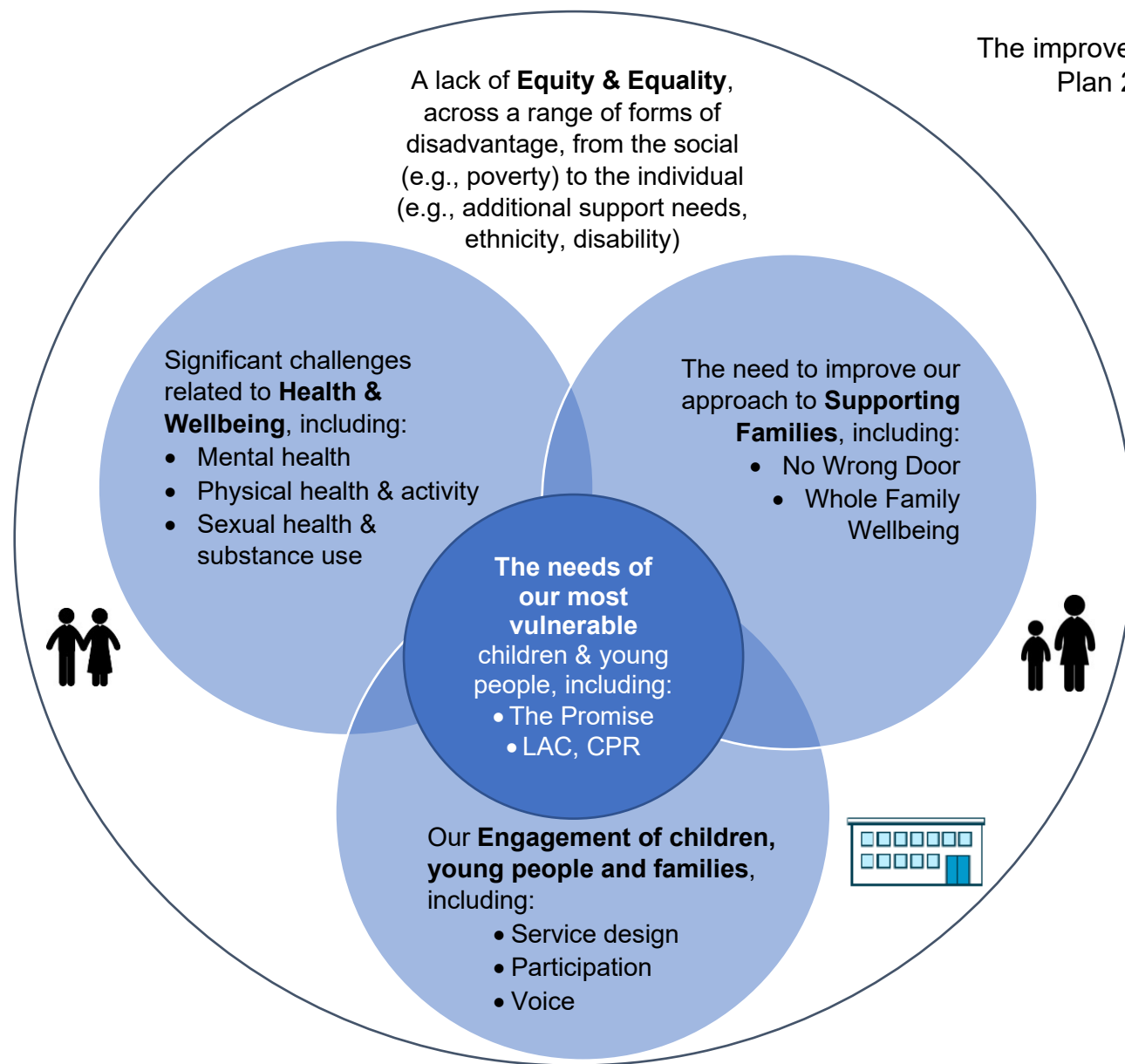
Aspect of wellbeing	Key messages
Safe and Nurtured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proportion of children in Fife who are looked after is lower than the national average, as is the proportion of children who are on the Child Protection Register.</li> <li>• As a result of the Belonging to Fife strategy: the number of looked after children in residential, purchased placement has reduced; the number of children placed outwith Fife has reduced; and the number of kinship placements in Fife has increased significantly</li> <li>• In addition to children who are formally looked after, there are approximately 2,000 children who are supported in a voluntary basis by social work services across a wide continuum of need.</li> </ul>
Healthy and Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wide inequalities are evident among children and young people in Fife across a range of health outcomes and health behaviours. Children in the most deprived areas of Fife, and across Scotland, have poorer health outcomes and health behaviours including lower rates of being breastfed, poorer dental health and lower levels of healthy weight than those living in least deprived areas.</li> <li>• There has been an increased number of referrals of children and young people to mental health services (CAMHS) since the pandemic and a significant increase in the number of urgent referrals.</li> <li>• Child health inequalities are a result of the circumstances in which children live. Experiencing disadvantage, for example poverty or poor housing, not only impacts upon a child's current health outcomes but also on their future adult health, social and economic outcomes.</li> </ul>
Achieving and Included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inequalities in achievement are related to a variety of forms of disadvantage, including: poverty, additional support needs, care experience. These are also closely linked to engagement and health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• There is a significant variation in achievement between disadvantaged groups and others (e.g., SIMD Q1 vs SIMD Q5, LAC vs non-LAC). This is true for both Fife and Scotland.</li> <li>• Attendance levels have been declining in Fife and Scotland for almost a decade. The fastest rate of decline has been for those with support needs related to family and mental health issues. These groups have also seen a significant increase in numbers.</li> </ul>
Respected and Responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is significant variance in workforce confidence relating to the UNCRC; and there is an inconsistent and minimal use of Children's Rights Impact Assessments.</li> <li>• Young people have told us they want more control of how and when they engage in services.</li> <li>• There is minimal evidence of young people being supported to engage with strategic planning across the continuum.</li> </ul>

## Key challenges highlighted by our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

The figure below summarises key challenges emerging a range of evidence reviewed by from our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.



## Our priorities for improvement 2023-26



The improvement priorities for the Fife Children's Services Plan 2023-26 will address the key challenges highlighted by our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

In addressing these challenges, our work – with children, young people and families, collectively as a children's services partnership and with wider partners – will be underpinned by a **rights-based approach** rooted in the UNCRC.

### 3. Our Plan for Improvement

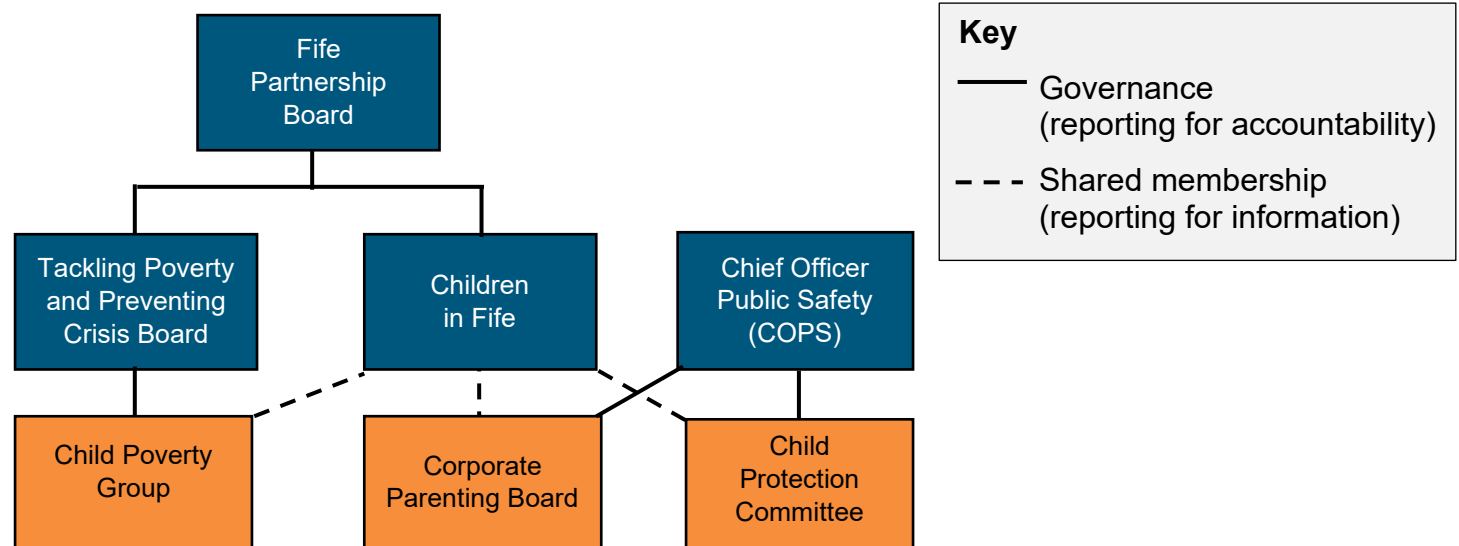
How we will oversee delivery of the Children's Services Plan

Children in Fife is the governance group for children's services planning in Fife. It oversees children's services planning and reporting and children's rights reporting. Children in Fife leads on strategic planning of children's services on behalf of Fife Partnership Board and reports to the Board on an annual basis on progress with children's services planning.

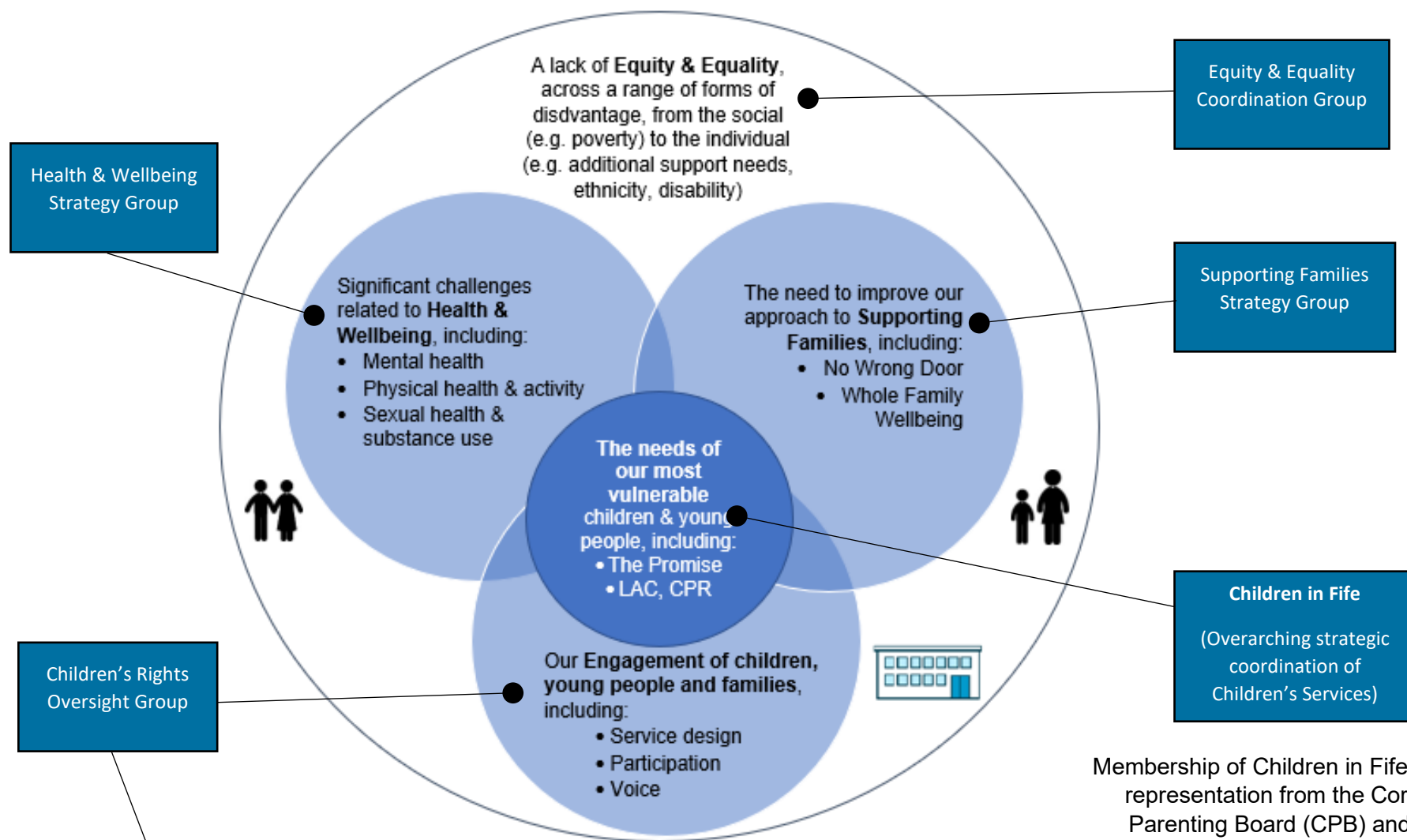
Children in Fife works closely with:

- The **Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis** (TPPC) Board, which leads on strategic planning of the wider partnership approach to tackling poverty – a key element in the Plan 4 Fife (Fife's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan). TPPC reports to the Fife Partnership Board and includes representatives from the Child Poverty Group. The TPPC's planning and reporting encompasses local child poverty action reporting in Fife.
- The **Corporate Parenting Board** and the **Child Protection Committee** (both of which report to the Chief Officer Public Safety (COPS) Group).

Membership of Children in Fife includes representation from the Child Poverty Group, Corporate Parenting Board and Child Protection Committee, to help Children in Fife in its role overseeing strategic planning across all aspects of children's services.



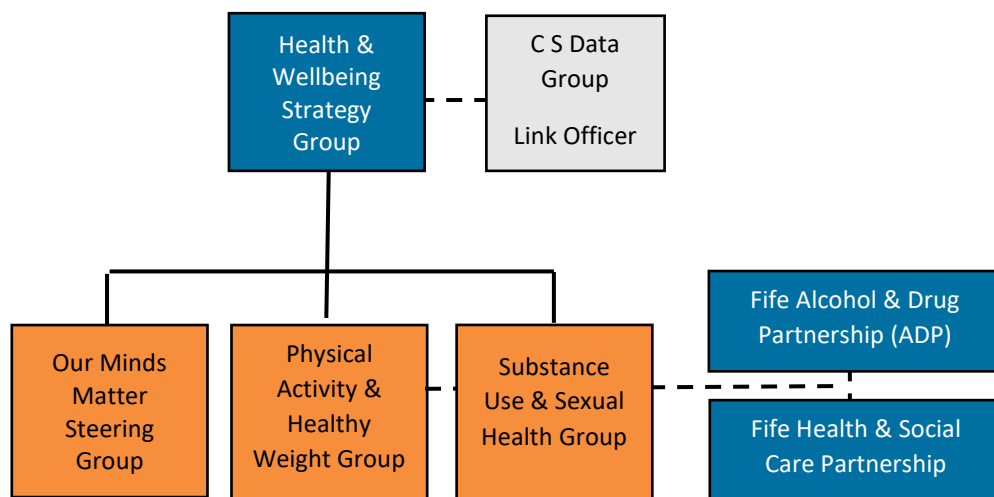
Work to oversee implementation of the Fife Children's Services Plan 2023-26 will be led by the following strategic groups:



● In addressing these challenges, our work – with children, young people and families, collectively as a children's services partnership, and with wider partners – will be underpinned by a **rights-based approach** rooted in the UNCRC.

Membership of Children in Fife, includes representation from the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) and Child Protection Committee (CPC) – to ensure alignment of actions for Looked After Children (LAC) and children on the Child Protection Register (CPR) – as well as each of the lead strategic groups

# Delivering Our Priorities: Health & Wellbeing



The **Health & Wellbeing Strategy Group** includes lead members from the 3 key partnership groups that oversee work relating to health and wellbeing. The Group:

- Owns: the action plan for the improvement theme of Health & Wellbeing
- Provides a link to the work of: the Fife Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP) and the Health and Social Care Partnership
- Promotes: the following rights within the UNCRC relating to health and wellbeing



Outcomes that the Health & Wellbeing Strategy Group will monitor in the Fife Wellbeing Indicator Set

	Measure	C S Plan Theme
<b>Healthy</b>		
FWI 6	% women who report as current smokers at ante-natal booking appointment	Health & Wellbeing
FWI 7	Average WEMWBS Score across children in High School	Health & Wellbeing
FWI 8	Rate per 1000 people of referrals made to CAMHS	Health & Wellbeing
FWI 9	% babies being exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks	Health & Wellbeing
FWI 10	% P1 year children with healthy weight	Health & Wellbeing
FWI 11	% P1 year children free from obvious dental decay	Health & Wellbeing
FWI 15	% of school counselling referrals with the primary reason of stress or anxiety	Health & Wellbeing
FWI 12	Alcohol and Drug Use (to be identified from data gathered as part of the Fife Health & Wellbeing Survey).	Health & Wellbeing
<b>Active</b>		
FWI 13	% pupils engaging in physical extra-curricular activity.	Health & Wellbeing
<b>Respected and responsible</b>		
FWI 20	% of Secondary (3 Stage Analysis) young people who often or always feel confident	Health & Wellbeing
<b>Included</b>		
FWI 22	% of P5-S6 spending 3 or more hours of weekday freetime on electronic devices	Health & Wellbeing

**Improvement Priority: Health & Wellbeing (Mental Health)**  
**Strategic Lead Group: Health & Wellbeing Strategy Group**  
**Delivery Group: Our Minds Matter Steering Group**

What is the key issue/ challenge?	What do we need to do to address this?	What actions are needed? (What is the timescale for doing this?)	What evidence will we have of completion or impact?
Multi-agency approaches to ensure access to mental health supports and services for all children, young people and their families	Improved accessibility to mental health supports for children, young people and their families, ensuring they receive the right support at the right time from the right service	<p>Work in collaboration with education and community partners to ensure a 'No Wrong Door approach' is taken to access mental health supports and services</p> <p>Ongoing promotion of how to access supports and services</p> <p>Young people feel able to seek help at an early stage when they are experiencing mental health problems, helping to reduce the stigma of mental health as a barrier to seeking support.</p>	<p>Measures of progress</p> <p>Activity data will inform us where support is being accessed, and by whom</p> <p>Analysing comms and marketing data</p> <p>Reviewing qualitative and quantitative feedback from young people and their families</p>
	Professional Development and capacity building opportunities are in place for all staff supporting children, young people and their families mental health, focusing on early intervention approaches	<p>Continue to develop and implement multi-agency training to develop their practice in relation to supporting young people's emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>Provide networking opportunities to improve collaborate working.</p>	Qualitative and quantitative evaluations
	Improved multi-agency data to inform the mental health needs of young people and their families in Fife, ensuring that we respond appropriately	Using collective data from education, health and community partners to monitor and analyse the changing mental health needs of young people and their families	Improved outcomes will be measured using evaluation and will inform the delivery of supports and services

**Improvement Priority: Health & Wellbeing**  
**Strategic Lead Group: Health & Wellbeing Strategy Group**  
**Delivery Group: Physical Activity & Healthy Weight Group**

<b>What is the key issue/ challenge?</b>	<b>What do we need to do to address this?</b>	<b>What actions are needed? (What is the timescale for doing this?)</b>	<b>What evidence will we have of completion or impact?</b>
<p>Children &amp; young people’s physical wellbeing and participation in physical activity &amp; sport has been negatively impacted by the covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Scottish Parent Survey reported a consistent decline in children’s activity levels, socialisation &amp; free play with other children, with the greatest impact on those most vulnerable and / or disadvantaged.</p>	<p>Increase access to sport &amp; physical activity for our most vulnerable and / or disadvantaged Children &amp; Young People.</p> <p>Enable Children, Young People &amp; families to understand the importance of leading an active lifestyle, healthier diet and healthy weight.</p>	<p>Review supporting group structures and agree actions &amp; responsibilities (Aug 2023)</p> <p>Develop awareness raising materials &amp; plan for support (Dec ‘23)</p> <p>Test of change interventions implemented (Dec ‘24)</p> <p>Review of Interventions (Mar ‘25)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for support developed and published</li> <li>• Activity recorded via Fife Participation Figures</li> <li>• Evidence from tests of change</li> </ul>

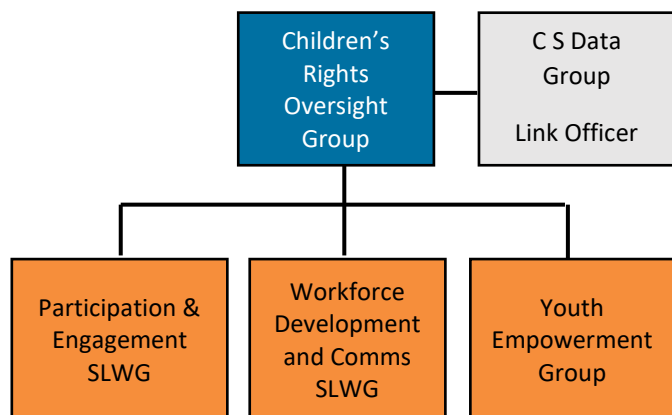


**Improvement Priority: Health & Wellbeing**  
**Strategic Lead Group: Health & Wellbeing Strategy Group**  
**Delivery Group: Substance Use and Sexual Health Group**

What are the key issues/challenges?	What do we need to do to address this?	What actions are needed? (And what is the timescale for doing this?)	What short-term evidence will we have of completion or impact?
<p>Increasing the level of confidence, competence and knowledge of the workforce to engage with children and young people about Healthy Relationships and Substance Use (including parental substance use)</p>	<p>Develop and deliver a workforce development programme for staff working with children and families.</p>	<p>Conduct a training needs analysis of the current workforce across the H&amp;SCP and Children’s Services to identify training needs</p> <p>Identify and promote training and resources already available on sexual health, healthy relationships and substance use.</p> <p>Identify gaps in training needs as a result of the training needs analysis and develop training/learning to fulfil areas of need.</p> <p>(Timescale: 1 -2 years)</p>	<p>Programme of education and training is developed implemented and evaluated including rollout of RHSP resource.</p>
<p>Increasing the confidence, competence and knowledge of parents and carers to engage with children and young people about Healthy Relationships and Substance Use.</p>	<p>Develop and deliver resources, information, support and training to parents and carers.</p>	<p>Scoping work with Parents and Carers to identify what support is needed</p> <p>Increase awareness of and communication about the RSHP resource by providing Parents and Carers with information leaflets and updates on Children’s and Young People’s learning</p> <p>Identify and develop resources to help Parent’s and Carer’s speak to their children confidently about Healthy Relationships, Sexual Health and Substance Use</p> <p>(Timescale: 12 months)</p>	<p>Information advice and signposting to sources of support is available to parents and carers.</p>

<p>Ensuring safety health and wellbeing of children and young people who experience alcohol or drug related hospital admissions</p>	<p>Review prevalence, pathways and outcomes for young people 11 to 16 experiencing substance related admission to hospital</p>	<p>Explore the gap in provision with limited identifiable data</p> <p>Understand the demand and capacity for a service-based solution</p> <p>Understand the evidence base for the type of intervention that builds resilience/resistance in Children &amp; Young People affected by early problematic use of substances</p> <p>(Timescale: 12 months)</p>	<p>Project: Production of milestones, including typical profile, map of existing provision, understanding of how existing provision is currently accessed and used through gap analysis with proposed solutions produced</p> <p>Fewer Children &amp; Young People in age range admitted to hospital</p> <p>Fewer repeat admissions for known Children &amp; Young People</p>
<p>Understanding and responding to children and young people who are Care experienced or in need of additional support (1) in relation to Healthy Relationships and Substance use (Including parental/ carer substance use)</p>	<p>Explore the needs of care experienced receiving additional support in relation to healthy relationships and substance use.</p>	<p>Conduct scoping exercise needs assessment to identify what support is needed by young people. Develop, raise awareness of and promote pathways for Care Experienced and Young People in need of additional support to access relevant services</p> <p>(Timescale: 12 months)</p>	<p>Information, advice and signposting to sources of support is available to Care Experienced and Young People in need of additional support and those working with them</p>

# Delivering Our Priorities: Children's Rights



The **Children's Rights Oversight Group** is a partnership group that oversees work to promote children's rights and the partnership's approach to participation and engagement. The group:

- Owns: action plan for improvement theme of Engagement of children, young people and families
- Coordinates: collective ownership and delivery of the UNCRC
- Is responsible for: C S Plan requirements relating to Children's Rights Reporting
- Promotes: defined rights within the UNCRC



Outcomes that the Children's Rights Oversight Group will monitor in the Five Wellbeing Indicator Set

	Measure	C S Plan Theme
	<b>Context</b>	
FWI 2	% P5-S6 children who agree that their local area is a good place to live	Children's Rights
	<b>Active</b>	
FWI 14	% P1-S6 children participating in community activities	Children's Rights
	<b>Respected and responsible</b>	
FWI 20	% of Secondary (3 Stage Analysis) young people who often or always feel confident	Health & Wellbeing

The Children's Rights Oversight Group will also monitor key sources of qualitative evidence relating to the participation and engagement of children and young people

**Improvement Priority: Engagement**  
**Strategic Lead Group: Children’s Rights Oversight Group**  
**Delivery group: Participation & Engagement Short Life Working Group**

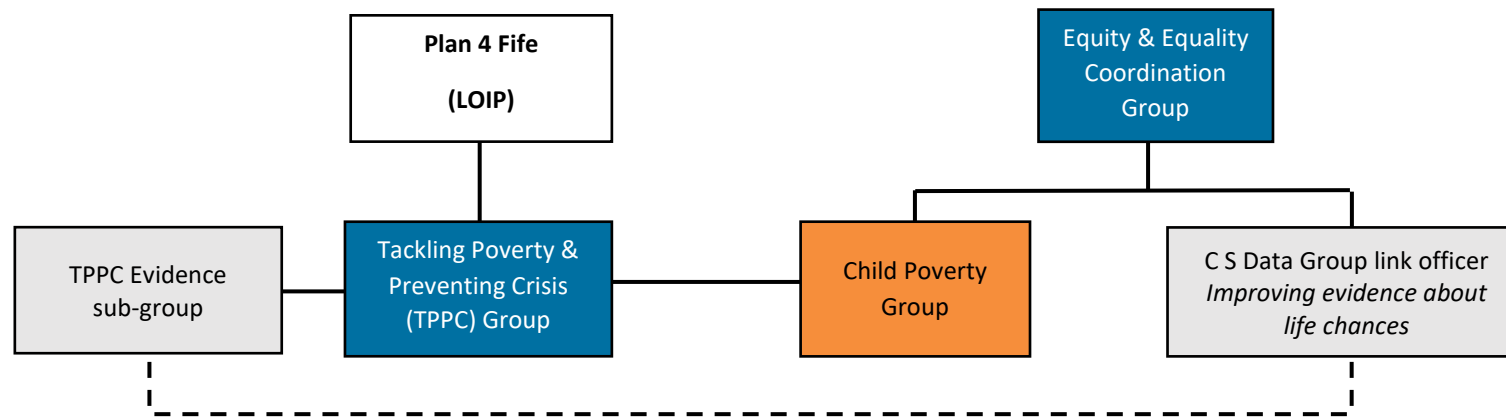
<b>What is the key issue/ challenge?</b>	<b>What do we need to do to address this?</b>	<b>What actions are needed? (What is the timescale for doing this?)</b>	<b>What evidence will we have of completion or impact?</b>
Develop a consistent approach to participation and engagement with children and young people	<p>Jointly agree the principles of effective engagement and participation.</p> <p>Create an overview of engagement and participation across services</p>	<p>Develop a Children Services participation and engagement strategy (by June 24)</p> <p>Map out existing groups that engage with children and young people across Fife (by Aug 24)</p> <p>Create a calendar of planned participation across Children Services (by Aug 24)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy agreed by CSP</li> <li>• Launch event takes place for the new strategy</li> <li>• Children and young people feedback on their engagement and participation</li> <li>• Map of existing groups created</li> <li>• Participation and engagement calendar created</li> </ul>
Ensure that there is active and meaningful engagement of children and young people in decisions that affect them and the planning and delivery of services across Fife.	Support the framework devised by young people during the Children’s Services Plan 2021-23	<p>Set up a youth empowerment panel (by Jan 2024)</p> <p>Extend the panel into P6 and P7 (by Jan 2025)</p> <p>Audit the effectiveness of the group (by June 2024)</p> <p>Develop the forums to include children and young people affected by disability (by Jan 2025)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth empowerment panel is set up</li> <li>• Minutes of meetings of the youth empowerment group</li> <li>• Young people attend the CR group to report progress</li> <li>• Young people support the development of the service’s 3-year children’s rights report</li> </ul>

**Cross-cutting theme: Children’s Rights  
Strategic Lead Group: Children’s Rights Oversight Group**

<b>What is the key issue/ challenge?</b>	<b>What do we need to do to address this?</b>	<b>What actions are needed? (What is the timescale for doing this?)</b>	<b>What evidence will we have of completion or impact?</b>
Ensuring that we work with – and support – young people in a rights-based way	<p>Raise awareness of UNCRC across wider partnership services</p> <p><i>(Delivery Group: Workforce Development Subgroup)</i></p>	<p>Establish a baseline for maturity of understanding and use of UNCRC (by Oct 23)</p> <p>Develop a comms strategy with support materials (by Jan 24)</p> <p>Deliver awareness raising inputs to wider partnership services (April 24 – July 25)</p> <p>Test maturity of understanding and use of UNCRC through follow up survey (August 25)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey response from baseline survey</li> <li>• % of sampled policies that include a CRWIA, when appropriate</li> <li>• Comms strategy signed off by the CRG</li> <li>• Record of delivery of input – with support materials – for named services</li> <li>• Survey response from follow-up survey</li> <li>• % of sampled policies that include a CRWIA, when appropriate</li> </ul>
	<p>Promote a rights-based approach through the introduction of a Children’s Rights Charter</p> <p><i>(Support for this work is being sought from CORRA funding. If successful, this will be delivered through the appointment of an Engagement and Participation Officer)</i></p>	<p>Develop a children and young person’s Charter which would be co-designed as a means of services undertaking commitment to embed into daily practice by (by June 2024)</p> <p>Develop a children and young person’s Peer-Led/Ambassador programme which would build capacity for children and young people to take on the role of Ambassador (ensuring inclusivity of specific groups) (by June 2024)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charter will be created and agreed by CSP</li> <li>• Record of awareness raising of charter</li> <li>• Number of services achieving charter status (to be decided)</li> </ul>

Ensuring that we work with – and support – young people in a rights-based way	Develop Guidance for creating child friendly complaints procedures	<p>Become a part of the Scottish Government Pilot for the roll out of their child friendly complaints strategy (by Jan 2024)</p> <p>Adapt this guidance for use in Fife in partnership with children and young people (by June 2024)</p> <p>Share guidance across the partnership services (Aug 2024 – July 2025)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New guidance for child friendly complaints agreed by CSP</li> <li>• Record of the promotion of new guidance across services</li> <li>• Sample of websites show links to child friendly complaints procedures.</li> </ul>
	Ensure that we fulfil our requirement to report progress to the Scottish Government	<p>Publish the signed off 2020-2023 report online (by Aug 2023)</p> <p>Draft the 23-26 plan (by March 2026)</p> <p>Draft plan 23-26 signed of by partnership (by April 2026)</p> <p>New report published (by June 2026)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan 2020-2023 signed off and published</li> <li>• Draft plan produced and agreed</li> <li>• New plan published</li> </ul>

# Delivering Our Priorities: Equity & Equality



The **Equity & Equality Coordination Group** is an informal group that works to ensure Children in Fife has oversight of key actions relating to issues of equity and equality.

The Group **reports** to Children in Fife on progress with:

- Tackling poverty and preventing crisis, as it affects families with children and young people. This work is overseen by the Child Poverty Group and is progressed within the work programme of the Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis (TPPC) Group. This forms part of wider partnership working within the Plan 4 Fife (the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan for Fife) to tackle poverty and prevent crisis; this also incorporates Fife's Local Child Poverty Action Reporting.
- Monitoring general progress in improving outcomes for children and young people affected by issues of equity & equality (unless these are specifically monitored elsewhere). This work is overseen by the Children's Services Data Group and involves reporting on outcomes within the Fife Wellbeing Indicator set for key risk groups. A significant element of this work involves improving the scope of data available relating to families affected by equity and equality issues.

An annual report will be taken to Children in Fife outlining progress across the theme of Equity and Equality. This will include:

- The work of the TPPC Group, which incorporates Fife's Local Child Poverty Action Report.
- A review of the outcomes and life chances of key disadvantaged groups (including: priority groups affected by child poverty, those with protected characteristics, looked after and care experienced young people; those affected by area or household deprivation, children and young people with Additional Support Needs, and Armed Forces Families).

## The Equity & Equality Coordination Group

Is responsible for: children's services planning requirements relating to local child poverty action reporting, equality monitoring (protected characteristics)

Promotes: defined rights within the UNCRC



Monitors: progress in improving Fife Wellbeing Indicator Set outcomes, generally, for children and young people affected by issues of equity and equality. This includes:

- Priority groups affected by child poverty (lone-parent families, a household where someone is disabled, families with three or more children, minority ethnic families, families with a child under one year old, families where the mother is under 25 years of age).
- Those with protected characteristics (Sex, Disability, Race, etc);
- Looked after and care experienced young people.
- Those affected by area or household deprivation (including SIMD, registration for free school meals);
- Children and young people with Additional Support Needs (ASN) for learning;
- Armed Forces Families.

The Equity and Equalities Coordination Group have oversight of the following specific measures in the Fife Wellbeing Indicator Set:

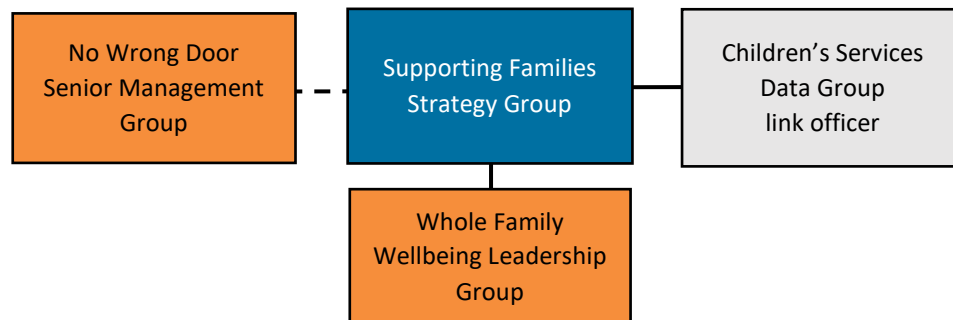
	Measure	C S Plan Theme
<b>Context</b>		
FWI 1	Children in Low Income Families (CILIF) - relative poverty (aged under 16)	Equity & Equality
<b>Achieving</b>		
FWI 15	% P1, P4 and P7 children achieving expected CfE levels in literacy	Equity & Equality
FWI 16	% P1, P4 and P7 children achieving expected CfE levels in numeracy	Equity & Equality
FWI 17	% all school leavers in positive destination on leaving school	Equity & Equality
<b>Nurtured</b>		
FWI 18	% Early Learning and Childcare settings achieving CI grades of good or better	Equity & Equality
FWI 19	<i>Data on take up by eligible 2 year olds of Early Learning &amp; Childcare.</i>	Equity & Equality
<b>Included</b>		
FWI 23	Number of children in temporary accommodation at 31 March	Equity & Equality
FWI 24	Number of Homeless Applications involving children	Equity & Equality

They also monitor and report on outcomes for disadvantaged groups across all measures in the Indicator Set



<b>What is the key issue/ challenge?</b>	<b>What actions are planned to address this issue, for families with children and young people?</b>	<b>How will we monitor and report on progress?</b>
Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis for families with Children	Actions will be progressed within the Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis work programme of Plan 4 Fife and overseen by the Child Poverty Group.	Outcomes for children, young people and families will be reported annually to Children in Fife by the Child Poverty Group.
Improving the information available about priority groups affected by child poverty.	Members of the Children's Services Data Group are involved in the work of the Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis Evidence Sub-Group to improve information and monitoring data relating to household poverty in Fife. This includes ongoing development of the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) in Fife.	Progress in improving core data on priority groups affected by child poverty will be reported to Children in Fife.  Improved core data will be included in annual reporting to Children in Fife by the Child Poverty Group.
Breaking inter-generational cycles of poverty	Work to address barriers to learning – and to close achievement gaps – faced by all disadvantaged groups is being progressed as part of the Strategic Equity Fund, overseen by the Education Service. This includes partnership work to address key barriers to educational outcomes of engagement, health and wellbeing and the need for improved family support.	An overview of outcomes and life chances for key disadvantaged groups will be reported to Children in Fife as part of an annual review of Equity and Equality.
Improving transitions for young people in Fife with learning disabilities and other support needs	Work is ongoing as part of the Getting It Right For Everyone (GIRFE). The Fife partnership are pathfinders in relation to transitions, with the aim of achieving transitions practice where “services feel seamless and coordinated and people feel in control of the care they receive”. This includes Children's to Adult's services transitions.	To be further developed.

# Delivering Our Priorities: Supporting Families



- Oversees: the Commissioning Strategy for children's services in Fife
- Promotes: defined rights within the UNCRC



The Supporting Families priority will be overseen by the Supporting Families Strategy Group, which includes leaders from key partners involved in work to improve support for families, including Social Work, Health and Communities. It works closely with the No Wrong Door Senior Management Group, which is overseeing work to develop a No Wrong Door approach across wider public services in Fife – ensuring that when families make contact with services, they will be able to access the support they need where they need it, when they need it and for as long as they need it.

The Whole Family Wellbeing Leadership Group is the lead group for delivery of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund in Fife.

The Supporting Families Strategy Group:

- Owns: the action plan for the improvement theme of Supporting Families
- Is responsible for: children's services planning and reporting requirements relating to the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund
- Oversees: current Family Support Services across the partnership

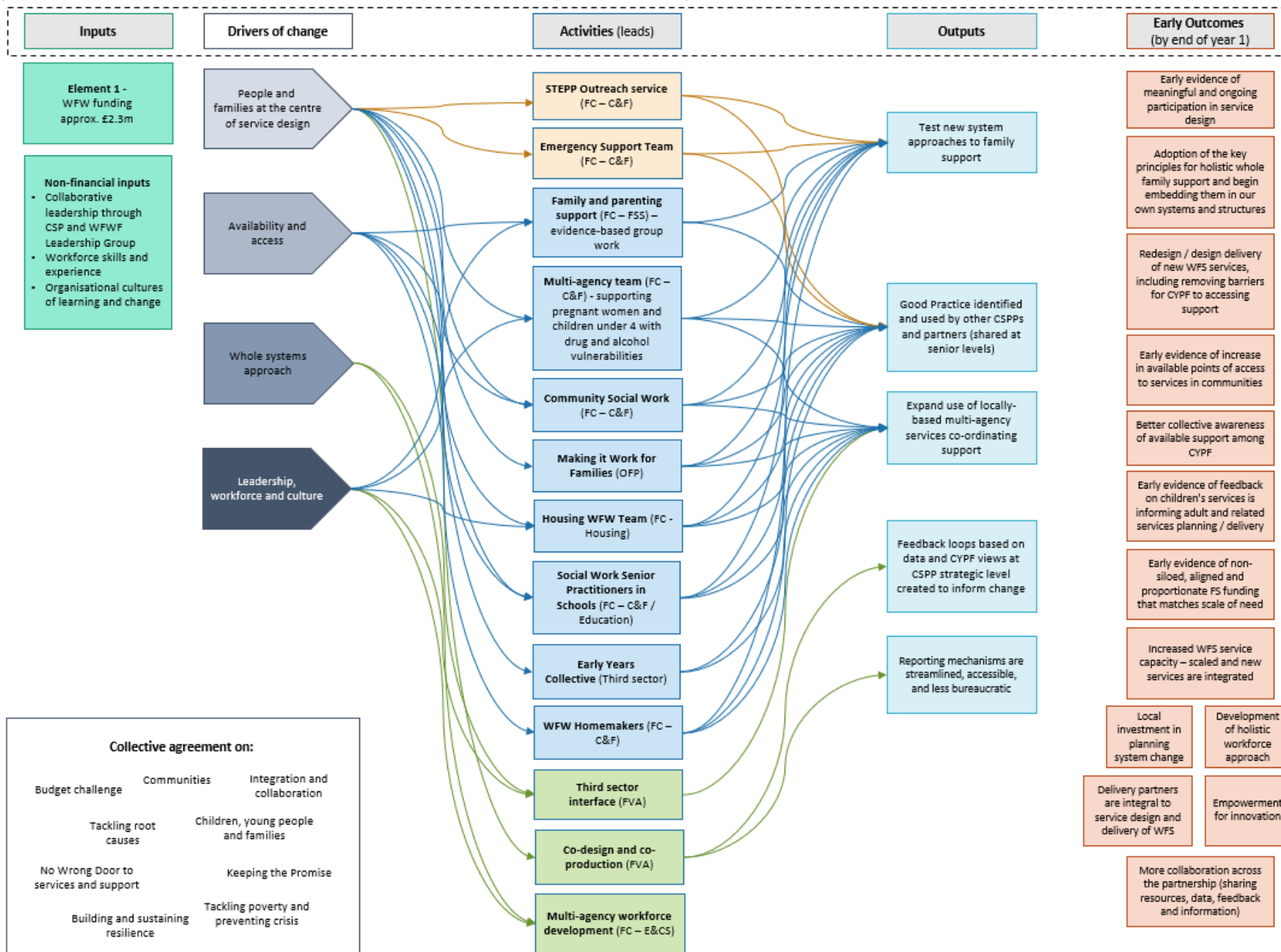
## Monitoring outcomes for Supporting Families

In developing the Fife Wellbeing Indicator set, the Children's Services Data Group noted the need to strengthen evidence relating to early intervention and prevention in Fife. This is being progressed within the Supporting Families priority.

As part of this work, Fife has been:

- Developing a logic model that reflects Fife's context and approach to improving support for families. The next page provides an overview of the logic model and highlights the key activities currently being undertaken to improve support for families in Fife.
- Developing use of the How Good Is Our Family Support self-evaluation framework. A baseline, high-level self-evaluation has been undertaken with: families, children and young people, staff and leaders.

# Fife's logic model for the development of Whole Family Wellbeing



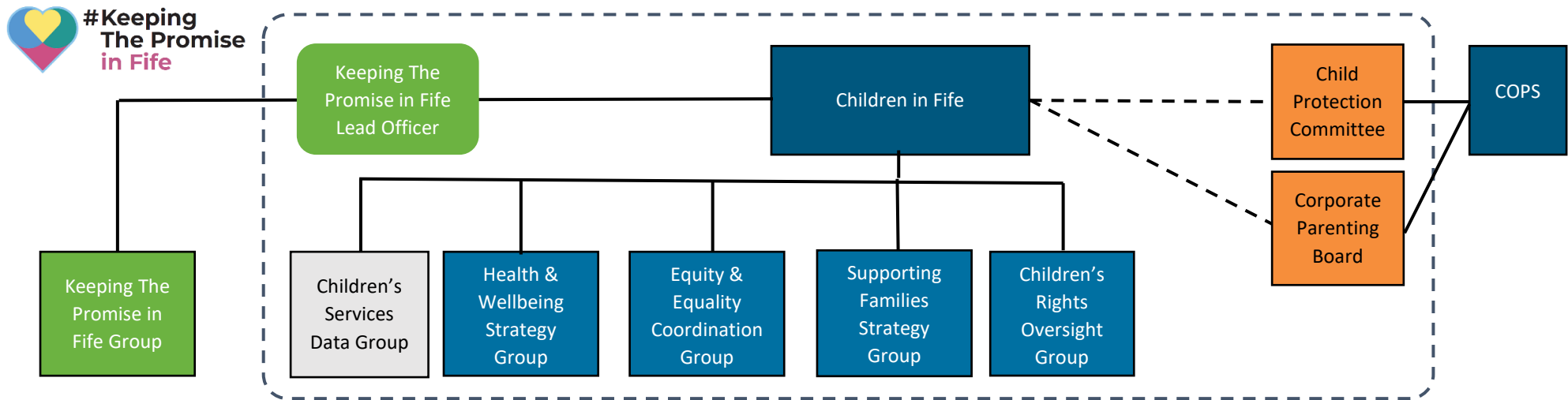
Family Support Services are a well established part of children’s services in Fife. Over the past two years, the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund has played a lead role in further developing our approach to supporting families – using the opportunity provided by support from the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund. As we continue to review our collective approach to supporting families a newly established Supporting Families Strategy Group will take a lead role in further developing our approach, coordinating the work being progressed through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund (as outlined below), the wider partnership’s No Wrong Door approach, and current Family Support Services. The work of this group will include reviewing how we present our planning for – and reporting on – our approach to supporting families.

<b>Improvement Priority: Supporting Families</b>			
<b>Strategic Lead Group: Supporting Families Strategy Group</b>			
<b>What is the key issue/ challenge?</b>	<b>What do we need to do to address this?</b>	<b>What actions are needed? (What is the timescale for doing this?)</b>	<b>What evidence will we have of completion or impact?</b>
Ensure that children and families are at the centre of our service design	<p>Develop a model of flexible and intensive support for Children &amp; young people where there is a high risk of breakdown in their family or care placement</p> <p>Building capacity and skills through a non- stigmatising and positive role modelling approach focused on practical help</p> <p>Strengthen our co-production approach as a basis for the</p>	<p><b>STEPP outreach service</b> Delivery of intensive support to families by enhancing the STEPP outreach team resource(ongoing)</p> <p>Undertake a review of service delivery and adapt/develop the service (Sept 2023)</p> <p><b>Emergency Support Team (EST)</b> Enhance delivery of intensive support within the EST team (ongoing)</p> <p>Undertake a review of service delivery and adapt/develop the service (Sept 2023)</p> <p><b>Homemakers</b> Deliver and develop a model of practical support based on families experience of gaps in service (ongoing)</p> <p><b>Co-production &amp; co-design</b> Establish a multi-agency &amp; lived experience (CYP&amp;F) co-production project team and apply an</p>	<p>Stakeholder feedback (families, children, and young people)</p> <p>Impact data – e.g., measures of improved wellbeing / more stable placements</p> <p>Outcome of reviews and key learning points – supporting evidence base (including evidence cited above)</p> <p>Number of: services actively participating in a co-design approach; and families involved.</p> <p>Stakeholder feedback (families, children and young people)</p> <p>HGIOFS survey feedback (from children, young people, families, staff and leaders) on children</p>

	ongoing re-design of services for children and families across Fife.	evaluation framework to support learning (ongoing)  Co-ordinate an 18-month programme focussed on engagement, empowerment, participation and develop an approach to co-production & co-design with children, young people and families in Fife (interim report March 2024)	and families at the centre of service design shows evidence of improvement
Improve the availability and accessibility of support for families, children and young people	<p>Improve access to a range of evidence-based group work across the continuum, to support better outcomes</p> <p>Improve our preventative and targeted support for key groups</p> <p>Extend existing models of support</p> <p>Pilot and further develop an early intervention model of community social work</p>	<p><b>Family &amp; parenting support</b> Develop an accessible family focused Parenting and Family Support Strategy which is co-produced (June 2023)</p> <p>Develop and implement an accessible pathway for group work (October 2023)</p> <p><b>Improved support for pregnant women and mothers with children under 4 where drug and/or alcohol use is a feature.</b> Undertake scoping exercise with pregnant women and mothers, to understand what might have improved their experience and helped them in their parenting role; and with staff, to identify key barriers and service design issues (July 2023)</p> <p>Review current pathways/routes and develop a new service delivery model and staff responsibilities (October 2023)</p> <p><b>Making it Work for Families</b> Extend eligibility of the programme to include P7 transition pupils (ongoing)</p> <p><b>Community Social Work</b> Scale up a multi-agency community-based approach in Cowdenbeath based on the learning from the TOC in the Kirkcaldy area – based on community assets and strengths, and informed by engagement with local groups (March 2025)</p>	<p>Stakeholder feedback (families, children and young people)</p> <p>Data from evaluation mechanisms – e.g., WEMWBS/SDQ analysis</p> <p>Stakeholder feedback (families, children and young people)</p> <p>Commission research to evaluate impact of change in delivery model.</p> <p>Impact data – e.g., system measures of improved early intervention – referrals and caseloads across local area</p>

			HGIOFS survey feedback (from children, young people, families, staff and leaders) on availability and access shows evidence of improvement
A whole system approach	<p>Ensure a joined up and collaborative approach across partners, influencing the co-production and delivery of whole family support.</p> <p>Ensuring that our whole system approach meets the needs of children, young people and families in Fife.</p>	<p><b>Third Sector Interface</b> Map third sector services working with Children, Young People &amp; Families (July 2023)</p> <p>Increase collaborative opportunities to co-produce services (March 2024)</p> <p><b>Commissioning Strategy</b> A revised Commissioning Strategy is in development. This is based on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) developed for this Plan and a Strategic Commissioning framework.</p> <p><b>Research, evaluation, and long-term planning</b> Discussions have been held with a number of higher education research and improvement organisations, to scope development of an evaluation framework to support long-term planning of children’s services in Fife. An appraisal of final options is being developed, for decision by Children in Fife (October 2023).</p>	<p>Impact data – e.g., system measures of improved early intervention – referrals and caseloads across local area</p> <p>Completed e mapping of third sector organisations working with children, young people and families</p> <p>Identified strengths and areas for greater collaboration and co-production</p> <p>HGIOFS survey feedback (from children, young people, families, staff and leaders) on whole system approach shows evidence of improvement</p>
Leadership workforce and culture	<p>Improve the confidence, knowledge and skills in the workforce, encouraging collaboration and a holistic workforce</p>	<p><b>Multi-agency workforce development</b> Coordinated by a designated post – a series of multi-agency development sessions, informed by a training needs analysis of areas where practice could be targeted, improved and better aligned. (ongoing)</p> <p>Evaluate the impact of development sessions on the confidence, knowledge and skills of the workforce (March 2024)</p>	<p>Establish baseline data and gather follow-up evidence of impact of Practice Development Sessions (e.g., comparison of pre-course and post-course questionnaires of participants)</p> <p>HGIOFS survey feedback (from children, young people, families, staff and leaders) on leadership, workforce and culture shows evidence of improvement</p>

# Delivering Our Priorities: Our Most Vulnerable Children & Young People



Children in Fife is the Governance Group for Fife Children's Services Partnership and oversees the partnership's wider approach to prevention and early intervention.

Membership of Children in Fife includes:

- A lead officer for Keeping The Promise in Fife. This is a new post, building on work of the current Promise Group and will strengthen strategic leadership for the Promise, as well as improving coordination with other aspects of children's services planning and delivery, including GIRFEC and the work of the Corporate Parenting Board.
- Leaders from each of the key strategic groups, overseeing delivery of the improvement priorities for the Children's Services Plan.
- Representation from the Corporate Parenting Board and Child Protection Committee, to ensure a joined-up approach to planning for children and young people at risk of harm, in need of care, or in need of protection.
- Representation from key partnership groups supporting delivery of the plan, including: the Children's Services Data Group.

Membership of Children in Fife also ensures representation from all partners, including: Fife Council (Education Service, Children and Families Social Work, Housing, and Communities), the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership, Fife Voluntary Sector, Fife College, Police Scotland, and SCRA.

## Children in Fife:

- Owns: the action plan for the improvement theme of The Needs of Our Most Vulnerable, including children and young people at risk of harm, in need of care, or in need of protection.
- Is responsible for: oversight of statutory planning requirements relating to all aspects of strategic planning for children’s services.
- Provides a forum for coordinating work across all aspects of children’s services – ensuring alignment of approaches for children and young people at risk of harm, in need of care, or in need of protection with work undertaken by the Corporate Parenting Board and Child Protection Committee being shared.
- Promotes: rights within the UNCRC relating to those at risk of harm and in need of care and those in need of protection, including:



## Outcomes that the Children in Fife / The Promise Group will monitor in the Fife Wellbeing Indicator Set

	Measure	C S Plan Theme
	<b>Safe</b>	
FWI 3	Children on the Child Protection Register per 10,000 aged 0-15 (Number on CPR)	Our Most Vulnerable
FWI 4	LAC per 1,000 CYP aged 0-17 (Number of LAC)	Our Most Vulnerable

As well as monitoring these outcomes as the strategic lead group for all children and young people, Children in Fife / The Promise Group will:

- receive reports on progress in delivering each improvement priority;
- provide scrutiny of outcomes achieved across all aspects of the Children’s Services Plan.



**Improvement Priority: Our Most Vulnerable Children and Young People**  
**Strategic Lead Group: Children in Fife**

<b>What is the key issue/ challenge?</b>	<b>What do we need to do to address this?</b>	<b>What actions are needed? (What is the timescale for doing this?)</b>	<b>What evidence will we have of completion or impact?</b>
Ensuring that the Child Wellbeing Pathway provides an effective basis for our GIRFEC approach	Ensure all staff have clear guidance on the use of the Child Wellbeing Pathway	Single agency assurance that staff are aware of their responsibilities  Partnership evaluation that the pathway is being used and data collected  Ongoing evaluation of evidence of collaborative working and benefit to families	Survey feedback from staff on clarity of guidance, responsibilities, etc  Stakeholder feedback (families, children and young people)  Data evidencing number of Child Wellbeing Meetings and service/partner participation
	Workforce development on use of the Child Wellbeing Pathway	Develop training pack for partnership Single Service training  Clarity on role and professional responsibilities	Survey feedback from staff on clarity of guidance, responsibilities, etc  Stakeholder feedback (families, children and young people)
	Ensure that we are recording use of the CWP and are able to monitor the journey of children	Universal services to develop data capturing systems	Data evidencing number of Child Wellbeing Meetings and service/partner participation – as well as other key system and process data
Keeping The Promise in Fife	Establish a role of Keeping the Promise in Fife Lead Officer, to provide a strategic lead for The Promise and to coordinate with other aspects of children’s services	Scope role profile and recruit  Task with clear outcomes for year 1 (Timescale: 6 months)  Review after 1 year and decide whether any changes in group structure, support, etc are needed (Timescale: 18 months)	Lead officer in post  Review of impact of lead officer post after 1 year
	Awareness of the Promise and its importance to the work of all in Fife Partnership – as corporate parents	Comms Strategy 1. Identify varied comms channels and formats to support strategy (emails, SWAYs, infographics, newsletters, intranet content, etc) 2. Identify mechanisms to cascade key comms in all services/agencies (e.g., standing agenda	Comms strategy outputs  Indicator data on coverage of comms messaging

		items); and available in other ways (e.g., intranets).	Staff survey feedback on awareness of comms messages
	Data for the Promise, Corporate Parenting Board	<p>Agree a framework of data and reporting that will support Children in Fife with a view of the wider challenge around the Promise (early intervention, informal care, etc) and the work of the Corporate Parenting Board (formal care)</p> <p>(Timescale: 12 months)</p>	<p>Data to be shared from Corporate Parenting Board and Child Protection Committee as appropriate</p> <p>Universal services to develop data capturing systems to support the data framework</p>

## 4. How Our Plan Supports National Policy

The Children & Young People Act 2014 underpinned by the **United Nations on the Rights of the Child** sets out a requirement to deliver services aimed at promoting, supporting and safeguarding the wellbeing of children, young people and their families. Children's rights have been enhanced by this legislation and local authorities are required to report on progress similar to the duties within the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 which requires local authorities to provide annual progress and planning reports against the national delivery plan.



The policy framework of **Getting It Right For Every Child** is now well embedded across the Fife partnership supported by key local policy frameworks such as the Getting in Right in Fife framework and the Child Wellbeing Pathway which promotes early & proportionate intervention to address wellbeing needs and concerns across the continuum of need – whether universal, additional or intensive.

The Independent Care review, commissioned in 2017, led to a root and branch review of Scotland's care system resulting in the publication of **The Promise** in 2020. The five foundations of the Promise are central to the new Children's Services plan, reflect the key principles of the Belonging to Fife Strategy and weave across our priorities. They will help transformation our systems, practice and culture, ensuring that:

**Voice:** children are listened to and meaningfully and appropriately involved in decision-making about their care.

**Family:** where children are safe in their families and feel loved they must stay there – and families must be given support together to nurture that love and overcome the difficulties they face.

**Care:** where living with their family is not possible, children must stay with their brothers and sisters where safe to do so and belong to a loving home, staying there for as long as needed.

**People:** children that we care for must be actively supported to develop relationships with people in the workforce and wider community, who in turn must be supported to be compassionate.

**Scaffolding:** children, families and the workforce must be supported by a system that is there when it is needed. The 'scaffolding' of help, support and accountability must be ready and responsive when it is required.



# How Our Plan Supports Strategic Planning of Children's Services

	Main focus of monitoring for outcomes (SHANARRI)	Contribution to key statutory responsibilities and national policy delivery	Statutory Planning & Reporting Responsibility	Main links to wider partnership planning and delivery of related services
<b>Health and Wellbeing Strategy Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy</li> <li>• Active</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health Promotion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All health-related planning and reporting responsibilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; Social Care Partnership</li> <li>• Alcohol and Drugs Partnership</li> </ul>
<b>Equity and Equality Coordination Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving</li> <li>• Included</li> <li>• Nurtured</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Poverty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Child Poverty Action Reporting</li> <li>• Protected Characteristics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan 4 Fife (Tackling Poverty and Crisis Prevention)</li> <li>• Strategic Equity Fund</li> </ul>
<b>Supporting Families Strategy Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Included</li> <li>• Nurtured</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Intervention</li> <li>• Whole Family Wellbeing</li> <li>• Family Support</li> <li>• Commissioning Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole Family Wellbeing Fund</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan 4 Fife (No Wrong Door)</li> <li>• Best Value</li> </ul>
<b>Children in Fife</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe</li> <li>• Nurtured</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• GIRFEC</li> <li>• The Promise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's Services Planning and Reporting</li> <li>• Joint Inspection of Children's Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Parenting Board</li> <li>• Child Protection Committee</li> </ul>
<b>Children's Rights Oversight Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respected</li> <li>• Responsible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's Rights</li> <li>• UNCRC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's Rights Reporting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of children's rights across wider partnership services</li> </ul>
<b>Children's Services Data Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the range of data available across SHANARRI for key risk groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring alignment with the National Performance Framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting a regular cycle of reporting on progress for each improvement priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting of outcomes for wider strategic planning (e.g., Plan 4 Fife)</li> </ul>

# How Our Plan Promotes Children's Rights

Each key strategic group has oversight of children's rights related to that improvement priority. In addition, the Children's Rights Oversight Group oversees the Partnership's collective responsibility for delivery of the UNCRC.

## Health and Wellbeing Strategy Group

**Article 24:** Every child has the right to the best possible health.

**Article 31:** Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities

**Article 33:** Governments must protect children from taking, making, carrying or selling harmful drugs

**Article 34:** The government should protect children from sexual exploitation



## Equity and Equality Coordination Group

**Article 2:** All children have all these rights, no matter who they are.

**Article 23:** Every child with a disability should enjoy the best possible life in society

**Article 26:** Governments should provide money or other support to help children from poor families.

**Article 28:** Every child has the right to an education.



## Supporting Families Strategy Group

**Article 5:** Governments should let families and communities guide their children so that, as they grow up, they learn to use their rights in the best way.

**Article 9:** Children should not be separated from their parents unless they are not being properly looked after.

**Article 18:** Parents are the main people responsible for bringing up a child.



## Children in Fife

**Article 3:** When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

**Article 19:** Governments must protect children from violence, abuse and being neglected

**Article 22:** Children who move from their home country to another country as refugees should get help and protection

**Article 36:** Children have the right to be protected from all other kinds of exploitation.



## Children's Rights Oversight Group

Oversight of the UNCRC



**Article 4:** Governments must do all they can to make sure that every child in their countries can enjoy all rights.



**Article 12:** Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them.



**Article 42:** Governments should ensure that everyone knows about children's rights.



## 5. Our use of data to support improvement

### The Children's Services Data Group

The Children's Services Data Group plays a key role in supporting the strategic planning of children's services in Fife. Membership of the group includes senior leaders from across the children's services partnership with a responsibility for performance management, strategic planning and public reporting.

Over the past two years, the Children's Services Data Group has been working to:

- Improve the evidence base underpinning **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment** for children's services in Fife. This work has informed the work outlined in section 2 of this plan.
- Establish a dataset containing key measures relating to the outcomes and experiences of children, young people and families in Fife. This dataset – the **Fife Wellbeing Indicator Set** – provides an overview of high-level indicators across all aspects of SHANARRI and is a key element of the evidence reviewed in developing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- Design and deliver the **Fife Health and Wellbeing Survey** – a survey of children and young people attending Fife schools. This has built on established Fife-wide surveys of the experiences of our children and young people (including the Pupilwise survey) with alignment to some questions asked in the National Wellbeing Census, to ensure benchmarking can be undertaken. The first Fife Health and Wellbeing Survey was undertaken in early 2023 and results are currently being analysed. These will be reported in late summer 2023.



In working to improve our use of data – as summarised on the preceding page – the Children’s Services Data Group has sought to ensure that the data and evidence available for children’s services planning:

- Meets the needs of all partners, including the Corporate Parenting Board, the Keeping the Promise In Fife Group, the Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis Board (child poverty outcomes).
- Enables children’s services in Fife to monitor – and deliver outcomes within – the National Performance Framework.

### **Using our data to support improvement**

The table on the following two pages provides an overview of high-level outcomes of all children and young people, as measured by the Fife Wellbeing Indicator Set.

Measures in the Fife Wellbeing Indicator Set have been chosen to provide a breakdown of outcomes for different risk groups (e.g., SIMD, learners with an Additional Support Need, Gender, etc) across all aspects of wellbeing. This data was used to inform our joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and is reflected in the evidence on equity and equality summarised in section 2 of this plan.

As we deliver the Fife Children’s Services Plan 2023-26, the Fife Wellbeing Indicator Set will be used:

- To monitor our progress in improving the outcomes and experiences of children, young people and families in Fife.
- To monitor the challenges of inequity and inequality faced by a range of risk groups, including: groups affected by child poverty (lone-parent families, a household where someone is disabled, families with three or more children, minority ethnic families, families with a child under one year old, families where the mother is under 25 years of age); those with protected characteristics (Sex, Disability, Race, etc); looked after and care experienced young people; those affected by area or household deprivation (including SIMD, registration for free school meals); children and young people with Additional Support Needs (ASN) for learning; Armed Forces Families.

## The Fife Wellbeing Indicator Set

The tables below provide an overview of baseline data – as currently available – for the Fife Wellbeing Indicator Set. This will be updated as further information becomes available (particularly, data from the Fife Health and Wellbeing Survey).

	Measure	C S Plan Theme	Fife outcomes					Fife 5 year trend	Benchmark outcomes					Fife trend vs benchmark	
			2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		
	<b>Context</b>														
FWI 1	Children in Low Income Families (CILIF) - relative poverty (aged under 16)	Equity & Equality	20.2%	20.3%	21.3%	17.4%	23.2%		18.0%	17.9%	18.9%	16.0%	20.8%		
FWI 2	% P5-S6 children who agree that their local area is a good place to live	Children's Rights	<i>Data source: Fife Health &amp; Wellbeing Survey. Baseline survey data is currently being analysed and will be published in late summer 2023.</i>												
	<b>Safe</b>														
FWI 3	Children on the Child Protection Register per 10,000 aged 0-15 (Number on CPR)	Our Most Vulnerable	26.4 (170 CPR)	31.8 (205 CPR)	22.9 (147 CPR)	23.9 (152 CPR)	21.4 (136 CPR)		27.5 (2530)	28.0 (2580)	28.8 (2641)	23.2 (2119)	22.3 (2031)		
FWI 4	LAC per 1,000 CYP aged 0-17 (Number of LAC)	Our Most Vulnerable	13.1 (941 LAC)	13.0 (935 LAC)	12.8 (919 LAC)	11.4 (817 LAC)	10.4 (748 LAC)		14.1 (14554)	13.9 (14262)	14.1 (14458)	12.9 (13255)	12.3 (12596)		
FWI 5	<i>Measures of system success, evidencing the impact of scaffolding to support prevention.</i>	Supporting Families	<i>Data gap identified. Work to address this evidence gap is being progressed as part of the work on Supporting Families.</i>												
	<b>Healthy</b>														
FWI 6	% women who report as current smokers at ante-natal booking appointment	Health & Wellbeing	20.1%	19.7%	19.3%	20.8%	19.4%		15.0%	15.2%	14.6%	13.9%	13.1%		
FWI 7	Average WEMWBS Score across children in High School	Health & Wellbeing	<i>Data source: Fife Health &amp; Wellbeing Survey. Baseline survey data is currently being analysed and will be published in late summer 2023.</i>												
FWI 8	Rate per 1000 people of referrals made to CAMHS	Health & Wellbeing	35.9	34.2	40.9	38.1	46.9		32.3	34.7	33.9	28.1	36.7		
FWI 9	% babies being exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks	Health & Wellbeing	28.0%	29.6%	30.6%	30.7%	30.9%		30.2%	31.9%	31.6%	32.0%	32.2%		
FWI 10	% P1 year children with healthy weight	Health & Wellbeing	77%	78%	76%	N/A	77%		76%	77%	76%	70%	75%		
FWI 11	% P1 year children free from obvious dental decay	Health & Wellbeing	71.9%	69.8%	73.7%	N/A	70.9%		71.1%	71.6%	73.5%	N/A	73.1%		
FWI 15	% of school counselling referrals with the primary reason of stress or anxiety	Health & Wellbeing	<i>Data source: Service Data. Baseline data being collated for reporting.</i>												
FWI 12	<i>Alcohol and Drug Use (to be identified from data gathered as part of the Fife Health &amp; Wellbeing Survey).</i>	Health & Wellbeing	<i>Data source: Fife Health &amp; Wellbeing Survey. Baseline survey data is currently being analysed and will be published in late summer 2023.</i>												
			<i>Data source: Service Data. Work is to be undertaken to scope/develop a benchmark.</i>												



	Measure	C S Plan Theme	Fife outcomes					Fife 5 year trend	Benchmark outcomes					Fife trend vs benchmark	
			2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		
	<b>Active</b>														
FWI 13	% pupils engaging in physical extra-curricular activity.	Health & Wellbeing	<i>Data source: Fife Health &amp; Wellbeing Survey. Baseline survey data is currently being analysed and will be published in late summer 2023.</i>												
FWI 14	% P1-S6 children participating in community activities	Children's Rights	<i>Data source: Fife Health &amp; Wellbeing Survey. Baseline survey data is currently being analysed and will be published in late summer 2023.</i>												
	<b>Achieving</b>														
FWI 15	% P1, P4 and P7 children achieving expected CfE levels in literacy	Equity & Equality	73.1%	74.2%	N/A	64.6%	68.4%		71.4%	72.3%	N/A	66.9%	70.5%		
FWI 16	% P1, P4 and P7 children achieving expected CfE levels in numeracy	Equity & Equality	80.0%	80.2%	N/A	71.3%	74.8%		78.0%	79.1%	N/A	74.7%	77.9%		
FWI 17	% all school leavers in positive destination on leaving school	Equity & Equality	92.8%	94.4%	91.9%	93.9%	94.8%		94.6%	95.0%	93.3%	95.5%	95.7%		
	<b>Nurtured</b>														
FWI 18	% Early Learning and Childcare settings achieving CI grades of good or better	Equity & Equality	94.4%	93.8%	97.5%	98.0%									
FWI 19	<i>Data on take up by eligible 2 year olds of Early Learning &amp; Childcare.</i>	Equity & Equality	<i>Scoping work is being undertaken through discussions with national and local partners to establish a basis for gathering data on families eligible for places.</i>												
	<b>Respected and responsible</b>														
FWI 20	% of Secondary (3 Stage Analysis) young people who often or always feel confident	Health & Wellbeing				33%	34%								
FWI 21	<i>Voice of children &amp; young people (to be identified from data gathered as part of the Fife Health &amp; Wellbeing Survey).</i>	Children's Rights	<i>Data source: Fife Health &amp; Wellbeing Survey. Baseline survey data is currently being analysed and will be published in late summer 2023.</i>												
	<b>Included</b>														
FWI 22	% of P5-S6 spending 3 or more hours of weekday freetime on electronic devices	Health & Wellbeing	<i>Data source: Fife Health &amp; Wellbeing Survey. Baseline survey data is currently being analysed and will be published in late summer 2023.</i>												
FWI 23	Number of children in temporary accommodation at 31 March	Equity & Equality	1501	1274	1243	1218	1735								<i>Data source: Service Data. Work is to be undertaken to scope/develop a benchmark.</i>
FWI 24	Number of Homeless Applications involving children	Equity & Equality	1469	1406	1222	1182	1203								<i>Data source: Service Data. Work is to be undertaken to scope/develop a benchmark.</i>

## 6. Further Information

### Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation is the Scottish Government's standard approach to measuring relative levels of disadvantage across Scotland. It provides information about a range of resources and opportunities available to communities at a local level. These relate to income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing.

SIMD is calculated for defined local, geographical areas called data zones. There are 6,976 datazones across Scotland.

Each of these datazones fall within five families, called quintiles, according to the overall level of multiple deprivation recorded by SIMD for that area. SIMD Quintile 1 (often abbreviated to **SIMD Q1**) refers to the most deprived areas, as measured by SIMD.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

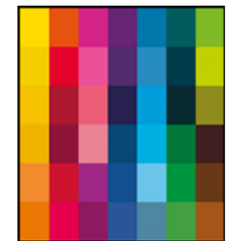


### United Nations on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (**UNCRC**) is the global “gold standard” for children’s rights and sets out the fundamental rights of all children.

In Scotland, the UNCRC is already used to provide a framework to ensure that children's rights are considered whenever decisions are taken, and to help provide every child with a good start in life and a safe, healthy and happy childhood. It forms the basis of Scotland’s national approach for supporting children, called Getting it right for every child (**GIRFEC**).

Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/human-rights/childrens-rights/>



### Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA)

The Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (**CRWIA**) is the approach that officials use to provide evidence that proper consideration has been given to the impact that any policy or strategy will have on children and young people up to the age of 18.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/collections/childrens-rights-and-wellbeing-impact-assessments-guidance/>

## **GIRFEC**

Scotland's national approach for supporting children, is called Getting it right for every child (**GIRFEC**). It supports families by making sure children and young people can receive the right help, at the right time, from the right people. The aim is to help them to grow up feeling loved, safe and respected so that they can realise their full potential.

GIRFEC helps the different agencies, services and teams who form part of the Fife Children's Services Partnership work better together.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/>



## **The Promise**

In 2017, the Scottish Government launched an Independent Review of Scotland's Care System (Children and Young People) to help Scotland deliver the 'world's best care system'.

The Promise is responsible for driving the work of change demanded by the findings of the Independent Care Review, following their publication in 2020. It works with all kinds of organisations to support shifts in policy, practice and culture so Scotland can *#KeepThePromise* it made to care experienced infants, children, young people, adults and their families - that every child grows up loved, safe and respected, and able to realise their full potential.

Further information can be found at: <https://thepromise.scot/>





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**Fife's Community Planning Partners:** Fife Council • NHS Fife • Fife's Voluntary Sector • Police Scotland • Scottish Fire & Rescue Service  
• Fife College • Scottish Enterprise • St Andrews University • SEStran • Skills Development Scotland • Scottish Government  
**Working together to deliver our Community Plan and strengthen Fife's future** [www.fifedirect.org.uk/communityplanning](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/communityplanning)