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**Report to Clackmannanshire Council**

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**Date of Meeting: 5 October 2023**

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**Subject: Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2022-2023**

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**Report by: Chair, Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership**

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**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2022/23 (as attached as Appendix 1).
- 1.2. Publication of an annual report setting out progress against the Children's Services Plan is a requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1. Council is asked to comment and approve the content of the Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2022/23 and its submission to the Scottish Government.
- 2.2. The report will also be submitted to the Alliance Board meeting on 6 October 2023. The report will also be submitted to the NHS Forth Valley Board for approval.

**3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 introduced new planning and reporting duties on a range of public bodies. Part 3 of the Act requires a Children's Services Plan to be prepared jointly by local authorities and health boards to cover a 3 year period.
- 3.2. Clackmannanshire's Children's Services Plan 2021/24 plan was agreed and approved by Clackmannanshire Council, NHS Forth Valley Board and The Alliance Board in 2021 ([Children's Services Plan 2021/24](#))
- 3.3. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on the local authority and relevant health board to publish an annual report on the extent to which children's services and related services have, in that period, been working towards improving local priorities for children and young people.
- 3.4. Co-ordination, management and monitoring of the Children's Services Plan are undertaken by a range of partners through the Children & Young People's

Strategic Partnership Group (CYPSPG). The Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2022/23 has been produced in collaboration with members of the CYPSPG.

- 3.5. The 2022/23 Annual Report demonstrates how partners have worked collaboratively together to make a meaningful and positive difference to improving the lives of children, young people and families in Clackmannanshire and have supported and promoted their health and wellbeing. It contains examples of our key achievements focussed around our shared priority outcomes and our actions and commitment to Keeping the Promise for our care experienced children, young people and their families through our Promise Plan as well as looking forward to new, innovative prevention based approaches planned as part of our Whole Family Wellbeing Fund programme that will help transform how families in Clackmannanshire are supported.
- 3.6. Appendix A of the Annual Report provides an update on progress on Clackmannanshire's Whole Family Wellbeing Funding activity.
- 3.7. Appendix B sets out the outcome measures we are using to track our performance and helps us to know where we are making a positive difference, where we are making the greatest impact and where we need to focus our collective action to improve better outcomes.
- 3.8. Appendix C of the Report provides a summary update on our progress against actions agreed in our Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2024 around the five Promise priorities which are:
- A Good Childhood
  - Whole Family Support
  - Supporting the Workforce
  - Planning
  - Building Capacity
- 3.9. The achievements outlined in the 2022/23 Annual Report is recognition for all the staffs work across Clackmannanshire community planning partnership to make a meaningful and positive difference to improving the lives and wellbeing of children, young people and their families in Clackmannanshire so that they grow up loved, safe and respected.

#### **4.0 Sustainability Implications**

4.1 None

#### **5.0 Resource Implications**

5.1 *Financial Details*

5.2 There is no financial implication from this report.

## 6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1 Is this report exempt? Yes  (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No **X**

## 7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box )

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life	<b>X</b>
Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential	<b>X</b>
Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish	<b>X</b>

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

## 8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

**Yes**

## 9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers.

**Yes**

## 10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix 1: Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2022/23

## 11.0 Background Papers


11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

**No**

**Author(s)**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>TEL NO / EXTENSION</b>
Sharon Robertson	Chair, Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Chief Social Work Officer	5184

**Approved by**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
Lorraine Sanda	Strategic Director of People	



Clackmannanshire Children's Services Plan 2021-2024

Keeping our Promise

**Annual Report 2022/2023**

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## Introduction

Welcome to Clackmannanshire's Children and Young People's Plan Annual Report *Keeping our Promise*. This is the second annual report of our current Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2024 which builds on the collective work of the Clackmannanshire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership during the reporting period of 2022/2023. Through our important early intervention activities and initiatives, we continue with our shared ambition to make a meaningful and positive difference to improving the lives and wellbeing of children, young people and their families in Clackmannanshire so that they grow up loved, safe and respected.

This report showcases our key achievements and successes during 2022/23 and is focussed around our shared priority outcomes:

- *Children and young people are safe from harm*
- *Children and young people have the best possible life experience and opportunities*
- *Children and young people understand their rights and are engaged and involved in decision making*
- *Children, young people and families can access the right services based on their needs*
- *The health and wellbeing of children and young people is improved and inequalities are reduced*



We grow up loved, safe  
and respected so that  
we realise our full  
potential

The work of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has significant cross-over and alignment with our other local strategic partnerships and integrated work streams. This includes our Child Protection Committee, Violence Against Women and Girls, Community Justice Partnership, Tackling Poverty Partnership, Family Wellbeing Partnership and our Alcohol and Drug Partnership. Working collaboratively we share the same aims and aspirations to deliver the best possible outcomes for children, young people and families across Clackmannanshire. Tackling poverty, reducing inequality and a shift to early intervention and prevention are shared priorities across our strategic plans and are at the heart of everything we do.

Our annual report also highlights our actions and commitment by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership to Keeping the Promise for our care experienced children, young people and their families through our Promise Plan as well as looking forward to new, innovative prevention based approaches planned as part of our Whole Family Wellbeing Fund programme that will help transform how families in Clackmannanshire are supported. This includes the work of the pioneering Family Wellbeing Partnership which is focused on enhancing wellbeing and developing capabilities so individuals, families and our communities live flourishing lives.

Through our effective partnership working, we will continue to persist with our collaborative efforts to reduce inequalities and improve better outcomes for our children, young people, families and communities. Getting it right for every child, young person and family, our focus on holistic whole family support in keeping families together and commitment to Keeping our Promise to our care experienced children and young people remains a consistent focus and at the heart of our shared vision that *Clackmannanshire's children and young people have the best opportunities and life chances; experience a safe and happy childhood; develop positive wellbeing and can access high quality learning and development opportunities*.

Appendix A provides an update on progress on Clackmannanshire's Whole Family Wellbeing Funding.

Appendix B sets out the outcome measures we are using to track our performance to help us to see where we are making a positive difference and where we are making the greatest impact. These measures also help us to identify and understand where we need to prioritise opportunities for improvement and take collective action to deliver better outcomes. The most recent available data has been used across reporting performance measures.

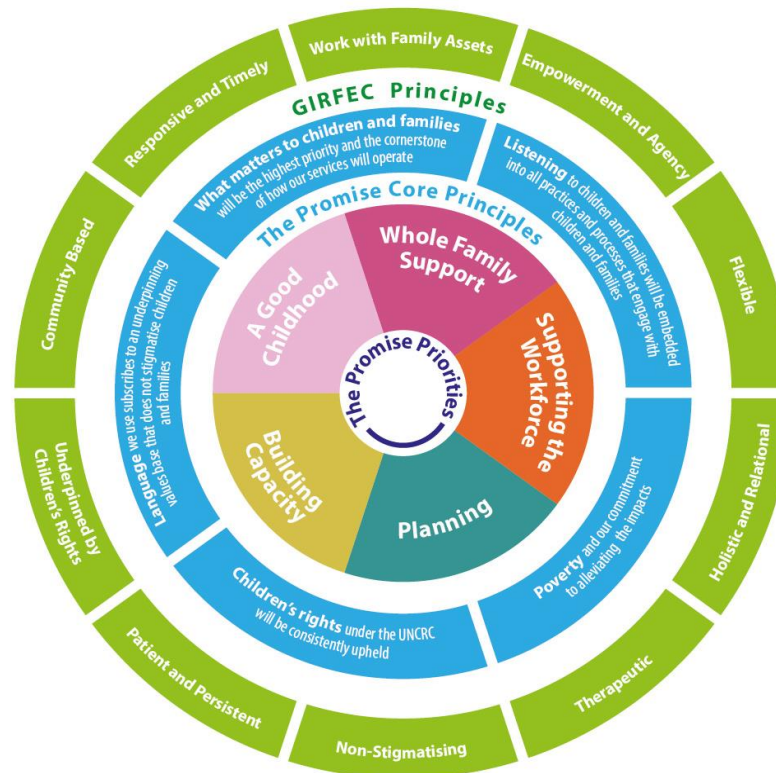
Appendix C provides a detailed update on our progress made against our priority actions agreed in our current 2021-2024 Children and Young People's Plan.

Sharon Robertson  
Chair of Clackmannanshire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

# Our Approach - Keeping our Promise



**Our Vision:**  
 We want Clackmannanshire to be a great place for children and young people to grow up. We will do this by ensuring they have the best opportunities and life chances; experience a safe and happy childhood; develop positive wellbeing and can access high quality learning and development opportunities



**Our Outcomes:**

- Children and young people are safe from harm
- Children and young people have the best possible life experience and opportunities
- Children and young people understand their rights and are engaged and involved in decision making
- Children, young people and families can access the right services based on their needs
- The health and wellbeing of children and young people is improved and inequalities are reduced



## Our Clackmannanshire Profile: Children and Young People

**118** children were referred to the Children's reporter, compared to 161 (**27% less**) than the previous year. The highest proportion of referrals came from Police (65%).

**32.4%** of all pupils live in our most deprived areas [SIMD Q1]; compared to 31.8% in 2020/21. 14.1% live in our least deprived areas [SIMD Q5] compared to 14.6% the previous year. There is more than double the number of pupils in SIMD Q1 compared to SIMD Q5. Nationally the ratio is 22.3% and 19.3% respectively.

The rate assessed and/or declared as having a disability fell to **12.3** per 1000 pupils and lower than the Scottish rate at 27.7 per 1000 pupils.

**26.7%** of primary school pupils have Additional Support Needs; a fall on the previous year [29.6%] and lower than the Scottish average of 28.3%. 38.2% of secondary school pupils identified as having Additional Support Needs compared to the previous year [37.6%]. Despite the increase this rate remains lower than the Scottish average of 40.1%

**77%** of primary school pupils and **21%** of secondary school pupils registered for Free School Meals compared to the previous year [63.7% and 18.7%]. Scottish average is 76% for primary and 17.8% for secondary.

**25.9%** of children are living in poverty compared to the previous year [23.9%] and higher than the Scottish figure of 24%.

The rate of teenage pregnancies has been reducing from a high of 46.8 per 1000 women to **32.8** per 1000 women in 2020/21. The Scottish average rate fell from 30 per 1,000 women in 2018 to 23.9 per 1,000 in 2020/21.

**146** incidents per 10,000 population of domestic violence. This is higher than the Scottish average of 118 incidents per 10,000 population] and 4th highest in Scotland. Although a reduction from 151 incidents per 10,000 population from 2021/22.

**266** care experienced children as at 31 July 2022; **2.65%** of the 0- 17 year population [previous year of 2.7%] and higher than the Scotland rate of 1.2% of the 0-17 year population.

**43%** of care experienced children and young people are looked after by friends/relatives; **higher** than the Scotland percentage of 34%.

**96.5%** pupils enter positive destination [Scotland 95.7%]

**24%** external foster care provision compared to the Scottish average of 10%.

The rate of child protection investigations (per 1,000 of the 0-15years population) was **19.2**. This was higher than the Scottish average of 12.6.

In 2021 **17.2%** of the population were under the age of 16, above the national average of 16.6%.

As at 31 July 2022, **1.7** per 1,000 children (0-15 years population) were on the Child Protection Register; below the Scottish average rate of 2.2. per 1,000 children (0-15 years). This compares to our 2021 rate of **4.6** and Scottish rate of 2.3.

**6666** pupils registered in 2021/22 in schools compared to 6731 pupils in 2020/21.

## Our Key Achievements

Here is a summary of the highlights that showcase our collective work and collaborative efforts as a partnership during the period of 2022/23 to improve the wellbeing, opportunities and life chances for children, young people and families in Clackmannanshire through the delivery of our Children's Services Plan. In particular, we highlight our effective approaches and activities that support prevention and early intervention based services and initiatives.



## Children and young people in Clackmannanshire are Safe from Harm

### During 2022/23 we:

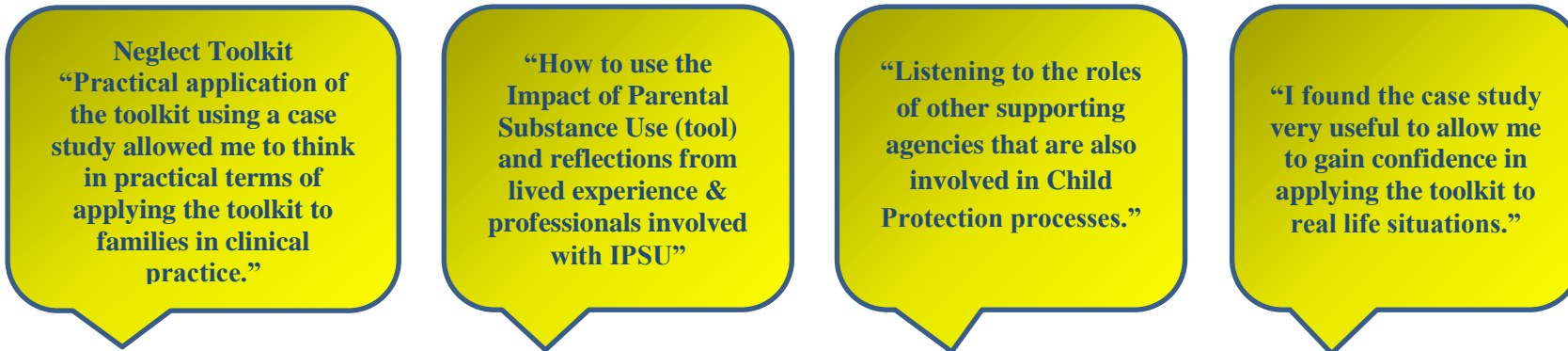
- Implemented and embedded our **e-IRD Interagency Referral Discussion** process across Forth Valley which has been highly effective in ensuring appropriate and timely information sharing and joint decisions in response to child protection concerns to make sure that children and young people get the right support at the right time. We have a robust approach to quality assuring our IRD process through our e-IRD steering group – to audit recording of information and decisions taken. Continued positive feedback from Police Scotland partners in regards high quality of information in the IRD process is ensuring clear decisions and meaningful interventions to protect children and young people. During 2022/23 we have undertaken 171 Interagency Referral Discussions.
- Progressed development of the **Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM)** approach for joint investigative interviews with our Forth Valley partners; a trauma-informed, best practice model that seeks to secure best evidence for court processes and inform assessment of risk to the child and other children. This approach will ensure that all interviews take place in a safe, child friendly, age appropriate way and that all children and their families receive the practical and emotional support they require to recover.
- Progressed local implementation of the revised **National Guidance for Child Protection 2021**, including updating of key processes, training material, implementation of new minimum data set and strengthening meaningful involvement of children/young people in child protection process.
- Strengthened opportunities for learning and development and building capacity through our **comprehensive multi agency public protection training** calendar. During 2022/23, 228 staff across the partnership benefited from accessing training opportunities to improve the impact of their practice and improve the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and families. Our multi-agency Public Protection Learning & Practice Development Workforce Strategy 2020-23 supports a commitment to workforce planning, training and development for staff across the partnership, including emodules on Clacks Academy and the NHS Forth Valley Learning Platform. Examples of multi-agency training delivered during 2022/23 includes:

*Child Protection for the General Contact Workforce (Monthly)*  
*Child Protection Key Processes Roles & Responsibilities (Quarterly)*  
*Impact of Parental Substance Use (IPSU) (Quarterly)*  
*Neglect Toolkit (Quarterly)*  
*Identification of Need, Risk and Desired Outcomes (Quarterly)*  
*Protecting Children with Disabilities (2x yearly)*

*Safe & Together (2x yearly)*  
*Child Protection IRD (3x yearly)*  
*Multi agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) (3x yearly)*  
*Trigger Trio (Parental Substance use, Parental Mental ill Health and Domestic Abuse (3x yearly)*  
*Harmful Sexual Behaviour (3x yearly)*  
*Child Sexual Exploitation (3x yearly)*  
*Criminal Exploitation across the Life span (3x yearly)*  
*Professional Curiosity & Challenge (3 x yearly)*

- An Impact of Parental Substance Use (IPSU) short life multi-agency working group led to the development of new resources to support IPSU uptake across the system including a podcast for practitioners which included parental lived experience.

### Impact statements from staff accessing multi-agency training and development opportunities:



- Through the pilot **Family Wellbeing Partnership Intrapreneurship Programme** - The Lens has supported a range of local projects, including those supporting children and families affected by domestic abuse. The Lens supports participants with three face-to-face group mentoring sessions to help the teams turn their ideas into action. Two Investment events have taken place, with two projects ‘More Than a Coffee’ being awarded £10,000 to support families experiencing domestic abuse and ‘Shoulder to Shoulder’ awarded £3,400 to train two Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates.
- Initiated a **redesign of our youth justice provision**. Supported by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice, we are developing a new model which is aimed at building rights-respecting services that put children and young people at the heart of reimagining justice. This approach reflects the core components of the UNCRC and aligns with the outcomes of The Promise. Key partners from the community planning partnership including Elected Members actively engaged in a strategic workshop, using the 7 principles of the Scottish Approach to Service Design, to identify and consider areas of development and ways to improve outcomes children and young people in conflict with the law. Further workshops involving operational staff and those with lived experience are planned. A training pathway for new staff is operational with staff registered to complete training in various risk assessment tools and practice frameworks. The Outcomes Star, evidence based tool for measuring and supporting change when working with individuals is being piloted. Findings from Clackmannanshire’s Community Justice Partnership Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment 2022/23 are informing the redesign.
- Continued with our proactive work to address Domestic Abuse. Clackmannanshire as the smallest county within mainland Scotland continues to have high numbers of calls to Police Scotland about a domestic abuse incident. In 2021-22 Clackmannanshire was fourth highest per 10,000 of population at 146. As well as contributing to the 16 Days of Action as part of Forth Valley, we continue to run 3 pilot schemes: **Non Court Mandated Caledonian Programme**, the **STRIVE support for Women and Perpetrators** and the new **Men's Self Referral helpline** launched in January 2023, offering men support to address their concerns regarding domestically abusive behaviours.
  - Working collaboratively within Clackmannanshire Justices and Child Care Services the pilot Non Court Mandated Caledonian Programme which provides earlier intervention and support at an earlier stage for perpetrators and survivors of domestic abuse, supported 22 individuals in 2022/2023.

- Enhanced support to domestic abuse concerns with the addition of a Perpetrator and Women's Worker embedded in STRIVE has enabled 29 women to benefit from the Women's Worker Support during 2022/23, an increase of 3 on the previous year. Accessible to children services, young couples under the age of 18yrs have also benefited from this targeted support.
- Justice Services continue to deliver the **Caledonian Programme** as part of community based disposals available to the Courts. This includes both one to one and group work interventions and is run in partnership with SACRO to ensure survivors of domestic abuse are also supported. This support also includes a specific Children's Support Worker to ensure that the child's voice is heard.
- **Clackmannanshire Women's Aid** Children and Young People's team continue their work in primary and secondary settings providing 1:1 support to those affected by domestic violence. They also run workshops in secondary schools which explore topics such as respect and equality in friendships/relationships and how to identify safe and unhealthy relationships, consent in a relationship, gender equality and awareness of on-line abuse, the law and social media.
- **Forth Valley Rape Crisis Centre**, in partnership with Rape Crisis Scotland and Clackmannanshire Women's Aid, delivers a comprehensive sexual violence prevention programme in the secondary schools in Clackmannanshire. Feedback from each school, both from teachers and young people, has been excellent. Young people have commented on being able to lead their own learning and gain confidence to talk about things that society sees as more taboo. Sexual violence prevention is essential in challenging attitudes and reducing harm. Having these workshops in place allows survivors to be seen and heard, importantly they can then access support at the centre or through the helpline.
- Continued to deliver **Safe and Together training**, our key approach to tackling domestic abuse and improving safety planning and support given to women and children, as well as support to perpetrators of domestic abuse. The model provides staff with the necessary competences and skills in responding to the issue of domestic abuse, supporting child well-being and keeping children safe. Our public protection learning and development advisor facilitates Safe & Together briefings to a multi-agency audience as part of the multi-agency public protection training agenda. A multi-agency four day Safe & Together core practice training was delivered in December 2022.
- **Routine Enquiry** continues to be undertaken within health settings, including within the Universal Health Visiting Pathway for Health Visitors.
- During 2022-23, the Partnership developed a new **Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy** which will last for 3 years. The strategy was developed through collaboration with partners in the Partnership, alongside other agencies involved in tackling VAWG locally, including the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership and consultation with those with lived experience.
- Enhanced Induction and close support to our newly qualified social work staff (NQSW) that ensures they have the necessary skills to work competently and confidently in supporting children and young people in need of care and protection. This includes two weekly NQSW sessions on a variety of different topics and four weekly action learning sets involving reflective sessions and staff enabled to reflect upon and improve their practice through regular supervision.
- Progressed implementation of Phase 2 of **Planet Youth Icelandic Prevention Model**, a collaborative, early intervention model designed to influence risk and protective factors related to substance use within community, school, and peer and family contexts with the aims to reduce substance use and promote greater mental health and development. Introduced to all secondary schools in September 2021 with support from the Winning Scotland Foundation and 'Planet Youth Scotland', Phase 1 involved all S2 and S3 pupils across all 3 Academies taking part in an on-line survey and the data processed by the University of Reykjavik provided detailed insight into the lives and lifestyles of participating pupils. A School Network Group was established to facilitate and support the Icelandic Prevention Model survey results across all secondary educational establishments. Phase 2 has involved engagement with Third Sector, statutory partners and community with representatives from Planet Youth, NHS Health Promotion, Recovery Scotland and colleagues from our Alcohol and Drug Partnership forming a Coalition Group to support planned inputs at Parent Council meetings within each of our Academies to share high level messages from the data capture as part of the Dissemination

Plan. To inform future planning, each school captured the opinions of their Additional Support Needs community via planned focus groups to take account of their voice and experiences. Recent training from members of the Planet Youth Icelandic team has focused engagement with parents, carers and families to support the work of the project and increase its profile across Clackmannanshire.

Each secondary school has identified key actions from the data and formed an individualised school action plan. Key focus areas that continue to have priority include support for mental wellbeing concerns, suicidal intent and self harm, with each school providing bespoke support based on their context data. Through partnership working with local groups, bespoke opportunities are being created to tackle issues such as substance abuse and vaping.

Clackmannanshire shared progress at a showcase event held in the Scottish Parliament Garden Lobby during 25-27 April 2023. Clackmannanshire is unique in that we are implementing this project across all our secondary schools and communities. Additional funding has been made available to support the delivery and embedding of Planet Youth and it is anticipated that a community coordination post will be explored. Implementing Phase 2 of the Icelandic Prevention Model will ensure that all practitioners have access to clear, practical support, training and help to enhance the consistency of response particularly in relation to substance use, self-harm and suicidal intent.

- **Digital wellbeing** within schools remains a priority focus within the Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC) which includes Clackmannanshire. The Forth Valley West Lothian RIC E-Safety Partnership is continuing to help celebrate great uses of the Internet and mobile technology, and promote the safe use of the Internet and digital technology to reduce online and e-crime and risk of harm to children, young people, adults, and vulnerable groups in the Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling and West Lothian Council areas through its Digital Wellbeing Partnership - WIZE <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/fvwlrhc/hwb/wize-digital-wellbeing/> This year's Safer Internet Day took place on 07 February 2023. The theme, 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online' focused on encouraging children and young people to shape the online safety support that they receive.
- Delivered **'Everyone's Invited' programme** designed to empower school communities to promote healthy relationships and sexual wellbeing and to tackle gender-based bullying. Assemblies and workshops were held for young people, staff and parents/carers. The approach is empathetic and non-judgemental and is aimed at presenting the facts about such issues. There was a heavy focus on digital intimacy and online/phone issues that ensures children and families know how to stay safe online.
- The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service also engages with the young people of Clackmannanshire to keep them safe from harm by providing various safety inputs to our local schools, offering Firesetters Intervention and Education to under 18s involved in fire setting incidents (14 interventions in Clacks in the past year), and offering Station based Fireskills courses – a week long work experience style programme, with the young people identified and chosen by local authority education to attend, with a next course due Autumn 2023. Feedback from previous courses has included:

“My confidence has increased”

“I have learned to work well in a team”

“I have learned CPR and to use a Defibrillator”

- Continued to embed evidence based trauma informed services for children and young people at risk of suicide. Our **Digital Crisis Intervention Service** (which has been in operation since 1 April 2021) and our targeted communication and marketing activities is ensuring awareness of supports available and helping children and their families to receive personalised support when it is needed to prevent risk of harms escalating.



As the first local authority in Scotland to enter into a 'keyword partnership' with *Shout* to provide a bespoke point of access for Clackmannanshire residents, we have extended our contract to March 2026 to provide the 'Text Clacks' to the text-based crisis intervention support service for suicide prevention for 5-26 year olds, and is accessible 24/7, 365 days per year. Suicide was discussed in 19% of conversations using the 'Clacks' keyword between June 2022 and June 2023. To date, although risk assessment protocols have been instigated on a number of occasions, no texters have required an active rescue by the emergency services, indicating that

these processes may be evidencing a reduction in harm. The service has been used throughout all hours of the day, but usage figures mirror those of all of our digital services to indicate that out of hours services are necessary for our population. There have been 30 conversations in the first six months of 2023.

A variety of other work continues, including providing Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST) training for staff across the People Directorate, and the establishment of a Children and Young People's Suicide Prevention Group, which has the aim of re-developing the Suicide and Self-Harm policies for Education. This group feeds in to the wider Suicide Prevention Group operating across Stirling and Clackmannanshire.

These areas of work sit under wider work streams within the **Mental Health and Wellbeing in Clacks Transformation Project** which aims to develop a whole-systems approach to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and their families within Clackmannanshire, to better promote prevention and early intervention within local communities.

There continues to be ongoing and persistent social media coverage (Twitter and Instagram) regarding the whole of the Mental Health and Wellbeing in Clacks Transformation Project, particularly the open access digital and face to face services. Content is shared around themed monthly topics e.g. 'Stay Safe in September' (self-harm and suicide) or 'Find Your Joy In June' (depression), with a focus on psycho-education, stigma reduction and signposting to resources/services. Social media posts were viewed approximately 200,000 times between June 2022 and June 2023. A variety of printed materials continue to be available and on display including posters, leaflets, banners, pin badges, business cards. A number of face-to-face events have taken place over the past year, including participating in health and wellbeing fairs in primary and secondary schools, and a 'Mental Health Showcase' event in Alloa Town Hall in November 2022 attended by 70 people, included families, Elected Members, emergency service personnel, Council staff and staff working in Third Sector organisations.



## *Children and young people in Clackmannanshire have the best possible life experiences and opportunities*

### **During 2022/23 we:**

- Increased take up of Early Learning and Child Care places. 153 eligible 2 year olds received 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare. Of those 153 children, 33 children received their placement in a private nursery, 2 with a partner childminder with the remaining 118 children in a local authority setting. A discretionary policy developed in August 2022 has enabled placements for children who do not meet the eligible 2's criteria to be offered a couple of sessions a week to provide support to their families.
- Increased opportunities for all children and young people to access leisure, wellbeing and sports programmes and as part of our development of the Wellbeing Hub in Clackmannanshire. Children and young people benefited from a full programme of free **Active Schools extra-curricular programmes** in place across all 18 primary and the 3 secondary schools - offering a wide range of sport and physical activity clubs before school, at lunchtime and after school. These clubs were scheduled over a 30-week period from August 2022 to June 2023. Children at Lochies School also benefited from the new lunchtime sports sessions being delivered.
- Provided free wrap around childcare (extended breakfast club provision and after school) in targeted primary schools for priority families in relative poverty, as defined in 'Best Start, Bright Futures'. The **Clackmannanshire Child Wellbeing Project** is currently supporting 95 families and 136 children and young people. Support has included 60 term time breakfast clubs every day, up to 172 after school places, 134 places offered during the April holidays and childcare places at Play Alloa, a specialist provider of regulated childcare for children with complex additional support needs.
- Re-introduced weekly **Sports Development classes** with gymnastics, football, athletics, skiing and swimming lessons offered in the evenings. Thirteen weeks of holiday camps were offered across a variety of venues and activities including football, skiing, judo, archery, rugby and cycling with free places offered to those children of families in need of extra support at summer, October and Easter. Packed lunches were also provided.
- Delivered the **Summer 2022 programme** with 528 individuals attending. 100 free places were offered for targeted pupils, equating to 3736 hours of activity delivered. 100% of respondents said the quality of activity offered was excellent. Inter school sport for primary and secondary pupils has been re-introduced at pre-Covid levels with 100% of primary aged pupils having the opportunity to take part in at least one festival or competition during 2022/2023 and a full range of secondary events including badminton and athletics championships took place. Parents and carers have also been welcomed back as spectators to school events.
- Re-started the primary curricular swimming programme with every Primary 5 pupil (around 550 pupils) given the chance to take part in five weeks of water safety and basic aquatics skills supported by a newly recruited and nationally trained team of lifeguards and swimming teachers.
- As the Wellbeing Hub and Lochies School project develops the provision of opportunities that ensures our children and young people can access a wider range of sport, leisure and wellbeing activities both within and outside school time. As the brief evolves the project team have been identifying current gaps and duplication in provision, and ensuring that the existing programming across Clackmannanshire is varied and robust and will be enhanced once the Wellbeing Hub and Lochies School open in late 2026/early 2027.

- Continued to target Strategic Equity Funding interventions to those areas of greatest need to improve outcomes and close the poverty related attainment gap through delivery of co-ordinated and focused programme plans designed to improve children’s literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in our schools. Targeted and enhanced bespoke support in place via the new Clackmannanshire Virtual Head Teacher roles for Primary and Secondary will ensure all children and young people have access to appropriate and timely support they need to thrive at school, including improving the educational outcomes for our care experienced children and young people.

In 2022/23 attainment across Literacy and Numeracy has seen improvement in many areas:  
 Literacy & Numeracy (P1, 4,7 combined):

- Literacy (unpublished) - Overall achievement increased to 69.5%, surpassing stretch aim of 68%
- Literacy (unpublished) - Quintile 1 increased to 61.2%, surpassing stretch aim of 59.3%
- Literacy (unpublished) - Quintile 5 increased to 79.8%, surpassing stretch aim of 76.9%
- The literacy gap closed to 18.6%. There has been a rise in overall attainment overall in Q1 and Q5 in 2022/23
- Numeracy (unpublished) - Quintile 5 remained almost the same at 81.5%, surpassing stretch aim of 79.3%

- The **Digital Device Programme** is about to enter year 3 of a 10 year device roll out plan. The programme aims to provide all pupils with a digital device to support their learning whilst ensuring equity of digital access for all pupils. To date, the project has seen all P4-S6 pupils receive their own Chromebook and is now moving on to the lower primary year groups with iPads being the device deployed to this age group over years 3 and 4. Since the implementation of this strategy, 6,837 Chromebooks have been deployed and are in use across our schools. The majority of these (5,832) are deployed directly to learners on a 1:1 basis to support their learning. Staff, schools and young people report that they have benefited greatly from having access to their own device. Results show that 87.3% of young people like having a Chromebook and 89% say it helps them learn. 88.5% of young people report no technical problems with using their digital device. Feedback from young people, parents, carers and staff has helped to inform next steps for the digital rollout.
- Continued to embed the **MCR Pathways Programme** across Clackmannanshire to ensure that every care experienced young person, or those who have experienced disadvantage, has access to the same educational outcomes, career opportunities and life chances as every other young person. Over the 2022/2023 academic year, 156 young people were supported by the MCR programme in Clackmannanshire. Care experienced young people looked after at home, looked after away from home, those with informal social work supervision and those previously looked after were offered support. MCR mentored care-experienced young people have achieved their best results over the last three academic years in all attainment KPIs, ranging from 9% to 20% improvement.

Since August 2022 the MCR Programme has identified 77 mentored relationships across the authority with 21 in Alloa Academy, 28 in Alva Academy, 27 in Lornshill Academy and 1 in CSSS. The progress and monitoring of these identified young people is reviewed via a Schools Deputy Head Teacher Lead network to ensure that care experienced young people, or those who have experienced disadvantage, have access to the same educational outcomes, career opportunities and life chances as every other young person. 57 S1 and S2 young people are participating in focused Group Work programmes. The scope and reach of these Groups has been extended to include not only those with social work involvement but also those young people with continuous instability at home. Following a Mentor Recruitment events in October 2022, currently 30 mentors have been identified to be matched with a young person.



- Continued to increased citizenship through **Youth Volunteering**. This year CTSI has cooperated with teachers and DYW Forth Valley; promoted the Saltire Awards during Volunteers' Week; attended more recruitment fairs in the University and College, and has continued working with CLD to deliver the Clacks Youth Volunteering (CYV) programme. CTSI has also started building a stronger relationship with Additional Support Needs departments. There are plans to increase the number of school visits in autumn 2023 while giving talks to third-sector groups about opening their volunteer opportunities to young people, which Saltire can help groups do. CTSI support volunteering-involving opportunities to go through the Volunteer Friendly Award which is a good way to prepare for taking on young volunteers by auditing policies and procedures.
  - The **Saltire Awards** registrations increased by 90 new volunteers for the year 22/23 (previously 92 during the 21/22 period). The recording of hours increased on the previous year to 8,151 hours (from 6,037 in 21/22). The highest awarding categories were 10-, 50-, and 25-hour certificates (with 30, 25 and 22 certificates issued, respectively). The stated aim for this period was to "attract new volunteers and encourage retention and completion of longer awards". This goal has been either matched or exceeded in the numbers referenced. The overall number of certificates issued is lower at 110 (versus 173 in the previous year) but more hours are being achieved so young people are staying in volunteering roles but may not meet the higher-level category of awards. Higher quantities of the Ascent category (50, 200, 500 hours) certificates were issued compared to last year.
  - Over the next year, the Volunteer Development Team will seek to work closely with the new 'Virtual Principal' by setting up a 'Volunteer Academy' where schools can see what local groups are wanting to take on care-experienced young people as volunteers and support them. We also aim to increase the number of volunteer hours and number volunteering recorded through Saltire next year. As the educational support landscape changes, CTSI will build firmer relationships with Clackmannanshire's secondary schools and their staff to entrench the option of Saltire more uniformly across the County.
  - Continue to implement and embed our **Mental Health and Wellbeing in Clacks transformation project** which seeks to effect sustainable change in mental health for children, young people and their families through the implementation of a whole-systems approach and 'continuum of support' that is allowing for personalisation and choice in building a package of support that meets the needs of the child/young person at the right time and in the right place. The project has four principles – holistic ('Closer to Clacks'), one door ('Tell Us Once'), contextual ('Closer to Clacks') and responsive ('Children Cannot Wait') which act as drivers for ten work streams covering a range of activities including the development of a continuum of new mental health supports, available both digitally and face-to-face. This enables children, young people and their families to create packages of support that most suit their needs. Our digital services include *Kooth*, *Togetherall* and *Shout*.
  - New services include a Wellbeing Worker service for the Through Care After Care population and an animal-assisted therapy. In addition, the new multi-agency referral pathway meeting is operating effectively, and a new Neurodevelopmental Pathway procedure has been agreed across Forth Valley. The development of our **Directory of Mental Health Supports website** offers a 'one stop shop' for information and advice relating to a range of mental health needs: <https://sites.google.com/view/directory-of-mental-health-sup/MHWBinClackmannanshire>
- We continue to develop materials to support understanding about key issues including anxiety or suicide prevention and increasing our capacity to offer preventative training through recognised programmes such as Mental Health First Aid training.
- To date, the project has achieved a number of key milestones across all work streams, including the launch of a new website; establishment of a range of services across the age span from 5-26 and a new way of allocating mental health supports through a single-point-of-access multi-agency forum. We are now beginning to be able to demonstrate the impact of the project – examples include a 39% reduction in referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) within the FK10 postcode area.

- 635 children and young people accessed our range of digital supports between June 2022 and June 2023, with an average of 52% of logins occurring out of hours.
- 220 children and young people were referred to our two face-to-face services between June 2022 and June 2023 with 83% of pupils referred to the Creative Therapeutic Interventions for Children (CTIfC) Service, and has been rated as showing an improvement in wellbeing.
- 71.5% of pupils accessing the Counselling in Schools Service (CiSS) have shown improvements in their YP-CORE<sup>1</sup> scores.

**DRIVING CHANGE IN MENTAL HEALTH FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES  
TRANSFORMATION PROJECT OVERVIEW**

We want to do things differently to improve mental health & wellbeing for our children, young people and their families.

There are 9 workstreams in the project, all designed to add to or improve existing services within Clackmannanshire, with 3 cross-cutting themes which run through all the workstreams.

**Themes**

**CO-PRODUCTION**  
Making sure the voices of children & young people, and their parents/carers are central to the development of new or improved services and supports

**COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING**  
Getting information and resources out to the people that need it, quickly and efficiently via a number of sources

**QUALITY ASSURANCE & EVALUATION**  
Using data to make sure that the services we are designing are making a difference to our communities through improved outcomes

**Workstreams**

**REFERRAL PATHWAYS & DIRECTORY OF SUPPORTS**  
To help know what's out there and how to access it

**MULTI-AGENCY FORUM**  
A single point of access to allocate mental health supports & services following the principle of 'Tell Us Once'

**COUNSELLING IN SCHOOLS SERVICE FOR 10-18 YEAR OLDS**  
For longer term, direct support via 'talking' therapy

**CREATIVE THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS FOR CHILDREN SERVICE**  
For longer-term, direct support that is developmentally appropriate for 5 - 9 year olds

**MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR 16-26 YEAR OLDS**  
To make sure our most vulnerable young people get the support they need

**DEVELOPING 'ONE DOOR' COMMUNITY SPACES**  
To provide support in the heart of our communities both face-to-face and online

**COMMUNITY ASD (AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER) ASSESSMENT PATHWAY**  
For diagnostic assessments that are timely and happen in the context of the child/young person

**STAFF HEALTH & WELLBEING**  
Looking after our biggest asset - our staff

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**  
Providing training and support across all sectors

- 925 children and young people registered for Kooth, which is approximately 9% of the total 10-26 year olds.
- 48.5% of logins to Kooth took place out of hours; highlighting the continuing need for services that operate outside normal working hours.
- Text Clacks: 57 conversations took place across the twelve months to June 2023.
- Around 40% of "texters" have used the service more than once, an indicator that they have found the service useful.
- 19% of conversations mentioned Suicide [risk assessment protocols instigated]
- Since the contract launched in April 2021 no texter's have required an active rescue by the emergency services, indicating that the risk assessment and de-escalation processes may be evidencing a reduction in harm.

<sup>1</sup> Young Person's – Clinical Outcomes in Routine Evaluation

- Our **Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) Forum** continues to meet weekly with education and Third sector partners, including mental health representation from Creative Therapeutic Interventions for Children (CTIfC). There have been 156 referrals to the Forum since Sept 2022 and 22 of these have been allocated to CTIfC. The quality of referrals into the GIRFEC forum demonstrates improved use of the wellbeing assessment to assess children and young people's needs. The Forum continues to review and reflect on the themes emerging with a clear trend in referrals looking for support with anxiety, emotional health and wellbeing and Autism Spectrum Conditions. A Network Health Scorecard analysis shows that members of the Forum are positive about the purpose, performance and operations of the group. There are ongoing plans to improve the collation of impact data.
- The Scottish Government funded development across Forth Valley aimed at improving the assessment process for Neurodevelopmental Difficulties (NDD), with a suite of new materials to support educational establishments to make referrals regarding NDD developed. Plans to launch these materials across the Forth Valley West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative are at an early stage.
- Developed six **Flexible Learning Spaces** teams in educational establishments in response to identified need. Each establishment has access to a 'Team Around the School' to support with the development of the space and problem solve emerging issues. In the first term there were fewer referrals to the GIRFEC Forum for support from these establishments, indicating the inclusion of the flexible learning spaces is improving the capacity of the establishments to meet the needs of children/young people.
- Through the pilot **Family Wellbeing Partnership Intrapreneurship Programme** - Two successful Lens bids 'Without Exception' to test barriers and solutions to providing out of school activities for children with profound and complex additional support needs and 'ClaxP&C' to create a parents/carers led network for families of children with additional support needs.
- Developed an **Additional Support for Learning (ASL) Moderation group** with representation from all ASL Specialist Provisions and Outreach Teams with meetings taking place each term. An effective joint training session to support the consistent recording of reporting of incidents, as well as initiating a bank of effective risk assessment templates. Moderation activities such as Child's Plans have taken place, leading to a shared understanding of what a high quality Child's Plan should be. All participants reported that they highly valued these opportunities to meet and collaborate.
- Supported the development of an integrated **Transitions Strategy** and operational procedure to improve outcomes for disabled children and young people. Through the Operational Transitions Group, procedures and systems were reviewed to ensure that children are identified and assessed in time to provide a smooth transition. In addition, Children's services, Education and Health and Social Care Partnership have been working on a revised policy which will go out for consultation with stakeholders over the summer 2023.
- Worked in partnership with the specialist lived experience organisation Resilience Learning Partnership to **develop trauma-informed approaches** across the Council workforce, in line with the Scottish Government's 'Transforming Psychological Trauma' initiative. A programme of mandatory training for all managers has been approved by the Senior Leadership Group, and is due to start in mid-August 2023. A 'Toolbox Talk' to spread awareness of the prevalence and impact of trauma will be delivered across all Council staff. 'Conversation Cafe's' will be held to allow managers the opportunity to participate in reflective discussions regarding how they can take forward actions to move further towards becoming a trauma-transformed organisation. More intensive work is also planned with key teams to complete self-evaluation 'walk through' activities to ensure that services who are more likely to encounter those experiencing the impact of trauma are providing their services in ways that are sensitive to the needs of their service users. A recent funding announcement from the Scottish Government will allow this work to continue into 2024/25.



## *The health and wellbeing of children and young people is improved and inequalities are reduced*

### During 2022/23 we:

- Increased uptake of eligible teenage parents from Clackmannanshire who enrolled with the **Family Nurse Partnership (FNP)** programme with 83.9% accessing this service, and 50% receiving the recommended programme delivery of at least 11 visits during pregnancy. This is a 10% increase on 2021/22 enrolment figures (73.3%). The FNP programme seeks to improve the rate of young mothers accessing ante natal care and post natal maternity services through delivery of evidence based, intense home visiting programmes that support best outcomes for young families.
- Distributed, through the NHSFV Dental Public health service, 170 **Smile4Life children's packs** via Foodbanks, community and homelessness housing and sports organisations, care services, BAME groups and community and school nurses.
- Launched the **Baby Steps Project** with the aim to prolong the duration of breastfeeding - as we are aware that we have high cessation rates between initiation of feeding at birth and breastfeeding at 6 weeks. Project commenced in January 2023 and offers home visiting support for breastfeeding mothers and their babies in Clackmannanshire. Two Infant Feeding Support Workers have been employed initially for 1 year and are based with Midwives at CCHC offering breastfeeding support to women up to 8 weeks following the birth of their baby. January to March data indicates that of the women who accessed the service (it is offered to all breastfeeding mothers), over 70% continued to breastfeed their baby at 6-8 weeks. Following this success in Clacks, the project has been expanded to Stirling.
- Developed a new pathway of care for the delivery of **Health Reviews for Care Experienced Young People**. Partners for this work include NHS Forth Valley (Lead Nurses for Child Health & Child Protection, CETAC admin and Children's Services social work department). This Pathway is currently in final draft. Alongside annual health reviews undertaken by Health Visitors (for preschool children), School Nurses (for school aged children), the **Keep Well Project** now routinely offer annual health reviews to all care experienced young people that have left school up to age 26 years and any young people <19 years not in education or under care of the School Nurse team. This work will be further developed into 2023/24 empowering young people to take responsibility for their own health into adulthood.
- Delivered three **THRIVE to Keep Well** groups, a 16 week programme supporting parents in deprived areas to improve their mental health and well being and life circumstances, social connections and learning as part of stage 1 and pre-engagement into employability skills pipeline. Fourteen participants successfully completed the programme (82% of those who had originally enrolled), and 79% of those completing the course accessed a Keep well Health Assessment with NHS Forth Valley. 83% of participants noted improvements in their mental wellbeing measured both pre and post course using the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale. 89% of those who were parents identified that their capacity as a parent had improved. 82% of participants reported sustained activity towards a positive outcome, including starting a college course, starting volunteering, eating more vegetables, starting driving lessons, working out every day and cutting down smoking by accessing help from the pharmacy.

## Impact statements from parents accessing THRIVE to Keep Well

*“THRIVE has given me hope and support and helped find myself and self-worth and to believe in myself more”*

*“I have for the first time felt part of a group and truly realised my worth. The girls in my group will be part of my life going forward”*

- Continued through **Parental Employability Support** initiative to provide one-to-one pre-employability support for unemployed parents and in-work support to employed parents to help them maximise their household income. Participants of the programme have been helped to take steps to better opportunities and health through counselling, literacy, numeracy or digital support, confidence-building, travel support, and accessed a wide range of training options and work placements locally. Delivered by a consortium of third sector organisations, led by CTSi, 200 parents have been supported from period of Sept 2020 to end of March 2023 (of which 76 supported in 2022/23). Interventions supported included Employer Recruitment Incentive places, paid work placements, digital mental health support and partner projects.
- Reducing the impact of poverty on children and families continues to be one of the highest priorities for Clackmannanshire community partners, with Alliance partners supporting annually a range of activities and events during **Challenge Poverty Week** to raise local awareness of the challenges that poverty brings and showcase local initiatives making a difference to people’s lives in Clackmannanshire. In October 2022, a conference; ‘Turning the Tide’ was held and programme of events included workshops covering key ‘cost of living themes’, practical food events and a range of schools based activities. Additionally, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland was welcomed to Alloa Academy to hear from children, young people and families about how schools, supported by Clackmannanshire’s Family Wellbeing Partnership, are supporting our families.
- Celebrated the positive initiatives undertaken by educational establishments as part of the local and national Challenge Poverty Week Awareness Raising Campaign. A survey was undertaken to capture the planned focus for each establishment, with 100% of schools raising awareness of a key poverty issue as part of the themed days of the Challenge Poverty Week. 100% of establishments used their communication networks to signpost parents /carers to local support, events and organisations; 75% of establishments supported a local food or clothing bank and 75% of establishments offered a swap/bring and borrow facility for clothing/books/household goods.
- During Challenge poverty week (Oct 2022) volunteers completed the **Community Cooking Training** delivered by PHN team NHS Forth Valley. Active 8 Sauchie supported other community groups such as Sunnyside School Supper Club with Arts and Crafts activities. This connection has helped to support volunteers at Sunnyside supper club and as a result some families have joined Active 8 Sauchie and their children benefit from the youth club activities provided there. A pilot of Community Cooking with groups completing the Supper club training was also completed. Two training events were delivered for 11 people on the REHIS Introduction to Food & Health. Sunnyside supper club funded 4 families with wraparound care for 6 weeks run by volunteers including a school staff member and a parent.
- Enhanced staffs skills through the **Food Poverty and Food Insecurity in schools partnership**. This involved partners from Education, CTSi, NHS Forth Valley Dietetics, Health Visitors and Tullibody Community Garden and Sauchie Active 8, to tackle food poverty and insecurity through a combination of income maximisation through Best Start grants and practical food and cooking skills for children, young people and families. In

2022/2023 Clackmannanshire school support staff were trained by NHS Forth Valley Public Health Nutrition team in REHIS, 'How to Run a Cooking Group' and REHIS 'Elementary Food and Health', which enabled them to run REHIS accredited Elementary Cooking classes with children and young people who needed support. Tullibody Community Garden provided the use of the community kitchen and gardens for the cooking sessions. Young Food Ambassadors events were run as part of the summer holiday programmes with young people identified by local family support workers and voluntary organisations. Sessions were provided over 4 weeks by Community Food Development Workers from NHS Forth Valley and were run at Hawkhill Community Centre.

- Clackmannanshire School Support team received funding for an inter-generational soup pack with recipe for a Burns Supper in collaboration with the local residential home for older adults. The young people were involved in sourcing locally grown vegetables and making up the packs and also had the opportunity to volunteer at the Gate. This benefited 20-40 people including school families who use the Gate.
- Considerable progress has been made across the four main **Family Wellbeing Partnership** (FWP) work streams - STRIVE (Safeguarding Through Rapid Intervention); Child Wellbeing Project; Community Around the School; and Employability - to tackle inequalities and improve the wellbeing and capabilities of families and young people in Clackmannanshire. During 2022/23, the FWP has continued to focus on developing individual and community capacity through the way services are designed and delivered to support families through innovative and creative solutions and approaches including early intervention activities, flexible childcare and routes into employment.
- **STRIVE** (Safeguarding through rapid intervention) continues to deliver a multi- agency response at an early stage to reduce risk and increase opportunities for prevention and early intervention. Evidence from evaluation has highlighted that the rapid response from the team has been effective in ensuring that assistance is provided in a way that de-escalates crisis, reduces risk and prevents statutory intervention. The team has engaged additional third sector services to support the work of STRIVE, such as CERT (Clackmannanshire Economic Regeneration Trust) and Cyrenians and extended to include the energy team from within Clackmannanshire Council. The cost of living crisis affecting all families and all communities has resulted in an increase of referrals for money advice from January to April 2023.
- Over the last year, the FWP has continued to work alongside young people, families and staff by giving parents and local stakeholders the chance to share and develop ideas on how to improve the delivery of vital services for local families. Those ideas were developed through a series of dedicated workshops hosted by The Lens Perspective, which provides a practical, structured, action-orientated approach to community development. The pilot **Family Wellbeing Partnership Intrapreneurship Programme** launched in February 2022, with an Investment Day taking place in May 2022. A working collaboration between the Scottish Government Social Innovation Partnership and The Hunter Foundation, which continues to fund the investment in the overall programme of work in Clackmannanshire, invested £50k to support ten project ideas developed through the programme. Many of these projects have extended and evolved. Building on the success of the pilot programme, a second community-based programme, Lens 2 was launched in November 2022 to support the Family Wellbeing Partnership to broaden its reach and develop even more ideas rooted in the voice of local people. The investment fund was further increased to £75k with a further nine projects benefiting at an Investment Day held in April 2023.

## The Lens Impact Statements

“A few of us had an idea and dream of supporting families of children and young people living with profound and multiple learning disabilities to have fun activities during holidays and outside of school. In May 2022, we were given the opportunity through The Lens Project and Clackmannanshire Council.”

Parent of child with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities

“For the first time my daughter was able to have fun with a friend outside her home as well as with her extended family: it was absolutely beautiful.”

Parent of young person with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities

“It was a big achievement to gain funding. We are local people speaking for local people and wanted to do something to support our community. It was a great opportunity to work with a group of friends, develop more skills, try new things and support others.”

Member of community group which gained funding to lend garden and DIY equipment

- A wide range of work has continued to be undertaken directly by Alliance partners through the **Tackling Poverty Partnership** to mitigate the cost of living crisis and support local families. This has included activities to support wellbeing, through targeted responses to address financial insecurity rolled out across Clackmannanshire such as cash-first initiatives alongside the integration of money advice and holistic support services to prevent future hardship as outlined in our Local Child Poverty Annual Report 2022/23.

### Some highlights include:

- Continued to focus on **Income Maximisation and Financial Support** with Citizen's Advice Bureau running a wide range of projects focusing on income maximisation including welfare rights; help to claim and welfare rights & money advice (in partnership with Clacks Works). All clients accessing Clacks CAB services are offered a Financial Health Check. During 2022/23 4751 clients accessed services. The majority of enquiries related to income maximisation: 47% benefits; 8% debt issues; 10% finance & charitable support; 13% energy issues and 4% housing. This resulted in over £3.7 million client financial gain for Clackmannanshire residents.
- Over 1143 residents in Clackmannanshire were supported during 2022/23 period with energy advice including issuing fuel vouchers, bills, budgeting, switching suppliers and dealing with fuel debt, with this work generating financial gains of over £148k. More than 90 residents were supported with welfare rights and representation with a 95% success rate in overturning benefits decisions during the period, giving the clients a financial gain of £653k. Social Security Scotland continues to work in close partnership with organisations across Clackmannanshire to maximise the take-up of key benefits for families including Best Start Grants, Scottish Child Payment and Disability Payments.
- Continued to deliver the **Baby Financial Health Service**, established as a partnership between NHS Forth Valley and Citizens Advice Bureau to provide direct access for families referred from health visitors. In 2021/22 the service was fully funded by NHS Forth Valley April to September. Despite the project no longer being funded, Citizens Advice continues to accept referrals from health visitors. During the period 2022/23, 52 referrals were received which resulted in £55k financial gain for the 34 families who subsequently engaged.

- Work continues through the **Clacks Good Food (CGF) partnership programme** for dignified food provision including holiday hunger programmes, promotion of Best Start Grants and community based kitchens. A £5,000 grant from Sustainable Food Places (SFP) to promote Participatory Processes Development last summer enabled a programme of workshops to increase awareness of the Good Food Charter and spark a good food movement. A £7,000 grant from SFP helped develop a Good food Economy strategy in partnership with Forth Valley Food & Drink. Between February and March 2023, together with NHS Forth Valley, the CGF partnership provided a 10 week work placement for a 3rd year university student studying Public Health. This resulted in a piece of research and a report into ways to increase fresh fruit and vegetable take up from food bank settings with recommendations from this research being implemented within the CGF delivery plan.
- During 2022 **Who Cares? Scotland** distributed funding on behalf of the Scottish Government to support households impacted by winter pressures of fuel, material and food poverty. Twenty two care experienced children and young people benefited from funding totalling £3,300 in Clackmannanshire, including kinship families, families where children are looked after at home and care leavers. Advocacy support was also offered where need was highlighted.



## *Children and young people in Clackmannanshire understand their rights and are engaged and involved in decision making*

### **During 2022/23 we:**

- Continue to develop a rights-based approach that puts the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the centre of everything we do which includes ensuring that stakeholders are fully aware of developments relating to the UNCRC (Scotland) Bill. This means that Clackmannanshire is well placed to implement the legislation when it is passed, which is expected to be after the parliamentary summer recess 2023, as outlined by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice on 27 June 2023. Clackmannanshire Council, as part of the Forth Valley West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative (FVWL RIC) UNCRC working group, has continued to implement the RIC UNCRC action plan. This has included developing UNCRC resources and a toolkit, a self-evaluation resource and training videos have been made available. ThingLink has been developed by the FVWL UNCRC working group to raise awareness of UNCRC across FVWL in a fun and accessible way. This is now being used nationally. <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/fvwlr/uncrc/>
- A communications strategy is being developed to ensure all the UNCRC materials developed are accessible, available, and known as well as improving our approaches to ensure children, young people and families are aware of the incorporation of UNCRC and what it means for them. The next steps for the UNCRC group are to meet in August 2023, at which a timeline will be developed to refresh the professional learning of staff, given the delay of the original bill. Work will continue on a child friendly Complaints Procedure and ensuring that all stakeholders are fully apprised of the legislation.



**Examples of developing UNCRC practice having impact across Clackmannanshire's education establishments:**

- <https://theinspirationhub.co.uk/listing/alva-academy-un-sustainable-development-goals/>
- <https://theinspirationhub.co.uk/listing/childrens-parliament-investigates-how-professionals-make-childrens-rights-real/>

- In readiness for when the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is embedded in all aspects Scottish law, Multi-Agency United Nations on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), delivered training in 3 cohorts during Sept 2022.
- As part of the Child Wellbeing Project activity, young people from St. Mungo's Primary School engaged with 'A Place in Childhood' and created a **Clackmannanshire Children's Charter for Childcare**. The Children also attended Dundee to share their work and participate in a national Children's Charter for Scotland.
- Developed a Youth Engagement Framework for Clackmannanshire. A development group of Community Learning Development partnership based staff worked together to create the **Youth Voice Guidance Framework** and a supporting resource. It looks to support youth voice approaches within all aspects of the system including formal and non-formal education, community based learning and third sector organisations.
- Continued to ensure that the **Children Hearing advocacy services** were well promoted and made available to children and young people. Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) is fully supportive of the provision of children's advocacy services and has played a key role in developing an information leaflet and setting up a website on advocacy services for hearings. SCRA data shows there has been an increase in advocacy workers attending children's hearings since recording their attendance commenced in 2021.
- **Who Cares? Scotland** continue to provide an advocacy service to care experienced children and young people from Clackmannanshire. During 2022/23, 37 young people were referred to Who Cares? Scotland for advocacy support and 62 young people in total were supported. The service is open to children young people from all care settings up to 26 years. In addition to issue based advocacy, Who Cares? visit young people in our children's house monthly to provide group advocacy as well as any individual advocacy support which can include support to attend or representation at planning and review meetings. Support is comprehensive and relationship based and can span several years with young people returning for additional advocacy support at different times throughout their young lives. The service aligns strongly with local needs and priorities, including the Children's Services Plan and The Promise.
- Who Cares? Scotland has begun reporting on advocacy issues relating to groups of brothers and sisters. Between January and March 2023 Who Cares? supported sixteen groups of brothers and sisters totalling 39 individuals, young people were supported to exercise their rights to attend Children's Hearings for their brothers or sisters, and to raise advocacy issues in relation to family time with significant people within their family.
- Funding provided by Family Wellbeing Partnership supported 80 care experienced children and young people and their families to attend a day out at Blair Drummond Safari Park last summer. This allowed opportunities for care experienced families to be introduced to Who Cares? advocacy workers, and to especially make links with some of our kinship families to share information about advocacy services for the children they care for. Young people in Clackmannanshire supported by Who Cares? benefit from accessing other events and opportunities nationally, and more local events and festivities linked in with our *Oor Clacks Voices* the council's care experienced participation group.

- Continued to deliver the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Youth Scheme for young people in Clackmannanshire. Young people learn as individuals, develop positive relationships and actively work together for a safer Scotland. The scheme provides a great opportunity for young people in Clackmannanshire to develop their skillset and make a valuable contribution to their local communities, whilst gaining a unique insight into life at a working fire station. Those who have participated in this scheme have grown in confidence and been equipped with improved life skills as they volunteer as young ambassadors for SFRS. By participating in the programme, young people gain a practical understanding of the SFRS and play a supportive role in their communities as SFRS youth volunteers; supporting development and enhancing inter-personal skills and confidence.



## *Children and their families can access a range of support services and family therapies in Clackmannanshire*

### **During 2022/23 we:**

- Continued our investment in holistic, accessible family support services with our Third Sector partners who remain an important aspect to providing and delivering effective early intervention and prevention services focussed on safely maintaining as many children at home with their families and within their community. As a result our children and families are benefiting from a broad range of early help and support when they need it.
- Enhanced opportunities for Family Support services in Clackmannanshire to formally come together and meet regularly to discuss strategic themes and local implementation around the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, The Promise, funding and opportunities to work together to address gaps and minimise duplication. The strengthening of key processes means all referrals to Third Sector agencies are screened and allocated via the Education and Social Work screening groups, ensuring that allocation is as quick and timely as possible and that resources are used appropriately. Feedback from Third sector partners has highlighted that this is working well but there continues to be increasing demand for these services by families.
- Expanded and increased our range of family support provision across the county. Additional resource is being allocated to Third Sector providers from the Whole Family Wellbeing fund in order to expand the range of support to families, particularly those children at the edge of or returning from care. Early signs of impact from activity include a reduction in referrals to the children's reporter and the number of children on the Child Protection Register. Our next steps is to work with our new Participation Development Officer to identify barriers to accessing services and work to ensure that services are accessible at the earliest opportunity and linking families with universal services or more targeted support.
- The feedback from service examples of outcomes highlighted below, both from providers and families, is being used to co-ordinate and plan supports across the county with excellent examples of partnership working regularly evident through the Family Support Sub Group.



- Functional Family Therapy exceeded the contract numbers of 21 families for the year 22-23.
- Data shows that 54% of completed cases were assessed by referring social workers as being highly likely, likely or somewhat likely to become accommodated at intake. By completion of the FFT intervention only 17% of young people were assessed as being “somewhat” likely to become accommodated and 83% were deemed as unlikely or very unlikely to become accommodated.
- A parent who has been supported reported that: *“FFT has been very beneficial and I feel without it my family would still be struggling. FFT gives us an hour each week to listen to what each other has to say. I strongly believe family life would be worse than it was at the start without it. FFT has made a huge difference to our lives and for that I am truly grateful.”*



- Action for Children Clacks Family Support Service and Clacks Additional Support Services provided outcome focussed support to 68 children and their families during 2022/23. These families come from across the spread of Clackmannanshire’s geography. The work takes place within the Blue Hoose in Tullibody, local communities and in children and family homes. Demand for these supports and services is increasing as evidenced through ongoing referral rates from social work colleagues, education and health.
- All work is outcome focussed and each child has an individual plan of support recorded on E-Aspire (Electronic Assessment Plan Interventions Review, which is Action for Children’s electronic service delivery model). These plans include details of the referral, assessment needs, service plan including interventions as well as regular review dates. All interventions within the last 12 months have either remained at the same level or mostly improved as evidenced in regular reporting.
- Additionally, 13 children are currently receiving focused 1:1 support in the service or local community for at least 1 hour per week. Most of this 1:1 support has a focus on emotional wellbeing and emotional regulation for the children and are outcome focused pieces of work. There is an increasing demand for this work through increased referrals and requests.
- There were 14 parents referred for Incredible Years Parenting Programme, with 11 of these parents/carers completing the programme. A trained staff member co delivers in partnership with a health colleague. The parents/carers that attended the group participated fully and engaged well in the programme.

Feedback from a parent and staff member:

- *“The Blue Hoose means I get the support I need as I would struggle”*
- *“The service is described as ‘excellent’, as giving ‘giving vital support to our vulnerable families’ and ‘offers good support groups”*



- From April 2021 to March 2022, Homestart supported 131 Families, including 244 children (88 children under 5 years of age and 156 children over 5 years of age).
- Provided a cluster of 3-weekly (2 hours) Early Years Family Support Groups to 43 families in Tillicoultry (Ben Cleuch), Alloa (Hawkhill) and Tullibody (Blue House).
- During 2022/23 they provided 109 sessions across 3 Early Years Groups: The Hawkhill Group provided 40 sessions, the Ben Cleuch provided 32 sessions, and the Blue House group in Tullibody provided 37 sessions.

Some of the reported outcomes achieved are:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| • <i>“I felt listened to and was supported with the things I was trying to work through”</i>             | 99% |
| • <i>“I now feel more able to make positive changes in my lifestyle”</i>                                 | 83% |
| • <i>“As a consequence of Home-Start's support I feel more confident playing with my child/children”</i> | 81% |
| • <i>“Due to the support of my group/worker I feel I have increased my confidence”</i>                   | 80% |
| • <i>“I now feel less isolated”</i>  | 80% |



- Continued to expand and improve upon the rights of young carers in Clackmannanshire. Between April 2022 and March 2023 there were 45 new referrals to the Central Carers Centre who offered 45 young carers in Clackmannanshire the opportunity to develop or review a Young Carers Statement (YCS), of which 33 completed a YCS and 11 reviews were done. This ensured that young carers can make sure that their views and opinions are heard and what information and support they may need in relation to their caring role.
- Young carers are also actively supported to engage in consultations, involvement and engagement opportunities. Nine young carers in Clackmannanshire are part of the Falkirk & Clackmannanshire Young Carers Voice sharing their views on local and national carer issues. In addition, 79 young carers accessed the Young Carers Activity Grant, 7 accessed a Creative Break and eligible young carers were supported to apply for Scot Gov Young Carer Grants.
- The project also provided some young carers with individual support and/or monthly groups. In this reporting period, there were 521 individual contacts provided for young carers and 23 groups attended by 52 young carers with 174 attendances. Six young carers benefited from attending a break away at the Scottish Young Carers Festival.



- Barnardo's services in Clackmannanshire offer support to children and young people who are experiencing a wide range of issues, such as substance use, offending, exploitation, isolation, employability, and family relationships. They work with young people aged 8 – 18 (25 if care experienced) to promote wellbeing, encourage change, and empower them to take control of their situation and move towards a positive future.
- During 2022/2023, the Clackmannanshire Open Door Service (CODS) a specialist early intervention service for young people and families, many of whom are on the edge of care worked with 109 young people and families. There were 75 new referrals to CODS and 34 young people were still open to the service from the previous year.
- Barnardo's were successful in a wide range of bid applications to improve the mental health and wellbeing of our children and young people in Clackmannanshire. This included, Community Justice Youth Diversionary Fund, Cashback from Communities, Youthlink Scotland, COP26 and Forth Valley Health Promotion Community Grant Scheme. The legacy work from these continues, for example Barnardo's donated a third of the award from OP26 to CSSS to enable them as part of their Eco-School Project, to build a bike shed for their pupils. Staff have also accessed funds via Barnardos crisis and cost of living funds totalling over £4k to support those most in need.
- Through Barnardo's, young people have been part of new and exciting local partnerships developed over the past 12 months, including Grace's chocolates, Endura Cycling and Forth Environment Link.
- Young people have achieved very positive outcomes particularly in terms of increased resilience, reduced/safer consumption of controlled substances, increased knowledge of substances/risks, reduction in level of risks/harms (substances), understanding of own behaviours, and reduced offending with 87% reporting outcomes had significantly improved and 12% reporting outcomes were being maintained. Positive outcomes were also reported for parents/carers including improved parenting capacity to prevent harmful behaviour, family relationships and parents/carers taking responsibility for child welfare and parenting.



Transform's service Time 4 Us works across Forth Valley providing support to children and families who have been impacted by substance use. The service aims to increase parenting capacity and enhance children's self-esteem, confidence and resilience whilst supporting families to make positive choices. The service works in partnership with children, families and professionals ensuring the best outcomes are achieved together. The Time 4 Us service receives referrals from social services, education, addiction services, health, and self-referrals, and has a proven track record of enhancing children and young people's emotional and mental wellbeing and reducing risk and harm in relation to substances.

**Impact data:**

Children affected by parent, carers and or older sibling substance misuse will have improved self-esteem, resilience and social functioning:

- 9 Children fully met this outcome showing an increase in their self-esteem and resilience.
- 9 Children fully met this outcome where improved attendance and achievement within education was noted.
- 9 Children fully met this outcome where their well-being in accordance with the well-being Indicators were improved.

Safeguarding children reducing risk and harm:

- 9 Children fully met this outcome where they were able to identify risk and harm, increasing their awareness around safety planning.
- 9 Children fully met this outcome where they were more able to communicate with significant adults in their life

Children will have at least one positive relationship with a significant adult, who can support them to make positive and healthy choices in their future:

- 9 Children fully met this outcome where their social functioning was significantly improved.
- 9 Children fully met this outcome where they could now identify their support networks.
- 9 Children fully met this outcome where positive change was evidenced through assessments /evaluations.

Parents/families experiencing issues of substance misuse have improved parenting capacity, skills and understanding, and are better able to meet the needs of their child/ren:

- 6 Parents fully met this outcome by increasing their parenting capacity.
- 6 Parents fully met this outcome where their motivation, confidence, and feelings of self-worth were all increased.
- 6 Families fully met this outcome where they were supported to stay together in the best interest of the child whilst reducing statutory involvement.



## *Children and their families can access the right services based on their needs*

### **During 2022/23 we:**

- Progressed the redesign of Children's services which has significantly increased resource available to provide early intervention support for families and bringing increased capacity to the new Early Intervention Service. Strengthened partnership working with the third sector, education and health partners is ensuring streamlined pathways to the right service at the right time for families.
- A fully integrated People Directorate is now well established and has driven forward improved ways of working with and for our families and communities. From the period August 2022 - June 2023, the People Directorate continued with an extensive plan of improvement activity set out within the **People Business Plan 2022-2023** to improve outcomes for children, families and communities, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable.
- Work has progressing to develop a blueprint for family and community support services in Clackmannanshire. The intention of this work is to increase the availability of services out with statutory social work, to ensure that children and their families receive support as early as possible. A family support focus group has been developed with key multiagency partners who have worked together to complete the evaluation tool: 'Supporting Families: A National Self-Assessment Toolkit for Change'.

### **Early Intervention Service activity:**

- Commenced in January 2023, a 90-minute under 2's drop in group based at Alloa Family Centre, jointly delivered by the Early Intervention Service and health care professional, averaging approximately 20/30 parent participation. The Under 2's group will run through out the summer holiday period to offer additional support and social outlets to children, young people and families. Examples of services involved include ChildSmile, Physiotherapy, Speech and Language and a Breast Feeding Support Network for approximately 10-12 mothers and babies on a weekly basis.
- The introduction of group work has been successful with staff currently facilitating several groups per week as well as managing a case load of between 20-30 families.
- Between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023, 66% of Police vulnerable person reports and 51% of referrals to the Children's Social Work Service was screened by the Early Intervention service and families provided an early and effective response.
- Continued effective partnership working with Health Visiting Service through the provision of **Baby Massage** and **THRIVE** programmes. Since September 2022 in excess of 70% of babies born in the Clackmannanshire area have been massaged by the joint **Baby Bond's Project** throughout various locations across the county, creating opportunities for early bonding between babies and their care giver.

### Impact statements from participants:

*"We have really enjoyed the classes. You are creating such a lovely, relaxed environment to bond with baby in such a special way. Thank you for being so welcoming and approachable"*

*"Lovely block of massage classes which were so well enjoyed. Such a relaxed environment with lots of great ideas to help digestion and teething. Thank you! We loved it"*

- Continued to work in partnership with Health and Clacks Works to deliver **THRIVE programmes** throughout the year. THRIVE has seen attendees better recognise and manage day to day stress and anxiety, report improved self esteem/confidence and consider learning and employment opportunities. Outcomes achieved include improved parenting belief and positive family relationships and dynamics. Furthermore, some attendees have gone on to become volunteers and facilitators; an amazing achievement. 70 plus referrals for the August programme demonstrated participant demand. The next two cohorts of participants are due to commence in August 2023.

### Impact statements from participants:

*"THRIVE has given me the confidence to try new things and meet new people. I found a peace in me that I've never had before and my quality of life is much more positive. Over the 4 months I have grown in so many ways, I am so grateful to have been a part of THRIVE, and excited that I can share all I've learned with other people, who also need all the positivity in their life. I can't say it enough...THRIVE is truly amazing, I don't know where I'd be without it"*

*"You've no idea how much THRIVE can change someone's life, you have no idea what you have done for us. I never used to be able to go walks and now I'm walking all over Alloa with my dog and I'm volunteering in something that I love doing"*

- Trained our Family Support Workers in the Early Intervention Service in **Triple P** - a parenting and family support system designed to help children to realise their potential. This programme will be delivered alongside Education and Third sector partners and will offer parents support to build strong healthy relationships and confidently manage their children's behaviour; reducing the risk of crisis intervention and family breakdown.
- Implemented a new **Commissioning Services Review Group** in October 2022 which has strengthened partnership working by bringing services such as Child Care Social Work, Barnardos, Home Start, Action for Children, Functional Family Therapy, Time 4 Us, Clacks Works and



Community House Alloa together on a fortnightly basis. The group meets to discuss referrals and consider appropriate supports and intervention to mitigate emerging patterns of concern, avoid escalation of risk and reduce the likelihood of relationship and placement breakdown. This new process has proved successful and has enabled families to access the right support, from the right people, at the right time. It has lessened the risk of families feeling overwhelmed by lots of different services becoming involved at once and supports being counter-productive. Furthermore, it has improved coordinated care planning for children, young people and their families. Professionals involved have also voiced they feel the shared method of referral screening has been beneficial in priority allocation, targeting of support and reducing waiting times.

- Continued to enhance our early intervention response through the **Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) service**, which takes a restorative approach to engaging with families. FGDM coordinators identify the relationships which are important to children, and looks to work with families in a way to enable children, parents, and their wider extended families and networks to develop their own family plans which address areas of worry and concern identified by social work and the wider team around the child. The family plans developed with the consent of the family can then be used in decision making forums such as child protection meetings, children's hearings and also looked after reviews. FGDM, in line with the Promise works with families to prevent the need for children to be accommodated in foster or residential placements and supports relationships within families.

Between April 2022 and March 2023 the FGDM Service in Clackmannanshire received 80 referrals involving approximately 210 children. Of these referrals, 36 proceeded to FGDM Conference, 30 of which have now been closed to the FGDM service. In many of those which did not proceed to FGDM conference, the co-ordinators were able to support partnership working with extended family members to enable better engagement with care planning to support children and young people.

Of the 30 completed pieces of work, positive outcomes include:

- Kinship placements were identified and progressed for 10 families (14 children)
- Two children who were in foster care have been safely returned home with family plans around scaffolding and support
- Two children were removed from the Child Protection Register
- Two children moved from foster care back home
- One child moved from foster care to kinship care

The priorities to date have been children who are at risk of accommodation, on the Child Protection Register, vulnerable pre births where there is a risk of accommodation at birth, children in residential out of area placements and children who are looked after and those where no permanence decisions have been made. Moving forward, the FGDM team, as part of the new Early Intervention service, aim to support families earlier and work to build capacity through early family plans before the point of crisis.

- Continue to embed **STRIVE** (Safeguarding through Rapid Intervention) as a common early intervention approach that delivers improved outcomes for children, young people, families and adults. Supporting local service delivery and tackling needs early, STRIVE is increasing opportunities for prevention and early intervention through enhanced links with schools, health centres and community groups in the Alloa area and working to streamline referral pathways and appropriate supports for individuals as early as possible. The team have delivered drop in sessions with 2 primary schools in the Alloa Academy catchment. This raised the profile of STRIVE and early access to the services represented. A discussion with the Family Support workers in six Primary Schools across Clackmannanshire has taken place to highlight the role of STRIVE. The Family Support workers will have knowledge of those in their school community who may benefit from some additional advice to prevent those reaching levels of crisis. This will be reviewed regularly for impact and reported to the STRIVE board. In this way, not only will STRIVE benefit the people of Alloa Academy catchment, but will also enhance support available to families in areas of need across Clackmannanshire.

- In the period from May 2022 to April 2023 there has been a 7% decrease in the overall number of referrals to STRIVE. Analysis of this has shown an increase in the number of referrals from specific geographical areas within the authority, despite a drop in the overall referral numbers. The sources of referrals come from a variety of sources, but with the majority from police and housing. The team has engaged additional third sector services to support the work of STRIVE, such as CERT (Clackmannanshire Economic Regeneration Trust) and Cyrenians and extended to include the energy team from within Clackmannanshire Council. STRIVE has increased its profile to include Clackmannanshire Councils website, with plans to increase the public presence further.

**Some key outcomes 2022/23:**

**24 clients were referred to mental health services**

**26 clients were prevented from becoming homeless**

**40 received emergency financial assistance**

**15 were referred for addiction support services**

Our **Promise Plan 2023-2026** seeks to build on what we have already achieved within Clackmannanshire since The Promise Scotland published Plan 21-24, and looks ahead at how we can build momentum in Clackmannanshire to uphold our Promise by 2030. Our plan is ambitious and reflects our commitment to transformational change to ensure that we are able to Keep Our Promise that care experienced children and young people in Clackmannanshire will grow up loved, safe, and respected.

Our Promise Plan 2023-2026 aligns to the National Promise Change Plan and aligns with Clackmannanshire's Community Planning Partnership's anchor Plans including:

- Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017-27
- Children's Strategic Partnership's Children's Services Plan 2021-2024
- Clackmannanshire Community Justice Plan 2018-23
- Violence against Women and Girls Strategic Plan 23-24
- Family Wellbeing Partnership Strategic Plan 23-24
- The National Improvement Framework Plan 23-24

Governance arrangements for reporting on progress on our Promise plan activities are through the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership and to Elected Members through the Children & Young People's Board.

Last year we reported in our Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2021/22 on our progress to #KeepThePromise and highlighted key activities that had been accomplished. During 2022/2023 we have maintained a relentless focus to deliver on our Promise commitments and these achievements are highlighted below.

### What Clackmannanshire has already achieved as part of our Promise commitments:



- Language of Care Policy has been co-designed 2022 - 2023
- Engagement with Communities That Care / Who Cares? Scotland to support workforce capacity
- Virtual Head teacher Appointment – focus on the delivery of The Promise across all Clackmannanshire establishments
- Bespoke tracking database created – including:

- Attendance tracking
- Attainment tracking
- Achievement profiling being designed in conjunction with schools
- Partnership working opportunities being developed for Care Experienced Young people including partners such as Ochil Youth Community Improvement , Clacks Voices, Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface, Coach My Sport and Clackmannanshire Primaries and Early Learning Centres (35 young people) providing placement opportunities
- Specific support of a Wellbeing Worker for all Care Experienced Young People in Clackmannanshire is available
- 1-1 support for individual families and young people across all Secondary's from Virtual Head teacher
- Collaborative work around Children's Hearings has been undertaken between Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Panel Members, Social work and Education
- Active schools monitoring participation of care experienced young people in sport and leisure opportunities
- FLIP (Flexible Learning Independent Pathways), FLIP Plus and individual pathways created for those most at risk of being disengaged from education
- Roll-out of NHS Education for Scotland Transforming Psychological Trauma materials across the Council workforce in collaboration with the Resilience Learning Partnership and led by the Educational Psychology Service, including piloting of a trauma-informed audit tool which will support service re-design
- Development of a Participation Network to improve the current collaboration and participatory opportunities for care experienced children and young people and their families and carers to support Keeping The Promise across Clackmannanshire
- Increased foster and kinship care allowances, applicable to children in foster care and eligible kinship care
- Targeted financial support for care experienced families for activities during the summer holidays
- Increased support to foster carers, kinship carers, and adopters through investment in Family Placement Team and focus on building the Care Community
- Children's Services Redesign focusing on early intervention, a community model of working, implementing a relationship based approach to practice
- Commissioning of intensive support provision to support children on the "edge of care" to remain supported at home with their family
- Development of enhanced support for young people and families returning to Clackmannanshire from placements in other areas
- Establishment of a brothers and sisters working group to develop policy, review procedures and build on keeping brothers and sisters connected training which took place in December 2022
- The Early Intervention team has continued to strengthen support to families by developing the range of family support services and groups available
- A new Family Support Working Group is ensuring co-ordinated support to parents and carers across Clackmannanshire

- Establishment of a Children and Young People's Suicide Prevention Group; which has the aim of re-developing Suicide and Self-Harm policies for education staff
- Established a Housing and Through Care After Care group to ensure improved pathway planning for care leavers preparing to living independently and maximise opportunities for care experienced young people to return and live closer to home
- A Supported Lodgings Service has been registered with Care Inspectorate and awaiting approval
- Joint working between Educational Psychology and Woodside Children's House to embed trauma informed therapeutic approaches to caring through PACE and DDP training for staff
- Mental Health and Wellbeing in Clacks transformation project has implemented a well-developed Continuum of Support that offers both digital and face-to-face services for children and young people aged 5-26 years including a text based crisis service. New services developed include a Wellbeing Worker for young people who have left care
- The MCR Pathways Programme across Clackmannanshire continues to ensure that every care experienced young person has access to the same educational outcomes, career opportunities and life chances as every other young person
- Award of funding from The Lens following a successful bid created by young people at Woodside Children's House to design the spaces that matter to them
- Strengthening support in Early Intervention for 0-2 through development of baby massage and groups at the Alloa Family Centre in partnership with health
- Provision of flexible wrap around child care supporting families
- Initial phase complete of Human Economic Cost Modelling (HECM) in partnership with the Clackmannanshire Alliance and The Promise Scotland
- A strong partnership developed with Vardy Foundation to support our commitment to keeping The Promise
- Selected to work alongside the Aberlour/Vardy Foundation Partnership in Clackmannanshire using the Scottish Model of Service Redesign to define and discover approaches to designing and delivering services to support children disengaged from school and at risk of going into care, and support for young people leaving care and moving onto positive destinations
- Embedding the principles of The Promise in the Family Wellbeing Partnership
- Secured funding for five year programme 'Communities that Care' delivered within schools and communities within Clackmannanshire
- Developed bite size videos on Clackmannanshire's commitment to #KeepThePromise  
<https://www.clacks.gov.uk/social/thepromisecics/>
- A Corporate Sponsor Pledge co-produced to support the delivery of this work  
<https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/6646.pdf>     <https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/6724.pdf>

## Key milestones achieved during 2022/23:

- The **Participation Network** has continued to be developed over the last year to improve the current collaboration and participatory opportunities for care experienced children and young people and their families and carers to support Keeping The Promise across Clackmannanshire. A key achievement of the Participation Network is the co-design of a Language of Care Policy intended to provide principles to services within the council and partners to support change in the language we use which can be formal and impersonal, and challenges us to work differently with young people and their families. The policy contains four themes and values which were identified by care experienced young people, foster carers and kinship carers as being most important. This culminated in a dedicated day of collaboration with young people, care givers, and partners in April 2023. The coming year will see implementation of the policy through shared learning from tests of change particularly as the Children's Services redesign is implemented. Work is ongoing within the network to develop Trauma-Transformed Cultures in Clackmannanshire.

'Oor Clacks Voices' are part of a wider Participation Network in Clackmannanshire which comprises of a range of representatives from different groups for example young people, foster carers and kinship carers. The Participation Network has been instrumental in driving the voice of young people to underpin the promise in Clackmannanshire - utilising the Scottish Approach to Service Design model. The professional group within this network comprises of Corporate Parents and third sector partners who assist in affecting change.

- **Who Cares? Advocacy and Communities that Care** - A strong partnership exists between Who Cares? and Clackmannanshire Council to provide advocacy for children and young people to uphold their rights and ensure that children and young people's views are central to decision making. Focus over the last year has been to raise awareness of advocacy services for care experienced children as services recover from the pandemic and for new staff joining the service. Referral rates have increased in 2022, and in the first quarter of 2023. Who Cares? regularly attend carer support groups which have had a positive impact on increased referrals to their service.

We were also pleased to have been awarded funding from The STV appeal to bring Communities that Care to Clackmannanshire. Communities that Care is a five year programme being rolled out within Clackmannanshire with the aim of ensuring that Care Experienced people are accepted and included and have a sense of belonging within their communities. The initial stages of the programme takes a whole school approach ensuring that care experienced children and young people are nurtured and supported in their schools by educating the whole school community about what care experience is, and to help develop empathy and understanding towards care experienced pupils. Training has taken place with staff in all three academies within Clackmannanshire as the roll out of the programme begins. This approach is consistent with the work that has been undertaken within Clackmannanshire over the last year working to rebuild the care community following the disruption that Covid 19 caused to support networks and relationships.

- **Building our Care Community** - The removal of restrictions relating to Covid 19 offered an opportunity to begin rebuilding our care community, also known in Clackmannanshire as our Care Family. The Care Community has joined together for key celebrations and events over the last year including care experience week, Christmas, national care day and days out. These events have fostered new friendships, and rekindled existing relationships between care experienced children and young people, foster carers and kinship carers.

Building our care community is a key part of our strategy to support our care experienced young people, foster carers and kinship carers in Clackmannanshire, and is in addition to carer support groups. Supports for our foster carers, kinship carers and adopters in Clackmannanshire will be strengthened further through the Children's Services Redesign which is currently being implemented. This will see increased resource focused around kinship support and foster carers and adopters. A review of fees and allowances took place and an uplift was implemented on 1 April 2023 acknowledging the need to mitigate pressures placed on households as a result of current cost of living increases. Foster carer fees were restructured to be more in line with The Promise and the role that foster carers play within this. Activity this year has focused on support and retention, to build a good foundation for further recruitment of carers to enable us to support more children and young people to be cared for within their local communities.

- **Virtual Head Teacher appointed to support the implementation of The Promise** - We want all children and young people to meet their potential and school attendance and attainment for care experienced children and young people continues to be a key priority, particularly those who are looked after at home and in kinship care. The appointment of a Virtual Head Teacher will be a key driver in supporting these strategic aims through oversight of support for children and tracking mechanism have been put in place to track attendance, attainment for all care experienced children and young people in Clackmannanshire.
- **Wellbeing worker care experienced** - The specific support of a Wellbeing Worker for all Care Experienced Young People in Clackmannanshire came into post in March 2023, this builds on the existing wellbeing supports available within schools, and is to ensure that wellbeing support continues to be available to care experienced young people particularly those who have left care and may experience loneliness and isolation.
- **Local Care Provision** - A key ambition in keeping The Promise requires an increased number of local foster carers, and increased residential provision to ensure that all children are able to grow up locally maintaining significant relationships with family, friends and their school community. Investment in our Family Placement Service, review of fees and allowances, building our care community, and supporting our foster carers are activities intended to establish a solid foundation for the Council to be able to attract and retain new foster carers, and to support kinship families.

The provision of residential care for our children and young people remains a challenge for us in terms of environmental limitations and capacity. Woodside Children's House is a five bed residential provision. The team at Woodside have fully embraced The Promise and there are significant strengths within the service in relation to adopting trauma informed therapeutic approaches to caring for young people. Residential Care staff at Woodside have undertaken PACE training (Care based on principles of Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity, Empathy), this year staff began training in Dyadic Developmental Practice (DDP Level 1 and Level 2). Approaches to care and managing distress have moved away from use of restraint as cultures have changed informed by staff development and the ethos of The Promise. This year we have established a strong partnership with the Vardy Foundation and planning is underway to increase our local provision and accommodation to ensure that we can offer support to all of our children and young people within Clackmannanshire, preventing children and young people being isolated from their communities. This will also be supported by the development of intensive support services to support children and young people at risk of becoming looked after away from home, as well as for young people leaving care.

- **Aberlour /Vardy partnership** - Clackmannanshire Council was selected to work with the Aberlour/Vardy Foundation Partnership to use the Scottish Model of Service Redesign to define and discover approaches to designing and delivering services through the lens of The Promise to support for two groups: children disengaged from school and at risk of becoming looked after; and support for young people leaving care. A series of design workshops took place involving young people, families, and key stakeholders. The learning from this will inform future planning and service delivery as we continue to work towards keeping The Promise.

We are committed to improving the support available to care experienced young people in Clackmannanshire, one key aspect of this relates to our approaches to planning and reviews. The Children's Services redesign increases the number of independent reviewing officers within Clackmannanshire with a dedicated resource to oversee Pathway Planning, and ensure that this takes place at an earlier stage for all of our care experienced young people, and that all eligible young people have a good quality Pathway Plan. This will continue to be a key priority area for improvement over the next year.



## *Whole Family Wellbeing Funding*



### *Progress update on Clackmannanshire's Whole Family Wellbeing Funding*

The Scottish Government's 2021-22 Programme for Government committed to investing £500 million of Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF) over the lifetime of the Parliament to support the development of holistic whole family support services. It also set out the ambition that by 2030, at least 5% of community-based health and social care spend should be going towards preventative whole family support measures. The 2022-23 Scottish Budget allocated £50m for the WFWF and proposals for distribution of this spend were developed in close collaboration with partners across the sector, including Children's Service Planning Partnership (CSPP) Strategic Leads and COSLA. This included the recommendation that £32 million should be provided to the CSPPs to build local capacity for transformational whole system change and to scale up and drive the delivery of holistic whole family support services.

Clackmannanshire has received £337,000 each year for 2022/23 and 2023/24 used to implement an effective range of early intervention provision and progress the agenda of system change required to deliver The Promise – toward family led, child centred and trauma informed services available locally at the point of need. The funding will enable Family Support services in Clackmannanshire shift toward early intervention, in line with the principles of The Promise.

Clackmannanshire's allocation of funding is being used to focus on 3 key priorities:

- 1) Bolster our provision of intensive support services in order to reduce the number of children with care experience and to enable us to return children home from placements outwith Clackmannanshire.
- 2) Increase the participation of children and families in the design of family support services, including creating opportunities for them to develop ideas regarding what services should be delivered.
- 3) Increase the range of early intervention services available to support communities at the earliest point, across the county.

A proportion of the funding has been used to recruit a Participation Development Worker to help involve children young people and families in developing family support provision in Clackmannanshire through the creation of a consortium of Third sector family support providers. We have also commissioned Aberlour to deliver an intensive family support service for children on the edge of care from October 2023. The key performance indicators for this service will be to avoid children and young people leaving the care of their family.

The remaining funding will be used to further expand whole family support services to help return and retain our children within Clackmannanshire.

Appendix A below sets out in further detail our progress and activities on our Whole Family Wellbeing Funding.



## Appendix A: Whole Family Welfare Funding (WFWF) Template - Progress Update

### SECTION 1: Activities, WFWF Logic Model Outcomes, and Budget Allocated

Question 1: Activity title and description	Question 2: During this year, how has this activity contributed (or is expected to contribute) toward one or more short-term, intermediate, or long-term WFWF Logic Model outcome(s) identified in your WFWF Initial Plan template? Please describe this using evidence and citing sources.	Question 3: Estimate of % of WFWF funding spent on this activity to date and estimate of % of this activity out of total WFWF budget.
<p><i>Please include a short description of each activity. This can be copied from your response to question 3 of your WFWF Initial Plans template and updated where required. Please specifically mention where activities have changed or are no longer relevant.</i></p>	<p><i>Please include WFWF Logic Model outcomes used in response to question 4 of your WFWF Initial Plans template and update. Where needed, your answers to question 5 of the WFWF Initial Plans may also help with sources of evidence. Responses relating to each activity can be up to 250 words but may be less where appropriate.</i></p>	
<p><b>Activity 1: Bolster our provision of intensive support services in order to reduce the number of children with care experience and to enable us to return children home from placements outwith Clackmannanshire</b></p>	<p><b>WFWF Logic model outcome Early Outcome:</b></p> <p><b>Increased WFS capacity – scaled and new services are integrated</b></p> <p><b>Local Outcome as detailed in plans submitted: Increased provision for children at the edge of care and leaving care resulting in reduced external placements</b></p> <p><b>Progress:</b> We had planned to commission intensive support for children on the edge of care/in external placements in order to ensure children and young people can remain living in their local community as well as reduce the cost associated with through care and after care provision for young adults. Through the reduction of this spend, the CSPP aims to invest in further development of early intervention provision. To date we have commissioned an Intensive support service specifically for children on the edge of care. The service will be operational from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2023.</p> <p>In addition we plan to allocated around £140,000 to expand third sector provision to support our care experienced young people leaving care and other family supports.</p> <p><b>WFWF Logic model outcome Early Outcome : More families receive Whole Family Support</b></p> <p><b>Progress:</b> This will be evident next year as the services above become operational and demonstrate impact. The intensive support service has clear targets to reduce the number of children becoming living away from their families.</p> <p><b>Long Term outcomes</b></p>	<p>Estimate that 33% of WFWF funding spent on this activity as of 2.8.23, and estimate that this activity represents 65% of total WFWF budget for this year.</p>

	<p>The activity above is designed to deliver the long term outcomes below toward the end of the funding and beyond:</p> <p><b>1</b> Reduction in numbers of children and young people living away from their families</p>	
<p><b>Activity 2: Increase the participation of children and families in the design of family support services, including creating opportunities for them to develop ideas regarding what services should be delivered</b></p>	<p><b>WFWF Logic model outcome Early Outcome: Delivery partners (inc 3rd sector) are integral to service design and delivery of WFS</b></p> <p><b>Progress:</b> We have already reviewed all our commissioned services, utilised the family support self evaluation tool and undertaken a strategic needs analysis. This has enabled us to harness the views of providers across the CSPP and to share resource where possible to begin redesign/delivery of family support services. We have close and effective working relationships with commissioned third sector providers, represented at our Family Support sub group. The next stage is to develop a commissioning consortium or similar to build on this approach</p> <p><b>WFWF Logic model Early Outcome :</b></p> <p><b>Early Evidence of meaningful and ongoing participation by CYPF in service design which ensures choice and control</b></p> <p><b>Progress:</b> We have appointed a Development Officer to work with the Third Sector and local community groups, advocacy services and the Family Wellbeing Partnership to create a collaborative of Early Intervention Services, designed and reviewed by the families who will be using them. The appointment process involved 3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners</p> <p><b>WFWF Intermediate outcomes:</b></p> <p><b>1 Collaborative Multi agency Approach to the funding Commissioning and delivery of family support</b></p> <p><b>2 Services shift to needs and rights based planning and participation</b></p> <p><b>3 Services are more accessible Children, Young People and Families know where to go, receive help when needed</b></p> <p><b>Progress:</b> We expect to see evidence of the above intermediate outcomes toward the end of year 2 when our consortium is established and operational.</p>	<p>Estimate that 0% of WFWF funding spent on this activity as of 2.8.23 date, and estimate that this activity represents 25% of total WFWF budget for this year.</p>
<p><b>Activity 3: Increase the range of early intervention services available to support communities at the earliest point, across the county.</b></p>	<p><b>WFWF Early outcome : CSPPs start to redesign/design new WFS services, including removing barriers to access for CYPF</b></p> <p><b>Progress:</b> Partnership working in this area is improving. The services currently commissioned now meet fortnightly to discuss allocation of work. The family</p>	<p>Estimate that 0% of WFWF funding spent on this activity as of 3.8.23 date, and estimate that this activity represents 10% of total WFWF budget</p>

	<p>support group is expanding to involve new developments and agencies e.g. wraparound childcare and employability support. The CSPP has taken the decision to postpone the involvement of The Lens partnership at this time in order to consolidate early activity around commissioned services before beginning a process of wider engagement with children young people and families in local communities.</p> <p><b>WFWF Early Outcome : Development of holistic workforce approach</b></p> <p><b>Progress:</b> The Family Support Sub group have begun this process and have identified opportunities to share skills and training eg in relation to training in the delivery of parenting courses. Next steps are for a skills audit across family support providers to identify key gaps in learning and training opportunities.</p> <p><b>WFWF Long Term Outcomes (that the funding will contribute to):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in families requiring crisis intervention</li> <li>• Improved family wellbeing</li> <li>• Increase in families taking up wider supports</li> <li>• Reduced inequalities in family wellbeing</li> <li>• Reduction in the number of children and young people living away from their families</li> </ul>	for this year.
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## SECTION 2: Progress Narrative for your overall WFWF plans

Questions	Guidance <i>This column includes guidance to support your response.</i>	Responses <i>Please complete your responses in the column below. Examples are included in Annex B (pages 9-13). Responses to each question can be up to 250 words, but may be less where appropriate.</i>  <i>Please try to include all activities mentioned in Section 1 above within your response, recognising that there may be little or no detail at this stage.</i>
<p><b>Question 4:</b> Overview description of what has been achieved to date and how this compares to intended plans, including specific partners who have been involved, <b>particularly third sector organisations.</b></p>	<p><i>It may help to refer to the original WFWF criteria in the allocation letter included above.</i></p> <p><i>Please indicate any related local evaluation work in progress here.</i></p>	<p>Our CSPP has made progress in establishing some good foundations for the transformational change required from the WFWF funding.</p> <p><b>Activity 1:</b> We are on track to have a new intensive support service for children on the edge of care operational from October 2023. By delivering this as a pilot in partnership with Aberlour, we have been able to make a substantial saving on the initial anticipated spend of £200,000, leaving us an additional £100,000 of funding to be utilised across the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector to address the outstanding need for children returning home from external placements. We are in the process of concluding the application/selection process for 3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners to</p>

		<p>access this funding.</p> <p><b>Activity 2:</b> We have successfully recruited a Development officer to engage with families in the process of developing a Whole Family Support collaboration of services. This will be achieved through a refreshed commissioning exercise – developing a consortium of services.</p> <p><b>Activity 3</b> has made less progress. There is work underway to identify shared training needs across our whole family support provision, but funds have been set aside to develop this programme when it is clearer how our redesigned early intervention service will impact on the range of Whole Family Support services delivered locally and the gaps left which require specific training across the partnership.</p> <p>The decision has been taken to postpone the LENS partnership exercise until the consortium is established and our family support delivery is informed by the voice of lived experience. This will develop a strong base from which to extend the involvement of community groups etc and consider how the earlier strands of family support can be developed in line with the views of local people.</p>
<p><b>Question 5:</b> Main successes to delivery and factors enabling these successes.</p>	<p><i>Please cite your evidence sources. Please note engagement with children and families should be covered under question 7 below. May include: resourcing, skill development, planning or engagement, activities, or emerging outcomes. Evidence of economic/budgetary impact may also be included.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our main success relates to the commissioning of additional intensive family support services, as detailed above. This service will be operational from 1.10.23 and the co-funded pilot has created an opportunity for increased capacity and extended reach for our WFWF year one allocation.</li> <li>• Another success is the effective partnership working which has developed as a result of activity taken in 2022: the Strategic Needs Analysis and commissioning review. This began a process of transparent discussion and development with our third sector partners which has developed over the year by the Family Support Sub Group and Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface (CTSI). This was evidenced in the joint recruitment of the development officer post.</li> <li>• The Family Support Sub Group has also been effective in creating space to develop shared solutions to challenges.</li> <li>• Although the delivery is not funded by WFWF, the redesign of the Children’s Social Work service is aligned with the activity detailed above and the service have considered feedback from 3<sup>rd</sup> sector and other agencies in the redesign.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Question 6:</b> Main challenges to delivery, and how these have been or</p>	<p><i>Please cite your evidence sources. May include: resourcing, skill development, planning or</i></p>	<p><b>Activity 2:</b> We experienced some delay in the recruitment of the Participation Development Officer but are hopeful that this will not</p>



<p>plan to be mitigated. Please include any details on any activities which have not progressed as expected.</p>	<p><i>engagement, activities, or emerging outcomes. Evidence of economic/budgetary impact may also be included.</i></p>	<p>adversely affect the delivery of the refreshed family support commissioning model. The delay in the recruitment to this post has impacted on our participation activity which has resulted in us postponing the involvement of the LENS partnership.</p>
<p><b>Question 7:</b> How have the activities and outcomes in Section 1 been informed by different stakeholders? (<b>especially third sector partners and children and families</b>)</p>	<p><i>Please cite your evidence sources. May include: number and groups of children and families engaged, the way in which they were engaged and how that influenced the activity.</i></p>	<p><b>Activity 1:</b> involved mainly internal stakeholders: education, Children’s services, Commissioning and Aberlour. Moving forward, development of the service will be influenced by the views of the families receiving a service. <b>Activities 2 and 3:</b> involved stakeholders within the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector, Children’s Social Work, Education, Health, Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface, Family Wellbeing Partnership and ADP. The next stage is direct engagement with children young people and families.</p>
<p>Any other comments, innovative work, relevant learning, or unexpected changes identified during this year?</p>	<p><i>May include: any progress not captured elsewhere in the table, or questions for Scottish Government.</i></p>	

## Appendix B: Performance Measures Clackmannanshire Children's Services Plan 2021-24 Annual Report 2022/23



 Data-only	 Target or Value Not Available	 Meeting Target, or Within 5%	 5% to 15% Outwith Target	 More Than 15% Outwith Target
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### Performance Indicators




#### 1. Annual Indicators Where Most Recently Available Data is for 2020/21

Performance Indicator	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
	Value	Value	Value	Target	Status	Scotland
Child Healthy Weight in Primary 1 (*only national figures were published for 20/21)	72.5%	71.7%	*N/A			69.8%
Children with 'no developmental concerns' at 27-30 month health review	84.8%	86.2%	78.6%	85.7%		85.1%






#### 2. Biennial Indicators Where Most Recently Available Data is for 2020/21

Performance Indicator	2016/17	2018/19	2020/21			
	Value	Value	Value	Target	Status	Scotland
School attendance - Looked After Children (Biennial)	91.6%	89.5%	89.9%	86.8%		87.9%
School exclusions - Looked After Children (per 1,000 Looked After Children) (Biennial)	145.5	N/A	N/A	79.9		77.8





#### 3. Annual Indicators Where Most Recently Available Data is for 2021/22

Performance Indicator	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
	Value	Value	Value	Target	Status	Scotland
Cost of services for Looked After Children in residential care per child per week ('real' cost - inflation cancelled out)	£2,189	£2,904	£4,729	£3,482		£4,659
Cost of services for Looked After Children in the community per child per week ('real' cost - inflation cancelled out)	£324	£340	£382	£382		£402
Spend on Looked After Children (Residential & Community) as % of Total General Fund Budget	3.62%	4.28%	4.80%	4.28%		3.06%

Performance Indicators	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
	Value	Value	Value	Target	Status	Scotland
Child Dental Health in Primary 1	68.4%	N/A	73.5%		?	73.1%
Immunisation Uptake at 24 Months - 6 in 1 (3-year average)	97.6%	97.3%	96.9%	95%	✓	97.1%
Immunisation Uptake at 24 Months - MMR (3-year average)	94.9%	95.2%	94.8%	95%	✓	94.4%
Babies Exclusively Breastfed at 6-8 Weeks (3-year average)	21.6%	20.9%	20.6%		?	31.9%
Alcohol-related Hospital Admissions, aged 11-25 years (3-year average per 100,000)	210.9	165.1	147.4		?	255.2
Drug-related Hospital Admissions, aged 11-25 years (3-year average per 100,000)	197.5	159.0	145.4		?	167.7
Exposure to Secondhand Smoke at 6-8 Weeks (3-year average)	9.3%	7.6%	6.1%	6%	✓	6.9%
Deaths from Suicide in Young People, aged 11-25 years (5-year average per 100,000 population)	20.9	16.3	9.4		?	11.1
Teenage pregnancies under 16 years of age (3 year average rate per 1,000 females aged 13-15)	2.9	2.8	2.3	2.4	✓	2.3
Teenage pregnancies under 18 years of age (3 year average rate per 1,000 females aged 15-17)	16.4	18.0	18.6	15.0	✗	13.6
Teenage pregnancies under 20 years of age (3 year average rate per 1,000 females aged 15-19)	46.8	32.8	30.5	23.9	✗	23.2
Child Protection re-registrations within 18 months	13.0%	8.1%	13.3%	7.0%	✗	8.0%
Number of children and young people in secure accommodation	0	0	0	0	✓	48
Three or more placement moves experienced by Looked After and Accommodated Children	6%	6%	5%	5%	✗	4%
Looked After Children being cared for in the community	93.1%	93.7%	95.1%	90.3%	✓	89.8%
Looked After Children with more than 1 placement in the last year	23.8%	16.7%	14.8%	16.8%	✓	15.9%
Looked After Children leaving school entering positive destinations	100.0%	100%	84.2%	91.7%	✓	87.9%
Child Poverty Rate (After Housing Costs) (provisional 21/22 figures to be verified)	27.3%	23.9%	25.9%	18%	✗	24%
Looked After School Leavers With 1 or More SCQF at Level 4	66.7%	66.7%	73.7%	91.7%	✗	74.9%
Rate of Looked After Children (per 1,000 children aged 0-17)	24.8	26.1	26.3	24.0	⚠	12.3%
Children on Child Protection Register (per 1,000 children)	4.95	4.6	1.7	2.3	✓	2.2%
% children and young people with foster carers provided by LA	35%	33%	30%	50%	✗	69%






Performance Indicators	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
	Value	Value	Value	Target	Status	Scotland
Children on Child Protection Register (per 1,000 children)	4.95	4.6	1.7	2.3		2.2%
% children and young people with foster carers provided by LA	35%	33%	30%	50%		69%
% Children and young people with foster carers purchased externally by the LA	65%	67%	70%	50%		31%
% Looked after children who remain at home or in kinship placement	66%	64%	64%	55%		55%
Number of Looked After Children in Residential Care	17	17	13	13		N/A

#### 4. Annual Indicators Where Most Recently Available Data is for 2022/23

Performance Indicator	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23			
	Value	Value	Value	Target	Status	Scotland
Referrals - With IRD	222	198	171			N/A
Children Registered for Free School Meals (calendar year)	27.7%	25%	26.3%			18%
Children Referred to the Children's Reporter for Care & Protection (per 1,000 children aged 0-15)	14.76%	16.44%	11.03%	11.7%		9.9%
Children Referred to the Children's Reporter for Offences (per 1,000 children aged 8-15)	7.5%	5.84%	5.42%	6.0%		5.46%







## Appendix C: Progress on our programme activities to deliver the outcomes set out in our Children's Services Plan 2021-24

	Already Complete
	Cancelled
	Will Complete Outwith Target
	Will Complete Within Target
	Will Fail to Complete



### A. Priority Theme - A Good Childhood


#### 1. Children in Clackmannanshire are Safe from Harm

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
CHC CSP A1a	Improve children and young people's capacity for personal safety and the avoidance of abuse and exploitation including from their use of the internet	Lead Officer Child Protection		The new Lead Officer's for the three Forth Valley CPC's will review the Forth Valley and West Lothian RIC webpage <a href="https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/fvwlrhc/hwb/wize-digital-wellbeing/">https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/fvwlrhc/hwb/wize-digital-wellbeing/</a> to confirm membership and if the contents need updated to reflect the new Child Protection guidelines and the work of the Forth Valley subgroups on the different aspects of the guidelines implementation.
CHC CSP A1b	Ensure that there is early and effective support in place to identify children and families affected by substance misuse and to minimise the harm caused by this	Alcohol & Drug Partnership Lead Officer		<p>Whole Family Support is being commissioned currently, with the intention of consolidating funding streams and providing stability of support for family members. This will also align with planning to implement The Promise, through supporting the development of family inclusive practice. This process is due to conclude in Autumn 2023.</p> <p>Review of the system of care for family members has taken place through discussion at the CSADP Children, Young People and Families group and with input from family members through the Family Support Service. These adaptations will include increased support for family members and to co-design training for staff across the system to support the uptake of family-inclusive practice. Procurement activity to enact these recommendations is now underway with anticipated conclusion in September 2023.</p> <p>An Impact of Parental Substance Use (IPSU) short life multi-agency working group was set up to progress work in relation to the roll out of the IPSU assessment tool across Forth Valley.</p>
CHC CSP A1c	Strengthen our approaches to tackling and mitigating the effects of childhood neglect through implementation of the Neglect Toolkit across partners	Lead Officer Child Protection		<p>Weekly business meeting to ensure the neglect toolkit is being completed as a matter of course, also included in the CP National Guidance.</p> <p>Child Participation audit received low numbers due to high levels of vacancies and will be undertaken again in Autumn 2023.</p> <p>Child Participation Checklist currently being reviewed and feedback sought from practitioners to see if it needs adapted or streamlined to make it more user friendly.</p>
CHC CSP A1d	Implement a whole system approach for young people who are involved or on the cusp of	Senior Manager, Justice		The review and redesign of Clackmannanshire Council's Youth Justice Services in partnership with the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) is underway. An initial strategic meeting held with key community planning partners including Police Scotland, Housing, Education,

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
	involvement with youth or justice services			<p>Psychology, Employability, Children Services, Justice Services, Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface and Sports and Leisure. Further workshops are scheduled and will include those with lived experience, Alcohol and Drug Partnership and wider operational staff. A focus on the redesign is the importance of shared language and approach. Training has been set up utilising the Outcome Star. The redesign aligns with Clackmannanshire Council's Community Justice Plan and with the Community Justice Scotland's Aims and Objectives. Findings from Clackmannanshire's recent CJP Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment 2022/23 are being utilised to inform our redesign.</p> <p>The Perpetrator and Women's Worker placed with the STRIVE team is providing support in relation to domestic abuse concerns. This initiative was initially funded as a 6 month pilot in collaboration between Police Scotland, Housing, SACRO and Justice Services. Partners have agreed to extend funding for a further 6 months and positively this initiative has been accessible to Children Services and has been utilised to support couples under the age of 18yrs.</p> <p>Justice Services continue to take an active role on supporting Youth Justice during this period of review and redesign. Co-working and mentoring opportunities are being utilised to support new members of staff and accredited training in approved risk assessment tools has been accessed alongside training in areas such as Safe and Together.</p>
CHC CSP A1e	Develop evidence based trauma informed services for children and young people at risk of suicide	Senior Manager Inclusion & Partnerships	✔	<p>The contract with Mental Health Innovations (MHI) to provide the 'Text Clacks' text-based crisis intervention has been extended to March 2026 (subject to continued funding). Suicide was discussed in 24% of conversations using the 'Clacks' keyword since the contract launched in April 2021. To date, although risk assessment protocols have been instigated on a number of occasions, no texters have required an active rescue by the emergency services, indicating that these processes may be evidencing a reduction in harm.</p> <p>A variety of other work continues, including providing Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST) training for staff across the People Directorate, and the establishment of a Children and Young People's Suicide Prevention Group, which has the aim of re-developing the Suicide and Self-Harm policies for Education.</p>
CHC CSP A1f	Effective GIRFEC systems and processes are in place to allow early identification of needs and provide the right support	Chief Nurse, Universal Children's Services	✔	<p>Forth Valley wide GIRFEC group reinstated and meeting regularly. Activity has been undertaken to review GIRFEC guidance alongside the review of the Child Protection guidance. Next meeting of the GIRFEC multi agency group in July aims to focus on the materials in use across the Forth Valley to ensure that they are aligned.</p> <p>It is anticipated that this activity will be concluded and that the materials will be available for implementation by the end of August. Thereafter a programme of training will be required. The target completion date of September 2023 is still on track.</p>

## 2. Children & young people in Clackmannanshire have the best possible life experiences and opportunities

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
CHC CSP A2a	Implement the Transforming Mental Health Services Programme and measure its impact in 2021/22	Senior Manager Inclusion & Partnerships		<p>The work of the Mental Health and Wellbeing in Clacks transformation project is continuing, with a well-developed Continuum of Support in place that offers both digital and face-to-face services for children and young people aged 5-26. New services include a Wellbeing Worker service for the Through Care After Care population, and an animal-assisted therapy. In addition, the new multi-agency referral pathway meeting is operating effectively, and a new Neurodevelopmental Pathway procedure has been agreed across Forth Valley.</p> <p><b>642</b> children and young people have accessed our range of digital supports since they launched in April 2021, with an average of <b>56%</b> of logins occurring out of hours. Over <b>550</b> children and young people have been referred to our two face-to-face services with <b>60%</b> of pupils referred to the Creative Therapeutic Interventions for Children service showing an improvement on teacher-reported Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires. <b>88%</b> of pupils accessing the Counselling in Schools Service have shown improvements in their YP-CORE scores. These figures are statistically significant for those accessing the CiSS. Since the introduction of the MHWB Clacks Continuum of Support, the FK10 postcode has experienced a <b>39%</b> reduction in referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.</p>
CHC CSP A2b	Ensure that all Attainment Scotland Funding is targeted to close the poverty related attainment gap	Education Senior Manager ELC & Primary		<p>The 2023/24 Scottish Equity Fund (SEF) plan sets out the priorities for the funding and outlined some of the areas that would not be funded due to the reduction in SEF Funding to Clackmannanshire. Specific programmes, funded through the Attainment Challenge have been reviewed. The areas of focus being either retained reduced or removed.</p> <p>Strategic Equity Funding (SEF) interventions continue to be targeted to those areas of greatest need to improve outcomes and close the poverty related attainment gap with the workstreams for 2023/24 being: Improving Outcomes Team; Speech and Language Therapy; Early Intervention Team.</p> <p>The Council's core stretch aims will continue into 2023/24 with the move to 3 year aims. This is in line with Education Scotland requirements. The core aims will continue to be Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (ACEL) Literacy and Numeracy, number of leavers attaining 1 or more passes at Level 5, number of leavers attaining 1 or more passes at Level 6, percentage of 16-19 year olds participating in education, employment or training, and attendance for Primary, Secondary and overall. The core plus stretch aims for Care Experienced – Attendance and narrowing the gap between initial and follow-up school leaver destinations will also move to a three year projection.</p> <p>In 2022/23 attainment across Literacy and Numeracy has seen improvement in many areas:</p>

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
				<p>Literacy &amp; Numeracy (P1,4,7 combined)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Literacy (unpublished) - Overall achievement increased to 69.5%, surpassing stretch aim of 68%</li> <li>Literacy (unpublished) - Quintile 1 increased to 61.2%, surpassing stretch aim of 59.3%</li> <li>Literacy (unpublished) - Quintile 5 increased to 79.8%, surpassing stretch aim of 76.9%</li> <li>The literacy gap closed to 18.6%. There has been a rise in overall attainment overall in Quintile 1 and 5 in 2022/23</li> <li>Numeracy (unpublished) - Overall achievement increased to 72.4%</li> <li>Numeracy (unpublished) - Quintile 1 fell slightly to 63.7%</li> <li>Numeracy (unpublished) - Quintile 5 remained almost the same at 81.5%, surpassing stretch aim of 79.3%</li> </ul> <p>Data Coach retained for session 2023/4 to continue targeting pupil attendance in conjunction with HT's/attendance leads.</p>
CHC CSP A2c	Increase opportunities for all children and young people to access leisure, wellbeing and sports programmes and as part of our development of the Wellbeing Hub in Clackmannanshire	Education Senior Manager ELC & Primary		<p>A full programme of free Active Schools extra-curricular programmes is in place across all 18 primary and 3 secondary schools offering a wide range of sport and physical activity clubs before school, at lunchtime and after school. In addition, new lunchtime sports sessions have been delivered to the children at Lochies School. The clubs are scheduled over a 30-week period from August 2022 to June 2023.</p> <p>Additional sessions have been offered as part of the Family Wellbeing Partnership Childcare Workstream - Clackmannanshire Child Wellbeing project for children of families who attend Park Primary School, St. Mungos Primary School and Sunnyside Primary School. Breakfast sports clubs being run every day of the week from 8-9am and after school clubs from 3-5pm twice weekly supported by local coaches and community sports clubs. These families have also been offered additional holiday camps and during the February school break 72 children attended a free 5-day camp at Alloa Academy from 8.30am-3.30pm. During the Easter school holidays children could access 'ring fenced' places in week one of the Sport &amp; Leisure Sports Camps and had a dedicated Sports Camp in week two. For Summer 2023, 20 places per day of the Active Summer Sports Camps have been reserved for use by the children.</p> <p>Weekly Sports Development classes have been re-introduced with gymnastics, football, athletics, skiing and swimming lessons offered in the evenings. Thirteen weeks of holiday camps are offered across a variety of venues and activities including football, skiing, judo, archery, rugby, cycling and much more with free places offered to children of families who are in need of extra support at summer, October and Easter.</p> <p>Inter school sport for primary and secondary pupils has been re-introduced at pre-Covid levels with 100% of primary aged pupils having the opportunity to take part in at least one festival or competition during 22/23 and a full range of secondary events including badminton and athletics championships</p>

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
				<p>taking place. Parents have also been welcomed back as spectators to school events.</p> <p>In April 2023 the primary curricular swimming programme re-started with every Primary 5 pupil (around 550 pupils) given the chance to take part in five weeks of water safety and basic aquatics skills supported by a newly recruited and nationally trained team of lifeguards and swimming teachers.</p> <p>As the development of the Wellbeing Hub and Lochies School project continues, the project team have been identifying current gaps and duplication in provision, ensuring that the existing programming across Clackmannanshire is varied and robust and will be enhanced once the Wellbeing Hub and Lochies School open in late 2026/early 2027.</p>
CHC CSP A2d	All eligible 2 year olds and some children under 2, particularly from vulnerable, at risk, care experienced and teenage parents will take up the offer of Early Learning and Child Care places	Education Senior Manager ELC & Primary	✔	A Scottish government ELC census was carried out week beginning 24th April 2023. At that point 153 eligible 2 year olds received 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). Of those 153 children, 33 children received their placement in a private nursery, 2 with a partner childminder with the remaining 118 children in a local authority setting. A discretionary policy was developed August 2022 to allow placement's for children who do not meet the eligible 2's criteria. These children are able to be offered a couple of sessions a week to provide support to their families.
CHC CSP A2e	Implement whole systems approaches to ensure children and young people with additional support needs are supported to overcome barriers to inclusion at home, school and in the community and achieve positive destinations	Senior Manager Inclusion & Partnerships	✔	<p>The GIRFEC Forum Guidance has been reviewed and further documents developed to support schools in completing robust Wellbeing Assessments. These have been fully shared with all Educational Establishments and have been uploaded to the 'Connecting Clacks Educators' Glow tile for easy access for all staff. Establishments have been making appropriate use of the 'Guidance on Completion of Wellbeing Assessments' to access support from the GIRFEC Forum (65 referrals August-December 2022) Almost all wellbeing assessments submitted have been fully completed to a good standard. Next steps will be to continue to quality assure the process and identified data trends to enable us to better support establishments with identified cohorts of children/young people.</p> <p>The ASL Moderation group has been formed with representation from all ASL Specialist Provisions and Outreach Teams. The Terms of reference have been agreed, with clear aims of the group identified. Initial meetings of the group have taken place and actions for the next meetings agreed. There has also been a joint training session where agreement fully made to the consistent recording of reporting of incidents as well as initiating a bank of risk assessment templates. All participants reported that they highly valued these opportunities to meet and collaborate. These sessions will continue termly to further build on opportunities to collaborate.</p> <p>Six Flexible Learning Spaces have been developed in response to identified need in educational establishments. The 'Flexible Learning Space Guidance' was developed and shared with establishments along with the 'Tiered Approach to ASL Professional Learning' document. Each establishment has had access to a 'Team Around the School' to support with the development of the space and problem solve emerging issues. Visits have been made to almost all spaces. In the first term there were fewer referrals to the GIRFEC Forum for support from these establishments which would indicate the inclusion of the flexible learning spaces has improved the capacity of the</p>

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
				<p>establishments to meet the needs of children/young people. A self-evaluation of the Quality Indicator 3.3 Ensuring Wellbeing, Equity and Inclusion carried out by the school.</p> <p>April 23- Neurodevelopmental Pathway work has been completed by educational Psychology Services, with new guidance and associated documents now available for Education staff to assist them in making referrals into NHS services.</p> <p>Proposed relocation of Lochies School - A report providing the summary results from the online consultation which was hosted on Clackmannanshire Council's online Citizen Space Consultation Database along with the staff and parent/carers consultations were submitted to Education Scotland in January 2023 and have been approved.</p> <p>Two Lens bids successful, 'Without Exception' to test barriers and solutions to providing out of school activities for children with Profound and Complex ASNs and 'ClaxP&amp;C' to create parents/carers network for families of children with ASNs. Both Parent/carers led.</p> <p>Allocation of Families First/Cash First funding offered to all families of children and young people at Lochies and Alloa EASN through the Summer Food and Childcare Programme. Pilot of hydrotherapy for non ambulant children trialled in July 22 (Active Clacks/Lochies).</p>
CHC CSP A2f	Deliver MCR pathways which aim to improve the outcomes gap for care experienced young people	Education Senior Manager (Secondary)	✔	<p>The MCR Pathways Programme across Clackmannanshire continues to ensure that every care experienced young person, or those who have experienced disadvantage, has access to the same educational outcomes, career opportunities and life chances as every other young person. On-going data capture and analysis since August 2021 has identified a number of challenges and highlighted the need for planning to continue to take into account the impact of Covid 19 on children, young people and their families. It has required MCR and its Education partners to carefully consider the additional requirements and support needed to address the impact of Covid 19 on interrupted learning, disconnection from school and data collection and ensure that this is taken into consideration as the Programme moves transitions to the next phase of Care Experienced Funding.</p> <p>MCR continues to support young people participating to achieve their academic potential and reach a positive destination. There are 65 established mentored relationships across Clackmannanshire with an average of 65 hours of volunteering across the authority every week. Despite the challenges of Covid 19 there are 9 active Mentors who are Clacks Council employees. Each of the Academies has a Pathway Coordinator, ensuring that there are strong partnerships in place and that young people receive appropriate support.</p>
CHC CSP A2g	Increased citizenship through youth volunteering offered widely and recognised through the Government framework of the Saltire Award	Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface	✔	<p>The Saltire Awards registration with increased citizenship through youth volunteering grew to 92 new volunteers for the year 21/22 from 54 in 20/21. Highest awarding categories were 10-, 25-, and 50-hour certificates with 78, 30 and 21 issued, respectively. The aim for 22/23 is to attract new volunteers and encourage retention and completion of longer awards. Currently in 2022/23 the numbers are sitting at 87 new volunteers and 2 new Group Administrators with an increase of logged hours to 7122 (from 6176 in 21/22) showing that this outcome has already been achieved with more volunteers staying in volunteering for longer. Activities include: Working with DYW team to link in</p>

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
				with schools; Promotion of Saltire Awards during Volunteers' Week; Working with CLD and CYV programme; Return to face to face events/activity; School visits planned for August/September; Designing a short volunteer workshop for partners to promote youth volunteering and Saltire Awards; and Working with PEC to promote the Awards.

### 3. Children & young people in Clackmannanshire understand their rights and are engaged and involved in decision making

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
CHC CSP A3a	Develop a rights-based approach that puts the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the centre of everything we do	Education Senior Manager (Secondary)	✓	Within Clackmannanshire Family Wellbeing Partnership – as part of Child Wellbeing Project. Young people from St. Mungo's Primary School engaged with A Place in Childhood and created Clackmannanshire Children's Charter for Childcare, The Children have also attended Dundee to share their work and participate in a national Children's Charter for Scotland.
CHC CSP A3b	Ensure access and increased opportunity for advocacy and participation for all care experienced children and young people	Service Manager - Permanence	✓	<p>'Communities that Care' delivered by Who Cares? Scotland is a five year programme that has recently commenced within Clackmannanshire. The programme is based in schools and is intended to increase awareness of care experience, reduce stigma, and increase opportunities for advocacy and participation.</p> <p>Who Cares? continue to deliver advocacy services for care experienced children and young people, and there has been a steady increase of referrals over the reporting period (29%) which is attributed to work undertaken to raise awareness of advocacy services amongst staff, carers and young people. The Participation Network completed its first key piece of work in relation to the language of care, this was an area identified as being a priority to the members of the network with lived experience. A language policy has been co-designed using the Scottish Approach to Service Redesign.</p> <p>Oor Clacks Voices began meeting regularly again this year as we have moved forward from Covid 19, this strengthens the role of The Participation Network as well as ensuring young people's voices and priorities continue to shape and influence the way we deliver services to children and their families. An example of this is young people's participation in the discovery work carried out in Clackmannanshire by the Aberlour/Vardy Foundation Partnership.</p>
CHC CSP A3c	The Children Hearing advocacy services are promoted and made available to children and young people	Locality Reporter Manager (SCRA)	✓	<p>SCRA is fully supportive of the provision of children's advocacy services and has played a key role in developing an information leaflet and setting up a website on advocacy services for hearings, a link to which is on our website. We consider that social work play the key role in advising the child in advance of a hearing of the availability of an advocacy service. We expect that the contracted advocacy providers will have made contact with local social work teams to raise this expectation.</p> <p>SCRA data shows there has been an increase in advocacy workers attending children's hearings</p>

Cod e	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
				since we began recording their attendance on our database in 2021.
CHC CSP A3d	Deliver the Youth Engagement Framework for Clackmannanshire	Education Senior Manager (Secondary)	✔	<p>A meeting was held with secondary Headteachers and CLD on 28.10.22 to discuss the Youth Voice agenda. It was agreed that schools would recruit up to four young people, two from senior phase and two from BGE. Youth workers have gone into schools to start working with young people, with the intention that they would attend training at Bowmar prior to implementing the Youth Council and Champions leadership programmes in January 2023. Staff absence has delayed this.</p> <p>The first Youth Council meeting was held on 28.11.22, chaired by the Chief Education Officer, with senior phase Captaincy teams from each Academy present. Issues covered included the role of the Youth Council and school updates from young people. A development group of CLD partnership based staff has worked together to create a Youth Voice Guidance Framework and a supporting resource which, to maintain consistency, was discussed at a meeting of key Education/Youth Voice/UNCRC Leads across FVWL on 23 February 2023, to aid the completion of this document. It looks to support youth voice approaches within all aspects of the system including formal and non-formal education, community based learning and third sector organisations.</p>
CHC CSP A3e	Deliver the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Youth Scheme for young people in Clackmannanshire	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	✔	All young persons are now working through the YVS syllabus which will continue to run in 2023/24. The young volunteers will support summer Community Safety Engagement activities and will also support local fundraising style activities throughout the year too.
CHC CSP A3f	Place based provision for children and young people in communities delivered in partnership with community, voluntary organisations and public sector partners	Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface; Senior Manager Inclusion & Partnerships	✔	The total of referrals for our Befriending Project, before it closed. There were 35 referrals which were not able to be matched before the funding ended, with another 80 referrals which were able to be actioned during the duration of the project.
CHC CSP A3g	Review plans in place for young carers in Clackmannanshire	Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface; Falkirk & Clacks Carers Centre	✔	There were 45 new referrals between April 2022 and March 2023. Central Carers Centre offered 45 young carers in Clackmannanshire the opportunity to develop or review a Young Carers Statement (YCS), 33 completed a YCS & 11 reviews were done. Young carers are supported to engage in consultations, involvement and engagement opportunities, nine young carers in Clackmannanshire are part of the Falkirk & Clackmannanshire Young Carers Voice sharing their views on local and national carer issues. 79 young carers accessed the Young Carers Activity Grant, 7 accessed a Creative Break and eligible young carers were supported to apply for Scot Gov Young Carer Grants. The project also provides some young carers with individual support and/or monthly groups, in this reporting period, there were 521 individual contacts provided for young carers, and 23 groups attended by 52 young carers with 174 attendances. 6 young carers attended a break away at the Scottish Young Carers Festival.



## B. Priority Theme - Whole Family Support

### 1. Children, young people and their families can access a range of support services and family therapies in Clackmannanshire

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
CHC CSP B1a	Undertake a full strategic needs assessment and commissioning of Children's Services in Clackmannanshire. This work will be part of the Human and Economic Cost Modelling work	Senior Manager Early Intervention	✔	<p>The key priorities identified in the Strategic Needs Analysis have enabled us to identify a way forward for commissioning alongside our WFWF funding. This will involve the commissioning of intensive support provision to enable the return home of some children/young people placed outwith the authority and to ensure that children on the "cusp of care" remain supported at home with their family, in Clackmannanshire.</p> <p>Next steps are to commission the intensive support service for a year, appoint a development officer to lead on the progression of consortium approach to the delivery of Whole Family Support led by the voice of lived experience.</p>
CHC CSP B1b	Develop a blueprint for family and community support services in Clackmannanshire	Senior Manager Early Intervention	✔	<p>All Third sector services continue to work effectively with social work services. The new screening group is now operational and effective in ensuring that referrals are prioritised and matched appropriately. Feedback from Third sector partners has highlighted that this is working well but there continues to be increasing demand. The feedback from all the providers is being used to co-ordinate supports across the county with excellent examples of partnership working regularly evident at the Family Support Sub Group.</p>
CHC CSP B1c	Develop integrated early intervention pathways for vulnerable children and explore options to link this work with Strive	Senior Manager Early Intervention	✔	<p>The Early Intervention Team has continued to develop their suite of services available. The introduction of group work has been successful with staff currently facilitating several groups per week as well as managing a case load of between 20-30 families. As the Children's Service redesign progresses, there will be significantly increased capacity in the service. This will enable further development of group work, alongside Third sector, education and health partners and through working closely together pathways to the right service at the right time for families will become more streamlined.</p> <p>STRIVE have continued to make links with schools in the Alloa area and are working to clarify referral pathways and appropriate supports for individuals as early as possible.</p>
CHC CSP B1d	Implement the Icelandic Prevention Model for Alcohol and Drug use in Clackmannanshire	Senior Manager Inclusion & Partnerships	✔	<p>Phase 2 of the Icelandic Prevention Model, Clackmannanshire data from the Survey has been shared with identified staff in secondary schools, some senior pupils and individual colleagues from the Alcohol and Drug Partnership, NHS Health Promotion, and Recovery Scotland. Representatives from these groups will form a Coalition Group to support establishments with their individual plans and wider dissemination. Planning is underway to share key data trends with Secondary Parent Councils to ensure that their voice and support forms part of future developments.</p> <p>Key focus areas that continue to have priority in all action planning include support for mental wellbeing concerns, suicidal intent and self harm, substance use, in particular vaping, with each school providing bespoke support based on their context data.</p>

Cod e	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
				<p>Progress updates from Clackmannanshire continue to be shared at the IPM Local Authority Coordinators Meetings which are held monthly with representatives from Highland Council, Argyll and Bute Council, Dundee Council and West Dunbartonshire Council to discuss good practice, provide support and challenge. Individual school action planning to support schools unique context data have been well received and were highlighted at the National Network Meeting.</p> <p>Clackmannanshire is unique in that we are implementing this project across all our secondary schools and communities. Additional funding is available to support the delivery and embedding of Planet Youth and it is anticipated that a community coordination post will be explored.</p>

## 2. Children, young people and their families can access the right services based on their needs

Cod e	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
CHC CSP B2a	Review the pathways that integrate youth, adult and mental health services to ensure a continuum of services and supported transitions to adulthood	Service Manager – Early Intervention	✔	<p>Clackmannanshire Council and Clackmannanshire/Stirling HSCP Transition Policy is currently being revised and a draft will be presented to The Full Council in August 2023 for comment and approval. The policy will be consulted on via a consultation group hosted within the HSCP. Parents of Children with disabilities have also been invited to comment on the policy.</p> <p>Alongside the overarching procedure, there will be associated procedures for each area. This will include Social Work and education services within Clackmannanshire and Stirling.</p> <p>The Operational Transitions Group continues to meet regularly to identify and review those young people with disabilities who may require additional support in adulthood.</p>
CHC CSP B2b	Implement processes to ensure that housing services attend pathway review meetings at earliest opportunity to enable early exploration of the housing options available for care experienced young people	Service Manager - Permanence	✔	<p>Regular meetings are established between Housing and the Throughcare Aftercare Team to highlight the housing needs of care experienced young people at the earliest opportunity. The aim of this group is to ensure planned transitions to living independently, reduce risk of homelessness through unplanned endings, and to maximise the opportunities for young people to return to their local area.</p> <p>The Children's Services Redesign identified the need for increased resource to support planning and review for care experienced children and young people. An Independent Reviewing Officer has now been identified to have oversight and quality assure pathway planning for all care experienced young people preparing to leave care. Pathways assessments have been refreshed and priority is being given to working towards ensuring that all young people have Pathways assessments and plans that are regularly reviewed. This continues to be a priority area for improvement.</p>
CHC CSP B2c	Develop a family and community support directory of all community based family support services and family therapies in Clackmannanshire	Senior Manager Early Intervention	✔	<p>This work will be progressed over 2023/24 via the Family Support sub group, alongside other aligned activity with TCSi and the Alcohol and Drug Partnership.</p>

Cod e	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
CHC CSP B2d	Improve the support available for Kinship families	Service Manager - Permanence	✔	Clackmannanshire Council continues to have growing numbers of kinship carers, and it is recognised that good quality support takes a number of different forms. The redesign will see support for carers increase through provision of support located within the Early Intervention Team with a dedicated Senior Practitioner to coordinate this. A focus is growing in Clackmannanshire on building a Care Community and Kinship Carers have been involved in Care Community Events celebrating National Care Week, as well as a trips and training opportunities. Increased financial support has been provided to targeted kinship households during holidays to support children to take part in activities. An integrated approach is being taken to supporting kinship carers working alongside the Family Wellbeing Partnership, and with the Virtual Head Teacher. AFKA (Association for Fostering Adoption and Kinship) have been commissioned to develop information for kinship carers which will be hosted on the Council's website, and to deliver training to all staff to ensure that support in this area continues to improve.



### 3. The health and wellbeing of children and young people is improved and inequalities are reduced

Cod e	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
CHC CSP B3a	Develop opportunities for early intervention and family support for financial inclusion at earliest opportunity	Senior Manager Partnership & Transformation; Principal Public Health Officer	✔	<p>Clackmannanshire Alliance partners have worked hard to mitigate the cost of living crisis in 2022/23. In August 2022, the Council agreed a package of support totalling £1.075m to help local families which enabled the following support to be provided for local families, communities and businesses. Over 5000 residents received a cost of living payment of £100 in autumn 2022, while £170,000 of funding was provided to support local businesses as part of wider local economic recovery activity.</p> <p>Activities to support wellbeing, through targeted responses to address financial insecurity were rolled out across Clackmannanshire. This included cash-first initiatives alongside the integration of money advice and holistic support services to prevent future hardship. Furthermore, these initiatives included increased emergency financial assistance through both Scottish Welfare Fund and Discretionary Housing Payment as well as proactive financial assistance - including for those impacted by the cut to Universal Credit and those not eligible for mainstream or other support and direct assistance to access food, fuel and other essentials. This investment totalled some £271,000.</p> <p>Work was undertaken directly by Alliance partners to support families caring for a severely disabled child at home who may be facing higher bills as a result of health-related equipment or particular vulnerability in the event of a loss of power during the winter months.</p> <p>In early December 2022, the Council agreed to bolster the Scottish Welfare Fund. The fund administers grants to individuals on behalf of the Scottish Government for Crisis Grants - which cover short term crisis payments including food, gas, electric and clothing - and Community Care Grants that support individuals to maintain their tenancy and can include payments for essential household living items. Recognising the likely increase in applications over the winter period Council agreed</p>



Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
				<p>additional funding up to £150,000 to enable payment of both grants up to 31st March 2023. Additional financial support was provided to The Gate and to the Citizen's Advice Bureau.</p> <p>These actions are being supported by the publication of a booklet providing information about cost of living support available in Clackmannanshire, as well as improved information on the Council's website on 'where to go for support'. This work has been supported by partners of our Tackling Poverty Partnership.</p> <p>A sub group of the Tackling Poverty Partnership will consider 'Winter Preparedness' in mid-2023, engaging and co-producing further poverty mitigation approaches with community groups during Challenge Poverty week (October 2023).</p>
CHC CSP B3b	Implement family learning opportunities and access to support services to minimise poverty impacts as a result of Covid	Senior Manager Inclusion & Partnerships	✔	<p>Following a review of the Parental Involvement and Engagement Survey and analysis of School Improvement Plans for 2022-2023, 3 targeted schools were identified to develop a focussed plan for improvement. Support sessions and visits were provided to set out individual actions and outcomes to help establishments to encourage family members to learn together, with a focus on intergenerational learning.</p> <p>Focussed programmes and learning opportunities have been held at two Primary schools with an emphasis on literacy and numeracy and one Secondary school was a finalist in the Parent and Family Engagement category at the Education Scotland National Awards ceremony in May 2023.</p> <p>Regular updates and signposting to national guidance and events continues to ensure that all establishments plan, manage and deliver opportunities to engage adults and children to learn together as and within a family through quality formal or informal programmes.</p>
CHC CSP B3c	Extend the range of interventions to support young parents in improving outcomes - All eligible teenage parents are supported by the Family Nurse Partnership to engage in targeted programmes	NHS; Chief Nurse, Universal Children's Services	✔	<p>All young parents (those 19 years at last menstrual period [LMP]) are offered FNP when booking with maternity services. The overall stretch aim for FNP programme is 70% of eligible client will be enrolled with in FNP programme by 16+6 weeks of pregnancy, 2022 saw an increase of 1.45% in the last year. In order to achieve best out comes from FNP programme a minimum input of contact must be achieved, the overall stretch aim for client receiving FNP Programme in pregnancy remains unchanged from 2021 but a plan has been developed to support improvement with the stretch aim. The overall stretch aim for client receiving FNP Programme in infancy (first year) is 65% we are currently exceeding this by 1.1%. The overall stretch aim for client receiving FNP Programme in Toddlerhood (2<sup>nd</sup> year) is 60%. We achieved an almost 10% increase in this stretch aim which is currently 61.53%.</p> <p>Improvement work carried out to increase optimum programme delivery includes regular 1:1 supervision and ongoing staff training at monthly meetings. Nationally the offer of FNP programme is being extended to young women who are 21 years at LMP, and 24 years at LMP for those who are care experienced. In NHS Forth Valley this was commenced as a Test of Change in Dec 2022 and was offered to young parents under 20 years with a plan to extend to those aged 21 years and up to 25<sup>th</sup> birthday at last menstrual period for care experienced young people by Dec 2023. In the first five months of recruitment, all fidelity minimum standards were being met. However due to the significant</p>

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
				increased numbers creating a risk to the programme for the under 19 yrs. age group the Test for Change has been paused to allow for further scoping to be carried out. This is being fully supported by the Scottish Government.
CHC CSP B3d	Expand opportunities to address food insecurity and improve the nutrition, engagement and confidence of parents/carers	Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface; Principal Public Health Officer	✔	<p>The Community Meal Training from NHS Forth Valley's Nutrition team continues to deliver capacity for after school supper clubs in the area to address food insecurity. Volunteers trained through the course continue to enable nutritious after school meals to groups in 5 locations; including Sunnyside School and the youth groups at Hawkhill Community Centre.</p> <p>There has been significant progress on this agenda during 2022/23, in particular for consulting with partners and engaging with communities in a variety of formats to uncover what is being done well, what has stopped (e.g. since the pandemic) and what potential solutions there are. A part time Coordinator continues to support this work (aligned with Forth Environment Links). All of the following areas will be reflected in development of an action plan from late 2023 that better joins up, amplifies and increases the impact of organisations that address food insecurity and improve the nutrition, engagement and confidence of parents and carers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivered 2 workshops as part of the Challenge Poverty conference for 2022, with a series of outcomes and recommendations made e.g. utilising existing school kitchens more; greater allocation of Council land for food growing; and greater variety in educational approaches to food.</li> <li>• Delivered 8 Clacks Good Food Charter workshops with a series of recommendations e.g. supporting more cooking from scratch and gardens as community hubs; reducing the reliance on takeaways and convenience foods. Promotion of the Food Charter across a range of businesses and organisations.</li> <li>• Facilitated community researchers to provide learning on access and affordability of food to families – Fed into the Our Right to Food Report.</li> <li>• Hosted a work placement for research on how to increase the uptake of fresh produce by families accessing food banks. Recommendations are being implemented within the NHSFV Community Dietetic teams' work plan.</li> </ul>

## 1. The Children & Young People Partnership Group is meeting planning and reporting requirements under Children's Services legislative framework

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
CHC CSP C1a	The CYP Partnership will undertake a Strategic Needs Assessment every 2 years. This will include horizon scanning to ensure early sight of developing legislation or national policy	Senior Manager Partnership & Transformation; Chief Social Work Officer		Clacks Demographic Profile 2023 updated. Draws on range of local data for children and young people to identify local priorities and gaps in provision and inform service development. This is shared across other local strategic partnerships to inform shared priorities.
CHC CSP C1b	The CYP Partnership will prepare annual reports on the delivery of this plan and our ambitions in meeting The Promise commitments	Service Manager - Permanence		A Promise Implementation Plan 23-36 has been developed and approved by Council. The Council's Progress on Keeping The Promise is a standing item at the Children & Young People's Board, and is central to the priorities of the Children's Services Strategic Partnership. The Promise Plan and the priorities of the Strategic Partnership are aligned. The implementation of The Promise will continue to be reported on through the Children's Services Strategic Plan and Children & Young People Board to ensure progress is being made. To assess progress towards The Promise, and ensure that there is appropriate monitoring of The Promise Plan, including tracking of targets and measures, a 'Data Map' workstream will be established alongside the Family Wellbeing Partnership and Children and Young People Strategic Partnership to look across all data sets and improvement measures relating to The Promise delivery plan. This will ensure we are collecting the right data to understand where our priority opportunities for improvement are and identify data gaps.

## 2. Joint investment plans for Children's Services in Clackmannanshire are in place and reviewed at least annually

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
CHC CSP C2a	Our Human and Economic Cost Modelling review will support our work in jointly designing a model for how current investments in Children's Services can be spent more effectively in Clackmannanshire	Chief Social Work Officer		Work undertaken to estimate how much we are currently spending on children and families in and around the care system applying Follow the Money mapping. The HECM approach aligns with our strategic review of commissioned services to shift our resources to early intervention and prevention. The Family Wellbeing Partnership is a key example of using resources differently to deliver person-centred approaches, by listening to families, and building up community assets and solutions to improve whole family wellbeing and outcomes. The work in 2022/23 was supported by investment of around £400k - received in both direct funding to the Council and to our delivery partners; such as the LENS and Columba 1400. The data mapping activity, which will include the work of The Clackmannanshire Alliance will uncover opportunities for improvement and implications for financial investment.
CHC CSP	Current service provision will be reviewed to inform commissioning	Senior Manager Early		As detailed in CHC CSP B1a above, the review and Strategic Needs Analysis have now been concluded; key priorities identified and future commissioning activity is underway. Ongoing liaison

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
C2b	decisions of current and future need that support early intervention and prevention	Intervention		and review will continue over 2023, with input from the participation development officer when appointed, in order to ensure that the voice of lived experience is a key consideration in the review and development of services.



**3. Plans, policies, information and systems for Children's Services are shared seamlessly across the partnership**

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
CHC CSP C3a	Partners will strengthen sharing of information in order to safeguard children young people and vulnerable adults to align with the national refresh of GIRFEC	Lead Officer Child Protection; Chief Nurse, Universal Children's Services	✔	A multi agency training session took place on 10.3.23, which had a high turnout and offered an opportunity for practitioners from all agencies across Forth Valley to discuss the implications of the refreshed national GIRFEC guidance.
CHC CSP C3b	The CYP Partnership will ensure that the Community Planning Partnership can respond to national policy and developing legislation including consultations on these	Chief Social Work Officer	✔	CYP partnership has engaged in a range of national consultations. Implemented Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019; the Equal Protection from Assault Act, 2019; and progressing implementation of the new National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, 2021.
CHC CSP C3c	Implement the EIRD process in Clackmannanshire	Police Scotland	✔	The Steering group have produced IRD Guidance to support practitioners and training. This has been presented to both Falkirk and Stirling/Clacks CPC's and then presented to COG for sign off. A review of IRD reviews has also taken place and a briefing paper has been produced to be presented at CPC's for feedback and progression.



**D. Priority Theme - Supporting the Workforce**

**1. Partners will have the skills and competencies they require to deliver high quality services when working with our children, young people and their families**

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
CHC CSP D1a	The CYP Partnership will undertake a skills audit and integrated workforce development	Senior Manager, Care & Protection;	✔	Ensuring that all Children Young People Strategic Partners are providing high quality services when working with our children, young people and their families, a quarterly audit of learning analysis across CYP Partnership is analysed through PP Learning and Development sub group. Subsequent

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
	plan across the partnership	Police Scotland		<p>feedback that some agencies have additional pressures through staffing and attendance at multi-agency PP training has been lower than expected. Senior Managers of each agency to report back to PP Learning and Development sub group about impact of learning on practice, evidence through supervision and quarterly audits.</p> <p>The next step is to monitor through quarterly PP Learning and Development subgroup - impact and outcome of workforce development and improved attendance. Furthermore, SCIM (Scottish Child Interview Model) training is set to commence in November 2023, a trauma informed children' rights based approach to interviewing that will eventually replace the JII (Joint Investigative Interviewing training). This approach will ensure children and young people are safe from harm and understand their rights and are engaged in their decision making.</p>
CHC CSP D1b	The CYP Partnership will progress specific workforce development around protection safeguarding children and young people from abuse, exploitation and neglect	NHS; Lead Officer Child Protection		<p>Our multi-agency Public Protection Learning &amp; Practice Development Workforce Strategy 2020-23 supports a commitment to workforce planning, training and development for staff across the partnership.</p> <p>Multi agency training delivered quarterly: Inter agency Child Protection Key Processes Roles &amp; Responsibilities, Impact of Parental Substance Use (IPSU), Identification of Needs, Risks and Desired Outcomes and the Neglect toolkit.</p> <p>Multi agency training delivered twice a year: Safe &amp; Together Briefing, Safe &amp; Together Core Practice and Protecting Children with Disabilities.</p> <p>Multi agency training delivered 3 times a year: Responding to the impact of trauma for children and young people living with domestic abuse, Harmful Sexual Behaviour, Working with families who Find it Difficult to Engage with Services, Child protection IRD and MARAC.</p> <p>Child Sexual Exploitation, Criminal Exploitation across the Life span and Professional Curiosity &amp; Challenge e-modules are available on Clacks Academy and the NHS Forth Valley Learning Platform.</p>
CHC CSP D1c	We will implement the Transforming Psychological Trauma Knowledge and Skills Framework	Principal Educational Psychologist; Principal Public Health Officer		<p>Strong support received from the Senior Leadership Group within Council and resulted in a commitment that all managers across the Council will participate in a half day of in-person training from the Resilience Learning Partnership, with a further half day of online learning, on the lived experience of trauma and the need for systems and organisations to become trauma-informed in their approaches. This training starts in August, and ongoing support will be provided to managers through optional 'Conversation Cafes' to discuss ideas and strategies going forward. Once managers have had the initial training, they will deliver a 'Toolbox Talk' to their teams to further distribute this message. A lived experience group is in the early stages of being developed from within the Council to ensure that staff with lived experience are part of co-producing the Toolbox Talk and any further materials e.g. marketing assets.</p> <p>Educational Psychology Service have begun process of piloting a trauma-informed audit tool which will support service re-design, which will be rolled out to targeted services in the autumn.</p> <p>We have recently been informed by Scottish Government that a further year of funding will be</p>



Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
				released to Local Authorities, which will allow us to extend this work across more Council teams.
CHC CSP D1d	We will implement the Safe and Together Strategy across the partnership as part of our wider domestic abuse strategy and ensure that there is collaborative investment in Safe and Together and the Caledonian Model for working with families and children who have experienced domestic abuse	Senior Manager, Justice		<p>Clackmannanshire's Domestic Abuse Strategy will be presented at Council in August 2023. This has been overseen by partners from the Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership and in consultation with statutory and non statutory services and with those with lived experience. The strategy aligns with the Scottish Government Equally Safe Strategy. A supporting implementation and delivery plan will be added to this strategy following the national review of Equally Safe later this year. This delivery plan will be guided through public consultation (by ongoing consultation from those with lived experience).</p> <p>This strategy also looks at the responsibilities of the council as an employer and how best it can support the workforce. This includes specific training pathways for staff to ensure a trauma informed approach within the workplace as well as when supporting service users.</p> <p>Clackmannanshire Social Work Services, in partnership with Police Scotland, Clackmannanshire Housing Services, SACRO, Alcohol and Drug Partnership and Clackmannanshire Community Justice Partnership, continue to deliver 3 pilots aimed at addressing Domestic Abuse. These include the continuation of the Non Court Mandated Caledonian Programme for which the Scottish Government has continued funding for a Women's Support Worker for the third consecutive year. A Perpetrator and Women's Support Worker are now part of the STRIVE Group, offering early non statutory support where there are domestic abuse concerns. A men's self referral helpline has also been launched offering men support to address their concerns regarding domestically abusive behaviours. Both the helpline and the STRIVE support workers have received a further 6 month extension of funding from partners to continue delivery of service.</p> <p>Clackmannanshire Council continue to adopt the Safe and Together approach, recognising the multiple pathways to harm, seeing the perpetrator behind the actions. Briefings and more intensive training days continue to promote this awareness and approach to any interventions.</p> <p>Justice Services continue to deliver the Caledonian Programme as part of community based disposals available to the Courts. This includes both one to one and group work interventions and is run in partnership with SACRO to ensure survivors of domestic abuse are also supported. This support also includes a specific Children's Support Worker.</p>
CHC CSP D1e	Embed the Readiness for Learning Programme in Clackmannanshire	Senior Manager Inclusion & Partnerships		<p>Educational Psychology Service Improvement Plan contains specific actions to embed Readiness for Learning (R4L). This includes: Provision of 50 e-modules through the Council's online e-learning portal, ongoing consultation to identified target schools and through educational psychology case work, development of range of materials for children, young people and families relating to the R4L approach available on the FLIPClacks website for use at home or in school. Ongoing provision of an Intensive Therapeutic Service offering Eye-Movement Desensitisation and Re-processing (EMDR) to those pupils displaying the highest levels of need. All educational psychologists within the authority are currently training in the Neurosequential Model in Therapeutics to further enhance and extend the support to the most vulnerable pupils, specifically those at risk of requiring out of authority residential care.</p>

## 2. Partners will have common and shared workforce values when working with our children, young people and families

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
CHC CSP D2a	The partnership will review its good employment and fair work practices across all commissioned children's services	Senior Manager Partnership & Transformation	✔	A good employment charter has been developed as part of the Wellbeing Economy and CWB work. This will be shared with Alliance partners in the Summer, and thereafter will be shared with CPP partnerships. Needs to link with other key priority actions particularly FWP and Strategic commissioning review.
CHC CSP D2b	We will develop policies and workforce development strategies to meet the new Keeping Brothers and Sisters Together legislation and National Practice Guidance	Service Manager - Permanence	✔	<p>Work has been undertaken to build on the existing recording of brother and sister groups in order to undertake a baseline measurement of where brothers and sisters are living during their care journey. This is a complex area, and more qualitative data is needed to fully understand the picture, particularly in relation to how relationships between brothers and sisters are promoted and managed where brothers and sisters may be older and living elsewhere.</p> <p>A brothers and sisters working group is in place to consider review practice and processes within this area to ensure that the significant relationships brothers and sisters have with one another is central to planning. The group will develop a Brothers and Sisters Policy in collaboration with young people to ensure that a cohesive framework is in place to fully implement this legislation and to report on exceptions where brothers and sisters cannot live together.</p> <p>Who Cares? continue to provide advocacy support to care experienced young people in Clackmannanshire and have begun reporting on advocacy issues relating to groups of brothers and sisters. Between January and March 2023 Who Cares? supported sixteen groups of brothers and sisters totalling 39 individuals, young people were supported to exercise their rights to attend Children's Hearings for their brothers or sisters, and to raise advocacy issues in relation to family time with significant people within their family.</p>
CHC CSP D2c	We will develop values and workforce development strategies to fully implement the UNCRC across Children's Services	Education Senior Manager (Secondary)	✔	<p>The RIC UNCRC working group continued to implement the RIC UNCRC action plan. This involved developing a UNCRC toolkit in response to needs highlighted by authorities and their staff. UNCRC resources and toolkit are on the FVWL blog for all to access, including children's services staff.</p> <p>ThingLink has been developed by the FVWL UNCRC working group to raise awareness of UNCRC across FVWL in a fun and accessible way. This is now being used nationally.</p> <p>Self-evaluation resource has been developed and piloted for teams and educational establishments on their journey embedding UNCRC into practice. The resource provides ideas on next steps for areas highlighted as needing further development.</p> <p>Examples from good practice have been collated from across FVWL to illustrate approaches to incorporating UNCRC.</p> <p>All authorities in FVWL have delivered training in UNCRC over this time. Training videos and ideas have</p>

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
				<p>been developed and made available on the blog to provide a consistent approach across FVWL. As part of the working group discussions, it has been agreed that when an authority in FVWL RIC is delivering training, it will be offered out to staff across FVWL where possible.</p> <p>Clacks will be developing a communications strategy to ensure all the UNCRC materials developed are accessible, available, and known across FVWL. We will also be improving our approaches to ensuring children and young people and families are aware of the incorporation of UNCRC and what it means for them. Reviewed analytics in relation to the Thing Link UNCRC professional learning tool, to measure engagement.</p>
CHC CSP D2d	Implement The Clackmannanshire Family Wellbeing Partnership to understand what it takes to shift a whole system towards a wellbeing and capabilities approach to service design & delivery. This will look at family wellbeing budgets; values based leadership and community around the child	Senior Manager Inclusion & Partnerships	✔	<p><b>Clackmannanshire Family Wellbeing Partnership Change Programme:</b></p> <p><b>Values Based Leadership (VBL)</b> - Columba 1400 have supported VBL activity with partners, young people, families, individual community members, community groups, Council staff and elected members, creating the conditions for a community of change makers to emerge. A senior leader's cohort with local third sector representation took place in January 2023 and included an in-depth review of People and Place based approaches within Clackmannanshire to maximise and accelerate transformation. Commitment was given to enhance and expand on the third sector involvement as part of the council's transformational agenda and work to scope that out took place in March 2023. A community leadership cohort in conjunction with Third Sector Partners (Hawkhill Community Centre, Play Alloa and OYCI) took place within the community in March 2023. This was a successful cohort and further strengthened links with community members, parents and partner organisations. In October 2022, a cohort of Council staff, local employability partners, Ceteris, NHS Scotland, DWP and researchers from the WEALL (Wellbeing Economy Alliance) and the Scottish Government, came together to explore the employment and employability landscape in Clackmannanshire. This was a highly productive session with a variety of links and contacts made as part of the WEALL employment research.</p> <p>Throughout March 2023 groups of 20 pupils from each of the three secondary schools participated in Columba 1400 VBL residential experiences on Skye. Some of these young people will go on to participate in the new Train the Trainer academy facilitated by Columba 1400 in May 2023. This programme will train 12 pupils and 3 teachers to lead their own leadership academies in their respective schools, ensuring further sustainability of Values Based Leadership for young people.</p> <p><b>The Lens</b> has also supported FWP activity through two separate programmes which helped local people and organisations develop ideas to support community initiatives. So far, nineteen community teams/organisations have benefited from the Lens programme with investment or by 1:2:1 business development support. Included in the above investment, the Hunter Foundation funded the Wellbeing Economy Alliance Scotland (WEAll) to take a deep dive into the employment landscape in Clackmannanshire and to identify gaps and actions needed.</p> <p><b>Clackmannanshire 'Early Adopter' Child Wellbeing Project</b> - Funded by the Scottish Government to build and test a system of school age childcare, this is aimed at supporting parents – particularly those on low incomes. The family characteristics set out in the Best Start, Bright Futures: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026 are used to identify eligible families. Clackmannanshire Early Adopter Child</p>

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
				<p>Wellbeing project has engaged with third sector partners and childcare providers and several organisations have now begun trial implementation of after school clubs. This project continues to lead on engagement with partners and members of the community to build effective partnerships to take a person-centred and place-based approach to co-designing a future system of school age childcare and child wellbeing opportunities to meet the needs of the community, whilst ensuring that plans align to The Promise Scotland.</p> <p>Clackmannanshire Early Adopter Child Wellbeing Project with St. Mungo's Primary School and A Place in Childhood (APiC) will be published imminently. Clackmannanshire Early Adopter Child Wellbeing project is working with partners such as the Pre-Employability Clackmannanshire Team, Clackmannanshire Works and Resilience Learning Partnership. These partnerships support parents/carers of children accessing funded school age childcare employment advice and wellbeing support, together with the opportunity to develop skills and accreditation in childcare provision.</p> <p><b>Community Around the School</b> - takes a focused approach to person centred supports for young people, their families and members of the Community. It is centred on Alloa Academy and the range of activities has expanded significantly over the course of the Partnership so far, with initiatives focused on wellbeing and developing capabilities. Impact stories, programme descriptions and outcomes were shared with Scottish Government and Columba 1400 partners in February 2023. The Adult Learning sessions at Alloa Academy continue to be well attended with participants now able to gain Food Hygiene qualifications as well as Literacy and Employability. The cooking element of the programme has been particularly well received with parents/carers and children getting involved. Three of the Alloa Academy members of staff and three Adult Learning participants have joined others at Alloa Academy to participate in The Lens 2 to bid for support in running more community programmes and activities after school hours. The Clacks Refugee Team (who are working with The Lens) have consulted community members who, so far, have requested classes in sewing, DIY and emotional wellbeing support. These programmes "Connecting Clacks Communities" will be co-created and co-facilitated by Alloa Academy, Clacks Refugee Team staff and community members.</p> <p><b>NHS Scotland Academy and Stirling University Project</b> is underway - a partnership between NHS Golden Jubilee and NHS Education for Scotland that supports the transformation and sustainability of the health and social care workforce through accelerated, needs driven, learning and development. Alloa Academy is running an innovative pilot project to introduce S2 pupils to health and social care courses and careers using Stirling University as a setting. There will be a launch day at Alloa Academy prior to a pilot experience at the university for a group of S2 pupils. Young people will gain insight into various health and social care courses and careers as well as being introduced to Stirling University generally. After evaluation and modification, it is hoped that there will be a rolling programme for all S2 pupils.</p> <p>Alloa Academy S4 pupils are being offered short work experience "tasters" by Clacks Environment Services - Fleet and Roads. Pupils will spend an afternoon in Roads and Fleet to gain insight into these areas and job prospects and there will be opportunities for extended work experience. One S5 pupil who participated in three weeks of work experience in Environment Services secured an apprenticeship in</p>

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
				another local authority because of this. Further engagement with Street Soccer has taken place with partners now geared up to have a project underway with the assistance of Leisure Services. Street Soccer will be provided free by Social Innovation Partnership. Street Soccer provides free football-themed training and personal development opportunities for socially disadvantaged groups across Scotland.
CHC CSP D2e	Develop access pathways to training for wider workforce working with children and young people within communities and third sector through the new TSI Scotland Network online training platform	Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface	✓	Learning platform is still in development. TSI's still offer training for third sector organisations and CTSI are working in partnership with Falkirk and Stirling TSI to coordinate relevant training to third sector organisations. A training needs analysis was carried out for Clackmannanshire organisations and training will be offered to meet these needs.  (CTSI) has partnered with the skills network to offer you all the opportunity to explore new skills and learning opportunities. All courses are now available to apply and are fully funded without any cost associated and a great resource for personal and professional development. <a href="https://ctsi.theskillsnetwork.com/">https://ctsi.theskillsnetwork.com/</a>

### 1. The partnership and its public agencies have plans in place to meet Children Service Planning emerging legislative framework



Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
CHC CSP E1a	The CYP partnership will review and put in place appropriate plans around the following key areas of new and developing legislation: UNCRC	Education Senior Manager (Secondary)	✓	Work being taken forward as part of the Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC) workstream on the implementation of the UNCRC Scotland Bill is continuing, with the caveat that the Scottish Government still has to address the decision of the UK Supreme Court in October 2021, that the Bill lies outwith the legislative powers of the Scottish Parliament. As part of The Promise and in readiness for when the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is embedded in all aspects Scottish law, Multi-Agency United Nations on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), training took place in 3 Cohorts during Sept 2022. The Bill was debated again in Parliament in February 2023, as the legislation is still not implemented. The Scottish Government and the Supreme Court are still debating their next steps.
CHC CSP E1b	The CYP partnership will review and put in place appropriate plans around the following key areas of new and developing legislation: Children's Hearing	Locality Reporter Manager (SCRA)	✓	Preparation is under way for the Care and Justice Bill. Training will be delivered to reporters on how we will deal with offence referrals relating to young people aged 16 and 17. SCRA were heavily involved in the preparation of the HSWG report which was published recently. SCRA played a major role in influencing many of the recommendations made by Sheriff Mackie in his report. Scottish Government is due to report back by Nov/Dec 23 on the report and SCRA will continue to be involved in the development of these recommendations along with the 'The Promise Scotland' and the Scottish Government. Some of the recommendations will require legislative

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
				change which SCRA will consult on but many of them can be implemented by improvement work and work with our partners at CHS. Work is under way through the 'Keeping the Promise' project in order to advise on any reform/changes in legislation relating to the children's hearing.
CHC CSP E1c	The CYP partnership will review and put in place appropriate plans around the following key areas of new and developing legislation: Keeping Brothers and Sisters Together	Service Manager - Permanence	✔	<p>Work has been undertaken to build on the existing recording of brother and sister groups in order to undertake a baseline measurement of where brothers and sisters are living during their care journey. This is a complex area, and more qualitative data is needed to fully understand the picture, particularly in relation to how relationships between brothers and sisters are promoted and managed where brothers and sisters may be older and living elsewhere.</p> <p>A brothers and sisters working group is in place to consider review practice and processes within this area to ensure that the significant relationships brothers and sisters have with one another is central to planning. The group will develop a Brothers and Sisters Policy in collaboration with young people to ensure that a cohesive framework is in place to fully implement this legislation and to report on exceptions where brothers and sisters cannot live together.</p> <p>Who Cares? continue to provide advocacy support to care experienced young people in Clackmannanshire and have begun reporting on advocacy issues relating to groups of brothers and sisters. Between January and March 2023 Who Cares? supported sixteen groups of brothers and sisters totalling 39 individuals, young people were supported to exercise their rights to attend Children's Hearings for their brothers or sisters, and to raise advocacy issues in relation to family time with significant people within their family.</p>
CHC CSP E1d	The CYP partnership will review and put in place appropriate plans around the following key areas of new and developing legislation: Age of criminal responsibility	Lead Officer Child Protection	✔	<p>7 minute briefing, briefing note for practitioners and operational guidance PowerPoint briefing developed and shared with multi-agency staff and on Forth Valley Practitioner Pages - <a href="https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/fvpp/child-protection-age-of-criminal-responsibility-act/">https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/fvpp/child-protection-age-of-criminal-responsibility-act/</a> .</p> <p>The Forth Valley ACRA Implementation Group agreed that the short life working group was no longer required and updates to guidance or processes will become the responsibility of the Forth Valley Child Protection Policies, Procedures and Protocol subgroup. A Forth Valley Practitioner Forum session will be arranged when there is learning to be shared.</p>
CHC CSP E1e	The CYP partnership will review and put in place appropriate plans around the following key areas of new and developing legislation: Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill	Senior Manager, Justice	✔	Whilst the Bill became Law on 5 May 2021 introducing use of new protection notices and orders to protect people from domestic abuse, it hasn't yet been implemented.
CHC CSP E1f	The CYP partnership will review and put in place appropriate plans around the following key areas of new and developing legislation: Support implementation of the National Guidance for Child	Lead Officer Child Protection	✔	A forth Valley Wide group is progressing the refresh of the Forth Valley Guidance in line with the new national guidance. This work is on track and next steps once the revised guidance is completed will be to develop the training and awareness sessions to accompany its publication.

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
	Protection within the broader context of local GIRFEC practice			
CHC CSP E1g	The CYP Partnership will refresh the Corporate Parenting Strategy for Clackmannanshire and oversee its delivery	Service Manager - Permanence	✓	Clackmannanshire Council's Promise plan is a statement of our Corporate Parenting commitment to our care experienced children and young people in Clackmannanshire. A Promise Subgroup will replace the previous Corporate Parenting Group, and will report on activity in relation to Keeping the Promise and delivering of our statutory duties/responsibilities to our children as Corporate Parents.
CHC CSP E1h	The CYP Partnership will take forward the recommendations and oversee local implementation of #keepthepromise and report on progress	Service Manager - Permanence	✓	<p>Work continues at pace to #KeepThePromise we have made to our children and young people in Clackmannanshire. Clackmannanshire Council's Promise Plan 23-26 reflects on our progress to date and our continued commitment to achieve change for our care experienced children and families. Progress is reported on to CYP Strategic Partnership and to elected members through Children &amp; Young People's Board. Progress to date includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a Language Policy co-designed by the Participation Network;</li> <li>• Working in partnership with Vardy Foundation to develop local care provision;</li> <li>• Increased support to care givers through service redesign and increase of fees and allowances;</li> <li>• Appointment of a Virtual Head Teacher to track support and attainment for care experience children and young people in education.</li> <li>• Extension of wellbeing service to include a designated wellbeing worker for care experienced young people aged 16-26.</li> <li>• Training and development of a brothers and sisters working group to ensure that children's significant relationships are central to planning.</li> <li>• Joint work between Psychological Services, Woodside and Family Placement Team in relation to trauma informed approaches and training. All staff at Woodside received PACE (a therapeutic approach to care centred around principles of Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity, Empathy). To build on this further some staff at Woodside have undertaken training in Dyadic Therapeutic Practice, building on trauma informed approaches to caring. Training in Adult Attachment Theory has also taken place across the wider service.</li> <li>• Children's Services redesign focused on relationship based approaches to families within a community model</li> <li>• Implementation of Communities that Care within Clackmannanshire Schools.</li> </ul>

**2. The partnership will have robust governance plans in place and will keep these under regular review**

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
CHC CSP E2a	The CYP partnership will have clear operating arrangements and governance structures in place.	Chief Social Work Officer	✓	Membership of the CYP Partnership reviewed ensuring Senior Manager representation from across the partnership. All have a senior leadership and strategic role. Reporting templates developed for CYP accountable leads to report on progress against priority actions. Cycle of 8 weekly meetings in

Code	Action	Lead	Expected Outcome	Progress Update
	This will include links to sub groups and other partnerships and reporting on progress to the CPP and other appropriate committees			place. Work of the CYPSG reported to The Alliance and Children & Young People Board.
CHC CSP E2b	The CYP Partnership will improve its use of data to drive performance and improvement and will have robust performance management processes and systems in place	Senior Manager Partnership & Transformation		Performance framework developed for the CYP outlining performance reporting requirements and schedule. Performance dashboard established (using Pentana) which will enable regular monitoring at strategic level of key performance measures. Strategic needs assessment process will consider horizon scanning. Data and insight sources which will inform this work to be mapped. Reporting templates developed and shared with CYP leads.
CHC CSP E2c	The CYP Partnership will develop and embed creative approaches that ensure the views and voices of children and young people are sought, listened to and taken into account into work undertaken to #KeepThePromise	Service Manager - Permanence		With support of Scottish Design School and The Promise Scotland developed a Participation Network to improve current collaboration and participatory opportunities for care experienced children young people and their families and carers. Two main work streams have focussed on the language of care and development of a prototype for remunerating individuals involved in the co-design of services. The Network co-designed a Language Policy for Clackmannanshire aimed at supporting all services to ensure that language and practice is not impersonal, stigmatising, and overly formalised. Next steps are implementation of this policy. Remuneration prototype developed for further consultation.